

Witness Name: DCI Jason Pye

Exhibits: [JP/01-JP/08]

Dated: 31 July 2025

THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT

OF DCI JASON PYE

I, Jason Pye, will say as follows: -

INTRODUCTION

1. I am Jason Pye, Detective Chief Inspector in Merseyside Police.
2. I assumed the role of Senior Investigating Officer for the events that unfolded at Hart Space, Southport on the 29 July 2024.
3. I am a Police Investigator accredited to Professionalising Investigation Programme Level 3 (PIP3) with the College of Policing, and I hold a Master of Arts degree in Police Leadership. I have worked within the field of criminal investigations for over twenty years. For the last eight years I have specialised in the field of major, serious and complex crime. From October 2017 to June 2023, I served with the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU), focusing on Serious Organised and Complex Crime investigations. In June 2023, I returned to Merseyside Police, where I work within the Major Crime Unit. My responsibilities encompass complex case management, strategic oversight, and operational leadership of major investigations.
4. This witness statement is made to assist the Southport Inquiry ("the Inquiry") with matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 2 July 2025 ("the request").
5. This statement is intended to be an objective overview of the attack itself, and what the homicide investigation found in terms of material and devices belonging to the perpetrator, his history of buying knives, and his planning for earlier potential attacks. As a result, much of the information provided in this statement is compiled from the investigation which took place by Merseyside Police, rather than being information

known directly to me. To comply with the request, I have also summarised the evidence of others that was gathered during the investigation. Those witness' underlying statements remains the best evidence.

Part A – Overview of the attack

Relevant locations

6. I exhibit the following maps and floor plans to assist in understanding of the events of 29 July 2024:
- a. **JP/1** **MERP007539** is an ordinance survey map showing the location of AR's home address at 10 Old School Close, Banks, Lancashire, PR9 8SB, and the surrounding area, including the Hart Space Studio, 34A Hart Street, Southport, where the events of 29 July 2024 took place.
 - b. **JP/2** **MERP007540** is an ordinance survey map of the streets around 10 Old School Close with the CCTV indicated which I refer to below. I also note that the time stamps on some of the CCTV was found to be incorrect, as indicated on the map. The times used in my statement below are the corrected times.
 - c. **JP/3** **MERP007541** is a map of the relevant section of Hart Street. This covers the Hart Space, Masters Vehicle Repair shop and neighbouring houses which were used to shelter some of the children. It also indicates where the taxi dropped AR off, and the location of CCTV cameras which I refer to extensively below. The timestamp of this CCTV was found to be 00:15:26 slow, so I refer to the corrected times in my statement. **JP/3a** **MERP007542** are photographs showing the view from the CCTV cameras indicated.
 - d. **JP/4** **MERP007543** is a set of photographs showing the entrance to Hart Space and the location of the CCTV cameras. Please note that there are 3 cameras shown in the photograph covering the car park. However, due to the overlapping coverage of the three cameras, only the footage from two of them was used during the investigation. Those are the two indicated on JP/3.
 - e. **JP/5** **MERP007544** is a floor plan of the first floor of the building, showing Hart Space, the communal landing, and the Calculus office.
 - f. **JP/6** **MERP007545** show two photos of the Calculus office.
 - g. **JP/7** **MERP007546** is a floor plan of the ground floor of Hart Space, showing the entrance on the left which was locked when AR arrived at Hart Space, and the glass door on the right which was open and leads upstairs to the first-floor landing.

29 July 2024

7. Leanne Lucas (“Leanne”) and Heidi Liddle (“Heidi”) had arranged and advertised a Taylor Swift themed dance and yoga workshop for children, to take place between 10am and 12pm on 29 July 2024¹. The event was advertised on the public Instagram page of Leanne. The location of this class was given as the Hart Space, 34A Hart Street. The Hart Space is a function room and yoga studio which can be hired.
8. On 29 July 2024 Leanne arrived at the Hart Space shortly before 09:29, followed by Heidi a minute later².
9. There were 25 children booked onto the event. All 25 children, plus a 13 year old child who was assisting Leanne and Heidi, arrived at the venue between 09:50 and 10:06³.
10. AR was at his home address of 10 Old School Close, Banks, Lancashire on the morning of 29 July 2024⁴. At 10:55 he deleted the internet browser history on his HP Laptop⁵. He then used his Lenovo Tablet to carry out a search on X (formerly known as Twitter). The search was for ‘mar mari Emmanuel stabbing’⁶. What the investigation found in relation to this and AR’s online activity is covered in more detail in Part B below.
11. AR is seen on ‘Ring’ doorbell footage leaving his home at 11:10⁷. He walked in the direction of Hoole Lane. At 11:13 he made two voice calls from a number associated with a Nokia mobile phone that the investigation attributed to him. The first call was to Mere Brow Taxis, which had a duration of 00:00. The second was to One Call Taxis, which had a duration of 00:31 seconds⁸. He attempted to order a taxi using One Call Taxis’ automated booking system, but did not complete the booking. One minute later he made a further call to One Call Taxis, which lasted 00:51 seconds. This call, handled by the automated booking system, went as follows: “Hi Simon thanks for calling One Call Taxis” “To book a taxi for now, press 1”; AR pressed 1; The automated system asked “Great, if the pick-up location is 10 Old School Close, Press 1”; AR pressed 1. The automated system then asked for the drop off location, which AR said was “34a Hart Street”. The automated system asked for confirmation that the drop off location is “34a

¹ CD/20 Instagram post [MERP000983]

² SRB/1A CCTV [MERP008136]

³ SRB/1A CCTV [MERP008136]

⁴ MG11 Alphonse Rudakubana [MERP001060]

⁵ GRNBK.D508 SMG5 laptop review Schedule [MERP001208/MERP001415/MERP000940]

⁶ CD/15 extraction report of data on SMG/2 [MERP007517] and MG11 DC 5525 Doyle [MERP000926]

⁷ ME1/8 ‘Ring’ doorbell footage [MERP008136]

⁸ GRNBK.D130 download report of AR phone [MERP001175] and LAR/5 recording of automated call to One Call taxis [MERP000518]

Hart Street by pressing 1". A key tone is heard and then the automated system is heard to say "Thanks I have scheduled your booking. Your driver will be on the way shortly to pick you up from 10 Old School Close".⁹ During this call AR is seen on CCTV walking back towards Old School Close¹⁰. He is seen returning to 10 Old School Close at 11:17¹¹, where he appears to have remained in the vicinity until the taxi arrived. AR was referred to as 'Simon' as this was the name he had given on an earlier taxi booking with One Call on Taxis 22 July 2024, when he booked a taxi to take him to the Range School, Formby. On that occasion the One Taxi automated system asked "What is the passengers first name" AR replied "Erm.....Simon".¹²

12. The Taxi Driver, [REDACTED TD1] informed police that AR made the taxi booking with One Call Taxis, by calling their automated booking system from mobile number [REDACTED DPA]. The booking system alerts drivers to bookings through an App on their mobile phone, which they can then accept or decline. At 11:14 the taxi driver received a notification via his phone App booking system of a booking at 10 Old School Close, Banks, PR9 8SB, with a drop off location provided as 34A Hart Street, Southport PR8 6. He could see that the person making the booking asked to pay in cash and listed the passenger name as 'Simon'. The taxi driver accepted this booking and drove to the pick-up location. AR entered the taxi at 11:31 and sat in the rear, behind the passenger seat, diagonal to the taxi driver.
13. The taxi ride took almost 14 minutes, and the journey was conducted in silence except for the taxi driver confirming the drop off address at the beginning of the journey. The taxi arrived on Hart Street at approximately 11:44¹³. On arriving at Hart Street AR pointed towards the drop off address and said words to the effect of "is this 34A Hart Street?"¹⁴. He then exited the taxi and headed towards a car repair business called Masters Auto Repairs, which is next to 34A Hart Street, but separated from it by a brick wall. The taxi driver told police that AR had not paid for the taxi, so he followed AR in his vehicle with the window down, persistently asking for him to pay. Three individuals, James Dixon (who worked at the car repair business)¹⁵, Colin Parry (owner of the business)¹⁶ and John Philips (a customer at the business)¹⁷, observed this interaction. John Philips and

⁹ GRNBK.S59 - MG11 Liam Anthony Rice; [REDACTED MERP000730] and LAR/7 phone recording [REDACTED MERP000733]

¹⁰ JL/04 and JL/02 CCTV [REDACTED MERP008136]

¹¹ ME1/8 'Ring' doorbell footage [REDACTED MERP008136]

¹² LAR/3 - Automated taxi call 29 July 2024 [REDACTED MERP000115]

¹³ GRNBK.S59 - MG11 Liam Anthony Rice [REDACTED MERP000730]

¹⁴ SPB1-1 taxi dashcam footage [REDACTED MERP008136]

¹⁵ GRNBK.S17 - MG11 James Dixon [REDACTED MERP000686]

¹⁶ GRNBK.S66 - MG11 Colin Parry [REDACTED MERP000303]

¹⁷ GRNBK.S24 - MG11 John Philips [REDACTED MERP001287]

Colin Parry shouted at AR to pay the taxi driver, and AR responded with words to the effect of "what are you going to do about it"¹⁸.

