

Witness Name: HELEN SARAH  
CONNAUGHTON  
Exhibits: HSC/01- HSC/09  
Dated: 12 September 2025

## THE SOUTHPORT INQUIRY

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### FIRST WITNESS STATEMENT OF HELEN SARAH CONNAUGHTON

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I, **HELEN SARAH CONNAUGHTON**, will say as follows:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. I am Detective Constable Helen Sarah Connaughton of Lancashire Constabulary ("LC").
2. This witness statement is made to assist the Southport Inquiry (the "**Inquiry**") with some of the matters set out in the Rule 9 Request of PC 2603 Simon Williams dated 10 July 2025.
3. I am able, by reference to available documents, to provide a factual narrative of PC 2603 Williams' involvement with AR but I am unable to go beyond the content of the documents or personally to reflect on the incident.

#### **INTRODUCTORY MATTERS**

4. I have almost 29 years' service and as of 10 March 2025 I have worked on Operation Gable, Lancashire Constabulary's response to the Southport Inquiry.

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

5. I have had no direct dealings with AR and did not attend the incident I am about to describe. I have produced this narrative in lieu of PC 2603 Simon Williams after consulting a number of documents which I will reference and exhibit within this statement.
6. On 5 November 2021 PC 2603 Williams was working a late shift as an immediate response officer. His tour of duty was 16:00 until 03:00. He was based out of Skelmersdale Police Station and was in full police uniform. He was in call sign SBCAR7L. The make-up of the call sign is such that 'SB' denotes Skelmersdale, 'CAR1' denotes that he was a Constable driving a police vehicle and 'L' denotes that he was on the late shift. His role involved driving a marked police vehicle with emergency lights and sirens responding to incidents requiring police involvement.
7. At 14:33 the Force Control Room ("FCR") created an incident log following transfer of a Merseyside Police incident log reference MP-20211105-0586. The initial call had been misdirected to Merseyside Police as AR's home address was close to the Merseyside/Lancashire Police Force area border. The Merseyside Police incident log detailed that AR had been smashing the house up, he had been throwing things around and at people, that he was fifteen years of age and had Autism. The log also detailed that he did not have any weapons. The informant (AR's Mother) had initially requested that the Police attend straight away but she had then changed her mind and stated she did not want Police attendance. A THRIVE assessment was completed by Merseyside Police. I exhibit incident log LC-20211105-0868 (LC-38) as **HSC/01 – LANC000024**.
8. At 17:08 the FCR contacted AR's mother, Laetitia Muzayire. She stated that AR had calmed down, no damage had been caused, and they had called the Psychologist. She stated she had not known what to do but now did not need the Police to attend. She stated they already had the support of different agencies. I exhibit the call (LC-39) as **HSC/02 - LANC000075**. I exhibit the transcript of the telephone call (LC-40) as **HSC/03 – LANC000075**.
9. At 17:26 PC 2603 Williams contacted the FCR via his LC personal radio and asked the FCR if they wanted him to deal with this incident. He advised on the radio that he would contact AR's parents first, given the comments on the log about them asking police not to attend in person. I exhibit the radio transmission (LC-154) as **HSC/04 - LANC000414**.
10. PC 2603 Williams did not physically attend AR's home address. PC 2603 Williams contacted AR's mother by telephone from Skelmersdale Police Station.

11. At 17:43 PC 2603 Williams created, on the LC Pronto system, a medium-risk vulnerable child report, in which he provided a summary of the incident. PC 2603 Williams documented on the Pronto referral that AR suffered from Autism, resided with both his parents and sibling and was not currently engaged in education. PC 2603 Williams recorded that earlier in the day AR had been on the sofa at home when a stranger had knocked at the front door. AR did not like people coming to the house, people seeing him or his parents going outside. This had caused him to become agitated. He had thrown things at the wall and made a mess. On learning that the Police had been contacted, AR had calmed down and was reported to be calm at the time PC 2603 Williams spoke to AR's mother.
12. PC 2603 Williams recorded in his daybook that AR's mother had contacted Sharon from Early Help Social Care and his psychologist. He made notes in his daybook (LC-41) which I exhibit as **HSC/05 – LANC000199**.
13. I exhibit the Pronto report 04/178716/21 (LC-194) as **HSC/06 – LANC000249**. PC 2603 Williams submitted the referral as medium risk. The information contained within the Pronto referral then automatically transferred onto Connect to create the vulnerable child investigation with the same reference number - 04/178716/21. I exhibit the vulnerable child investigation (LC-42) as **HSC/07 – LANC000076**. This investigation was then forwarded to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub ("MASH").
14. An Operation Encompass referral was automatically generated from the report. PC 2603 Williams was asked on the report to input the name of the school AR attended. He selected "Other LCC" and it was sent to Lancashire County Council ("LCC"). PC 2603 Williams had recorded in his daybook that AR was a pupil at the Acorns School. I am aware that this school is within Lancashire. It would therefore have been open to PC 2603 Williams, when entering the Operation Encompass information, to have selected the name of the school, and for the referral to have gone directly to the Acorns School. The Pronto system automatically sent an Op Encompass email to LCC. It was sent on 5 November at 18:15. I exhibit this email (LC-112) as **HSC/08 – LANC000117**.
15. I am aware from the vulnerable child investigation report 04/178716/21 that Safeguarding Support Officer ("SSO") 12319 Mills processed the vulnerable child investigation in the MASH on 8 November 2021. SSO Mills created a safeguarding referral form and updated the vulnerable child report to say that it had been shared with Louise Lewis, AR's allocated

case worker at Children and Family Wellbeing Service and with Health and Education for any emotional support that may be required. I am unable to say who within Health and Education received this referral. I exhibit the safeguarding referral form (LC-43) as **HSC/09 – LANC000077**.

16. At 06:26 on 13 November 2021 PC 2603 Williams requested the vulnerable child investigation be filed.

**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: 

Dated: 12 September 2025 \_\_\_\_\_

Index to the Witness Statement of Helen Sarah Connaughton

Exhibit No.	Inquiry reference No.	Document description
HSC/01	LANC000024	Incident log LC-20211105-0868
HSC/02	<span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">LANC000075</span>	<span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">Transcript of call</span> LC FCR to Laetitia Muzayire dated 5 November 2021
HSC/03	LANC000075	Transcript of telephone call from LC FCR to Laetitia Muzayire dated 5 November 2021
HSC/04	<span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">LANC000414</span>	<span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">Transcript of radio transmission</span> of PC Williams advising he will deal with the incident (LC-154)
HSC/05	LANC000199	Daybook entry of PC Williams dated 5 November 2021
HSC/06	LANC000249	Pronto report 04/178716/21 dated 5 November 2021
HSC/07	LANC000076	Investigation Report Print 04/178716/21 dated 5 November 2021
HSC/08	LANC000117	Op Encompass Email sent to LCC dated 5 November 2021
HSC/09	LANC000077	Safeguarding Referral Form dated 8 November 2021