

Witness Name: ALEXANDER MCNAMEE

Exhibits: AM/01 – AM/24

Dated: 30 July 2025

## THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

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### FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF ALEXANDER MCNAMEE

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I, **ALEXANDER MCNAMEE**, will say as follows:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. I am Police Constable Alexander McNamee of Lancashire Constabulary.
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Southport Inquiry (the “**Inquiry**”) with the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request dated 10 July 2025.

#### **INTRODUCTORY MATTERS**

3. After finishing school and completing A levels, I went to university and studied for a history degree. In 2012, I graduated and did some retail work before going into the care sector; this included an attachment at a brain injury rehabilitation unit and as a nursing assistant position in a high secure hospital for two years. I then joined the Police. I joined Lancashire Constabulary on 19 February 2018 at the age of 26. I joined the police to help people in the community who are vulnerable or are victims of crime and to help bring those who offend to justice. I have been a response officer throughout my career, although I was seconded to the Intelligence Department’s Target Unit. This role involved proactive use of intelligence to target and disrupt County Lines and drug dealers.

4. I currently work as a response officer at Skelmersdale Police Station which covers the West Lancashire area. My role as a response officer broadly involves me responding to emergency and priority incidents as they are reported.

#### **FACTUAL NARRATIVE OF INVOLVEMENT**

5. On 7 October 2019 I was working a late shift as an immediate response officer. My tour of duty was 15:00 until 00:00. I was based out of Skelmersdale police station and was in full police uniform. I was placed into callsign SBCAR1L and was paired with PC 872 Alex Wood. The make-up of the call sign is such that 'SB' denotes Skelmersdale, 'CAR1' denotes that I was a Constable driving a police vehicle and 'L' denotes that I was on the late shift. This involved me driving a marked police vehicle with emergency lights and sirens. Prior to attending the incident involving AR, I had been to 3 other incidents.
6. At 19:38 a call was made into the Force Control Room by the National Crime Agency ("NCA"). The NCA reported that they had been contacted by Childline. Childline had reported to the NCA that a young person had contacted them saying that they had been bullied at school, that they had taken a knife into school before and that they wanted to kill the person who was bullying them. Incident log LC-20191007-1383 was created to record this information. The incident log says that they had traced the IP address of the person they were speaking to, to AR's home address. I exhibit incident log LC-20191007-1383 (LC-01) as **AM/01 – LANC000041**. I exhibit the call that the NCA made to the Force Control Room (LC-02) as **AM/02 – LANC000185**.
7. At 19:42 the NCA sent an email to the Force Control Room. The email broadly outlined the same information on the incident log, including that a young person had said they were being repeatedly bullied at school, that they had taken a knife into school with them before and that they wanted to kill the bully. I exhibit the email that the NCA sent to the Force Control Room (LC-144) as **AM/03 – LANC000144**.
8. At 20:15 the Force Control Room created an additional incident log LC-20191007-1436 to record the content of the email that had been received from the NCA. The incident log was created and then closed by the Force Control Room as a duplicate log. I exhibit incident log LC-20191007-1436 as **AM/04 – LANC000042**.

9. At 20:30 I was asked over the radio to attend this incident. The Force Control Room gave me the details as per incident log LC-20191007-1383. I was provided with an address to attend, and PC Wood and I made our way to the property. I exhibit the 20:30 radio transmission deploying PC Wood and I to the incident (LC-152) as **AM/05 - LANC000180**
10. At 21:04 PC Wood and I arrived at the address and were allowed into the property by AR's mother. AR was upstairs when we arrived, but he came downstairs when requested to do so by his mother. At some point AR's father returned home and sat with us.
11. At 21:10 I completed a check on the Police National Computer ("PNC") - a computer system used by Police and other UK law enforcement organisations to store and access data on individuals, property and vehicles. I also checked the 'Connect' system (a Lancashire Constabulary policing platform that acts as a single data store for the Force) against AR's personal details. There was no trace on either system.
12. PC Wood and I engaged AR in conversation about what he had said to Childline. AR confirmed that he had been taking a knife into school, the Range High School in Formby. He was initially quite flippant and dismissive about it. When asked how many times he had taken the knife into school he said "ten". He stated that he had taken the knife to school as he was being bullied by a pupil called [DPA] He intimated this had been going on for some time. He was asked what he intended to do with the knife, and he said he believed he would use it when he got angry at the bullying.
13. AR seemed very frustrated at being bullied but also frustrated at the school as he felt they were not dealing adequately with the matter. He did not initially appear to fully understand the consequences of what he was proposing to do and appeared fixated on it. However, after spending some time discussing the matter with AR, he did recant and seemed less likely to want to take a knife into school. He became upset and tearful. He was advised by myself and PC Wood about the severity and repercussions of carrying a knife. He stated that he would not take a knife into school again.
14. We were told by AR's mother that she was already aware of what AR had been doing and she had taken the knife off him. She had also locked all the other knives in the address away. I believe AR's mother said that AR had been, or was being, assessed for mental health issues. I don't now remember the specifics of this or if he had been diagnosed with any particular condition. Both AR's mother and father expressed

concerns about AR's behaviour but also shared his frustration with what they perceived to be a lack of action from AR's school with regards to his complaint of being bullied.

15. I and PC Wood left the address of AR and his family after approximately 20 minutes and made our way back to Skelmersdale police station. The incident log shows that we were not 'resumed' from the incident until 22:28. However, we were not at AR's address for that long and will have stayed attached to the log in order to complete the referral and contact the school. I understand that checks have been completed against the GPS data from our radios and the latest time that we could have left the address is 21:26 (having arrived at 21:04, as above). I exhibit the report of the GPS data obtained for my and PC Wood's radio (LC-185) as **AM/06 - LANC000231**

16. On our arrival back at the station I decided to send an email to the Range High School. I knew an Op Encompass referral would be generated from the vulnerable child referral, but I wanted to be sure the school received the information first thing in the morning. Op Encompass sends the referral details directly to schools, but only if they are in Lancashire. As the Range is in Merseyside, I was unsure how long it would take for them to get the referral, and I wanted them to have the details of the incident at the start of the next school day.

17. I went onto the school's website to try to find an email address. I couldn't find an email address, but I did find a contact form on the website which I completed at 22:13. In the contact form I explained that AR had been bringing a knife into school because he felt he was being bullied. I stated that AR felt he was being bullied by [redacted] DPA [redacted] I stated that I was aware that the school were appraised of the bullying, but I suggested that further safeguarding steps would have to be taken. I suggested that they search AR on his arrival at school and also speak to him about what had been disclosed. I explained that AR seemed remorseful and had said he would not bring a knife into school again. I also advised that AR's mother had hidden the knives they had at home. I also included in the email that I was putting referrals in place in relation to AR and that I had fully explained the consequences of carrying a knife to AR. I exhibit the contact form (LC-09) as **AM/07 - LANC000018**

18. At 22:15 PC Wood placed an update on incident log LC-20191007-1383. PC Wood updated the incident log with details of the conversation that we had with AR at his home and the advice that we had given to AR's mother. He also asked for the log to be deferred for the attention of the Sergeant on the early shift the following morning, for them to

contact the Range High School and advise them of what AR had been doing. This was done as another level of safeguarding as we couldn't be sure the website contact with the school would be picked up by staff straight away.

19. At 22:39, I submitted on the Pronto system a high-risk vulnerable child report, in which I gave a summary of the incident and outlined my concerns. This referral was given a reference number of 04/176978/19. I exhibit Pronto report 04/178716/19 (LC-193) as **AM/08 – LANC000248**. I submitted the referral as high risk because AR was previously unknown to Lancashire Constabulary and his first contact with us was for something serious. There were also potential trigger points in terms of the bullying and potential of undiagnosed mental health issues. Due to the time of night, we were unable to speak to AR's school to gain more information on him. I felt the fact he had taken a knife to school was high risk coupled with the fact he thought he was being bullied was potentially a trigger for him to do something. That information then automatically transferred onto Connect to create the vulnerable child investigation 04/176978/19. I exhibit the vulnerable child investigation report (LC-10) as **AM/09 – LANC000066**. This report was then automatically forwarded to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub ("MASH") who were responsible for processing all safeguarding referrals and referring them to the appropriate agency.
20. An Operation Encompass referral was automatically generated from the report that I created. Operation Encompass is a police and education partnership established so that educational establishments receive immediate information from the police regarding safeguarding issues relating to their pupils. However, because AR's school was outside of Lancashire, I knew the Op Encompass referral wouldn't go automatically to them. I wasn't sure of the process of how the MASH would send AR's school the referral or how long it would take, and this is why I emailed them directly. I have retrieved the Op Encompass email that was created and sent to Lancashire County Council. I exhibit this email at 22:44 on 7 October 2019 (LC-125) as **AM/10 – LANC000126**.
21. I note from vulnerable child investigation report 04/176978/19 that Safeguarding Support Officer ("SSO") 14968 Nelson processed the vulnerable child report in the MASH on the morning of 8 October 2019. SSO Nelson created a Safeguarding Referral Form and updated the vulnerable child investigation to say that it had been shared with Children's Social Care, Health and Education. I exhibit the Safeguarding Referral Form (LC-12) as **AM/11 – LANC000067**.

22. At 08:33 on 8 October 2019, an email was sent to me from the Range High School confirming receipt of my email the evening before and that the Headteacher had been updated. I exhibit the email from Acorns School to me (LC-11) as **AM/12 - LANC000055**
23. At 09:06 PS 777 Richard Horton updated incident log LC-20191007-1383 confirming that he had spoken to the Range High School and made them aware of the incident. PS Horton's update says that AR had made a 'FULL AND FRANK DISCLOSURE' and 'ARE TAKING SAFEGUARDING ACTION WITHIN THE SCHOOL'.
24. At 14:44 on 8 October 2019, I received an email from Staff 12566 Bell who worked in the Force Control Room. She advised me that she had received a call from Mr Dave Cregeen at the Range High School and asked me to call him back to discuss AR. I exhibit the email sent to me by Staff Bell (LC-143) as **AM/13 - LANC000143**. I exhibit the call that Mr Cregeen made to the Force Control Room (LC-13) as **AM/14 - LANC000396**.
25. A short time later, I spoke to Mr Cregeen. He advised me that he was the Safeguarding Lead at AR's school. He thanked me for the high-risk vulnerable child referral and updated me on the actions that had been taken at the school. He said that AR's bag had been searched on his arrival at school, and they had not found anything. Mr Cregeen told me that they had spoken to AR about bringing the knife to school and I gathered they had received a similar response from AR as I had the previous evening. In addition, I was told that AR had been given a detention the previous week and had been heard to say, "THIS IS WHY TEACHERS GET MURDERED". Mr Cregeen told me AR had been asked about what he had said, and he said it was an off the cuff remark. Mr Cregeen told me that AR had been indefinitely excluded from the school whilst a decision was made about his future. Mr Cregeen advised me he would email me again once a final decision had been made about AR. It could have been during this phone call that I advised Mr Cregeen to report the incident to Merseyside Police in order for them to record the crime on their systems.
26. At 15:50 on 8 October 2019, I updated the investigation report with the information I had been passed by Mr Cregeen. I was aware from the incident log that Children's Social Services were already aware of the information I had just been given and AR having been given a detention a week before for making those comments.

27. At 09:48 on 28 October 2019 I received an email from AR's father asking me if I could attend a meeting at the Range High School with the family on 5 November 2019 to discuss AR's permanent exclusion from the school. I exhibit this email (LC-20) as **AM/15** - **LANC000069**
28. At 15:51 on 28 October 2019 I emailed AR's father back and explained that I was not in a position to attend. I told him that I could not act as an advocate for AR as he had admitted criminal offences and did not seem to fully understand the possible repercussions of his actions or show any remorse. I exhibit this email that I sent back to AR's father (LC-20) as **AM/16** - **LANC000069**
29. At 07:15 on 24 November 2019 I updated the high-risk vulnerable child referral that AR had been permanently excluded from the Range High School. I cannot recall how or when I received this information. At 07:14 I requested that this referral be closed, and I submitted it to PS 3762 Carr for review. At 09:04 PS Carr rejected my closure request and queried whether Merseyside Police had been advised of the incident as the Range High School was within their Force boundary, and as a result, they held primacy when it came to recording any criminal offences. He asked me to add any relevant reference numbers from Merseyside Police to the referral before it could be closed and finalised.
30. At 16:28 on 27 November 2019 I emailed the Communication Centre of Merseyside Police and provided AR's details and briefly described what he had done. I also queried whether the Range High School had notified them in order that a crime report could be submitted as I am confident that I had previously asked Dave Cregeen to notify Merseyside Police. I had felt he was best placed to report the matter as he had all AR's details and behavioural history and held the information on **DPA** as well. I exhibit the email I sent to Merseyside Police (LC-21) as **AM/17** - **LANC000070**
31. Later on 27 November 2019, I received an email back from Merseyside Police to advise that they had checked their systems, and it did not appear as though the matter had been reported to them. At this point, I could have emailed Merseyside Police back and attached a copy of the investigation report so that they had sufficient information to record the crime on their system. I think I may have contacted Mr Cregeen on 5 December 2019 to establish if he had reported the incident to Merseyside Police. I think this because I have a pocket notebook entry dated 5 December 2019. I exhibit the email sent back from Merseyside Police as **AM/18** - **LANC000070**

32. At 14:22 on 3 December 2019 I received an email from Joanne Hodson, the Deputy Head and Special Educational Needs Coordinator from the Acorns School. This was the school AR was by then attending. Joanne advised me of some safeguarding concerns she had in relation to AR. She stated that on 15 November 2019, AR had been using the school internet to research school shootings in America. On 29 November 2019 AR had been punching his hand and had jumped up and punched a laminate hanging from the ceiling. When discussing promoting a new business to the area, AR said it would not be good because people would think he would kill them as they did not know him and people didn't trust those they don't know in case they get murdered. Joanne also advised that on 3 December 2019 AR had been colouring a Call of Duty image and had said "Why can we have these with guns but can't look at guns on the internet". Joanne said AR then went on to say, "Can we have a picture of a severed head then". I exhibit the email from Joanne Hodson (LC-15) as **AM/19** - **LANC000058**.

33. At 09:45 on 4 December 2019 I emailed Joanne Hodson back. I acknowledged her earlier email and told her that I had tried to call her. I stated that I felt AR's behaviour seemed quite concerning. I explained to Joanne that when I had dealt with AR in October, I had referred him to the relevant services. I advised that I knew he had been referred to Social Services, but I did not know what actual intervention had taken place. I also queried with Joanne whether she had made the relevant referrals in relation to the incidents she had outlined in her email to me. I exhibit the email that I sent to Joanne Hodson (LC-15) as **AM/20** - **LANC000059**.

34. At 11:06 the same day, I received a further email from Joanne advising of the intervention she believed AR was receiving. She stated that he had an early help worker, Lucy Parkinson, and she was aware of the recent incidents. She stated that the Range High School had referred AR to CAMHS at Alder Hey Hospital, but they had turned the referral down and recommended a referral to Sefton Targeted Youth. However, she was of the view that this referral had not been made, and another member of the Acorns staff was exploring whether he could still be referred. Joanne went on to say that she had tried to refer AR to Lancashire CAMHS, but they had turned the referral down as AR had a GP in the Sefton area. She had therefore referred him back to Alder Hey. She was awaiting a decision in relation to this. She was aware that AR had been attending a service called Project 2000 in Southport and that AR's father had signed up for some parenting interventions starting in January. Joanne stated that she was concerned about the escalation of what AR was saying and his perception that he was being targeted by another pupil in the school. She queried whether there was anything else she could be

doing. She stated she was worried that because AR had a West Lancashire address but a Sefton GP then he was going to fall between the cracks. She stated that she was concerned there was going to be a serious incident if AR did not get the right support. I exhibit this email received back from Joanne (LC-15) as **AM/21 – LANC000059**.

35. I telephoned Joanne and spoke to her about AR. I cannot now recall exactly what was said in the call. From a subsequent email it appears as though I encouraged the searching of AR when he attended school. I did not feel I needed to complete a further vulnerable child report to refer to the MASH as Joanne had already made the necessary referrals.

36. At 07:53 on 5 December 2019, I added the following to my electronic pocket notebook – “The Range school, **DPA** Dave Cregeen” (sic). I cannot recall exactly why I did this, but I think I may have telephoned Mr Cregeen to see if he had reported the incident in October to Merseyside Police. The delay in me contacting Mr Cregeen was because the investigation did not show in my workload on Connect until 22 November 2019. I should have recorded my conversation with Mr Cregeen on the investigation. I exhibit this pocket notebook entry (LC-18) as **AM/22 – LANC000050**.

37. At 14:44 on 17 December 2019, I received an email from PS 135 Andrew Bramhall updating me following his attendance at a strategy discussion involving AR. He stated that I had done the right thing submitting a referral which had then been shared with other agencies. He also advised me that AR had since gone into his old school in Southport and committed an assault. I exhibit the email PS Bramhall sent me as **AM/23 – LANC000194**.

38. I had no further involvement with, or communication about, AR after 17 December 2019.

39. On 25 August 2024, I provided a statement to Merseyside Police to assist their criminal investigation of the Southport attacks. I exhibit this statement (LC-23) as **AM/24 – LANC000020**.

40. I have been asked whether, at the end of my discussion with AR on 7 October 2019, I believed that AR understood the seriousness of carrying a knife to school or threatening to stab others (noting that I subsequently said that ‘he did not seem to fully understand the possible repercussions, nor show any remorse’: LANC000069/LC- 20). I think at the end of speaking with AR on 7 October 2019 I felt he did understand the seriousness of what

he had done. I believe my comment in the email on 28 October 2019 (LC-20) to AR's father that AR 'did not seem to fully understand the possible repercussions, nor show any remorse' reflected my feeling based on what I had then learned over the subsequent three weeks, including information from Mr Cregeen.

41. Specifically, on 8 October 2019, after I had sent my email of 7 October 2019, I spoke to Mr Cregeen who was the Safeguarding Lead at the Range High School. He told me that they had spoken to AR when he had come into school the day after I had attended his home address and that AR had said the exact same comments to them. AR had not apologised to his teacher even after Police involvement and, as far as I am aware, not to anyone else in the 3-week period between the referral and the email I sent to his father. Indeed, I was made aware that when asked by school staff what he might have done with the knife after he had returned to school on 8 October 2019, he had said, 'use it to stab someone'.

42. This was different to how he came across when we had spoken to AR the night before when, at the end of my discussion with AR, I did believe that AR understood the seriousness of carrying a knife to school or threatening to stab others. I also want to try and explain that I think there is a difference between someone understanding the seriousness of their actions i.e. knowing that it is wrong to carry a knife but not fully understanding what the repercussions might be or the impact it would have on their life and the lives of others. This, especially true, I think, of a 13-year-old child which is how old AR was at the time.

43. I have been asked whether I believed that AR would not take a knife to school again. I cannot say for definite or that I would be 100% sure that AR would never take a knife into school again, but I would not be able to say that about anybody. The child I saw on the night of 7 October 2019 was a skinny, socially inept child who perceived he was being bullied and had therefore taken a knife to school for a specific reason. I believed that the police, AR's parents and school were in a position to put in place interventions that would mitigate the risk of this happening. As a result of this, I thought the immediate risk of him returning to school with a knife was low. I do not feel I can comment on the medium to longer term risk as the success of the initial and ongoing interventions would have to have been continually assessed.

