

Witness Statement: Ray Murray

No of statement: 1

Exhibits: 1-10

Date of statement: 29th October 2019

GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF RAY MURRAY

I, Ray Murray, will say as follows:

1. I make this statement in connection with a fire that broke out at the Grenfell tower located at the Lancaster West Estate in North Kensington, London W11.
2. The Independent inquiry, commissioned to examine the circumstances leading up to and surrounding the fire at Grenfell Tower, has made a request for a statement to answer specific questions which have been raised in relation to the lift works, undertaken by my employer and my involvement in the same.

Background

Employment History/ Qualifications

3. I left school at age 16 in 1981 and joined the Standard Newspaper. I worked in the newsroom delivering copies. I left that post when I was aged 23, after being made redundant.

4. I undertook a number of different manual roles for a short period and then joined the lift industry.
5. I was engaged by Fujitec as a lift engineers mate, known at the time as a fitter's mate in 1989. During my time with that Company I was promoted to the position of lift improver, followed by trained fitter and then I became the service supervisor. I held that role for about 5 years.
6. In total I was employed at Fujitec from 1989 to 2005, a period of 16 years. Whilst employed at Fujitec I undertook training and attended various courses and gained a City and Guilds electronic servicing and fault finding certification. In addition I obtained Lift Engineers Industry Association "LEIA" traction lifts certification.
7. In 2005- 2006 I joined Re Ropes as an Engineer. Thereafter in 2006 I joined Apex Lift & Escalators Engineers Ltd.

Employment at Apex Lift & Escalator Engineers Ltd "Apex"

8. I have been working for Apex Lifts for some 13 years.
9. I started my employment as a sales consultant. That required me to carry out surveys and recommend remedial works and any repairs to existing lifts. Part of my role was to work and produce tenders for various modernisation projects.
10. In terms of my remit, when an enquiry for works to an existing lift is received it is passed to me. I then contact the customer and arrange to carry out a survey on site. Clients may produce a specification. If a specification is received from a lift consultant, it is detailed and will provide a scope of work as the consultant will have considered design aspects with their client.
11. Clients may also contact Apex direct with a report of a lift that is no longer working. In that situation I will seek initial details of the problem and will then undertake a site survey. From my survey and the client's requests I will then produce a quotation of the works required. Any technical input would be sought from Apex Engineers.

12. In order to collate the quotation, I will seek pricing details from various companies that Apex use as suppliers. This may result in a number of quotes to ensure competitive pricing is delivered for each potential job. Once gathered I will enter the information into a spreadsheet for that job. The details will then be filled out in either a tender return or an Apex quotation format.
13. Once confirmation is received that Apex have secured the work and a purchase order is received, I will pass on the job to our repair department who will raise the repair quotation which converts the job into a repair contract.
14. The job is then allocated for the works to be carried out and my involvement in the process comes to an end. To be clear I do not undertake any ordering of materials, issue of purchase orders, undertaking of (or management of) the actual lift works or inspections.
15. Since I joined Apex I have continued in my role as repair sales consultant. I am not involved in any internal management, although I do work alongside others in the delivery of tenders.
16. During my time with Apex I have undertaken a series of internal and external training courses. I attach copies of my training certificates marked Exhibit “(RM/1:)” This training has allowed me to secure the following:-
- EOR/202 Work safely in an Engineering Environment - Basic Lift Safety 5th January 2010;
 - Introduction to Workplace Place Health and Safety 21st January 2014;
 - Emergency First aid at Work 6th April 2017.
17. When I first joined Apex, I recall that I attended a two day externally delivered sales course.

18. In my current role I am made aware of the latest updates in the lift industry and this is predominately obtained from LEIA bulletins and safety updates. In terms of products I have face to face contact with suppliers and they discuss and showcase new products.

Apex work at the Grenfell Tower

19. I am aware of the fact that Apex undertook two projects at the Grenfell Tower.

20. I was not involved in the modernisation project which took place between 2004-2007.

21. In relation to the second project that Apex undertook, I received the initial enquiry for the works.

22. To the best of my recollection I believe I was contacted by a building company who showed to me a drawing from an architect which depicted the required 4 additional lift entrances. Whilst I was looking at that project the same request came in from Rydon who ultimately were awarded the contract.

23. I carried out a site survey and took pictures for reference purposes when collating the quotation. This was to ensure similar finishes on the door and architraves from existing lifts. A selection of the photographs are attached marked Exhibit “(RM/2:)”.

24. As set out above I made enquiries of the usual suppliers for materials to be utilised on this project. By way of example I attach an email relating to the control panel from Thames Valley Controls Limited (“TVCL”) dated 27th July 2014 marked Exhibit “(RM/3:URN APX00001104)”.

25. The relevant information was pulled together into an excel spreadsheet so that the full costings could be considered. This is attached marked Exhibit “(RM/4: URN APX00002731)”.

26. I then produced a quotation for the 4 additional lift entrances dated 1st August 2014 and this is attached marked Exhibit “(RM/5: URN APX00002735)”. Thereafter I took no action until a signed letter of intent was received from Rydons. A copy of that letter dated 12th February 2015 is attached marked Exhibit “(RM/6: URN APX00002740)”.
27. I worked through the letter of intent, making handwritten comments on the same to identify those terms and conditions which were not acceptable or needed to be changed before the job could start. That would be signed and sent back to Rydons. All changes made were brought to the attention of Rydons before any work commenced. I would normally seek written confirmation of the changes.
28. I would also clarify that in addition to the entrance installation, Rydons instructed Apex to provide a quotation for enabling works. This was to ensure that whilst the door entrances were being cut through the concrete walls, by Rydons, the lifts were made safe and remained unaffected by this work. A copy of that quotation dated 5th February 2015 is attached marked Exhibit “(RM/7: URN APX00006501)”. A further quotation was also provided for a pre-condition survey and this is attached marked Exhibit “(RM/8: URN APX00007788)”.
29. In addition to the quotations referred to above I attach a further quote dated 15th April 2015 marked Exhibit “(RM/9: URN APX00006958)” which relates to a change of floor designation on the push buttons. I prepared the quote in the same way as identified above and also attach the costing spreadsheet marked Exhibit “(RM/10: ”. I cannot now recall whether this work was in fact carried out. This brought my involvement in the project to an end.
30. The inquiry have asked a number of questions which I will now address below:-

Question 1: Please describe your role within Apex, how long you have been in this post, any relevant roles within the lifts industry and your qualifications/training/experience in respect of lifts.

Answer: See paragraphs 3-18 above.

Question 2: What, if any, involvement did you have in the lift modernisation project at Grenfell Tower (including any subsequent servicing) in or about 2004-2007.

Answer: None.

Question 3: What, if any, involvement did you have in Project 2 i.e. the lift modernisation works at Grenfell Tower in 2015 (including any post-works defect liability period)?

Answer: Please see responses provided in paragraphs 19-29 above.

Question 4: How did Apex come to be engaged as the lift specialist contractor in relation to Project 2 at the Grenfell Tower (with reference to any tendering process undertaken);

Answer: Please see responses provided at paragraphs 21- 29 above.

Question 5: Identify the party/parties with whom Apex entered into relationships in order to carry out its role, describing the purpose of those relationships. Please also set out which organisations and individuals Apex staff (including you, if applicable) regularly had contact with respect to Project 2.

Answer: I am aware that the following parties were involved:-

- Adam Marriot (Surveyor), Simon Lawrence (Contract manager) Rydons - Building contractor and Apex's client;
- Vicky Owen (Customer Service Assistant) TVCL - supplier of lift controls;
- Darren Mills/John Mills Drurycourt - builders;
- Ben Leech (Sales) Stentorgates - suppliers of position indicators;
- David Dewhurst (owner) Dewhurst - supplier of Landing Buttons.

Question 6: Provide an outline of what Apex was required to do in relation to Project 2

and how these requirements were set out. Please further confirm:

- a. As part of Project 2, was Apex required to ensure the lifts' compliance with the standards for a 'firefighting lift' within lifts guidance?
- b. If not, did Apex consider that industry standards and/or the lifts guidance required the lifts in Grenfell Tower to meet the 'firefighting lift' standard?
- c. To the extent of your knowledge, did organisations and individuals involved with the refurbishment of Grenfell Tower appreciate that the lifts did not meet the definition for a 'firefighting lift'?
- d. If Apex considered that a firefighting lift was not provided for in the specifications but was required (having regard to the nature of the building and lifts guidance), what if any steps did Apex take to highlight this to other organisations?

Answer: See responses provided above at paragraphs 17-28.

- a. I produce this statement to address the information and knowledge which I hold in relation to my involvement in the works carried out at Grenfell Tower. I am not able to respond to questions on behalf of Apex and this is a question that ought more properly to be directed to them. I would however advise that the project scope is as set out in the quotation exhibited at **"(RM/5: URN APX00002735)"**.
- b. I produce this statement to address the information and knowledge which I hold in relation to my involvement in the works carried out at Grenfell Tower. I am not able to respond to questions on behalf of Apex and this is a question that ought more properly to be directed to them.
- c. I cannot comment on the state of knowledge of others.
- d. I produce this statement to address the information and knowledge which I hold in relation to my involvement in the works carried out at Grenfell Tower. I am not able to respond to questions on behalf of Apex and this is a question that ought more properly to be directed to them.

Question 7: What, if any, changes were made as part of Project 2 to the Fireman's Control subsystem (including switches) in place after Project 1's completion? Please set out the location of any switches and whether/how they were connected to the lifts.

Answer: There were no changes made. This did not form part of the works. Again, I would refer you to the quotation marked Exhibit "(RM/5: URN APX00002735)".

Question 8: Did Apex test the Fireman's Control switch(es) to confirm they were fully operable on conclusion of Project 2 works? If so, what was the result and how was this recorded (please exhibit any relevant certificates)?

Answer: I was not involved in carrying out any work once I had completed the tasks set out in paragraphs 21-29 above. I am therefore unable to assist in providing a response to this question. I understand that Gary Ager has been asked to provide a statement and he may be able to respond to this question.

Question 9: What is Apex's expectation for sufficient maintenance/testing of a Fireman's Control Switch following the completion of Apex's Project 2 work (e.g. by an incumbent maintenance provider)? In particular, should any maintenance/testing involve the insertion of a drop key, activation of the Switch and observing the effect on the lifts, rather than just a visual inspection of the Switch? Please exhibit/reference the O&M Manual if appropriate.

Answer: I produce this statement to address the information and knowledge which I hold in relation to my involvement in the works carried out at Grenfell Tower. I am not able to respond to questions on behalf of Apex and this is a question that ought more properly to be directed to them. .

Projects 1 and 2

Question 10: What, if any, measures were put in place by Apex to prevent:

- a. The lift car, the lift well and the lift motor room filling up with smoke in the event of a fire;
- b. Providing a supply of clean air in a standard pressurisation system within the lift shafts, to prevent smoke ingress.

Answer: I can only refer to the scope of works once again at “(RM/5: URN APX00002735)”, which details the work that Apex were engaged to undertake.

Question 11. Did you have concerns, at any point in time, about whether the Grenfell Tower lifts were compliant with industry standards, lifts guidance or otherwise fully operable (including in respect of the Fireman’s Control subsystem)? If so, how and to whom were these concerns expressed? What, if any, remedial action was taken (insofar as this is within your knowledge)?

Answer : Given my involvement is limited to the sales and tendering process I am not in a position to offer a view in this respect.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the contents of this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I am willing for this statement to form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and published on the Inquiry’s website.

Signed Ray Murray, 29th October 2019.