



RESTRICTED (when complete)

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9

URN

Statement of: Carmen Thompson

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

This statement (consisting of 5 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:..... **Signature** (witness) Date: 24/12/24

I am PS 5905 Carmen THOMPSON, employed by Lancashire Constabulary and currently based on FCMU (Force Crime Management Unit) at Lancashire Constabulary HQ, Saunder's Lane, Hutton, Preston, PR4 5SA.

This is my statement with regards to my involvement with Axel RUDUKUBANA when I previously worked as a Prevent officer in Counter Terrorism Policing.

The people I will mention in my statement is as follows:

Prevent subject - Axel RUDUKUBANA,
PC 791 Christopher LAWRENCE – CT Prevent officer who I was working with at the time of the initial visit to Axel RUDUKUBANA. This officer has since retired from Lancashire Constabulary.

I was made aware of the following regarding RUDUKUBANA:

On the 17th of October 2019 RUDUKUBANA he was permanently excluded from Range High School, Stapleton Road, Formby, Liverpool, L37 2YN after taking a knife into school and admitted on 10 occasions his intention was to "stab someone". RUDUKUBANA reported that other pupils had been bullying him, but the school report there was no evidence to support this.

Other concerns raised from the school included; when in an Art lesson and whilst colouring in Call of duty images, RUDUKUBANA said "WHY CAN WE HAVE THESE WITH GUNS BUT CAN'T LOOK AT GUNS ON THE INTERNET" and then said "CAN WE HAVE A PICTURE OF A SEVERED HEAD THEN"

RUDUKUBANA made comments about his key worker "SHE IS A SEXIST, SHE MADE A JOKE ABOUT MEN AT WORK", SHE IS A HOMOPHOBIC AS SHE WAS DRINKING OUT OF A MRS CUP AND SHOUTED WHEN WE ASKED IF SHE WAS A LESBIAN, SHE IS A

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RACIST AS WELL SHE SAID COON EARLIER. SHE ACTUALLY SAID TO ME YOU ARE A COON"

RUDUKUBANA has stated that the terrorist attack on the MEN was a good thing, and information provided was that he had also been researching school shootings in America. On the 5th of December 2019 a Prevent referral was received from RUDUKUBANA'S new school placement, Acorns School, 43 Ruff Lane, Ormskirk, L39 4QX following his permanent exclusion from Range High School.

The referral stated that RUDUKUBANA displayed underlying and undiagnosed neurodiversity traits such as autism, and mental health issues. That the only emotions he was able to express are sad or angry, and that he has no understanding of remorse or consequences for his actions.

It was reported that RUDUKUBANA had expressed that he thought there is something wrong with him as he is unable to express himself emotionally or make eye contact. He feels resentment towards his brother, who is [DPA]

[DPA]. RUDUKUKANA does not believe that his brother is really [DPA] Parents don't challenge his behaviour and don't appear to be able to cope.

Following the Prevent referral a Strategy meeting was held on the 17th of December 2019 which I attended in my capacity of Prevent officer. Also present were representatives from Children's Social Care, Mental Health, Merseyside Police, Early Action and Education.

At the time RUDUKUBANA was currently on bail for the assault on a child at Range High School with the use of a hockey stick and possession of a knife which was on his person at the time of the assault although the knife remained in his bag and was not used.

A Forensic CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) appointment was made regarding RUDUKUBANA for the 21st of January 2019 where he was placed on a waiting list for an autism assessment.

At the time he was receiving counselling every 2 weeks, and his parents were accessing support through Parenting 2000.

During this meeting it was agreed that I would visit RUDUKUBANA in my role as Prevent officer.

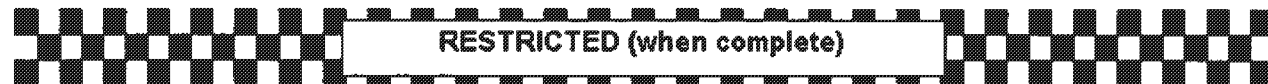
On the 31st of December 2019 PC 791 Lawrence and I visited RUDUKUBANA at his home address, this 10 Old School House, Southport PR9 8SB.

Upon attendance RUDUKUBANA'S father requested we re-attend on the 3rd of January 2019 instead as he was working shifts as a taxi driver.

On the 3rd of January 2019 PC 791 Lawrence and I re-attended RUDUKUBANA's home address and his father was present.

Following introductions, I explained to RUDUKUBANA the reason for our attendance and went through the Preyent referral.

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During the conversation RUDUKUBANA explained that he felt the school had taken things out of context regarding his behaviour and online activity. I asked him why he had been researching the internet about school shootings and he said that he had been interested in a news article about this which he had looked at, he said that he had not actively searched for this.

RUDUKUBANA admitted that he had looked at some "Num Chucks" on the school internet, the reason he did this was to research for a lesson where they were building things. He said that he had explained the reasons why he had looked at these things on the internet to the teachers and they still wrote it down anyway. RUDUKUBANA felt his school were always writing things down about him to get him into trouble. He went to explain that he hated it at school, and he did not like any of his teachers, as he felt as though they were picking on him.

When I asked him about the recent assault incident, he had been arrested for, RUDUKUBANA said the reason he had done this was because he was being bullied. That he had told the teachers, and they hadn't done anything about it, so he took the matter into his own hands. He went on to say that he felt that he was being bullied as the person bullying him was jealous because everyone at his previous school liked him. He said that he had previously taken knives into school due to being bullied but that he does not carry knives anymore as he understands this is wrong.

During my interactions with RUDUKUBANA he showed no remorse about what he had done and did not seem to understand the consequences of his actions. He went onto say that he doesn't like his own brother, saying his brother is pretending not to walk to get attention. RUDUKUBANA expressed his anger of moving schools, blaming his brother for this, believing he had lost all of his friends because of him as the family who had to move due to a

DPA

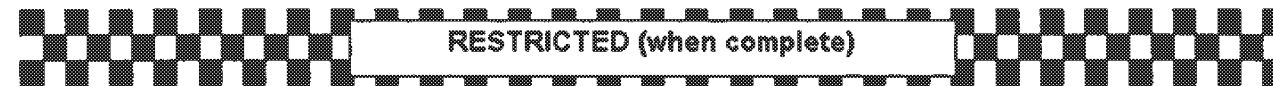
I can confirm his older brother is in a wheelchair DPA

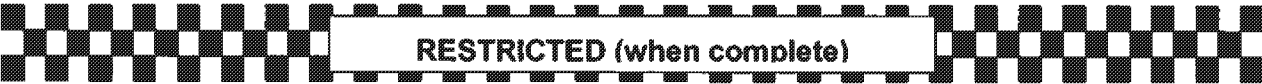
Also, during my interactions with RUDUKUBANA he appeared to display traits of autism, as he did not like to make eye contact, he was continuously fidgeting, struggling to understand his emotions as he showed no empathy towards the victim he had recently assaulted.

At no point did RUDUKUBANA display any Terrorism or Domestic Extremism ideology and displayed no interest in politics or religion. He had no grievances against any specific groups, the recent assault was towards a pupil who he said had been bullying him and his issues were with his brother and his previous school.

I was advised he had no access to the internet, as all his devices had been seized by the police. He would usually play games like Fortnite but was unable to do so whilst police had custody of his devices.

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Due to RUDUKUBANA'S underlying neurodiversity needs and mental health issues he was vulnerable which lies with partners separate to the police to manage. There have been changes within the family due to his [DPA] and he is now in a wheelchair which has meant the family had to move home and Axel has moved school.

RUDUKUBANA was not allowed to return to school until a risk assessment had been put into place which means he was isolated. He had been a victim of bullying and awaiting a diagnosis in relation to Autism so that the right support could be put into place.

My assessment following this intervention with RUDUKUBANA was that I did not feel that there were any Terrorism or Domestic Extremism concerns at that time.

I stated that he was extremely vulnerable and required support from the other agencies that were currently working with him. My advice to those agencies was to re refer to Prevent should Counter Terrorism or domestic Extremism concerns come to light in the future. That if relevant information is found on his internet history from the school or from his devices this information could be submitted to the FIMU (Fixed Intelligence Management Unit) for assessment.

RUDUKUBANA'S case was closed to Prevent on the 31st of January 2020 based on the information held at the time the reasons for closure were that the concerns relayed to Prevent were explored and did not appear to be linked to an ideology or a vulnerability to radicalisation. His vulnerabilities and needs were being met by mainstream safeguarding, RUDUKUBANA said he was being bullied and this was the reason he had taken knives into school.

RUDUKUBANA was also awaiting an Autism assessment in relation to some of his vulnerabilities.

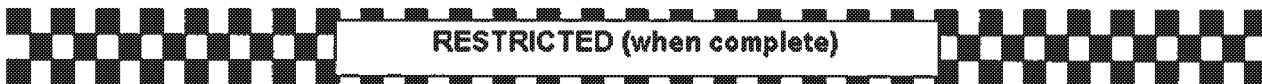
I advised all agencies to re refer to prevent should they have any more concerns in the future and if any relevant information was found on his internet history or from his devices.

I referred to the National Decision Model (NDM) throughout my decision-making process and I was satisfied that the required support was in place to support his vulnerabilities.

This information was assessed by FIMU (Fixed Intelligence Management Unit for assessment) as suitable for closure at this stage.

On the 8th of February 2021 a second Prevent referral was received, this was from RUDUKUBANA'S previous school The Range. The referral reported that he was still in contact via Instagram with pupils from his previous school and that pictures of Colonel GADAFFI had been shared. The concerns around these posts were deemed not Counter Terrorism or Domestic Extremism relevant by FIMU (Fixed intelligence Management Unit) and the case was closed to Prevent on the 17th of February 2021.

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On the 26th of April 2021 a third further prevent referral was received from the school due to RUDUKUBANA showing an interest in a recent London bomb and he had researched news articles as a result, he also spoke with his teacher about Israel and Palestine and had a conversation around MI5 and the IRA.

I assessed this as being no extreme views or concerns of a Counter Terrorism/Domestic Extremism (CT/DE) rhetoric. RUDUKUBANA displayed critical thinking skills demonstrating that he has considered different viewpoints and information. The referral did not highlight any new concerns.

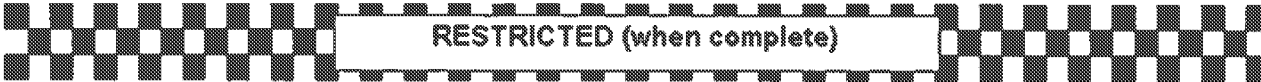
The ongoing advice to staff at the school was to re refer to Prevent should they feel that RUDUKUBANA showed any vulnerabilities going forward, although as stated the referrals did not meet the threshold as they were centred around his mental health and neurodiversity. This referral was assessed by FIMU as no evidence of Terrorism or Domestic Extremism concerns, that his interest in current affairs could be attributed to his autism diagnosis. RUDUKUBANA was waiting for an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and a specialist educational placement which would help and support him through his ongoing education. Based on the information held at the time the reasons for closure were, there was no CT/DE identified, there were no new concerns reported. I referred to the National Decision Model (NDM) throughout my decision-making process and I was satisfied that the required support was in place to support his vulnerabilities.

I checked the police systems and confirmed that there were no updates to report since the last referral was closed.

I ensured the required checks were conducted on the police systems as required in my role as Prevent officer. There were no further reports since his arrest for the assault and the subsequent Prevent referrals were addressed as I have explained in this statement.

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<u>Witness contact details</u>		URN	
Name of witness: CARMEN THOMPSON			
Home Address: [REDACTED]	Postcode: [REDACTED]		
E-mail address: [REDACTED]	Mobile:		
Home Telephone Number: [REDACTED]	Work Telephone Number:		
Preferred means of contact (specify details for vulnerable/intimidated victims and witnesses only)			
Gender: FEMALE	Date and place of birth: [REDACTED]		
Former name:	Ethnicity Code (16 + 1):		
<u>DATES OF WITNESS NON-AVAILABILITY:</u>			
<u>Witness care</u>			
a)	Is the witness willing to attend court?	If 'No', include reason(s) on form MG6 .	
b)	What can be done to ensure attendance?		
c)	Does the witness require a Special Measures Assessment as a vulnerable or intimidated witness? (youth under 18; witness with mental disorder, learning or physical disability; or witness in fear of giving evidence or witness is the complainant in a sexual offence case) If 'Yes' submit MG2 with file in anticipated not guilty, contested or indictable only cases.		
d)	Does the witness have any particular needs? If 'Yes' what are they? (Disability, healthcare, childcare, transport, disability, language difficulties, visually impaired, restricted mobility or other concerns?).		
<u>Witness Consent (for witness completion)</u>			
a)	The Victim Personal Statement scheme (victims only) has been explained to me	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
b)	I have been given the Victim Personal Statement leaflet	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
c)	I have been given the leaflet "Giving a witness statement to the police..."	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
d)	I consent to police having access to my medical record(s) in relation to this matter (obtained in accordance with local practice)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e)	I consent to my medical record in relation to this matter being disclosed to the defence	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f)	I consent to the statement being disclosed for the purposes of civil, or other proceedings if applicable, e.g. child care proceedings, CICA	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g)	Child witness cases only. I have had the provision regarding reporting restrictions explained to me.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	I would like CPS to apply for reporting restrictions on my behalf.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>'I understand that the information recorded above will be passed on to the Witness Service, which offers help and support to witnesses and at court'.</i>			
Signature of witness:	Signature [REDACTED]	PRINT NAME:	C Thompson
Signature of parent/guardian/appropriate adult:		PRINT NAME:	
Address and telephone number (of parent etc.), if different from above:			

Statement taken by:

Station:

Time and place statement taken:

