

# Southport Inquiry

Witness Name: Robert Shaw

Exhibits: RS/01-RS/02

Dated: 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

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### WITNESS STATEMENT OF ROBERT SHAW

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I, **Robert Shaw**, will say as follows: -

#### INTRODUCTION

1. I am the director of Jimbobs LTD. I was the director back in June 2023 when the relevant order took place. I was also the director back in July 2024 when the attack occurred and i am still currently the director of Jimbobs LTD
2. Jimbobs LTD is an online business which sells on Amazon, eBay and DIY.com (B&Q). Jimbobs LTD deals in mainly tools from companies such as Amtech, Rolson, Hamble & Toolzone. I have had the business for 17+ years. This is just a small family run business of just myself & my daughter Jade Shaw.
3. This witness statement is made to assist the Southport Inquiry (the "**Inquiry**") with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025.

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## Context/Against this context

4. AR placed an order on Amazon at 22:35pm on the 10th of June 2023 for an Amtech sledgehammer – Order number 026-8542207-5714719. However, this order was cancelled by AR and a refund was issued. AR then placed another order at 23:22pm on the 10th of June 2023 for the same item again, Amtech Sledgehammer, Order number 026-5143596-7544365 which was completed. Unfortunately, due to these orders being placed over 2 years ago I cannot access any more information than this. I am unable to see if any messages were sent between AR and Jimbobs LTD. I exhibit a photo of the Amtech Sledgehammer as **RS/01 - JIMB000003**
  
5. I was unaware at the time of the purchase that AR was a child. When placing an order on Amazon I am not given details of ages of customers. I was not aware that AR was using a Pseudonym email account. Amazon do not allow me as a seller to see personal email address, nor do Amazon allow personal email address to be sent through Amazon messages. I was not aware that AR cancelled the order to then re-order with a different IP address. I do not see IP addresses when orders are placed on Amazon. No, I would not have continued with the sale if I had known these matters. The item does have a label with a warning on the back which states to keep away from children. As shown in **RS/02 - JIMB000004**
  
6. I am aware that it is not a legal requirement in the UK for age verification and Amazon do require this on certain items but purchasing a Sledgehammer does not require an age verification on Amazon. No age verification was checked or taken at the time of the purchase. When someone purchase an item from Jimbobs LTD on Amazon I cannot see the age of someone purchasing. This is down to Amazon to put in age verifications on listings (Which as stated they do have on some items). But they do not have an age verification for a sledgehammer.
  
7. Before these events I had not considered age verification for tools due to never having any previous problems within my business selling on Amazon, eBay or B&Q. However, since this attack eBay now have age verification process on any items that could be classed as a weapon or could harm someone and this is mandatory. A customer must provide credit card details before they could purchase an item to make sure they are over the age of 18.

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## Reflection of events

8. On reflection, at the time of the attack I do not believe that Jimbobs LTD could have done anymore at the time due to the fact I am not given any details of ages, date of births, credit/ debit card details etc when an order is placed. With the knowledge that I have now, I believe that age verification is important when someone is purchasing an item online. This should be steps that Amazon need to implement more on items that could be classed as weapons or used to harm someone.

## Improvements

9. Since the attack Jimbobs LTD now require age verification on eBay from buyer when they are purchasing a tool. The improvements have been effective however I believe there needs to be other ways for age verification as a lot of people do not own credit cards.

## 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.

Signed:

**SIGNATURE**

Dated: \_ 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025

## **Index to the Witness Statement of Robert Shaw**

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Inquiry reference No.</b>	<b>Document description</b>

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1	JIMB000003	Photo of the item AR purchase from Jimbobs LTD – Sledgehammer
2	JIMB000004	Photo of the label on the item showing 'Keep away from children'