

Witness Name: JENNIFER SCHOLES

Exhibits:

Dated: 15/08/2025

THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF JENNIFER SCHOLES

I, Jennifer Scholes, will say as follows: -

Introduction

1. My name is Jennifer Scholes.
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Southport Inquiry (the "Inquiry") following a request for further disclosure made on 29 July 2025.
3. The inquiry has asked that I disclose copies of WhatsApp messages relevant to security at the Hart Space. I have done this and most of these messages need no explanation. However, on review of a group chat I set up between myself and the facilitators who regularly hired The Hart Space, I would like to provide some additional comments and context. This group chat involved me and about 20 other people and the exact number changed over time. They were not the only people who hired The Hart Space but they were the ones who regularly did so.
4. In June 2024, I received emails and social media messages from a man called DPA asking me along the lines of "I have a dirty nappy, can you change it for me?" and other similar things. This is not the first time he had messaged me. He is well known in hypnobirthing circles and as far as I am aware, he has sent similar messages to hypnobirthing

providers up and down the country for at least the past 8 years. I cannot remember exactly what caused me to message the group about this, but I think it was just because I hadn't heard from him in some time and I had been told by someone that there was a new police log we could add to about it. I cannot remember who gave me the log number as I speak to so many people.

5. As can be seen from the messages, he had contacted other facilitators who hired the Hart Space to run some of their classes. He had never tried to book on any of my classes at the Hart Space or in other venues I hired. To my knowledge he had never tried to book on anyone else's classes at the Hart Space but as I was not involved in the booking of other peoples' classes I cannot be certain. No one told me if he had tried to or even if he had ever previously messaged them. One of our facilitators said that he tried to book on clinics of one her friends, who I believe operates around St Helens. The messages also say that he was contacting people in the Wigan area.
6. I have dealt with these messages for years. He only ever sent messages and had never tried to attend any of my classes. I believe he had been reported to the police on multiple occasions for nuisance emails and social media messages. I never for one second considered that he would try and attend a class at The Hart Space or that he posed any kind of physical threat, he was just viewed as a slightly creepy individual. However, at around the same time I had been talking to **DPA** who used to run self-defence classes at The Hart Space. He was struggling to get many bookings at the time so I wanted to help him out. Combined with the fact that people in the group did seem worried about this weirdo's messages and wanting to support the facilitators generally, I suggested asking **DPA** to run a self-defence class for the facilitators. I did this as a proactive step to help those using the space if they wanted to take advantage of this, and to support the women in our community. It's a good life skill and I thought it would be fun.
7. In the end the class never happened. We could not agree a suitable date before the summer holidays when everyone's availability was much worse. There was no sense that the class was urgent or that there was any particular risk it would address. By that time the messages had stopped and shortly afterwards the attack happened and The Hart Space closed.
8. No one ever cancelled a class because of these messages or told me that they did not feel safe to run them.

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: A rectangular box with a dashed border containing the word "Signature" in a large, bold, black font. Above the box, the text "Signed by:" is written in a small font. Below the box, a long alphanumeric string "D3F2D55CC678459..." is partially visible.

Dated: 15 August 2025 | 16:00 BST