

**In response to the letter requesting evidence from Data Planit.**

Data Planit is a trading name of 1 Big Data Management Ltd.

In July 2013 Data Planit acquired SMS Imaging Ltd for who RBKC were an existing customer. Since then we have provided document scanning services, in accordance with the service schedule agreed between RBKC and SMS Imaging Systems Ltd, to multiple departments across the council. These services include collecting the documents from the council upon request, preparing them for scanning, by removing any binding materials, i.e. paperclips or staples. They are then scanned and stored electronically in a format specified by the department. The original files are securely stored whilst the client/council review the electronic copies of the scanned documents. On expiry of a retention period agreed between SMS Imaging Ltd and RBKC, the documents are securely shredded.

We have direct contacts for each division of the planning department. Rob Daniels is our contact for the land charges searches, Michael Robertson is our contact for Enforcement Files and Strategic Planning files, and both Terrent Beggs and Jago Williams are our contacts for Building Control files.

Each contact may place a request for documents to be collected from the planning department at the council offices (Planning Department, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX). Once a request has been placed, a work order is raised to arrange collection of documents from the relevant department within RBKC. The documents are securely transferred to our facility in East Tilbury, Essex.

Our operators will then begin to prepare the files to be scanned, by carefully separating them, and removing any binding materials to allow the documents to go through our scanners. They are then scanned, and each file is manually indexed/named as per the client's instructions. Each document type will have a different reference, and this will be given to us by the contact in each division of the planning department.

Electronic copies of the scanned files are returned to the client for review. At this point the original files are placed back into the containers where they are stored for six months from the date of handover, giving the client time to review and raise any queries about the files should there be any.

Data Planit are not given specific project instructions or details when collecting files from the

council, so would unfortunately be unable to determine whether the files would have been specifically related to the refurbishment of Grenfell Tower. When files are requested for collection, the instructions will typically only include the document type. For example, “We have 2 boxes of building control files to be scanned”. The only information that would have been recorded from these files would be the reference used to name the files, in this case the reference would have been FP 14 03563, which we have no record of.

With regards to the specific file, FP 14 03563, Data Planit have never taken possession of this file. To assist the council where possible with this matter, we have carried out extensive searches to confirm that it was not sent to us. We also carried out optical character recognition (OCR) searches on all electronic building control files to check that the file had not been misplaced within another file whilst in possession of the council and sent to us as part of another file. This search was done using keywords which would have appeared regularly and consistently within the document (i.e. “Grenfell” & “FP 14 03563”).


Data Planit can often be unaware of what individual files relate to, as a bulk/batch scanning bureau, it would be inefficient and uneconomical for us to take interest in the content of the individual files. Each file will be clearly separated by the council, and we will manually name the electronic file as per the request of the council using information which is typically on the folder, sleeve or first page of a file.

I can confirm that the statements in this documents are true, and services provided to RBKC have been provided according to the written or verbal specifications as requested by our contacts at RBKC. Data Planit are willing for this statement to form part of the evidence before the inquiry and to be published on the inquiry’s website should it be necessary.

This statement has been signed by Brad Rimmell, who has the responsibility of overseeing Data Planit, a division of 1 Big Data Management Ltd. and also Andy Rimmell who is the General Manager of 1 Big Data Management Ltd.

Brad Rimmell


Operations Manager – Data Planit

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 24/04/2019

Andy Rimmell

General Manager – 1 Big Data Management

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 24/04/2019

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