

Witness Statement: Roger Anthony

No of statement: 1

Exhibits: 1-4

Date of statement: 29th October 2019

GRENFELL TOWER PUBLIC INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF ROGER ANTHONY

I, Roger Anthony, 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 have been operating in the lift industry for the last 39 years.
4. I initially began my employment in the tailoring industry and then moved into the lift industry in or around 1982. My first job was as a fitter's mate for Otis Lifts Limited. I stayed with that Company on and off, for a number of years. The first period was 6

years (1982-1988) and thereafter my second stint lasted some 13 years (from 1990-2003).

5. During my time with Otis I held various positions as a result of being promoted. As stated above I started as a fitter's mate. I then held the posts of fitter, charge hand, test engineer, project manager.
6. I undertook various training courses whilst at Otis which included:
 - J5 and J25 modules;
 - 16th Edition of Electrical Examinations;
 - In house Otis delivered training,
7. In addition to the training courses, I gained a lot of experience and knowledge by working with others at various sites.
8. To the best of my recollection I then worked with ERS between 1988 - 1990 and I believe thereafter I moved to work for Apex Lift & Escalator Engineers Ltd ("Apex"). This was in or around 2005 – 2006.

Employment at Apex

9. When I joined Apex, I did so as a project manager. That role required me to run various projects, mainly modernisation/refurbishment work from the start of the planning of the work through to the handover to the client.
10. Whilst employed at Apex I do recall attending additional training sessions which would have included undergoing the Construction Skills Certification Scheme.

Current Employment

11. I left the employment of Apex in or around 2007/2008.
12. I undertook a period of self-employment and then due to personal reasons took on a post with Pickerings Lifts. I am still engaged by Pickerings as a test engineer. A test

engineer commissions lifts to ensure that they are operational. Once a test sheet is signed by the tester, the lift may go into public service. However, this would, in 95% of tests only occur once the snagging items were complete and the lift was signed off.

Apex work at the Grenfell Tower

13. I am aware of the fact that Apex undertook one project at the Grenfell Tower. This related to the lift modernisation of two existing lifts.
14. I was the project manager at the time. I was not involved in the procurement of the work, nor the costing/tendering. My first engagement would have been in relation to the planning of labour for the job and the timescales for site works. Thereafter dealing with consultant's issues, attending consultants' meetings, and site monitoring, testing, snagging and handover.
15. In this job the consultant was Butler and Young Consultants Limited "BYCL". They were responsible for the production of the specification of the works to be carried out. As a Project Manager, I would read through the specification before commencement of works on site.
16. As a test engineer any issues highlighted at the time of test would be raised with both Apex and the consultant when the issues arose. Constant contact would be maintained between all parties throughout the project.
17. I recall that this was a major project which required a "strip back to guides". The guides were left in and therefore the project remained a modernisation. The nature of the works to be undertaken were set out in great detail in the specification and I ensured that work was carried out in accordance with the same.
18. Once the works were completed, I tested one of the lifts as Apex's normal tester was unavailable at that time. A copy of the test certificate is attached marked exhibit **"(RA/1: URN APX00008691)"**. A test of a lift involved all static and dynamic tests of the lift equipment and functions.

19. As far as I can recall the project ran smoothly and delivery was to schedule. The lift operation was tested and witnessed by BYCL. Thereafter BYCL examined all the works and then prepared a snagging list. Apex dealt with the snagging points.
20. Once BYCL were satisfied all works had been finalised, the lift would be handed over. BYCL would confirm it could go into service.
21. That completed my involvement in the project, and I was not involved in the DLP servicing.
22. 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 had been in the post, any previous relevant roles within the lifts industry and your qualifications/training/experience in respect of lifts.

Answer: Please see paragraphs 3 -12 above.

Project 1 (Lift Modernisation 2004-2007)

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: Please see paragraphs 13 -21 above.

Question 3: How did Apex come to be engaged as the lift specialist contractor in relation to Project 1 within the Grenfell Tower (with reference to any tendering process undertaken)?

Answer: The precise details are matters not within my knowledge. I was not involved in this process.

Question 4: Please exhibit the final version of the contract pursuant to which Apex was engaged in respect of Project 1.

