

Grenfell Tower Inquiry

Witness Statement of Stephen Beeching Ellis

General	
Q1.	Describe your role within Butler & Young', how long you have been in this post, any previous relevant roles within the lifts industry and your qualifications / training / experience in respect of lifts.
A1.	<p>I was employed by Butler & Young Lift Consultants Ltd as an Associate Engineer between 1995 and 2014, [REDACTED]</p> <p>I propose to respond to the following points to the best of my ability and memory of events that occurred 14/15 years ago. Because of the lengthy time [REDACTED] I have limited current knowledge of standards and codes. I understand that the hard copy records of Butler & Young were destroyed in 2016 by the correct procedure and that all that remains are the limited documents held electronically.</p> <p>For my previous roles please see my CV Exhibit SBE/1: Steve Ellis – CV</p> <p>During my nineteen years at Butler & Young I would report to any one of the three Directors of the company.</p>
Q2.	Describe the nature and time frame of Butler & Young's involvement in respect of the lifts at Grenfell Tower.
A2.	<p>As far as I can ascertain Butler & Young involvement was from early 2003 through to the Final Account document dated February 2007.</p> <p>As I recall the duties of Butler & Young were, but not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Discuss scope of proposed works with KCTMO, ii. Survey the site and prepare a Feasibility Study with Options, iii. Prepare a Specification for the works, iv. Tender Appraisal and recommendation for contract award, v. Contract administration, financial management, Planning Supervisor, vi. Witness testing on completion. vii. Prepare final account <p>Butler & Young had no further contractual involvement with Grenfell Tower after February 2007.</p>

Q3.	Set out your individual involvement / role / duties in Butler & Young's work in respect of Grenfell Tower.
A3.	<p>My individual involvement as far as I can recall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Attend early project meetings with KCTMO. ii. Undertake Tender Analysis. iii. Liaise with selected contractor on procurement, drawings and programmes. iv. Monitor progress on site and conduct formal monthly site meetings. v. Undertake witness testing and commissioning. vi. Manage all payments to the contractor and prepare final account. vii. Issue Certificate of Practical Completion and Making Good of Defects at the appropriate times.
Q4.	Please exhibit the final version of any contract / contractual documentation pursuant to which Butler & Young was engaged in respect of the Grenfell Tower.
A4.	I have no knowledge of such documentation. I was not involved in this part of the process.
Q5.	What was the scope of Butler & Young's engagement and its main duties?
A5.	To the best of my knowledge all as described in answer No 2.
Q6.	How did Butler & Young come to be engaged in respect of Grenfell Tower (including in respect of any tendering exercise)?
A6.	I was not involved in this part of the process.
Q7.	Identify the party / parties with whom Butler & Young entered into relationships in order to carry out its role, describing the purpose of those relationships. Please also set out which organisations and individuals Butler & Young staff regularly had contact with respect of design, construction, inspection or maintenance activities.
A7.	<p>Exhibit SBE/2: Pre-Start Meeting Minutes dated 30th November 2004</p> <p>Further information may be provided by Ian Moorhouse.</p>

The design and installation of two new lifts at Grenfell Tower (2004-2007) ('Project 1')	
Q8.	Please summarise (with reference to exhibited document, where necessary) the Employer's Requirements in respect of Project 1. Confirm whether Butler & Young was required by Kensington & Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation ("KCTMO") to provide lift specification / design compliant with the Building Regulations, British Standards and associated guidance / lifts guidance applicable at the relevant time.
A8.	As far as I can recall the scheme selected by the Employer was based generally upon Option 3A of Butler & Young Feasibility Study Exhibit SBE/3: Feasibility Study Butler & Young provided a detailed Specification compliant with British Standards plus associated guidance applicable at the time Exhibit SBE/4: Complete Specification
Q9.	Who drafted the specification document <i>The Refurbishment of Two Electric Passenger Lifts and Replacement of One Hydraulic Passenger Lift at Grenfell Tower</i> (April 2004)?
A9.	Ian Moorhouse of Butler & Young. I believe I proof-read the specification.
Q10.	When and by whom (within KCTMO) was the above specification approved?
A10.	I am unable to recall when or by whom within KCTMO the specification was approved.
Q11.	Please exhibit the final drawings for the two new lifts, which were required to be provided pursuant to Section 2A.08 'Drawings to be Provided' of the Butler & Young specification. Please also exhibit all documents required by Section 2A.09 to have been provided to Butler & Young by Apex Lifts Limited ("Apex") as a condition of the lifts being deemed accepted.
A11.	Butler & Young do not now possess any of the finalised drawings as required by Clause 2A.08 of the specification. In addition, Butler & Young do not have a copy of the O&M manual provided by Apex.