14. At this point, AR changed direction and began walking back towards Hart Street. At the Juncture with Hart Street, he turned left, and immediately left again, and walked through the entrance to the carpark where Hart Space is located at the far end. The taxi driver followed him down through the car park to 34A Hart Street in his taxi, while saying to AR words to the effect of "you pay now or the police are on the fucking way ya know. Are you paying? Are you paying? Are you paying?". He then parked outside the address¹⁹.
15. At 11:45:30 AR attempted to enter Hart Space via the ground floor door, which was locked. He moved to the door on the right, which was open and led upstairs to the first-floor landing. He entered the door at 11:45:37 and is seen on the taxi dashcam climbing the last remaining stairs towards the first floor landing at 11:45:45.²⁰
16. The sequence of the attacks once AR entered the Hart Space cannot be determined with any precision. There was no CCTV inside Hart Space and as the Senior Investigator, I decided early on within the investigation that we would not subject any of the children to providing a witness account. This meant the accounts relied upon were provided by Leanne and Heidi who both describe a fast paced and unimaginably horrifying incident. I understand that the Inquiry Chair does not consider it necessary to establish the precise sequence of the attacks once AR entered the Hart Space and I therefore will not address it further. The sequence of events that follows is as far as possible based on the CCTV, BWV footage, and telephone recordings. Where that is not possible, the statements of those involved are referred to. However, due to the nature of the situation, many of the statements are not always consistent with what can be seen in the footage and consideration should be given to this. In my experience it is perfectly normal in traumatic cases for this to happen.
17. Footage from the CCTV²¹ and audio from the taxi dash cam reveal sounds of distress first being audible at 11:46:06²². This is 29 second after AR first entered the building. When AR entered the building, [REDACTED] TD1 [REDACTED] reversed his taxi back a little, so he was better positioned for turning around²³.

¹⁸ Taxi dashcam footage: [REDACTED] MERP008136

¹⁹ Taxi dashcam footage: [REDACTED] MERP008136

²⁰ Taxi dashcam [REDACTED] MERP008136

²¹ CCTV INQ000000000 and taxi dashcam: [REDACTED] MERP008136

²² Taxi Dashcam footage [REDACTED] MERP008136

²³ Taxi Dashcam footage [REDACTED] MERP008136

18. The first child seen exiting the building through the still open door is [redacted c3] at 11:46:15. This is seen on both the CCTV²⁴ and taxi dash cam²⁵, and is 38 seconds after AR entered the building. [redacted TD1] starts to drive forwards slowly with the front facing taxi dash cam capturing 2 more children leaving the building before the taxi completes its turn and drives back down through the carpark and onto Hart Street, then away from the scene. During the taxi drive through the carpark, children continue to be seen in the rear dashcam footage exiting the building behind the taxi, and are seen running alongside the taxi.
19. Between 11:46:19 and 11.46.24, 6 more children exited the premises. Leanne is seen on the CCTV exiting the Hart Space entrance at 11:46:24. This is 47 seconds after AR entered the premises. Leanne is seen stopping at the entrance and ushering 3 more children out of the door, before she starts to make her way down the carpark. 6 more children follow behind her all together at 11:46:28, 51 seconds after AR entered the premises.
20. Alice da Silva Aguiar ("Alice") is also seen on the CCTV running out of the Hart Space at 11:46:28. She is the 19th child to exit the premises. 1 second later [redacted c4] is the 20th child to exit, followed by 2 more children at 11:46:30 and 11:46:32.
21. In the CCTV footage Leanne is seen to be holding her phone in her hand as she moves down the carpark. She makes a voice call to 999 at 11:46:33²⁶, lasting 00:18:14 minutes. This is the first 999 call made about the incident²⁷. This is 27 seconds after the first sounds of distress are audible on the taxi dash cam and 9 seconds after she left the building.
22. The majority of girls and Leanne ran towards the rear of the car park where they stop.
23. A number of the girls ran towards a white BMW which was parked in the car park, belonging to [redacted Q] s mother, [redacted Q-M] The car contained [redacted Q] s mother, her aunt and her brother. A number of the girls get into the car. Alice is seen on the CCTV to be near the rear offside door, on the floor, on the far side from the entrance to Hart Space.

²⁴ CCTV footage: [redacted MERP008136]

²⁵ Dashcam footage [redacted MERP008136]

²⁶ GRNBK.S107G.MG11 DC 5525 Doyle [redacted MERP001013]

²⁷ DTW/15 [redacted transcript] of 999 call [redacted MERP000481]

24. [redacted] c1 attempted to leave through the door of the building at 11:46:46, but was pulled back in by AR. It appears that some of the girls in the car park see this as the majority of the girls and Leanne run towards Hart Street at this point.
25. Stephen Mitton, a resident of Hart Street, was on his driveway at the time the incident began and saw some of the girls run down the street. He ushered them into his house where his wife Pamela Mitton took care of them and called the ambulance service as a number of girls who had run into her house had injuries²⁸.
26. [redacted] C1 managed to leave the building 13 seconds later and collapsed in the car park to the left side of the open door as you face the door. At 11:49:29 James Dixon²⁹, a member of the public who was working next door in Masters Auto Repairs when the incident began, walked toward the Hart Space, picked up [redacted] C1 and carried her to Hart Street. He placed her on the floor to the left of the carpark entrance, (labelled on JP/08 [redacted] MERP007547) and applied pressure to her wounds³⁰.
27. Joel Verite³¹ ("Joel") and Marcin Tyjon³² ("Marcin") told police they were driving down Hart Street when they saw Leanne in the street. They stopped to help her and, when she told them what was happening, they ran towards Hart Space. At 11:50:42³³ Joel picked Alice up and carried her to Hart Street where she was placed on the street. Marcin stayed with Alice and provided care to her until paramedics arrived. **Annexe 1** to this statement has been provided to cover where possible, the timings of the treatment Alice received at the scene, by whom, and what that treatment was.
28. At 11:51:02 the White BMW belonging to [redacted] Q-M and containing a number of the girls drove out of the car park onto Hart Street, where she then parked. **Exhibit JP/8 [redacted] MERP007547** shows the car route and locations.
29. Joel left his t-shirt with Marcin and Alice and returned to the Hart Space at 11:52:45. At 11:52:55 he entered the open door and started to make his way up the stairs, where he later told police he saw AR at the top of the stairs on the landing. Joel is seen on CCTV leaving the door to the building at 11:53:03. He closed the door behind himself and then proceeded to smash the glass pane of the door at 11:53:14. He told police this was to ensure AR could not lock himself in the building.

²⁸ GRNBANK.S99 - MG11 Pamela Mitton [redacted] MERP000792

²⁹ CCTV footage [redacted] MERP008136

³⁰ GRNBANK.S17 - MG11 James Dixon [redacted] MERP000686

³¹ GRNBANK.Y2 - ABE Interview Record Joel VERITE (06.08.2024) [redacted] MERP001434

³² GRNBANK.S116 - MG11 Marcin Tyjon [redacted] MERP000405

³³ CCTV exhibit [redacted] MERP008136

30. Police Sergeant Greg Gillespie was the first police officer to arrive on scene. He arrived in a police car at 11:56:53. He saw a child on the pavement and told members of the public to flag down a paramedic car which he had seen driving behind him. He is ushered to Hart Space by Joel. He arrives at the smashed door at 11:57:04³⁴. As he stood at the smashed door PS Gillespie provided updates over his radio and then said words to the effect of “we’re going in to try to detain him” whilst appearing to remove his baton from his belt. Joel said in response “watch out....don’t go, don’t go, don’t go yet, you need a fucking gun mate that’s doing nothing”, PS Gillespie asks “What has he got?”, Joel replies “He’s got a fucking knife”³⁵. At 11:57:24, PS Gillespie & Joel are joined in the vicinity of the entrance by Stephen Mitton & Alan Crowley (another member of the public). PC Luke Holden, who is taser trained, and PCSO Timothy Parry join them at 11:57:50, 46 seconds after PS Gillespie first arrived at the Hart Space entrance.
31. PS Gillespie told Joel and PCSO Parry to wait at the door whilst he and PC Holden entered. PS Gillespie drew his baton and entered at 11:57:56³⁶, with PC Holden immediately behind him, holding his Taser³⁷. From halfway up the stairs, at the point where they turn, PS Gillespie saw AR standing at the top of the stairs on the landing, facing the officers and holding a knife. Both officers shouted for AR to drop the knife, which he did immediately. PS Gillespie then rushed towards AR, and, in order to detain him kned him in the stomach and struck him twice over the back with his baton before forcing him to the floor and taking hold of his wrists.
32. On hearing the officers shout “knife”, PCSO Parry ran up the stairs, and assisted with detaining AR by holding his legs after he was brought to the ground. At this point PS Gillespie arrested AR for attempted murder. The arrest time was 11:58:39. AR made no response. PC Holden placed AR in handcuffs at the direction of PS Gillespie³⁸.
33. Joel also followed the officers into the building and is encouraged by officers to assist Bebe King (Bebe). He carried Bebe from Hart Space towards Hart Street at 11:58:51³⁹.