Answer: A copy of the contract dated October 2004 is attached marked Exhibit “(RA/2: URN APX00005619)”. To the best of my knowledge, I believe that Apex were engaged under this contract.

Question 5: Please set out the scope of Apex’s duties in respect of Project 1. In addition to complying with the Butler & Young Lift Consultants Limited (“Butler & Young”) specifications, did Apex have a duty to ensure that the new lifts installed at Grenfell Tower were compliant with the requirements for lifts in high-rise residential buildings (as set out in the Building Regulations and associated guidance/the lifts guidance) and to advise Butler & Young or Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (“KCTMO”) if that was not the case?

Answer: In relation to Project 1, the specification document for the project identified the works to be completed. A copy of the complete specification is attached marked exhibit “(RA/3: URN APX00005521)”. New lifts were not installed in this project. The work undertaken was modernisation of existing lifts.

Question 6: 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 of its Project 1 works.

Answer Other than myself I can only recollect the following, were involved in this project:

- Steve Ellis - Consultant BYCL;
- Gary Poynter -Construction manager – Apex;
- Prop Brook – metal fabricators

Question 7: Provide an outline of the specifications for the lifts and related equipment provided to Apex for purposes of the modernisation project at Grenfell Tower, including but not limited to:

- a. Legible final construction drawings for the two new lifts at Grenfell Tower, as installed during Project 1;
- b. Please set out the fire rating of the lift doors at Grenfell Tower on Project 1 completion and exhibit the relevant certificates.

Answer:

- a. The construction drawing for the two modernised lifts at Grenfell Tower are attached marked Exhibit “(RA/4: URN APX00000116)”.
- b. As far as I can recall the doors were manufactured to the BYCL specification and by Prop Brook.

Question 8: Please confirm whether an Operation and Maintenance ('O&M') Manual was provided to the client following completion of Project 1 work and exhibit this document.

Answer: I do recall that this was issued to the client. I am not in possession of a copy of this document and I believe that Apex have not been able to locate the same.

Question 9: What, if any, role did you have in liaising with Butler & Young in respect of Project 1? As part of any liaison, did Apex/Butler & Young discuss compliance of the new lifts with lifts guidance including in respect of any requirement for ‘firefighting lifts’?

Answer: I was involved in on site liaison. Also pre start work discussions, regarding specifications. There was no discussion regarding lift guidance as there were no new lifts to be installed.

Question 10: Section 2A.70 of the Butler & Young specifications (April 2004) sets out the requirements for the Fireman's Control subsystem 1 within Grenfell Tower. With reference to this section, please confirm:

- a. The location, number and operability of Fireman's Control switch(es) in place at Grenfell Tower before Apex carried out the modernisation project;
- b. The location and number of Fireman's Control switch(es) installed and/or modernised by Apex as part of the project and how they were connected to the lifts;
- c. Section 2A.14 (8) required "firemans control...on each lift"—were two switches installed (one per lift) and if not, why not?
- d. Your understanding of the intended operation/functionality of a Fireman's Control subsystem in the event of a fire (including how it was intended to function where two lifts were in operation);
- e. Whether the Fireman's Control switch(es) installed by Apex were fully compliant with the requirements in section 2A.70 of the Butler & Young specification? If so how was such compliance confirmed? If not, in what respect did they diverge from section 2A.70 requirements?
- f. Whether the correct operation of the Fireman's Control switch(es) was checked during or following the Project 1 works, by Apex or anyone else (insofar as this is also referred to as the 'fire control' switch/system within your knowledge). If so, what was the result of the check(s) (please exhibit any relevant documents/certificates)?
- g. What was/is Apex's expectation for sufficient maintenance/testing of a Fireman's Control Switch following the completion of Apex's modernisation work? 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?

Answer a: I cannot recall at this time.

Answer b: I have looked at the general arrangement drawings which are included in exhibit“(RA/4: URN APX00000116)”. From that review I believe that the Fireman’s Control switch is located between the lifts at the ground floor. The switch would have been connected to the control system located within the control room on the roof of the building.

Answer c: From the drawings and my recollection, only one switch was fitted to operate both lifts because they were duplexed. As such, one fireman’s switch provided the control for both lifts.