Q12.	Section 2A.06 'Design Standards' of the specification states that "the equipment and installation shall confirm to this specification and to the relevant British Standards including Codes of Practice and, in particular, BS5655, BS 7255 and EN81-1". In this respect, please clarify:
Q12.a	Whether Butler & Young considered the two lifts installed as part of Project 1 to be "new lifts" for purposes of lift guidance? If Butler & Young holds a version of this specification endorsed on the front page by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (in the fields provided for this purpose), please exhibit it to your answers.
A12.a	Butler & Young did not consider the two refurbished lifts as new lifts. Significant equipment was retained. I am not aware of the existence of a copy of the specification endorsed by the RBKC TMO.
Q12.b	Whether Butler & Young considered that new lifts installed within Grenfell Tower (being a high-rise residential building) were required by the lifts guidance (including section 7.2.1 of BS5588 Part 5:2004 and the equivalent part of BS5588:1991) to be 'firefighting lifts'?
A12.b	Butler & Young did not consider that the refurbished lifts in Grenfell Tower were required to be "Firefighting Lifts".
Q12.c	If not, why not?
A12.c	My understanding is that it was considered at that time that, due to structural and environmental constraints, complete compliance with BS5588 would only be fully achieved by the installation of completely new lifts in new buildings. I believe these matters were discussed and agreed with KCTMO at an early stage.

Q12.d	If so, was the requirement for 'firefighting lifts' expressly set out in the Butler & Young specification? If the specific requirements for 'firefighting lifts' was not set out in the Butler & Young specification, why not?
A12.d	No, this requirement was not set out within the Butler & Young specification for the reasons delineated above in answer 12 (C).
Q12.e	What, if any, communications (verbal or in writing) did Butler & Young have with Apex and / or KCTMO and / or RBKC Building Control in respect of Design Standards, compliance with lifts guidance and whether the new lifts are / should be designed / installed as 'firefighting lifts'?
A12.e	I am unable to recall any such communications.
Q12.f	Did the lifts installed at Grenfell Tower as part of Project 1 and pursuant to the Butler & Young specification meet the requirements for 'firefighting lifts' including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Means of external rescue / escape hatch; ii. Water protection; iii. Ability to control when / how / to what extent the lift doors open when operating in fire-fighting mode; iv. A communication system between the lift car and the Fire Service Access Level ('FSAL').
A12.f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. No ii. I cannot recall any such features iii. Yes, but on Fireman's Control, not firefighting mode, Exhibit SBE/6: Clause 2A.70 of the Specification iv. I cannot recall this feature being installed.

Q13.	What steps did Butler & Young take to ensure that the lifts proposed / installed by Apex were compliant with the Design Standards within the Butler & Young specification and within the lift's guidance? Please exhibit any documents / certificates showing the outcome of any such enquiries.
A13.	<p>Generally, in accordance with Clause 2A.77 of the specification, Witness Inspection Points. Exhibit SBE/11: Clause 2A.77 of the Specification</p> <p>Our duties included reviewing all drawings submitted by Apex Exhibit SBE/7: Letter R Thorne 19th October 2004 and Exhibit SBE/8 Letter Gary Poynter 21st December 2004.</p> <p>Our duties notably included witness testing upon completion and issuing of snagging items, Exhibit SBE/9 Site Visit and Outstanding Works HO90 dated 20th February 2006, Exhibit SBE/5: Site Meeting Minutes 23rd February 2006</p> <p>During the whole of the site operation Butler & Young undertook weekly visits and monthly formal meetings at the site Exhibit SBE/10: Minutes 26th January 2005.</p>
Q14.	What, if any, consideration was given to the provision of a fire-fighting / protected lift lobby. If its inclusion was not considered to be practicable, why not and how was this recorded / communicated?
A14.	I am unable to recall any discussions on this subject.
Q15.	Did Carl Stokes (fire risk assessor) make any enquiries with Butler & Young about the fire safety of lifts and associated subsystems?
A15.	I do not recognise this name and so cannot recall any such enquiries.