³⁴ CCTV INQ000000000 and GG/01 BWV PS Gillespie: **MERP008136**

³⁵ GG/01 BWV PS Gillespie: **MERP008136**

³⁶ GG/01 BWV footage of PS Gillespie: **MERP008136**

³⁷ LH/01 BWV PC Holden: **MERP008136**

³⁸ GG/01 BWV footage of PS Gillespie: **MERP008136**

³⁹ CCTV: **MERP008136**

34. Two further officers, PC Simone Shakespeare and PC Alan Carr, had arrived at the scene on Hart Street at about 11:58:23⁴⁰ and reviewed the scene on the street before they ran to Hart Space. They arrive on the first-floor landing at 12:00:02 and assisted with restraining AR. Shortly afterwards PS Gillespie and PC Holden entered the dance studio, where they found Elsie Dot Stancombe (Elsie) who appeared to be deceased. As a result, PS Gillespie further arrested AR for murder at 12:02:46⁴¹.
35. Heidi and [X] were found unharmed in the toilet cubicle by PS Gillespie and PC Holden at 11:59:58.⁴² They were asked to remain there and were then able to leave Hart Space at 12:02:57. Heidi was asked to cover the eyes of [X] as they walked across the landing.
36. Jonathan Hayes (Jonathan) was found by PS Gillespie in the office of Calculus Costs, lying just beyond the connecting doors between the landing and the office at 12:04:38. There were five other male employees in the Calculus office on the 29 July 2024. Jonathan told police that he had been sitting at his desk when he was first alerted to the incident by a colleague standing at the window shouting about a child bleeding in the carpark. Jonathan told the police that he ran to the office doors intending to go downstairs to help. On opening the door, he first saw a child on the floor of the landing. AR was also on the landing and approached him, crossing the threshold into his office. Jonathan tried to grab the knife from AR and was injured in the left leg which caused him to lose his balance and fall over. At some point during this altercation Jonathan shouted out.⁴³ Adam Martindale came round the corner when he heard Jonathon shout and was able to close the office door on AR⁴⁴. Josh Davis secured a tourniquet around Jonathan's leg.
37. From his BWV footage, we can see that PCSO Parry arrived at the juncture of Hart Street and the carpark leading down to Hart Space at 11:57:35. In the BWV footage an NWAS fast response car can be seen already parked in the driveway of number 34 Hart Street which is where Alice and [C1] had been laid down by Joel and James (see JP/08 [MERP007547]). This is the vehicle of Paramedic Paul Smith which had arrived at 11:57:20. In the BWV footage of PC Shakespeare and PC Carr we can see 2

⁴⁰ BWV PC Shakespeare [MERP008136]

⁴¹ GG/01 BWV footage of PS Gillespie [MERP008136]

⁴² GG/01 BWV footage of PS Gillespie [MERP008136]

⁴³ MG15 Transcript of ABE Interview of Jonathan Hayes [MERP001420] and heard on 999 call of someone in the Calculus office, believed to be John Cape [MERP001181 & MERP000136]

⁴⁴ Witness statement Adam Martindale [MERP000845]

ambulances on the scene when they arrive. We know from the dashcam footage of these 2 ambulances that they arrived at 11:58:00. This is covered in more detail in **Annexe 1**, although we don't have a comprehensive schedule of when each emergency vehicle arrived after this point.

38. Bebe was formally declared life extinct by Advanced Paramedic Gary Fitzpatrick at 13:03⁴⁵. She was initially in an ambulance receiving CPR, which was terminated at 12:09.



39. Elsie was formally declared life extinct by Dr Eimhear Quinn at 13:53⁴⁶, although she had earlier been pronounced deceased by a paramedic called Paul Smith at around 12:04⁴⁷. She remained in the Hart Space dance studio where she had been found, when this took place.

40. Forensic pathology evidence in relation to Elsie was obtained from Dr Cieka, first in a preliminary Post Mortem Report dated 30 July 2024⁴⁸, and then in a full Post Mortem Report dated 19 September 2024⁴⁹. Dr Cieka concluded that Elsie's cause of death was "1a. Multiple Stab Wounds" and that her injuries "would not have been amenable to emergency medical treatment however rapidly this intervention occurred".

41. Forensic pathology evidence in relation Bebe was obtained from Dr Cieka, first in a preliminary Post Mortem Report dated 30 July 2024⁵⁰, and then in a full Post Mortem Report dated 19 September 2024⁵¹. Dr Cieka concluded that Bebe's cause of death was "1a. Multiple Stab Wounds" and that her injuries "would not have been amenable to emergency medical treatment however rapidly this intervention occurred".

42. Alice later died at Alder Hey Children's Hospital and was declared life extinct by Dr Jessica Green at 01:20 on 30 July 2025. Forensic pathology evidence in relation to Alice was obtained from Dr Jonathan Medcalf first in an interim most mortem report dated 1

⁴⁵ GRNBK.S162 - MG11 Gary Fitzpatrick Paramedic **MERP000286**

⁴⁶ GRNBK.S261 - MG11 Dr Eimhear Quinn **MERP000812**

⁴⁷ GG/01 BWV footage of PS Gillespie **MERP008136**

⁴⁸ GRNBK.S76A - MG11 Dr Matthew Cieka Preliminary HOPM Report Elsie Stancombe **MERP001278**

⁴⁹ GRNBK.S76B - MG11 Dr Matthew Cieka final report STANCOMBE **MERP000148**

⁵⁰ GRNBK.S76 - MG11 Dr Matthew Cieka Preliminary HOPM Report Bebe King **MERP000781**

⁵¹ GRNBK.S76C - MG11 Dr Matthew Cieka final report Bebe King **MERP000419**

August 2024⁵², and then in a report dated 6 November 2024⁵³. Dr Medcalf concluded that Alice's cause of death was "1(a) multiple stab wounds". I have provided details of the timings of Alice's treatment at the scene in **Annexe 1**.

43. Assistance at the scene was provided by a number of witnesses, some of whom I have already referred to, others I summarise with the assistance of their witness statements provided to police. I would like to formally recognise the efforts of every person who came to the aid of those affected by the events of the 29 July 2024, and in particular the following (this is not an exhaustive list):

- a. Andrew Batchelor, a resident of Hart Street, called 999 at 11:49 after his neighbour, believed to be Mr Mitton, shouted at him to do so. He then proceeded to provide towels to those looking after the injured, and conveyed information over the phone to emergency services. He also directed traffic away from the scene until police took over.⁵⁴
- b. Manju John⁵⁵, an off-duty nurse and resident of Hart Street, was at home when she heard the children in the street. She went to the house of Pamela Mitton where she provided first aid and reassurance to the children there until their families, police and paramedics arrived.
- c. Julie Woof⁵⁶ was driving past with her two children in the car when she saw a child lying on the pavement, with Martin Fessey providing assistance. She stopped to assist Martin Fessey by compressing [redacted C2] injuries until PCSO Barry Calder and then paramedics arrived. Martin Fessey remained with [redacted C2] throughout, continuing to assist with her first aid.
- d. PCSO Barry Calder was still in his training period. He was on foot patrol when the incident calls were made, so seconded a vehicle from a retail park to take him to Hart Street. As a retired police medic, he triaged children, ensured they were receiving first aid and then recorded details of key witnesses.
- e. Joanne Martlew⁵⁷ was driving home with her family in the car when she came upon the scene on Hart Street. She used her experience and training from her previous career with the Coast Guard and Fire Service to assist a number of the injured

⁵² GRNBK.S74 - MG11 Dr Jonathan Medcalf Interim Report Alice Da Silva Aguiar [redacted MERP001296]

⁵³ GRNBK.S74A - MG11 Dr Jonathan Medcalf final report re Alice Da Silva Aguiar [redacted MERP000352]

⁵⁴ GRNBK.S154 - MG11 Andrew Batchelor [redacted MERP001079]

⁵⁵ GRNBK.S111 - MG11 Manju John [redacted MERP001033]

⁵⁶ GRNBK.S12 - MG11 Julie Woof [redacted MERP000386]

⁵⁷ GRNBK.S96 - MG11 Joanne Martlew [redacted MERP000848]

children by assessing their injuries and providing first aid. She also assisted police by collecting clothing in evidence bags, and remained on scene until all the children were removed to hospital.

- f. Abigail Butler⁵⁸, an off-duty nurse, was with her mother when they received a call from her sister who was on Hart Street. Abigail made her way to Hart Street where she assisted with one of the children until she was told about Jonathan Hayes, who was still in his office. She took an ambulance kit and was escorted to him. She carried out an assessment of his injuries and remained with him until the Northwest Fire Service carried him to the triage area on Hart Street. She then remained with him in the triage area, assisting in administering oxygen and pain relief, until he was transferred to hospital.
- g. Mikhail Lawler, a Senior Charge Nurse at Southport and Formby General Hospital was off duty and driving in the area when his attention was drawn to Hart Street on seeing multiple emergency vehicles. Feeling compelled to help, he assisted by providing first aid to Alice as well as helping others by providing ongoing support and critical medical care to some of the injured children.

44. In addition to the 999 calls mentioned above many other witnesses called the police and ambulance service. These calls were as follows:

- 11:47:08 - Leanne Lucas, connected to the police, and initially reported the incident including children having been stabbed⁵⁹.
- 11:47:56 - Jonathon Cape, calling from Calculus, connected to NWS, reported there was a little girl outside the building that appears to be bleeding. 1 minute 40 into the call a disturbance can be heard in the background. This is believed to be Jonathan Hayes confronting AR.⁶⁰
- 11:48:34 - [redacted] C5-M [redacted] connected to NWS, reported that her daughter had been stabbed.⁶¹
- 11:48:41 - [redacted] Q-M [redacted] connected to police, asked for ambulance and police and said there was blood everywhere.⁶²

58 GRNBK.S80 - MG11 Abigail Butler [redacted] MERP001347
59 [redacted] transcript of 999 call by Leanne Lucas [redacted] MERP000481
60 [redacted] transcript of 999 call by Jonathon Cape [redacted] MERP001371
61 [redacted] transcript of 999 call by [redacted] C5-M [redacted] MERP000558
62 [redacted] transcript of 999 call by [redacted] Q-M [redacted] MERP001382

- 11:48:49 – Police to NWS informing them of a new job with potentially multiple stabbings.⁶³
- 11:48:53 - Paula Mitton, connected to NWS, was unsure what was happening could see multiple girls who she thought have been stabbed.⁶⁴
- 11:49:12 - Andrew Batchelor, connected to NWS, reported that someone had been knocked over but then refers to someone having been stabbed in the chest.⁶⁵
- 11:49:49 - Police to NWS informing of a new job, a potential stabbing.⁶⁶
- 11:50:21 - Joe Manning, connected to NWS, reported that he could see a girl and his boss, John Hayes had been stabbed in the leg.⁶⁷
- 11:51:24 - Unknown caller on John Hayes' phone number, connected to police, reported his boss had been stabbed and was bleeding badly.⁶⁸
- 11:52:05 - Jacob Whyman, connected to NWS, reported children had been stabbed and some were deceased.⁶⁹
- 11:57:38 - [V&W-M] connected to NWS, ringing from elsewhere on behalf of her husband who was at scene with their daughter.⁷⁰
- 12:09:23 – Police to NWS requesting further support.⁷¹
- 12:36:56 - [TD1] connected to police, reported that he had witnessed an incident about an hour ago in Hart Street. He had picked the lad up from Banks and taken him to Hart St.⁷²

PART B: RELEVANT INFORMATION OBTAINED BY THE HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

45. The homicide investigation team carried out an extensive investigation into AR. I cover in this section the most relevant information which was obtained in our investigation. In doing so I have sought to answer the specific questions posed in the Request.

46. A Production Order was obtained with respect to AR's bank account with Lloyd's Bank. The transaction history that was obtained for AR's Lloyd's Bank account (which was

-
- 63. [transcript] of call between police and NWS [MERP000403]
 - 64. [transcript] of 999 call by Paula Mitton [MERP001101]
 - 65. [transcript] of 999 call by Andrew Batchelor [MERP000961]
 - 66. [transcript] of call between police and NWS [MERP001395]
 - 67. [transcript] of 999 call by Joe Manning [MERP001050]
 - 68. [transcript] of 999 call from Jonathan Hayes phone number [MERP000136]
 - 69. [transcript] of 999 call by Jacob Whyman [MERP000485]
 - 70. [transcript] of 999 call by [V&W-M] [MERP001152]
 - 71. [transcript] of call between police and NWS [MERP001047]
 - 72. [transcript] of 999 call by taxi Driver [TD1] [MERP000647]

opened on 24 October 2018)⁷³ showed amounts had been debited to online retailers of weapons including knives, bows and arrows as follows:

- a. Hatilla (12 June 2023);
- b. Springfields.co.uk (13 June 2023);
- c. Knifewarehouse.co.uk (4 October 2023);
- d. Huntingandknives.co.uk (15 October 2023);

See the statement of TDC Gareth Morgan-Richardson dated 5 September 2024⁷⁴.

47. The investigation obtained details of purchases AR made through Amazon.

48. The following purchases are believed to be items used in the production of ricin:
 - a. On 18 January 2022 at 12:49 AR made an online order for a Salter 1066 BKDR15 Arc Kitchen Scale. The payment card for this transaction is in the name 'Axel Rudakubana' with billing address 10 Old School Close, Banks. The shipping address is recorded as Amazon Hub Counter - Co-op Banks, 42 Church Road, Banks.
 - b. On 19 January 2022 at 11:09 AR made an online order from Premier Seeds Direct Ltd, placed through Amazon, for ricinus - zansibariensis - 150 seeds – bulk, Everyday Superfood Organic Shelled Hemp 200g and Growth Technology pH Buffer 4 - 300ml. The payment card for these transactions is in the name 'Axel Rudakubana' with billing address 10 Old School Close, Banks. The shipping address for this order is recorded as Alphonse Rudakubana, 8 Old School Close, Banks.
 - c. On 19 January 2022 at 11:16 AR made an online order for Hexeal Isopropyl Alcohol 1L – 1L Bottle of 99.9% IPA. The payment card for this transaction is in the name 'Axel Rudakubana' with billing address 10 Old School Close, Banks. The shipping address for this order is recorded as Alphonse Rudakubana, 8 Old School Close, Banks.
 - d. On 25 January 2022 at 11:06 AR made an online order for Whatman 4712N20PK 1004090 Grade 4 Qualitative Filter Paper, Sistema KLIP IT Food Storage Containers, NA Safety Goggles Anti Fog Safety Goggles, Rocwing - Borosilicate 3.3 Graduated Conical Glass Flask for Laboratory (500ml), OLYCRAFT 7 Pack Plastic Funnel Long&Short Stem Plastic Funnels Hoppers 53mm~91mm 7 Size with 100pcs 3ml Droppers, KitchenCraft Glass Measuring Cup for Wet and Dry

⁷³ GMR/01 [MERP000804]

⁷⁴ Statement of TDC Gareth Morgan-Richardson dated 5 September 2024 [MERP000830]

Ingredients, Mini Mortar and Pestle Set – WM Bartleet & Sons Small and Compact 7cm Pestle and Mortar. The payment card for all these transactions is in the name 'Axel Rudakubana' with billing address 10 Old School Close, Banks. The shipping address is recorded as Amazon Hub Counter - Co-op Banks, 42 Church Road, Banks.

See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 1 November 2024.⁷⁵

49. On 4 March 2022 at 15:56:43 (UTC) AR made an online order for archery equipment on Amazon. He ordered a Toparchery Archery 53" Traditional Recurve Bow Wooden Handmade Mongolian Horsebow; two sets of DZGN Archery Carbon Arrows Spine 500 Hunting Arrows and a G4Free Archery Deluxe Canvas Back Arrow Quiver. The payment card for this transaction was in the name AR with billing address 10 Old School Close, Banks. The Amazon records show refund amounts next to these three purchases. See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 1 November 2024.
50. On 12 March 2022 at 14:12 (UTC) AR made an online order for archery equipment on Amazon. AR ordered a G4Free Archery Deluxe Canvas Back Arrow Quiver Hunting Target Arrow Quiver. The payment card for this transaction was in the name AR with billing address 10 Old School Close, Banks. The Amazon records show a refund amount next to this purchase. See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 1 November 2024.
51. On 28 March 2022 at 8:25 AR made an online order for archery equipment on Amazon. AR ordered a Toparchery Archery 53" Traditional Recurve Bow Wooden Handmade Mongolian Horsebow and Huntingdoor 12Pcs 30 inch Archery Carbon Arrows Spine 550 Hunting Targeting Arrows. The payment card for this transaction was in the name AR with billing address 10 Old School Close, Banks. The shipping name and address was given as 'Al Rud, 10 Old School Close, Banks.' See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 1 November 2024.
52. On 30 April 2022 at 21:06 AR made an online order for Brown Glass Beer Swing Stopper Bottles X12 (500ml). The payment card for this transaction is in the name 'Axel Rudakubana' with billing address 10 Old School Close, Banks. The shipping address is given as 'Al Rud, 10 Old School Close, Banks.' As detailed below, when these were

⁷⁵ GRNBK.S107E - MG11 DC 5525 Doyle 1 November 2024 **MERP000577** and GRNBK.X1139 Part 2 Order History - CD16 - Amazon Account and Purchase Details 01.05.2021 to 31.10.2022

MERP007643

found during the search of AR's home address, they had matches attached to the neck of the bottles, suggesting the production of Molotov cocktails.

53. During the search for 10 Old School Close, two Lenovo tablets were recovered⁷⁶, which you will see referred to in some statements as "new" and "old". Some emails were recovered from the two devices:
- a. SMG/3 is a Lenovo Tablet TB-X606F – this is the older of the two tablets and was used for several years before SMG/2 was purchased.
 - b. SMG/2 is a Lenovo Tab M10. It was purchased (from a receipt found on it) on 9 October 2023. This was the main device used after its purchase, although SMG/3 was still used to a lesser degree.
54. On 3 May 2022 AR emailed Merlin Archery at *support@merlinarchery.co.uk* with the following questions: "Hi, If I bought an 18+ product how would you verify my age, do you verify ID online or does the delivery person check my ID at my door? Also, do I have to be 18 to receive the product when it is at my door? Thanks in advance. A". On 4 May AR emailed Merlin Archery again with the following: "Hi, I would like to purchase from Merlin Archery but I would prefer discrete packaging which doesn't provide any information on what is inside the box. Does the exterior packaging give any indication of what is inside the box? Thanks in advance. A".⁷⁷
55. Also on 3 May 2022 AR emailed Tactical Archery at *info@tacticalarchery.co.uk* with the following: "Hi, I would like to purchase from Tactical Archery but I would prefer discrete packaging which doesn't provide any information on what is inside the box. Could I see a photo of what the external packaging of your products look like? Thanks in advance. A". Tactical Archery replied the same day to say: "Hi, Thanks for getting in touch. We use grey packaging bags when sending out crossbow. This is so that no one is able to see what is inside, Kind Regards, Harry Chance Customer Service Tactical Archery UK". AR followed up to ask whether the packaging says 'Tactical' Archery' on it, to which Tactical Archery replied on 4 May 2022 to say "no, just plain grey bags, or if the crossbow is bigger, we use black wrap".⁷⁸

⁷⁶ MG11 witness statement of CSI Shannon Gibson MERP000900

⁷⁷ GRNBK.D515 Device review schedule of SMG/2 MERP000980

⁷⁸ GRNBK.D515 Device review schedule of SMG/2 MERP000980

56. On 10 June 2023 at 23.34 AR made an online order for a machete from Springfields.co.uk. The machete AR ordered was a 22 inch Bushcraft Survival Machete. He also bought a sharpening stone. AR gave his details as Alice [DPA] date of birth [DPA] [DPA] 1992. Following an email from *support@springfields.co.uk* on 12 June 2023 as follows: "Hello Alice, As you have ordered an age-restricted item we have to by law confirm that the person receiving this order is over 18, we do this via either the electoral roll or via some form of I.D. Would you be able to email us a photo or scan of either your driver's license, passport, or birth certificate showing your full name and date of birth?"⁷⁹ AR provided a copy of a Driving License in the name Alice [DPA]. The delivery address was 10 Old School Close, Banks PR9 8SB. AR gave the email address *a.megalaria7@yahoo.com* and the mobile phone number 07428362306. On 13 June 2023 *age@springfields.co.uk* replied to say "Good morning Alice, Thank you for confirming your age, your order will be dispatched without delay. If you order again you will not be checked a second time." While the transaction was completed, it could not be established with the delivery agent, DPD, whether the order had been delivered to AR. See the witness statement of TDC Morgan-Richardson dated 1 December 2024.⁸⁰
57. The investigation were able to access a series of partial emails sent between AR and *sales@huntingandknives.co.uk* between 28 September 2023 and 3 October 2023 in which AR appears to ask how they verify age for age restricted items, whether the person who receives the delivery have to be over 18, and what type of collection points are available.⁸¹
58. On 21 June 2024 at 10.38 AR made an online order for a knife from *www.huntingandknives.co.uk* ("Hunting and Knives") which appears from their emails to be run by a company called Ageo Wholesale Ltd. The knife AR ordered was an Arcos Niza Series 200mm (c.8 inch) Chef's Knife. AR gave his details as [DPA] Olakunle, date of birth [DPA] 1961, the email address *a.megalaria7@yahoo.com* and the billing and shipping address as 10 Old School Close, Banks PR9 8SB. This email was recovered from SMG/2, the Lenovo M10 Tablet. See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 19 November 2024.

⁷⁹ GRNBK.D515 Device review schedule of SMG/2 [MERP000980]

⁸⁰ MG11 witness statement of TDC Morgan-Richardson dated 1 [October] 2024 [MERP000827]

⁸¹ GRNBK.D515 Device review schedule of SMG/2 [MERP000980]

59. On 11th July 2024 at 17:40 AR (using a.megalaria7@yahoo.com) emailed Hunting and Knives as follows "It has been 20 days since I ordered a product from HK and I still haven't recieved it even though the confirmation email said it would take 20 business days. When will my order be delivered?" See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 19 November 2024.
60. On 12 July 2024 at 08:26 Hunting and Knives emailed AR (at a.megalaria7@yahoo.com) as follows "Hello, can you please tell me your order number? Thanks. --- Best regards, www.huntingandknives.co.uk Team AGEO Wholesale Ltd". This email was recovered from SMG/2 Lenovo M10 Tablet. See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 19 November 2024.
61. On 12 July 2024 at 12:49 AR (using a.megalaria7@yahoo.com) emailed Hunting and Knives as follows "#100005276". This email was recovered from SMG/2 Lenovo M10 Tablet (new). See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 19 November 2024.
62. On 13 July 2024 at 19.44 AR placed an online order for a knife from Amazon. The knife AR ordered was an Apollo Chef Knife 20cm (c.8 inch), Cerbera. AR gave his details as his own name and the email address a.megalaria7@yahoo.com. The IP address associated with this activity was 2.98.141.79 (10 Old School Close, Banks PR9 8SB). See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 10 September 2024.
63. On 13 July 2024 at 20.19:28 Amazon (order-update@amazon.co.uk) emailed AR (at a.megalaria7@yahoo.com) as follows "Hello A, We're writing to let you know that your order has been successfully cancelled Customer Cancelled APOLLO Chef Knife 20cm CERBERA Qty: 1". This email was recovered from SMG/2 Lenovo M10 Tablet. See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 19 November 2024.
64. On 13 July 2024 at 20.19:44 AR made an online order for two knives from Amazon. The knives AR ordered were Apollo Chef Knife 20cm (c.8 inch), Cerbera. AR gave his details as his own name and the email address a.megalaria7@yahoo.com. The IP address associated with this activity was 104.243.213.232 (a Virtual Private Network 'VPN' which encrypts personal data and disguises an IP address – there was evidence of numerous VPN applications having been installed on SMG3). See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 10 September 2024.

65. AR therefore cancelled his first order for the Apollo knife and shortly thereafter placed a new order for two of the same Apollo knives using a VPN.
66. On 15 July 2024 at 08.15 Hunting and Knives emailed AR (at a.megalaria7@yahoo.com) as follows "Hello **DPA** I am sorry to tell you that your order is pending because you haven't paid yet. Best regards, www.huntingandknives.co.uk". This email was recovered from SMG/2, the Lenovo M10 Tablet. See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 19 November 2024.
67. On 15 July 2024 at 12.06 Amazon (shipment-tracking@amazon.co.uk) emailed AR (at a.megalaria7@yahoo.com) as follows: "Hi A, Your package with 2 APOLLO Chef Knife 20cm... will be delivered today. Order # 205-7351162-4218749 Track your package APOLLO Chef Knife 20cm CERBERA, Mult... Qty: 2 As your delivery includes an age-restricted item, someone over the age of 18 with a valid ID must be present to receive this package.". This email was recovered from SMG/2 Lenovo M10 Tablet. See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 19 November 2024.
68. On 15 July 2024 at 17.41 Amazon (order-update@amazon.co.uk) emailed AR (at a.megalaria7@yahoo.com) as follows: Content: "Hi A, Your package has been delivered! Order # 205-7351162-4218749". This email was recovered from SMG/2 Lenovo M10 Tablet, and you will note on the email that the timestamp is 16:41(UTC+0) so has been corrected to British Summer Time.⁸²
69. The two Apollo knives were therefore delivered to AR's home address at around 17.41 on 15 July 2024. Images of the Apollo knife associated with this order were compared with an image of a knife recovered from the Hart Space⁸³ that appeared to have been used in the attack. The knives appeared to be identical. See the statement of TDC Morgan-Richardson dated 5 September 2024.
70. The SMG/2 Lenovo tablet also contained many downloaded PDF documents with file titles suggestive of violence, religions and conflicts, for example:
- a. A Concise History of Nazi Germany.pdf
 - b. A Place Under Heaven - Amerindian Torture and Cultural Violence in Colonial New France, 1609-1729.pdf

⁸² CD/15 extraction report of data contained on SMG/2 **MERP000980**

⁸³ LJB/76 Knife **MERP000348**

- c. Beyond Belief Islamic Excursions Among the Converted Peoples.pdf Buddhism, Conflict and Violence in Modern Sri Lanka (Routledge Critical Studies in Buddhism).pdf
 - d. Chechnya - From Past to Future.pdf Clan Cleansing in Somalia The Ruinous Legacy of 1991.pdf
 - e. Death and survival during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.pdf
 - f. Ethiopian Jewish immigrants in Israel Living well and "becoming deaf" in the homeland.pdf
 - g. Examination of punishments dealt to slave rebels in two 18th century British plantation societies.pdf
 - h. Five Operational Lessons from the Battle for Mosul.pdf History of The Zulu War and its Origin.pdf
 - i. Hutu, Tutsi, and the Germans - Racial Cognition in Rwanda under German Colonial Rule.pdf Israel's Wars A History Since 1947.pdf
 - j. Islamic Gunpowder Empires Ottomans Safavids and Mughals.pdf
 - k. Military Dynamics of South Sudan's Civil War.pdf
 - l. Russia's Wars in Chechnya 1994–2009.pdf South Africa The Rise and Fall of Apartheid.pdf The Arab-Israeli Conflict The Palestine War 1948.pdf
 - m. The Book of Ninja - The First Complete Translation Of The Bansenshukai - Japan's Premier Ninja Manual.pdf
 - n. The Ramifications of Bullying in Lesotho Schools.pdf
 - o. The Tamil Separatist War in Sri Lanka.pdf Treacherous Alliance Secret Dealings of Israel, Iran and US Trita Parsi.pdf
 - p. Under the green flag of Islam - Islamic radicals in Russia and the CIS.pdf
- See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 8 October 2024.

71. The Lenovo tablet SMG/3 contained 208 documents that were present on the device or had been deleted, with the title remaining. A proportion of these documents relate to warfare, conflicts, violence, mental health and sexual offences, and in most instances they exist as PDF documents. They were a mix of books, research papers, information leaflets and instruction manuals. These included:

- a. Dionex ASE 350 Accelerated Solvent Extractor Operators Manual
- b. Vibrogel Seismic Extra Gelatin Nitroglycerin Dynamite
- c. Future Warfare Series No.59 - Assessing the Influence of Hypersonic Weapons on Deterrence
- d. Electronic Detonators - Digishot
- e. Sibling incest: A literature review and a clinical study

- f. Gay Men and Lesbian Women with Molestation History: Impact on Sexual Orientation and Experience of Pleasure
- g. The Military Balance 2021
- h. Aircraft Carrier (In)Vulnerability
- i. Effects of Different Nose Cone Designs on Trajectory and Impact Angle of Smart Fire
- j. Extinguishing Ammunition
- k. Adolescents' Peer Friendship and Anxiety and Depression among First-Generation Immigrant BAME Families in the UK
- l. ADP 1-02 Terms and Military Symbols The Russian Military in Contemporary Perspective
- m. The Mau Mau War: British Counterinsurgency in Colonial Kenya
- n. The Myth of the Remote Controlled Car Bomb
- o. Guide to Modern Warships
- p. Safety Data Sheet: Detonators, Electronic (Class 1.1B)
- q. Tactical Observations from the Grozny Combat Experience
- r. The Beauty Ideal: The Effects of European Standards of Beauty on Black Women
- s. Technical data sheet: DigiShot
- t. 1024 Strong Nitric Acid.pdf
- u. 1152 Electronic Detonator 11B (1).pdf
- v. 20140424_Reply_MDP_Body_Armour_Redacted.pdf
- w. 20190328_UK_Armed_Forces_Operational_deaths_post_World_War_II-O.pdf
- x. A Place Under Heaven_ Amerindian Torture and Cultural Violence in.pdf
- y. Hearing Soundless VoicesPPP.pdf
- z. manslaughter-by-reason-of-diminished-responsibility.pdf (NB this was a deleted file with the file title only - the contents could not be established)
- aa. mapping-the-rwandan-diaspora-in-the-uk.pdf
- bb. military_white_paper_final.pdf
- cc. mirecc_schizoaffective_education.pdf
- dd. Murray-Roscoe_Boy_Wives_Female_Husbands.pdf
- ee. Russia's Chechen Wars 1994 - 2000 Rwanda's Hutu Extremist Insurgency: An Eyewitness Perspective.pdf
- ff. The Guerrilla and How to Fight Him.pdf
- gg. A Qualitive Study Exploring Adolescents' Experiences of Peer Relationships in an inpatient CAMHS setting
- hh. Who Kills? Social Influence, Spatial Opportunity, and Participation in Intergroup Violence.pdf

See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 10 September 2024⁸⁴.

72. The Lenovo tablet SMG/3 downloads folder contained the document “Military Studies in the Jihad Against the Tyrants: The Al-Qaeda Training Manual”. This document exists twice in the download folder for Google Chrome, with creation dates: 30 August 2021 at 00:39:55 UTC and 04 September 2021 at 22:36:22 UTC. This is a 190 page document⁸⁵ which contains, among others, the following chapters:
- a. Tenth Lesson Special Tactical Operations⁸⁶
 - b. Sixteenth Lesson Assassination Using Poisons and Cold Steel⁸⁷
 - c. Eighteenth Lesson Prisons and Detention Centers⁸⁸

See the witness statements of DC Doyle dated 10 September 2024 and 17 September 2024⁸⁹.

Items seized from AR’s home address

73. On 30 July 2024 police began searching AR’s home, however during an initial assessment of the address a Tupperware box was observed under AR’s bed that contained a pulp like substance. The search was suspended whilst specially trained officers, with the right protective equipment, were able to test the substance. The search remained suspended until the Defence Science and Technology Lab (“DSTL”) confirmed the substance was in fact Ricin, on 2 August 2024.
74. Dr Pearce provided the investigation with an expert report regarding the production of ricin by AR⁹⁰. In Dr Pearce’s opinion, the 150 castor beans obtained⁹¹ could have produced between 1.07 and 5.33g of ricin, which is the equivalent of between 0 – 5 lethal doses by ingestion or 1,528 – 7,614 lethal doses by injection or 2,547 – 12,690 lethal doses by inhalation, although in the case of inhalation the further purification process would be needed and the final quantity of purified ricin would depend on the efficiency of the purification process. Having said that, even a process which was only 10% efficient would still produce 254 – 1,269 lethal doses by inhalation.

⁸⁴ MG11 DC Doyle dated 10 September 2024 [MERP000323]

⁸⁵ Exhibit CD/10A MILITARY STUDIES THE AL-QAEDA TRAINING MANUAL FROM TABLET [MERP000507]

⁸⁶ Exhibit CD/10G Tenth Lesson Special Tactical Operations.pdf [MERP007524]

⁸⁷ Exhibit CD/10D 16TH LESSON ASSASSINATION USING POISONS/COLD STEEL [MERP000059]

⁸⁸ Exhibit CD/10E 18TH LESSONS PRISONS AND DETENTION CENTRES [MERP000063]

⁸⁹ MG11 DC Doyle dated 17 September 2024 [MERP001401]

⁹⁰ GRNBK.S138A - MG11 Dr Martin Julian Pearce (DSTL) Final expert report [MERP000550]

⁹¹ PJJQ/3 [MERP000431]

75. As a result of this, the full search of AR's home address had to be carried out by Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear ("CBRN") trained officers⁹². The strict protocols for a CBRN search significantly impacted on the search time, and the search was not concluded until 22 August 2024.
76. AR's bedroom is described as "bedroom 1" in the search officers' statements. His parents' bedroom is described as "bedroom 3". A number of items were seized, of which the following are considered to be significant:
- a. Bow and arrows⁹³ and a machete.⁹⁴ These were all inside a black holdall found under the bunk-beds in bedroom 1.⁹⁵
 - b. A box containing goggles, sieves and filter papers. These were in a box on the floor at the base of the bunk-beds in bedroom 1.⁹⁶
 - c. A bottle labelled Isopropyl Alcohol⁹⁷. This was in a cardboard box on the floor at the base of the bunk-beds in bedroom 1.
 - d. Items believed to have been used in the production of ricin, including a Tupperware box, pestle and mortar, bag of seeds and conical flask. These were in bedroom 1 at the end and side of the bed.⁹⁸
 - e. A sledgehammer⁹⁹. This was found in a box behind the bedroom door in bedroom 1.
 - f. Cerbera knife packaging in a carrier bag¹⁰⁰. This was found on the landing.
 - g. A 20cm knife¹⁰¹. This was found wrapped in a duvet on the sofa in the living room¹⁰² (where police were informed by AR's parents that AR had been sleeping).¹⁰³
 - h. A 14cm kitchen knife¹⁰⁴. This was found in the bathroom.
 - i. Items that could be used to make a petrol bomb / Molotov cocktail (bottles / matches / duct tape etc) found in their original delivery packaging in the lounge¹⁰⁵. A number of the glass bottles had matches taped to them.¹⁰⁶

⁹² GRNBK.S182 - MG11 PC 6156 Carroll [MERP000821]

⁹³ ADS/2 [MERP002936]

⁹⁴ Exhibit ADS/1 [MERP002936]

⁹⁵ GRNBK.S229 - MG11 Nicholas McCormack (MFRS) [MERP000767]

⁹⁶ ADS/3 [MERP000767]

⁹⁷ ADS/4 [MERP002936]

⁹⁸ PJQ/01-PJQ/04, [MERP002936] - [MERP002936] MG11 PC 1973 Quirk [MERP000982] and MG11 David Watson (MRFS) [MERP000944]

⁹⁹ MG11 Nicholas McCormack [MERP000767]

¹⁰⁰ ME/01 [MERP002936]

¹⁰¹ PAH/9 [MERP002936]

¹⁰² MG11 PC 5001 Horton [MERP000627]

¹⁰³ MG11 Alphonse Rudakubana [MERP001060]

¹⁰⁴ Exhibit PL/05 [MERP002936] and MG11 PC 2970 Leavitt [MERP001306]

¹⁰⁵ GRNBK.S236 - MG11 PC 5001 Horton [MERP000627]

¹⁰⁶ GRNBK.S218 - MG11 David Watson (MRFS) [MERP000944]

- j. A machete and a sharpening stone. These were on top of the wardrobe in bedroom 3. These items were in sealed packaging with a delivery label which read "Alice DPA 10 Old School Close, Banks".¹⁰⁷

AR's knowledge of the Taylor Swift Yoga and Dance Workshop

77. On 7 July 2024 at 21:08:07, Leanne posted an advert for a 'Taylor Swift Yoga and Dance Workshop' on Instagram¹⁰⁸. It announced that the event was intended for children in school years 2 – 6 (ages 6 – 11) and would take place at The Hart Space on 29 July 2024 between 10.00 and 12.00.
78. On 18 July 2024 at 12:41:45hrs Leanne made another post on Instagram explaining that the event had sold out¹⁰⁹.
79. Heidi did not post anything about the event on her own social media.
80. The investigation did not establish whether or not AR had viewed these or any other posts about the event.
81. Instagram was installed on the Lenovo tablet SMG/3 with the user account @wasd101123. Application usage logs for Instagram recorded the application was being use frequently throughout July 2024 on the Lenovo tablet. No artefacts were found on the device to show a record of viewing Leanne Lucas' adverts for her Taylor Swift Dance Workshop. See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 8 October 2024.
82. The investigation discovered from analysis of the Lenovo tablet (SMG/2) that AR was a user of Instagram and was using the account @wasd101123. AR's devices were digitally forensically examined, however data stored in AR's main online accounts had not been captured because it was stored online not on the device. As AR's Instagram account was private, no information about the account could be obtained from open source research.
83. Consideration was given by the investigation team to obtaining the Meta data for the Instagram account belonging to AR, @wasd101123. This would require an MLAT/ILOR which can only be submitted by the CPS as it must be necessary to progress a Criminal

¹⁰⁷ Exhibit PR/3 MERP002936 and GRNBK.S240A - MG11 PC 3061 Reid MERP001282

¹⁰⁸ Exhibit CD/2G MERP000983

¹⁰⁹ Exhibit CD/20 MERP008146

investigation. Having reviewed the request, the decision was made by the CPS not to submit a request¹¹⁰.

84. The evidence concerning AR's taxi ride (see below) very strongly suggests that he had seen the post or otherwise become aware of the event. In particular, AR booked a taxi to take him to 34A Hart Street, and later confirmed the drop off address with the taxi driver as 34A Hart Street, the location where the event was happening, on the date it was happening, at a time that allowed him to arrive at the location within the time it was happening.

AR's use of electronic devices on 29 July 2024

85. On 29 July 2024 – the day of the attack – at 10.04 UTC; (11.04 BST) a user of the Lenovo tablet (SMG/3) searched Twitter (X) with the term: “mar mari emmanuel stabbing”. Earlier on the same date, a search had been made in the Chrome browser for: “around 1:22:30 mar mari podcast”. When these searches were repeated as part of the investigation, they quickly lead to press articles regarding the stabbing of Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel in a Church in Sydney in April 2024. When a search was made as part of the investigation (on 4 October 2024) on Twitter (X) for “mar mari emmanuel stabbing”, navigation via the ‘Media’ tab in X led to posts containing the video footage of Bishop Emmanuel being stabbed whilst live streaming a sermon. See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 8 October 2024¹¹¹.
86. On the SMG/3 Lenovo tablet, a screenshot of recently accessed files was found. This was time stamped 29 July 2024 09:06:22 UTC; (10:06:22 BST). The images accessed weeks or months before had a date stamp next to them. There were five PDF documents with no associated date, but rather a time stamp “09:51”, signifying they the images had been accessed shortly before the screenshot was taken (and therefore so recent that no date has been placed next to the file name). These files were:
- a. Divinity and Experience – The Religion of the Dinka
 - b. Excerpt from Kamikaze Death Poetry
 - c. Understanding Contemporary Ethiopia
 - d. The Ethiopian Revolution – War in the Horn of Africa
 - e. Rebellion in Iraq 869-883
 - f. Race, Rebellion.

¹¹⁰ SIO Management Policy File, Decision GRNBK.PL42 records the decision-making process

MERP002852

¹¹¹ MG 11 DC Doyle dated 8 October 2024 MERP000926

See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 8 October 2024.

87. A HP Laptop was located in the living room of 10 Old School Close. The investigation found that the internet browser history was deleted from this HP Laptop at 10:55 on the morning of 29 July 2024¹¹². The internet browser history could not be restored by the investigation.

Mobile phone evidence associated with AR's taxi ride to the Hart Centre

88. A Nokia 105 mobile phone was recovered from the Hart Space¹¹³. The investigation established that this mobile phone was AR's. It was a basic device. Although the handset recorded some dates and times, the investigation did not believe that the timestamp of the device is accurate. Network call records should be referred to for accurate date and time stamps of phone calls and text messages. See the witness statement of DC Doyle dated 5 September 2024.
89. The Nokia handset contained the following saved contacts:
- a. '34a hart street – 1772813200'. There was no date or timestamp for when this data was saved into the contacts list of the phone. The number appears to be a landline telephone number that is missing the leading '0' of the area code. 01772 813200 is a telephone number linked via open-source internet research to a company called 'Barnaby Taxis'.
 - b. 'One call taxi – 01704 547000'. There was no date or timestamp for when this data was saved into the contacts list of the phone. 01704 547000 is an advertised number for One Call Taxis, who operate in the Southport area. The call log of the phone contained two outgoing calls to One Call Taxis dated 29/07/2024.
 - c. 'Pr8 6bt', This is the postcode for Hart Street. There was no date or timestamp for when this contact was created. There was no associated phone number, or any other data recorded against it.
90. Two outgoing calls dated 29 July 2024 were made from the mobile phone number associated with the Nokia phone to the number for One Call Taxis, which I have described in paragraph 11 above. These calls were made at 11:13:42 and 11:14:29¹¹⁴.

¹¹² GRNBK.D508 - (Sheet 1 Overview) SMG5 Device review Schedule of SMG_5 Laptop from 10 Old School Close [MERP001208] [MERP001415] [MERP000940]

¹¹³ LJB2 Nokia Phone on floor in Hart Space landing area near studio door [MERP000720] [MERP000597]

¹¹⁴ MG11.Liam Anthony Rice [MERP000730] with exhibits of the transcripts of the call LAR/5

[MERP000518] and LAR/7 [MERP000733] and Network call records

91. As to the content of those calls, the investigation obtained from One Call Taxis recordings of the calls which were made from the mobile phone associated with Nokia phone to the number for One Call Taxis on 29 July 2024. Those recordings were made by One Call Taxis' automated booking system¹¹⁵:
- a. At 11:13:42 One Call taxis received a call, from the number associated with the Nokia phone. The automated system said "Hi Simon", which is the name the system has recorded for the mobile number due to the previous booking made by AR with One Call taxis on 22 July 2024. The caller pressed number one to confirm that the location they wish to be collected at was 10 Old School Close. When the automated system asked for the drop off location, AR appears to hang up the call.
 - b. At 11:14:29 One Call Taxis received a further call from the number associated with the Nokia phone. The automated system again said "Hi Simon". The caller again pressed number one to confirm that the location they wish to be collected at was 10 Old School Close. The customer was asked to confirm the destination and stated "34A Hart Street". The automated system asked the caller to press number one to confirm that their destination is 34A Hart Street, Southport which the customer did.
92. Two incoming messages were recovered from the Nokia mobile phone dated 29 July 2024 which both appear to be from One Call Taxis. The first at 10:30:40 UTC+0 (therefore at 11:30:40) confirms the taxi which had been booked had arrived. The second, at 10:51:29 UTC+0 (therefore at 11:51:29) is from One call Taxis providing a Link to their app¹¹⁶:
- a. 11:30:40 "Your vehicle has arrived WHITE TOYOTA CHR Reg No: DPA
Driver: TD1, (#D2219). More Details:
<https://track.cab9.app/?b=99D788A577AA7>".
 - b. 11:51:29 "Thank you for using One Call Taxis. Start earning REWARD POINTS for money off your future rides. Download our app <https://onelink.to/26v52m>".

Significant comments made by AR when in custody

93. AR was first arrested by PS Gillespie at 11.58:39 on 29 July 2024. He made no comment at that time. See the witness statement of PS Gillespie dated 31 July 2024.
94. At around 22:15 on 30 July 2024 AR was taken to the medical room by custody staff to have samples taken from his body. This was a lengthy process and some of the times

¹¹⁵ Exhibits LAR/5 – LAR/8 MERP000518 MERP008139 MERP000733 MERP008140

¹¹⁶ GRNBK.D42 - Download Report for LJB2 black Nokia Mobile Phone: MERP001363

shown below are therefore in the early hours of the 31 July 2024. DC Cooper was one of those taking the samples. The medical room does not have a CCTV camera within it, but the CCTV camera situated opposite the custody desk is capable of picking up some of the sound from the medical room when the door is open. DC Cooper made a handwritten record of AR making the following significant comments. Where these comments were picked up on the CCTV (much of which was inaudible) this is stated in brackets.

- a. 22:26hrs: "I'M GLAD THOSE KIDS ARE DEAD; IT MAKES ME HAPPY"
- b. 23:25hrs: "I DON'T CARE, I'M FEELING NEUTRAL"
- c. 00:06hrs: "IT'S A GOOD THING THOSE CHILDREN ARE DEAD" (On the CCTV: 00:07hrs "THAT'S A GOOD THING THAT CHILDREN ARE DEAD"¹¹⁷).
- d. 00:08hrs: "LITERALLY SUCH A GOOD THING THOSE KIDS ARE DEAD – 6 YEARS OLD" (On the CCTV: 00:07hrs "I'M GLAD THAT THEY'RE DEAD...[INAUDIBLE]...WHAT, THEY'RE DEAD ON THE STREETS")¹¹⁸
- e. When asked how he knew the children were 6 years old, AR replied: "READ IT IN THE NEWSPAPERS"

See the witness statement of DC Cooper dated 31 July 2024¹¹⁹.

95. When he left the medical room, AR was placed in the glass holding area to speak with his appropriate adult. The glass holding area does not have a CCTV camera within it, but the CCTV camera situated opposite the custody desk is capable of picking up some of the sound in the glass holding area, and more than was picked up from when AR was in the medical room. AR made further significant comments. Where DC Cooper made a handwritten note of the comment it is stated in brackets:

- a. 00:30hrs – 00.31hrs: "I REALLY DON'T CARE. I REALLY DON'T CARE. I REALLY DON'T CARE. DON'T FORGET..." "AND THEN I SAID, YEAH OK BUT I DO CARE" ... [inaudible]... "I DO CARE"¹²⁰.
- b. 00:30 – 00.31hrs: "ALL THE CHILDREN ARE [inaudible]. ... "THE CHILDREN ARE DEAD"... "I AM SO GLAD THE CHILDREN ARE DEAD"... "CHILDREN ARE DEAD"¹²¹. (DC Cooper 00.31hrs "I'M SO GLAD THE CHILDREN ARE DEAD, SO GLAD")
- c. 00.31hrs: "I AM SO GLAD TO BE HERE" ... "SO GLAD"¹²².

¹¹⁷ Exhibit DTW21 / Exhibit FMD03a Clip 3 MERP000624

¹¹⁸ Exhibit DTW21 / Exhibit FMD03a Clip 4 MERP000624

¹¹⁹ MG11 DC 3052 Cooper MERP000076

¹²⁰ Exhibit DTW21 / Exhibit FMD03a Clip 5 MERP000624

¹²¹ Exhibit DTW21 / Exhibit FMD03a Clip 5 MERP000624

¹²² Exhibit DTW21 / Exhibit FMD03a Clip 6 MERP000624

d. 00:32 – 00.33hrs “YEAH, I’M SO HAPPY”...“YEAH, I’M SO HAPPY”...“GOOD THING THEY’RE DEAD, YEAH”¹²³. (DC Cooper 00.33hrs: “SO HAPPY, 6 YEARS OLD – IT’S A GOOD THING THEY ARE DEAD YEA”)

See the witness statement of DC Cooper dated 31 July 2024¹²⁴.

96. DC Cooper’s account was that “Throughout the time spent with [AR], he stared at me continually, often smirking towards me.” See the witness statement of DC Cooper dated 31 July 2024.

97. On 30 July 2024 between 16.51 and 17.24 AR was interviewed for the first time. He remained silent throughout.¹²⁵

98. On 31 July 2024 between 19.02 and 19.58 AR was interviewed for the second time. He remained silent throughout.¹²⁶

99. On 25 September 2024 between 13:45 and 14:46 AR was interviewed for the third time. He remained silent throughout, but asked a question via his solicitor regarding how much ricin it was suggested had been produced.¹²⁷

AR’s intended trip to Range High School on 22 July 2024

100. In 2019 AR was excluded from the Range School. In December 2019 AR went to Range High School and assaulted a pupil.

101. Range High School broke up for its summer holidays at around 12.30 on 22 July 2024. This was confirmed by the School’s Senior Deputy Head, Mr Dolly, who stated that it was public information that the school was breaking up on this day. See the witness statement of Thomas Dolly dated 31 July 2024.

102. The investigation obtained the following information from One Call Taxis’ automated booking system regarding calls made to One Call Taxis’ on 22 July 2024 from a mobile phone number associated with a Nokia mobile phone that the investigation established was being used by AR.¹²⁸

¹²³ Exhibit DTW21 / Exhibit FMD03a Clip 7 MERP000624

¹²⁴ MG11 DC Cooper 31 July 2024 MERP000076

¹²⁵ Exhibit X734 interview transcript MERP001435

¹²⁶ Exhibit X735 interview transcript MERP001436

¹²⁷ Exhibit X1120 interview transcript MERP001437

¹²⁸ See Exhibits LAR/1 – LAR/4 MERP000259 MERP008141 MERP000115 MERP008142

103. On 22 July 2024 at 12:20:36hrs One Call Taxis received a call from the number associated with the Nokia phone which is described above. This was as a failed call meaning that no booking was made and no details of the caller were recorded.
104. On the 22 July 2024 at 12:21:01hrs One Call Taxis received further a call from the number associated with the Nokia phone. The caller was asked by the automated system to confirm their name. The caller (AR) said "Err.....Simon" in response. The caller was then asked by the automated system where they wish to be collected. The caller (AR) replied "Pick up location is 10 Old School Close, Banks and the destination is Range High School Formby".
105. The ride was allocated to a taxi driver. The investigation obtained a witness statement from the taxi driver, Steven Evanson, from which the following summary is taken¹²⁹.
106. The taxi driver recalls arriving at Old School Close, Banks at around 12.30 (ring doorbell footage shows that the taxi arrived at 12:45:59¹³⁰). A boy came out of the house who matched AR's description. AR had his hood up and a COVID style mask on. AR got into the rear of the taxi. The driver asked AR where he wanted to go and he said "Range High School, Formby". When the taxi driver was about to set off, a man came running out of the house where the boy had come from. The taxi driver assumed (correctly) that this was AR's father (Alphonse). Alphonse was pleading with the taxi driver, saying "don't take him, don't take him". AR said "I'm 18" and "I wanna go, take me". There was an argument going on between them, and the taxi driver did not want to get in the middle of a domestic situation, so he told AR that he would not be able to take him. The taxi driver described AR as calm and stated that he got out of the taxi without an issue when he asked him to. The taxi driver said to Alphonse that he had travelled from Southport for the fare. Alphonse passed the taxi driver £5 to cover his expense of travelling to Banks.
107. A statement was also obtained from Alphonse dealing with the events of 22 July 2024, from which the following summary is taken¹³¹.
108. On 22 July 2024 at around 09:00hrs AR was at the home address with Alphonse. AR was wearing a green hoodie. He asked Alphonse when Range High School broke up for

¹²⁹ GRNBK.S36 - MG11 Steven Evason dated 30 July 2024 [MERP000216]

¹³⁰ Exhibit CS/5 – ring doorbell footage for 22 July 2024 [MERP000857]

¹³¹ MG11 Alphonse Rudakubana [MERP001060]

the summer. Alphonse looked on his phone and saw that it was the last day of term that day (22 July 2024). Alphonse made a comment to the effect of “they’ll all be going off to university now”. AR replied with words to the effect of “well I won’t be will I?”

109. At around 12:00 hrs – 12:30hrs Alphonse realised that AR had called a taxi (Alphonse did not state how he realised this) and knew that AR was planning to go to Range High School (Alphonse did not state how he realised this). Alphonse stated that he called the taxi company, but they would not confirm whether a taxi had been booked to his address or not. A taxi from One Call Taxis arrived at his address and AR got in the back with his rucksack. Alphonse went out and pleaded with the taxi driver not to take AR. Eventually the driver agreed and told AR to get out of his taxi. Alphonse paid the Driver £5.
110. Alphonse stated that AR went into the house and locked him out. AR was pacing around, going between rooms. Alphonse suspected the rucksack had weapons, likely a knife. He stayed outside for a couple of hours.
111. Alphonse did not state, and the investigation found no evidence, that he called the police in respect of the matters set out above.
112. The investigation did not obtain any evidence showing that AR had searched online for Range High School’s end of term date and time or anything else about the School.
113. The evidence summarised above very strongly suggests that AR was aware of the date and time when Range High School would be breaking up for the summer holidays and, inevitably, a large number of pupils would be in the vicinity of the School. In particular, AR asked his father when the School was breaking up and his father told him; and AR booked a taxi to take him, and later asked the taxi driver to take him to School, on the date term was ending, at a time that allowed him to arrive at the School around the end of the School day (12.30 on that day).
114. Taken together with the fact that AR ordered the Apollo knives on 13 July 2024 and his actions on 29 July 2024 (which included arriving at the venue shortly before the event’s conclusion), the investigation considered it likely that AR was intending to travel to Range High School to commit offences similar to those he was to commit at the Hart Space a week later. He was only prevented from doing so by the intervention of his father.

Knowledge of AR's family

115. The investigation considered whether and to what extent AR's immediate family were aware of items of concern that were found in the family home and whether they shared AR's mindset / proclivities towards violence and the use of weapons.
116. AR's parents told the investigation that they had some knowledge of his interest in, and ordering of, knives. His father, Alphonse¹³², described incidents when AR took a knife into school for about a week, and another incident when he went to school with a knife taken from the family's kitchen (this is the incident in December 2019 which resulted in AR being arrested and charged). Alphonse also described an occasion when a parcel was delivered to the family home and he was asked to sign for it because it contained knives. He stated that he signed for it but did not give the parcel to AR. A parcel fitting this description was found on top of the bedroom cupboard during the search, as described by Alphonse¹³³.
117. Further, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) had advised AR's parents to remove knives from the address or secure them¹³⁴.
118. The investigation found no evidence of any shared mindset of AR's parents or brother in relation the AR's interest in violence, nor any evidence they knew what he was looking at on his electronic devices.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings many brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

SIGNATURE

Signed:

Dated: 31 July 2025

¹³² MG11 Alphonse Rudakubana **MERP001060**

¹³³ Exhibit PR/3 **MERP002936** and MG11 PC 3061 Reid **MERP001282**

¹³⁴ GRNBNK.D49 notes from meeting with CAMHS 21.1.20 **MERP000696**