

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: Eve Rhodes	URN			
Age (if under 18): N/A	Occupation: Constable			

I am PC 1719 RHODES of LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY, currently based at SKELMERSDALE POLICE STATION. This is my statement in relation to the involvement I had in an incident in 2022.

I will mention my colleague PC 8620 FAIRCLOUGH. I will mention the male involved, Axel RUDAKUBANA DOB 07/08/2006. I will refer to him as RUDAKUBANA. RUDAKUBANA was aged 15 years at the time of this incident.

On THURSDAY 17th MARCH 2022, I was on uniformed response in SBCAR7E. At around 14:57 hours, I was asked to attend an incident on LIVERPOOL RD, RUFFORD. This was due to a report from a supervisor of a bus company that there was a male in his teens on the bus causing concern and being 'stropy'. A description was given of the male, and it was suggested by the Sergeant that the male on the bus could be one of the missing persons in West Lancashire, named Axel RUDAKUBANA. PC 8620 attended the incident in a separate vehicle as he had taken the missing person report for RUDAKUBANA that morning. I was previously made aware by PC 8620 that RUDAKUBANA may have been in possession of a small kitchen knife. At around 15:05, I arrived on LIVERPOOL RD, RUFFORD. The bus that the male was on was parked outside HESKETH ARMS. I got on the bus and went to the back seat where the male was sat. I confirmed over the radio that the male on the bus was the missing person, Axel RUDAKUBANA. PC 8620 arrived shortly after on the scene and joined me on the bus. RUDAKUBANA was compliant when asked to get off the bus with officers. I can't recall if the knife was retrieved whilst we were on the bus or off the bus, but I know a small kitchen knife was retrieved from RUDAKUBANA. I also can't recall a description of the knife. PC 8620 went to speak to the bus driver whilst I remained with RUDAKUBANA. PC 8620, then made a call to the sergeant about the next steps we would take. When he had finished this discussion, PC 8620 advised me that the decision made with the Sergeant was that RUDAKUBANA would be returned home instead of being arrested for being in possession of a bladed article. This was with the idea that we would safeguard RUDAKUBANA instead of criminalising him due to his age. At this moment, no known threats were made to any person's and RUDAKUBANA had not threatened to hurt himself.

Myself and PC 8620 took RUDAKUBANA to one of our police cars and transported him together to his home address, which was a short drive from where the bus was parked. PC 8620 drove, and I sat in the rear with RUDAKUBANA. Myself and PC 8620 were making conversation with RUDAKUBANA, and during this conversation, it was disclosed by RUDAKUBANA that he was

carrying a knife as he wanted to commit a serious offence and stab someone. RUDAKUBANA stated that he didn't want to stab anyone in particular. When asked why he wanted to do this, RUDAKUBANA stated that he wanted his TikTok account deleted because he was being bullied regarding a video on it. RUDAKUBANA stated that he couldn't delete the account himself and that his psychologist had told him that the police could delete someone's social media accounts if they had committed a serious offence. I remember advising RUDAKUBANA that this was not the case and that his way of thinking was not right. I distinctively remember RUDAKUBANA not being phased by his thoughts or acknowledging that they were wrong. I was concerned about how RUDAKUBANA did not understand the seriousness of what he was saying. Once we arrived at the home address, we escorted RUDAKUBANA into the property and spoke to his parents. The kitchen knife was returned to the parents, and I remember giving advice to them to secure any knives in the property to prevent any being taken again. PC 8620 gave the parents safeguarding advice about his mental health, as he was aware of the mental health issues that RUDAKUBANA had. Once we left the address, I submitted a high-risk PVP and documented these concerns on it so RUDAKUBANA could get the help he needed.

This incident was over two years ago from writing this statement. I have recalled some information from memory, but for specific times, I have reflected to the incident log to assist. I can not find any BWV relating to my encounter with RUDAKUBANA.

This is all the involvement I had in this incident.

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: 23/08/2024 16:03