Fire control switches	
Q16.	In respect of the fire control subsystem including Switches, please set out, at the time of Butler & Young's work on Grenfell Tower:
Qa.	The location of any Switches at Grenfell Tower;
Aa.	As far as I can recall on the Ground Floor adjacent to the lift entrance. I can recall just one switch at the Ground Floor.
Qb.	Whether and how these Switches were connected to the lifts;
Ab.	Hard wired connection via the control panel in the machine room.
Qc.	The make, model and supplier of the Switches (with pictures if available);
Ac.	I cannot recall the maker or supplier of the device.
Qd.	What, if any, instructions were provided for their use;
Ad.	These would have been included in the O&M manual albeit Butler & Young no longer have a copy.
Qe.	The intended functionality of the Switch(es) including where there are two lifts in operation;
Ae.	Operation of the Fireman's Switch would return both lifts to the Ground Floor, and all landing pushes would become inoperative. The operation would then be as specified in specification clause 2A.70 (Exhibit SBE/6:.....)

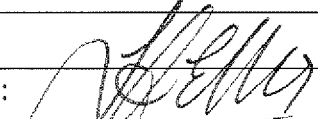
Qf.	The reason why 'drop key' switches were specified, rather than a Euro key as required by EN81-1?
Af.	<p>The Express drop release key was a KCTMO standard for emergency release of landing door, operation of Fireman's Control and, in some instances, emergency entry into the building. Many other London local authorities used this drop key as their standard.</p> <p>It was considered that triangular Euro key was too available and therefore vulnerable to abuse by unauthorised persons.</p>
Qg.	If / how the Switch(es) were tested at the completion of Project 1;
Ag.	<p>During the witness testing and commissioning process I checked all lift operations including the Fireman's Control system. All in accordance with (Exhibit SBE/6:.....)</p> <p>Any shortcomings would have been recorded in (Exhibit SBE/5:.....) or (Exhibit SBE/9:.....)</p>
Qh.	Butler & Young's expectations for the maintenance and testing of the Switches following completion of Project 1 (frequency, extent of maintenance / inspection).
Ah.	I am unable to make meaningful comments in respect of this question. At the end of the DLP the lifts would be maintained by KCTMO term contractor under KCTMO own maintenance regime.

Hand over and maintenance	
Q17.	What documentation and / or verbal handover concerning the lifts at Grenfell Tower (including their construction / specifications / fire safety features / maintenance needs) did Butler & Young provide to KCTMO or other organisations? Please confirm whether an Operation and Maintenance ('O&M') Manual was provided (if so, please exhibit it).
A17.	The final site meeting dated 23 rd February 2006 (Exhibit SBE/5:.....) demonstrates that the draft O&M manuals were tabled at that meeting and that the draft copy at least was left on site. Answer A.11 refers. (Exhibit SBE/5:.....) also includes a post meeting note with Butler & Young comments in respect of the O&M manuals.
Q18.	Did Butler & Young or you personally have any concerns about the operation, suitability, safety and / or compliance with the Butler & Young specification's Design Standards and the lifts guidance of the lifts at Grenfell Tower and, if so, how and with whom were concerns raised?
A18.	I am unable to recall any such concerns either by Butler & Young or personally.

Statement of Truth

To the best of my knowledge and memory I, Stephen Beeching Ellis, believe the facts stated in this Witness Statement to be true.

I am happy for this statement to form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and be published on the Inquiry's website.

Signature: 	S B Ellis	23/9/2019
	Print Name:	Date: