

## WITNESS STATEMENT

**Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B**

<b>Statement of:</b> David Fairclough	<b>URN</b>			
Age (if under 18): N/A	Occupation:			

I am Police Constable 8620 Fairclough of Lancashire Constabulary and currently attached to the Neighbourhood Policing Team at Ormskirk Police Station. This is a further statement in relation to my interaction with Axel RUDAKABANA on 17th March 2022 when he was a Missing From Home child.

In this statement I shall mention: Axel RUDAKABANA, his mother Laetita MUZAYIRE, his father Alphonse RUDAKABANA and my colleague Police Constable 1719 RHODES.

In my previous statement I spoke about a disclosure Axel had made to myself and PC 1719 whilst we were returning him to his home address after being missing from home for a period of time. Axel told myself and PC 1719 that he wished to stab people and had thought about using poison. As already stated in my previous statement, the only explanation Axel could give for wanting to do this was to have his social media accounts closed down. Axel stated there were embarrassing videos on his accounts to which he no longer had access. Axel did not appear to understand how extreme his thoughts were and was presenting as though he had mental health concerns. The comment from Axel in relation to poison was brief and he did not elaborate further. Axel did not have a particular target or target group and simply wanted to be arrested. The conversation kept returning to his social media accounts.

When we arrived at the home address of Axel, I spoke with his parents. I relayed the comments Axel had made to us. My previous statement mentions a comment made by Laetitia about Axel previously speaking about poison, this comment was made after I had made the disclosure about Axel talking about poison in the police vehicle. I cannot recall exactly what Laetitia said in relation to these comments, however, I remember there not being much of a reaction or shock on her part. I do not recall being told of any attempt to make poison. I do recall Laetitia appearing stressed with Axel and she commented how she did not feel mental health services were doing enough despite her numerous requests. No family member mentioned a specific type of poison and the comment was that Axel had discussed poison, not that he had made or bought any. As mentioned in my previous statement, I searched the home address during my initial visit as I would with any person who was reported missing from home. There was nothing I could see or find in the address at the time that would suggest Axel was making or thinking of making a poison. Axel was present during this conversation with his mother and father and did not make any further disclosure in relation to poison.

Neither Laetitia or Alphonse appeared to fear Axel. There was ample opportunity to make me aware of any criminality Axel had taken part in, any further concerns or if there was anything in the address that should not be. During my initial visit, Axel was not present as he was still missing from home at that time. During the second visit, Laetita spoke quite openly in front of Axel about how she was struggling with his mental health.

Despite the mention of poison only being a very quick comment from Axel, this was still documented on the high risk referral that was made when we left the address.

I have had no further direct dealings with this family. In August 2024, I was asked to provide a statement to Merseyside Police in relation to this interaction in March 2022

This statement 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 of witness:

**Signature**

Date: 28/11/2024 13:51