44. I have been asked what training, guidance or policy (from Lancashire Constabulary or otherwise) I applied when deciding how to deal with AR following his admission to carrying

a knife to school and his threats to stab others. I think that there are two elements of policing to this question that I should consider, namely around the treatment of children and also how we deal with knife crime. I want to start by highlighting that as AR was a child, the options available on how to deal with him reflected his status as a child. The guidance from Lancashire Constabulary since I joined the Force was that we don't want to criminalise children if we can avoid it. I think that this is the general culture in policing. There is also Authorised Professional Practice ("APP") from the College of Policing in relation to the detention of children and young persons which specifically outlines the UN Convention on the rights of the child, Article 37. Article 37 states that the detention of a child should only be used as a last resort. My experience is that if you turn up to custody with a child and present them to the custody sergeant for detention, there is far more scrutiny around the necessity to arrest and what other potential options are available. This was a "past tense" incident, in that AR was not in possession of the knife at the time of my attendance and therefore there were other potential avenues to consider.

45. I have been asked whether Lancashire Constabulary has or applies any policy on dealing with individuals in possession of knives or weapons. I am not aware of any such specific policy. By contrast, around Domestic Violence or Abuse ("DA") offences, there are protocols to positively arrest and prosecute. An example of this is the current 'RAPID' protocol with regard to investigation of domestic abuse, which encourages immediate Response, Arrest, Prevent, Investigate and Detention.

46. I have been made aware that on 16 September 2019 Lancashire Constabulary had published on the intranet an article to officers and staff about 'Op Sceptre', reflecting a national campaign aimed at tackling knife crime, focussed on prevention, education and enforcement. I cannot remember whether I saw this intranet article at the time. Looking at that document now, I do not think it would alter the way in which I dealt with AR.

47. I have been asked whether my decision as to how to deal with AR was consistent with any training/policy/guidance. I hope that I have answered this question. My decision was a combination of common sense, an intention not to criminalise a child if it could be avoided and my assessment of the risk posed at the time. This was the first time AR had come to Lancashire Constabulary's attention.

48. I have been asked whether I advised AR's mother or father to lock away and/or hide any knives in the house, or whether they informed me that they had done so. I think AR's mother said she had already locked the knives away or hidden them. I supported her in

that decision. I also think I said something about counting the knives when going to the knife drawer. I cannot now remember whether the drawers were lockable or otherwise capable of being physically secured.

49. I have been asked whether I agreed with PC Wood that 'There is no apparent possibility of him getting any further knife from the address nor does he have the capability of getting one outside of school' (LANC000041/LC-01 at 22.15.42), and if so, why.

50. I should point out that I probably did not read that particular entry by PC Wood on the incident log at the time. PC Wood will have updated the log whilst I completed the referral and emailed the school. I do not fully agree with the entry. I don't think you can say there was 'no possibility' of AR getting a knife from his home address. I do not see how it could be 'impossible' for AR to get a knife from the house. However, my impression (admittedly after a meeting of only about 25 minutes with mother and less with father because he arrived at the latter end of the discussion with mother) was that AR's parents were responsible people and were taking the issue seriously. In terms of AR's capability of getting a knife outside of school, knives are fairly expensive items, but I think a determined teenager would be able to secure a knife if they really wanted to. For example, from the internet, from a friend and from various other possible sources such as a shop.

51. I have been asked if I did not agree, why not, and what steps I took as a result. As above, I think PC Wood will have updated the log whilst I was working on the referral and I would not have had a reason to review the detail of what he was writing. I felt we had already taken appropriate steps with the parents, who had put the knives away. Other than imprisonment / detention, I don't know how the police could stop a determined child getting hold of a knife as we cannot be around them 24/7. I did contact the school to ensure the school was aware. I also made a PVP referral to ensure AR was known to the MASH.

52. I have been asked whether I considered a Prevent referral as a result of the information I had obtained. I did not. My understanding of Prevent is that it is for extremist or terror-related activities. There was no sign of that to me. Even with hindsight I can see no basis for a Prevent referral with regards to this specific incident with AR.

53. I have been asked why I had to use a form on the internet to share information with Range High School, Formby (LANC000066/LC-09). As above, following my involvement with AR I completed a high-risk vulnerable child safeguarding referral which included an Op Encompass referral. This is a report that is passed directly, immediately and automatically

to the child's school, but only if the child's school is in Lancashire. If the child's school is outside of the Lancashire area, I was aware that it could be forwarded on, but I was not aware of exactly how that would work or how long it would take. As a result, to avoid delay in the school receiving the information, I went onto the Range High School website to obtain an email address. I don't think I could find an email address but found the contact form which I filled in and sent at 22:13 on 7 October 2019. I considered this to be an additional safeguarding measure. I wanted to be sure the school had the information at the earliest possible opportunity. I also took additional safeguarding steps which are detailed within my statement.

54. I have been asked why I said in that form that AR 'seemed remorseful' and 'has been made fully aware of the consequences if he is found to have a knife' when I elsewhere said 'he did not seem to fully understand the possible repercussions, nor show any remorse' (LANC000069/LC-20). I said he "seemed remorseful" in my email to the school on 7 October 2019 because AR did seem remorseful to me, matters were fresh in my mind at the time. I emailed the school, and as per the referral, AR had become upset when he was informed of the severity of the offence, albeit this was intermingled with frustration at his perception of being bullied. I felt him being upset was him knowing he had done wrong but also at the same time he felt he had been pushed into it, and to an extent he thought it was justified, by the perceived bullying. However, the email to AR's father on 28 October 2019 (LC-20) was written 3 weeks later. In that time, I had not been made aware of any positive change in AR's view of the incident or that he had shown sustained remorse or a will to change his behaviour.

55. At 14:37 on 8 October 2019, Mr Cregeen contacted Lancashire Police and the incident log was updated. Mr Cregeen stated that he had received the contact form and had interacted with AR. They had searched him and not found anything. When they had spoken to him about having a knife, they had asked him what he would do with it, to which he replied he would use it. This indicated to me that despite police intervention the night before he was still using language which suggested a lack of remorse not in keeping with his apparent upset the night before.

56. Furthermore, I note my entry at 15:50 on 8 October 2019 on the vulnerable child investigation (LC-10) in which I recorded that the school had broadly the same concerning conversation that I had with him, but that he had made a comment of "This is why teachers get murdered" and saying that he thinks he could use the knife. There was nothing in this information that suggested any remorse on AR's part. At the time I attended on 07 October

2019, AR had shown some remorse. However, the following afternoon when I spoke to Mr Cregeen, I learnt that he had spoken to AR and he was still saying he would use the knife. I felt this demonstrated a lack of remorse.

57. I should point out that my update at 15:50 on 8 October 2019 was not, I now believe, automatically transmitted to MASH. However, the school had already made social services aware. This is documented on the incident log at 14:37 on 8 October 2019.

58. I have been asked what action I anticipated would follow when I made the safeguarding referral. I anticipated that AR would get interventions from appropriate agencies such as child social services, education and health/mental health with a view to ascertaining a fuller understanding of his mindset and potentially the allocation of appropriate professional workers to work with him and his family around behavioural issues. It was also my understanding that AR was being assessed for autism and that this referral would help with this.

59. I have been asked, in particular, what 'intervention around carrying knives' I anticipated occurring. I thought there might be educational intervention around the perceived bullying and what would be an appropriate response to bullying for AR, as his carrying a knife was in direct response to this. I was aware that AR was suspected of having Autism and that the mental health interventions might help him develop coping mechanisms to deal with his perceived bullying and perhaps delve further into his mindset regarding knives.

60. I have been asked whose responsibility it would be to deliver that intervention (LANC000067/LC-12). My answer is the relevant public agency, as determined by MASH.

61. I have been asked whether I have anything to add to the description of my conversation with David Cregeen on 8 October 2019 to the description I gave in LANC000041/LC-10 at 15:50. I cannot now remember anything useful to add to my entry due to the time that has passed. However, I would note the update on the incident log timed at 14:37 which led to me calling him. Mr Cregeen stated that Children's Social Care ("CSC") were already aware of the additional incident he had been reporting from the week prior and that this was likely covered in my conversation with him.

62. I have been asked whether the 'additionally concerning' information obtained in that conversation caused me to reconsider how to deal with AR's admission to carrying a knife at school. It did not. I note that Mr Cregeen had told me that during the conversation about

this comment AR had said it was an “off the cuff” remark. I noted that the “teachers get murdered” comment had been a week prior to our attendance. I did not get the impression from the school that they regarded there to be any imminent threat to the teachers or ongoing threat posed by AR related to those comments. On 8 October 2019, I was made aware by the control room operator that an update had been placed on the incident log (LC-143). As a result of this, I read the incident log (LC-143) and was able to see that an entry had been placed on the incident log that AR had been referred to child social services at the time it had occurred, and that they had stepped it down to a level 2 response, which was learning support. I was aware that my referral would be shared with child social services who might then reassess this.

63. I have been asked whether I have anything to add to the explanation I gave (in LANC000069/LC-20) to Alphonse Rudakubana on 28 October 2019 as to why I could not attend the school to provide input into the decision to exclude AR. I do not.

64. I have been asked whether I maintain that in the circumstances, as of 28 October 2019, it was ‘up to the school safeguarding team to measure the risk’ without input from the police or other agencies (LC-20). Firstly, there had been input from the police, namely my referral. The whole reason the exclusion of AR was being discussed was because we had submitted the referral and made them aware of him having taken a knife into school. Secondly, I do think it was up to the school to manage its internal safeguarding issues, albeit with any support or input from the police as appropriate. The school did not ask me to attend any meeting to the best of my knowledge. Had the school asked me to attend any of their non-statutory meetings, I would have asked my sergeant whether I should. I was a response officer, not a Community Safety Team officer. I would have supported the expulsion of AR.

65. I have been asked if there was to be or should have been input from police or other agencies and how was that to be provided. I do not know if the school requested any support from any other agencies, but I do not believe that they asked for police attendance at this meeting.

66. I have been asked why I requested closure of the high-risk vulnerable child investigation report after updating it to record that AR had been permanently expelled from school (LC-10 at 07:15). Referrals must be closed at some point and the 24 November 2019 seemed an appropriate time as I had learned that AR had been permanently expelled from the school. I cannot recall who informed me of this or how. The referral being “Closed” as a

response officer means that the referral is filed on police systems but whatever action had been decided by MASH can still be ongoing. It was my view that AR had been moved schools and had been placed in a Special Educational Needs (“SEN”) school, so the risk he posed with regards to any reaction to being bullied at the previous school had changed and he was more likely to now be getting appropriate support, as well as having been removed from the environment which had apparently caused him to carry a knife.

67. I have been asked whether, following Merseyside Police informing me that no crime report had been submitted by the Range School (LANC000070/LC-21), I took any steps to report the offence or to ensure that the offence was reported. I had asked Mr Cregeen when I spoke to him on the phone to report it to Merseyside Police because they were the local force. I thought Merseyside should deal with it because of the location of the crime. I direct the Inquiry’s attention to my email dated 27 November 2019 at 16:28 to ‘COMMCEN’ at Merseyside Police (LC-21). ‘COMMCEN’ is Merseyside Police Force Control Room. I recognise now that I should have recorded a crime report on Lancashire Constabulary systems and then look to transfer it to Merseyside Police before then cancelling the crime record on Lancashire. Alternatively, I could have emailed the investigation report to Merseyside Police in order that they had sufficient information to crime the incident themselves. Either way I accept I could have done more to ensure the incident was recorded by Merseyside Police.

68. I have been asked whether I have anything to add to my exchange of emails with Joanne Hodson from Acorns School on 4 December 2019 (LANC000059/LC-16). I should point out that I was a response officer and remain so. I had no professional duties in relation to AR’s conduct at Acorns School unless there was an allegation of criminality. The only reason I can see that Joanne Hodson was emailing me specifically on 3 December 2019 at 14:22 (LC-15) would be because the Range High School will have handed over AR to Acorns and as part of that handover I would have been a named police officer on the documents.

69. In my response on 4 December 2019 at 09:45 (LC-16) I hope I was courteous and helpful in encouraging Acorns School to make further referrals by their usual routes. Joanne Hodson was not reporting a crime to me, though of course the content of her concerns required referral within their own policies. Acorns is a SEN school and to my understanding will have had appropriate facilities and trained staff to deal with the incidents she was listing. I perhaps should have more forcefully reiterated the primacy that the school would take in that sort of referral, rather than the police. I do not mean that in a ‘shrugging of the

shoulders' way but just to express the point that police officers must of course work within their defined roles. I was a response officer, and I had made a referral in respect of AR. I was also aware from Joanne's email dated 4 December 2019 (LC-16) that AR had an Early Help Worker called Lucy Parkinson who was aware of these incidents. It was my opinion that she or the school would take primacy with regards the incidents at Acorns.

70. I have been asked, in particular, whether I shared Joanne's concern that 'there is potential for a serious incident, if we can't access the right support'. At this point I was 2 months removed from any direct involvement with AR. I had already invited Joanne Hodson to make the relevant referrals. Joanne was clearly concerned that AR might fall through the cracks but as far as I was aware AR was known to the relevant agencies, and I would have no power as a response police officer to direct the resources of mental health services or any other support agency.

71. I have been asked whether I took any steps following my exchange of emails with Joanne Hodson to address her concerns, and if so what. I hope that I have answered this above.

72. I have been asked whether there was any form of handover or information sharing between myself and PC 554 Harrison, who was also dealing with Acorns School from 4 December 2019. I don't remember a particular handover of information albeit this may have been in the form of a verbal conversation, if it did happen.

73. I have been asked whether I had concerns about being blamed when AR subsequently returned to Range School with weapons on 11 December 2019, bearing in mind PS Bramhall's email to me of 17 December 2019 (LANC000194/LC-22). I remember that email. I did not feel that I might be blamed for AR's conduct on 11 December 2019 and the Sergeant dealing with it said, "[I] have done exactly the right thing in inputting a PVP which was shared with other agencies."

#### **INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

74. Insofar as I was involved with other relevant agencies, my reflection on my dealing with them in relation to the events under investigation is as follows: I think I dealt with other agencies appropriately and courteously. I would observe that it often feels as though other agencies think the police can have more influence in certain areas than we can. For example, when Joanne Hodson was explaining that she felt that AR was falling through the cracks with regards CAMHS. To the best of my knowledge, even now, there is no

mechanism by which I or the police more widely can influence whether a certain health agency takes responsibility for a person, and it is down to their own policies and procedures. I think there was certainly an openness between myself and both Range High School and Acorns. Communication can sometimes be difficult. I do understand why the school would see my collar number and look to try to speak to me, but as a response officer I am not likely to be best placed to help, particularly with more longstanding behavioural issues.

## **REFLECTION ON EVENTS**

75. I have been asked whether on reflection I consider that (a) I and (b) Lancashire Constabulary could have done more or done things differently as regards my interaction with AR from 7 October to 4 December 2019. I address this both with the knowledge that I had at the time and, if different, now with the benefit of hindsight and/or wider understanding of the events. On reflection, I am content with the actions PC Wood and I took when dealing with AR and the incident, as it presented to us at the time.

76. In hindsight, I should have taken further steps to ensure the incident was recorded on Merseyside Police systems as I am still not sure it has been. I could have recorded the crime report on Lancashire Constabulary systems, transferred it to Merseyside Police then cancelled it off our systems or I could have sent a copy of the vulnerable child report to Merseyside Police so that they had sufficient information to record it as a crime themselves. They could then have conducted their own enquiries with the school.

77. I have been asked whether I consider that the (a) guidance; (b) training; and (c) resources available to me were adequate for the nature of the involvement I had in the events under investigation. Again, I address this both with the knowledge that I had at the time and, if different, now with the benefit of hindsight and/or wider understanding of the events.

78. At the time of my involvement with AR there was an issue with the Connect system. It had been in place for approximately 12 months but there was a huge backlog in the processing of investigation reports. This meant that whilst I submitted the report on 7 October 2019 it only returned back onto my workload screen on 22 November 2019. This made it more difficult for me to update the report on interactions I had with other agencies. At around this time, just for context, I had approximately 80 outstanding actions for the investigation reports that were showing on my workload screen. This included closed investigation reports that hadn't been removed due to the backlog, which made it difficult to see easily

which investigation reports were open or closed. This situation has been resolved and is not representative of how Connect operates now.

**IMPROVEMENTS**

79. I have been asked if I am aware of relevant improvements that have been made by Lancashire Constabulary since these events. As I have mentioned above, the situation with Connect has now been resolved.

80. Understanding that the Chair is tasked with making recommendations but ensuring, through engagement with relevant practitioners, the recommendations are practicable, I have considered any improvements that could be made relevant to my own area of involvement that would be practicable and make an effective difference. I think that it would be a good idea to expand Op Encompass so that Lancashire police can make direct referrals to schools that are not within the Lancashire area. I work on the border with another Police force and it would be helpful if we could do this so we know that schools get the information on every occasion without having to take additional steps.

**Statement of Truth**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings may be 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: 30/7/25 \_\_\_\_\_

### Index to the Witness Statement of Alexander McNamee

Exhibit No.	Inquiry reference No.	Document description
AM/01	LANC000041	Incident log LC-20191007-1383 dated 7 October 2019 (LC-01)
AM/02	LANC000185	Call that the National Crime Agency made to the Force Control Room dated 7 October 2019 (LC-02)
AM/03	LANC000144	Email that the NCA sent to the Force Control Room dated 7 October 2019 (LC-144)
AM/04	LANC000042	Incident log LC-20191007-1436 dated 7 October 2019 (LC-04)
AM/05	LANC000180	Radio transmission deploying PC Wood and PC McNamee to the incident dated 7 October 2019 (LC-152)
AM/06	LANC000231	Report on GPS data obtained for PC McNamee's and PC Wood's radio on 7 October 2019 (LC-185)
AM/07	LANC000018	Contact form submitted to Range High School dated 7 October 2019 (LC-09)
AM/08	LANC000248	Pronto report 04/178716/19 dated 7 October 2019 (LC-193)
AM/09	LANC000066	Vulnerable child investigation report dated 7 October 2019 (LC-10)
AM/10	LANC000126	Op Encompass email sent to Lancashire County Council dated 7 October 2019 (LC-125)
AM/11	LANC000067	Safeguarding Referral Form 04/178716/19 dated 8 October 2019 (LC-12)
AM/12	LANC000055	Email from Acorns School acknowledging receipt of contact form dated 8 October 2019 (LC-11)
AM/13	LANC000143	Email from Staff Bell to PC McNamee dated 8 October 2019 (LC-143)
AM/14	LANC000396	Call from Dave Cregeen to Force Control Room dated 8 October 2019 (LC-13)

AM/15	<b>LANC000069</b>	Email from AR's father to PC McNamee dated 28 October 2019 (LC-20)
AM/16	<b>LANC000069</b>	Email from PC McNamee to AR's father dated 28 October 2019 (LC-20)
AM/17	<b>LANC000070</b>	Email from PC McNamee to Merseyside Police dated 27 November 2019 (LC-21)
AM/18	<b>LANC000070</b>	Email from Merseyside Police to PC McNamee dated 27 November 2019 (LC-21)
AM/19	<b>LANC000058</b>	Email from Joanne Hodson to PC McNamee dated 3 December 2019 (LC-15)
AM/20	<b>LANC000059</b>	Email from PC McNamee to Joanne Hodson dated 4 December 2019 (LC-16)
AM/21	<b>LANC000059</b>	Email from Joanne Hodson to PC McNamee dated 4 December 2019 (LC-16)
AM/22	<b>LANC000059</b>	Pocket notebook entry of PC McNamee dated 5 December 2019 (LC-18)
AM/23	<b>LANC000194</b>	Email from PS Bramhall to PC McNamee dated 17 December 2019 (LC-22)
AM/24	<b>LANC000020</b>	Statement of PC McNamee dated 25 August 2024 (LC-23)