Answer d: I would explain the intended operation/functionality of a Fireman’s Control subsystem in the event of a fire as follows:-

- An Express type drop key would be used by the fire rescue service to operate the fireman’s switch;
- The key would access the control system and cause the lifts to stop at the nearest floor and return to the ground floor without the doors opening;
- Both lifts would return to ground and park with the doors opened;
- The lifts would be controlled by the fire rescue service.

Answer e: The switch would have been obtained from an external supplier and would have met the specification from BYCL.

Answer f: I can confirm that I undertook a test of the correct operation of the fireman’s control for lift H091. This would have been done at the same time as the commissioning test. In addition, BYCL would also have tested the fireman’s control operation themselves for this lift, during the witness test. I have already attached the test certificate at Exhibit “(RA/1: URN APX00008691)”.

Answer g: This is not a matter upon which I can comment

Question 11: In relation to the status of the two lifts at Grenfell Tower following completion of Project 1 modernisation, please confirm:

- a. Whether Apex regarded the two lifts installed to be 'new lifts' for purposes of lifts guidance;
- b. Your understanding of what constitutes a 'firefighting lift' in the context of lifts guidance;
- c. Whether by way of the Butler & Young specifications (April 2004) or otherwise, Apex was required to ensure that the Grenfell Tower 'modernised' lifts met the definition of 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 the lifts guidance), what if any steps did Apex take to highlight this to Butler & Young/KCTMO? If no such steps were taken, why not?
- e. In your experience of installing new lifts in high rise residential buildings (following the implementation of 'firefighting lift' requirement within lifts guidance) was it unusual for non-firefighting lifts to be installed in such a building?
- f. With reference to correspondence, documents and/or conversations, were other organisations (including KCTMO, LFB, RBKC Building Control etc.) and individuals (including Carl Stokes) aware that the lifts did not meet the definition of a 'firefighting lift'? If so, please set out any information about the extent of that awareness and any communications surrounding this issue (to the extent of your knowledge).
- g. What, if any, was your role in the handover and compliance testing of the two new lifts following completion? How did these processes take place and what were the results? Who else was involved in this process?

Answer a: No

Answer b: I have attended a number of lift courses and am a trained lift engineer. In this context I can advise that a firefighting lift is a lift which has protection, controls and signals which enable it to be used under the exclusive control of fire-fighters.

Answer c: As I have stated above, the job specification provided by BYCL set out in detail, the parameters to which the works being carried out by Apex were to be executed. From the specification it is clear that the lift modernisation works did not meet the definition of a firefighting lift.

Answer d: This is a question which ought properly to be directed to the Company.

Answer e: I have had experience of installing and testing new lifts in a high-rise residential building. When this has been done, the installation is in accordance with current regulations.

Answer f: At the time the lift was installed into Grenfell it may have complied with fire standards in place at that time. The lifts had been in place for some time and it is only post 2003 that the terms firefighting lifts was used in the guidance.

The fact that the lifts were not firefighting lifts, would have been known to BYCL, when then they prepared the specification.

Answer g: As stated above in response to question 10 f, I undertook the commissioning and testing of lift H091, which was an existing lift that had been modernised. There were no new lifts on this job. The testing was in accordance with the relevant standard in place at the time and as set out in Exhibit “(RA/1: URNAPX00008691)”. This was done in the presence of BYCL and to the best of my recollection the representative from BYCL was Steve Ellis. Once BYCL were satisfied that the lift complied with the regulations, all snagging items had been addressed and the lift was safe to put into operation, the lift was placed into service.

Question 12: 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 a: This was a building regulation requirement which would have been flagged by BYCL in the specification if required.

Answer b: This is not a lift issue.

Question 13: Please set out full details (make, model, supplier) of the fire control switches installed by Apex as part of Project 1 and/or Project 2. Please provide photographs of the switch installed at Grenfell Tower or equivalent units.

Answer: I was not involved in project 2. In relation to project 1 I am not in possession of such information.

Question 14: 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: The lift was tested to demonstrate compliance with industry standards in place at that time. Again, the work which I oversaw was in compliance with the detailed specification produced by BYCL which should comply with all relevant industry standards

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Anthony', written over a horizontal line.

Dated 29th October 2019