

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

SHARON HALEY

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

1. This is a statement of truth by Sharon Haley, my date of birth is [REDACTED] 1969. I am female. I am currently living at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. **Background**

3. I used to live at Flat 24 Grenfell Tower on Floor 5. I moved into this flat on the Sunday which was the [REDACTED] and it was officially mine on the [REDACTED] 2012. I never lived in Grenfell Tower before. The reason I was moved here was because I did a flat swap, I wanted to downsize from a two bedroom flat to a smaller one bedroom flat. I really wanted to move into Grenfell Tower as I knew a few people in the Tower and heard it was a nice block to live in. I knew Tony Disson who was flat 194 on the 22nd floor, Denis Murphy on the 14th floor Flat 111 and John Beadle who was the brother of Lorraine who lived in Flat 13 fourth floor.

4. I was renting from the council and this was being paid through my housing benefit.

5. I was living at Flat 24 for about 4 years.

6. I did not live with anyone else, I lived alone with my cat called Musba. The cat was grey and white. I do not know if she died in the fire, but I have not seen her since. She always stayed under the bath when scared and I believe she must have hidden there on the night of the fire.

7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]

11. Before Regeneration and Moving In

12. When I moved in I did not have any furniture. I had a cooker but that was it. There were no electrical problems.
13. The walls were not decorated and I had decorated the walls myself.
14. There were no problems with the flat when I moved in.
15. I do not recall getting any information with regards to fire safety. When I moved into my new flat I had been given a box with all the leaflets with regards to fire safety, this box contained leaflets relating to fire safety. However when I moved into Grenfell Tower I did not receive anything like this.
16. When I moved in I had brickwork on the wall. I had the old windows, which were two panel metal framed ones.
17. The lift never changed and the stairs did not change either.
18. I believe the brickwork on the outside was a grey colour.
19. Grenfell Tower had a concierge at the bottom of the Tower. On the first floor there were social services and the doctors to which you could get access by going through the walkway, there were stairs which were outside the building. I used to know about the history of the building when I used to go and see Denis and Tony as they would tell me. When I moved in the first floor was all shut up.

20. Regeneration

21. I moved in when the regeneration was happening. My flat used to be on the second floor but was moved to the fifth floor after the regeneration. The numbering of the floors changed.
22. The windows and the heating system were the only things that changed. I remember that the gas was put in straight away.
23. The only change to my flat was that they put in the boiler. They put them in between 2014 and 2015. I had the same door the whole time.

24. *Windows*

25. They changed my windows. They put the windows on the outside first and got rid of the first frame and then they took the other frame out. The cat used to run between the frames. You used to pull the metal frame to the side.
26. We were notified of the changes. There was a woman who used to notify us. I cannot remember her name, she was a liaison officer for the people who were building the block. She used to have a blonde hair but I cannot remember her name.
27. They used to put letters in my letter box stating when they were planning to do the works. Some people had glass doors beforehand but my door was always the same. My door did not change.
28. I used to have a gap in the windows, the window that had a gap was the windows between the kitchen and the living room. There was a missing part, this was the handle that was removed, the window would not either open or shut. I did report this and they did fix this. I remember it took a couple of weeks and I reported this to the blonde woman.
29. I did used to have drafts but I never really felt it because I always had my blinds over to cover the drafts, but if my blinds were showing you could see the wind moving them. I remember feeling the drafts in the kitchen and living room.

30. *Doors*

31. My door had three hinges. There was no bounce back feature on the door, they were just a plain ordinary door with panelling. Some people did have a spring back but mine did not. You could leave the door open and it would just stay open. There was no other damage to the door. I would say the thickness of the door was about 3cm. I did not have a problem with my doors.
32. With regards to gaps, I used to be able to hear howling through the doors so there must have been gaps but I did not feel any draft.
33. With regards to the doors in the flat they were just normal doors made out of wood. The bathroom was the only one with a lock. They did not have any gaps.
34. I always used to keep my doors open. Unless I had guests over than they used to shut the bathroom door. My doors used to stay open, they did not move. They would only shut if the front door and windows were open.

35. I do not remember what my neighbours door looked like. I remember that you could always tell who had bought their flat as their doors were different. They were different because they had glass panels at the top. I believe they did this as they choice to buy their doors. You could tell the difference straight away. I do not remember what level they were on. I remember the people at Flat 112 owned their own house, as their door was different. I believe they had their windows changed the same time as we all did, even though they owned their house we all had to have our windows changed.
36. Some people had glass panels and some had the same door as me.
37. *Gas/Electric*
38. I did not have any problems with gas or electricity. There was a time that there was a problem with the electricity breaking down, this was around 2012 to 2013 and I remember everyone above the 10th floor had problems. There was sparks coming from plugs and people's computers switched off and people got compensation because of this. Denis was affected by this and his cable box went off and his toaster broke. It was all sorted by the next day.
39. They let us know that there were problems with the electrics and they sent us letters. They also used to put these notices on the lifts by the door and inside the lift. They were updated all the time.
40. *Extractor fan*
41. I had an extractor fan and it used to be in the kitchen only. It used to be on the top panel on the right hand side. I dismantled this because it was constantly noisy and I shoved lots of stuff in it to stop it working. I did this as soon as it was put in. It was not needed as I did not cook.
42. *Cooking and noises*
43. I never smelt other people smoking. I did not hear noises from my neighbours.
44. *Lifts*
45. I was always going up and down the lifts. They were not reliable at all, if one broke down the other one worked and then when that was fixed then the other one broke down. I never got caught in the lifts but I remember there was a woman stuck in the lift and I could hear her shouting. I called the fire brigade to get her out. There was a few of us waiting around to make sure she was alright. I would say they would break down about every month. Sometimes they were broken for months.

46. Tony used to joke and say that the lift was programmed to go to my floor, because the lift always used to stop or be at the 5th floor.
47. *Lights*
48. I remember the lights in the landing were alright. I remember them being bright.
49. *Rubbish*
50. There was no rubbish on the landing, we had bin chutes to get rid of our rubbish. I remember the door being more like the doors we had inside our house.
51. *Stairs*
52. I used to use the stairs, if the lifts were busy. The lifts were always busy and sometimes the stairs were easier. I remember that it was never dark on the stairs, I cannot remember the colour of the stairs.
53. *Numbers*
54. I remember the numbers on the stairs were painted black and that they were very small and really up the wall. I remember they had to change them after the regeneration and they just painted over the older number and painted the new number.
- 55. Fire Safety**
56. The only thing that I can remember about fire safety, two fire fighters came and knocked on my door. They were both male and asked me whether I had fire alarms and whether they were working to which I stated they were. They did not ask anything else, but that is because I did not want to speak to them and I said to them that I was happy with them and that was it.
57. They did not give me any details about themselves.
58. I never had any other fire safety talks.
59. I had two fire alarms. One in the kitchen and one in the hallway, they were on the electrical meter and you could see a switch on the fuse box for them. They also were battery operated as well in case the electricity went down. The alarm was nearer to the window, it was not more than one metre away from the window.
60. The alarms did work, I never had to test the fire alarms as I don't cook.

61. **Getting Out Of A Fire**

62. If there was a fire, before the regeneration I would have gone down the stairs and went to the walkway part which was on the first floor, it used to take us out to the outside of the building and then you walk down the stairs from there. I believe that it is safer to walk out of the building. The stairs outside used to be outside of the first floor.

63. If I was getting out of a fire now, I would have left the same way as I did on the night of the fire which was going down the stairs and exiting through the boxing gym exit.

64. **Previous Fire**

65. I believe there was a previous fire, someone had committed arson. I cannot remember when this was. I believe it was after the regeneration.

66. I don't know if everyone was told to get out of the building.

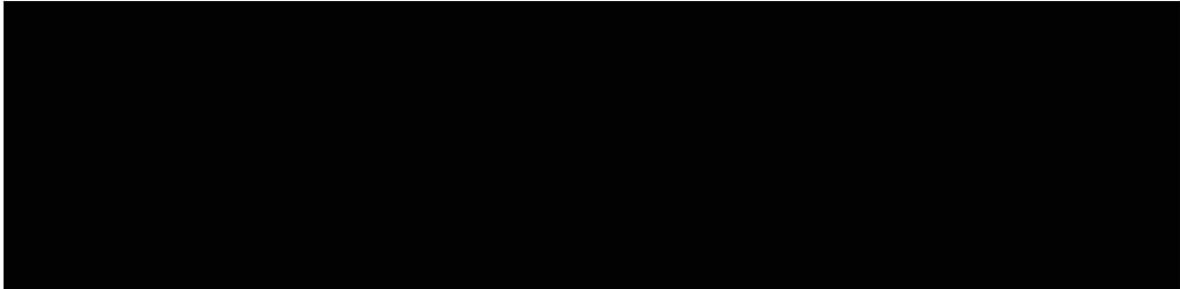
67. **Concierge**

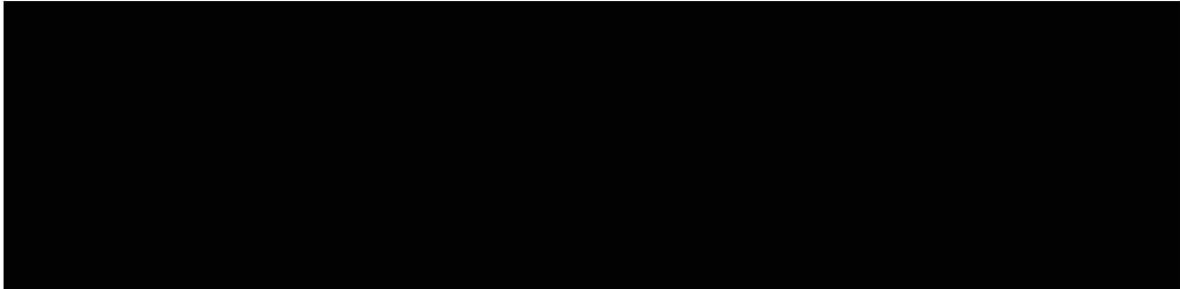
68. I remember that we did have a concierge but he left 2012/2013.

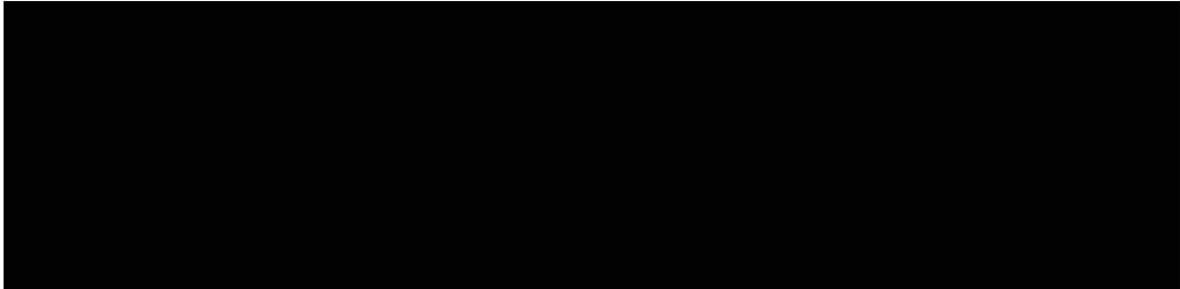
69. **Care Taker**

70. I cannot remember if there was a care taker.

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73. 

74. 

75. **Housing problems**

76. I did not have any problems with my house before 14 June 2017.

77. **Denis Murphy's Flat**

78. His flat was always warm and cosy and had the same layout as my flat. He never told me about any problems with the flat at the time. This flat was located on the east side of Grenfell Tower.

79. I can always remember that his fire alarm would be going off because he always burnt his food. They were not the most sensitive of fire alarms, but they did work.

80. I remember Denis door if it shut didn't go/turn out he would not be able to get back in.

81. His had an extractor fan but it was not as bad as mine.

82. Tony's Flat

83. I remember that they did something different to Tony's door. I remember that Tony door you could just walk in. You used to have to lock the door in order to make it feel safe.

84. His flat had the same layout as mine.

85. His extractor fan always really flapped because it was on the top floor.

86. He had an issue with one of the walls in his flat. The front room wall was crumbling away and it was crumbled from the bottom from a leak and if you knocked the wall it would crumble away.

87. Night of the fire

88. I was in Dennis's flat, I arrived at his flat at around 7.00 to 8.00 pm. I was always in Denis's flat. I did not leave Dennis's flat until 11.00 to 11:15pm. It was just me and Denis who were in the flat at the time, there was nobody else there. We were drinking at the time and we were just sitting watching TV. When I left I went down to John's who was on the 4th floor, in flat 13. I cannot remember what time I got down there, but I know the lift was around 3 minutes so I would presume that I would have got down there around 11:20pm.

89. John was expecting me, we were having an argument on the night but I do not wish to say what it was regarding as it is personal. I knocked on the door and he was in the flat. We were in there and Kenny was already there. Once we sorted out we were playing cards with Kenny Smith.

90. John was staying at the flat to look after the flat as his sister was away.

91. I then remembered that I was about to leave, I cannot recall the time I was about to leave. I remember when I came out there was a thick white smoke in the lobby, it was all the way from the bottom of the floor to the top. I could not see through it. I could not see my hand in front of my face. I remember the smell, it smelled like plastic. I remember feeling very shocked and I ran back in to the flat to the front room where John and Kenny had stayed. I only stepped out of the door for two steps.

92. I remember going in and saying that there was a fire out there, the place was filled with smoke, they thought I was joking and I said to them why would you think I am lying. I shut the door behind me when I first went into the lobby. I did not see any smoke in the flat. I then went to the door again for the second time and John came with me this time. I opened the door and the smoke had increased.
93. Kenny went to look at the first man's flat and hoping to see what was happening and then came back.
94. Before the third time I went out, I rang Tony and Denis and explained that there was a fire. Then I went out again for the third time with Kenny and John and that is when I saw the man, the man from Flat 16, I could only see his face. He did not get to knock on the door as I had already opened the door before he was going to. He just seemed to appear and then he was gone. The smoke was covering so much I only saw his face.
95. When we came back in the flat, we went over to the window and we could hear people screaming up to the window, they were shouting that we needed to leave. I remember there was someone from the opposite flat and she was out on the walkway and she was shouting out that the building is on fire and she can see this. We said to her that we could not get out as it was too much, because the smoke was so thick. I was leaning out of the window when I was shouting out. John told me to get away from the window, being that he did not want to get his sister Loraine into trouble with the neighbours. I remember seeing the fire hoses, they must have arrived by then, because even though we did not see any fire fighters, we did see their hoses on the floor. I did not see any fire engines.
96. The smoke was not coming through the windows, doors or letterbox. Even though I had the window open I did not see the smoke.
97. We then on the fourth and last attempt to leave saw that the fire had gone down and I said to Kenny if we were going to leave this would be the best attempt, because the smoke had calmed down. I said to him that if John did not want to leave, that Kenny and I had to leave, as he is the father of my daughter and I knew she would never forgive me if anything happened to him.
98. The reason why we did not succeed in trying to leave before the fourth attempt was because the smoke was so thick and we thought we would not be able to get out. On the fourth attempt we were able to leave because the smoke was not as thick as before and we knew this was our chance. I cannot remember if we shut the door or John shut the door.

99. The smell of the smoke was like a burning plastic smell, it was like someone burning cling film is the best way to describe it. I think the smell started around the second or third time, I went outside. It was like it was going up my nose and I could feel it. I could taste like a plastic taste as well.
100. I did not wear any protective clothing. I did not use a wet towel over my face. I remember I took my keys and my mobile phone with me.
101. From Flat 13 I went straight over to the lobby. The door to the stairs was open because the fire fighter were there. I would not be able to describe these fire fighter. The fire hoses were keeping the doors open. The fire fighter was saying "go down." I would not be able to recognise the fire fighters again.
102. The condition on the stairs were such that the air was clear. The lights were on in the stairs. When we went down there were people coming down the stairs and there were a lot of people coming down the stairs. These people were above and below me on the stairs.
103. The only person I recognised on the stairs was Kerry. Kerry was being carried down by fire fighters, she was shouting as she wanted to go in and grab her cats. Kerry lives on the sixth floor in the room directly above mine so she would be in Flat 34. I remember the fire fighters were wearing their Fire Brigade suit, I cannot remember what exactly what they were wearing. All I remember was when I was walking down the stairs was that I was trying to calm Kerry down as she was worrying about her cats. They were carrying her down like they were holding her in a chair. There were two fire fighters carrying her out, I presume they both were carrying her. I remember one fire fighter was screaming to keep going down.
104. I did not see how Kerry got out of the Tower.
105. I remember running down the stairs. I believed I used the banisters as I was running down as I was kind of jumping down two steps at a time. I cannot remember how noisy it was, I was in my own bubble. I could breathe on the stairwell with no problem. There was no temperature change when I went downstairs. The stairs were not slippery at all.
106. I did not consider using the lift as the fire fighter was telling us to go down the stairs.
107. I believe that there were a couple of fire fighters that were coming up but I am unsure if they were the ones that were with Kerry.
108. I understand that I can be seen coming out of the door by the boxing gym at around 1:44am, the reason we came out this way was because I had my fob and I told Kenny that we could get out

here. We got out through the door which is in the boxing gym. You cannot come in through this way but you can get out from here.

109. I came out of the side of the tower where the fire started. I remember when we got out we were ducking all the time because there was debris coming down from the Tower. There was debris falling down and this was the cladding that was falling down in various shapes and sizes. None of this touched me but it was falling very close to me. I would say that it was about 1 metre away from me where it was falling. We then ran to where the swimming pool and bars were. I then turned around and started to film the scene. I have provided this film to my solicitors and exhibit it as SH/1.
110. I was really shocked when I came outside as I believed the fire fighters were dealing with it. I could not believe the amount of people that were outside of the Tower.
111. The whole of the east side of the Tower was caught alight and this is shown through the video. The video states that it was time stamped at 01:45:21 but I do not know if my phone was 5 minutes out.
112. I remember after I was filming, I remember that Kenny spoke to John and said for him to get out and Kenny told me that John had got out.
113. I do not remember who it was, whether it was a police officer or a fire fighter but they told us to move and that we could not be there.
114. I remember we started to walk around to the ambulance to meet up with Kerry.
115. I called my mum straight away, once I was away from the Tower, I explained to her that there was a fire and that I was alright and I said to her that I had to ring Denis and Tony.
116. I called Denis but I cannot remember when this was. I have lost my phone since this and am unable to get my phone records, Denis was in his house at the time and he said that he can see the fire at his window. He said to me that he had to go and call his cousin.
117. I then tried to call Tony but the phone was engaged at the time.
118. I spoke to Tony afterwards this must be around 1:51 or 1:52am. I explained about the fire to him.
119. I then called Denis again at around 1:52am, I remember this as I looked at my phone. I also looked at my phone but it was five minutes slow and he said that he had moved flats. He said that he was moved to his neighbour house, he did not say who told him to move. I never spoke to him after this.

120. I was getting another phone call and that the caller was trying to tell me that my daughter was here with Kenny and that she was trying to find me.
121. I remember there was a man on the ground and he was taking people's names down who was outside and I said to him that he should take the names of people who were in the Tower. I cannot remember what he was writing on. I believe it was a fireman but I cannot be sure. This man was on Grenfell Road, he was on the green, the beginning of where I was walking. I would say it was around fifteen minutes after I got out. I believe it was about 2.00 am. He asked for our floor, door number and name.
122. I remember hearing someone speaking through a speaker phone, saying that we had to leave the building. This was when I was in the flat.
123. I spoke to Tony continuously after I got to my daughter and that I spoke to a fireman and I said to him that I had Tony on the phone and I wanted him to speak to Tony and try and get him down. I believe this was at around 2:30am to 3.00am. I was still around the front part of the site where the crowd of people were.
124. I remember when I spoke to Tony he was alright at the beginning, he was very calm as he could not see the flames, and then I said to him that the flames were coming around and I said to him he had to make it to the stairs. I told Tony constantly that the fire fighters were not going to get him and he needed to get out.
125. I spoke to a fire fighter and I said to him to speak to Tony and he told me to ring the fire brigade, he was quite rude to me. I did call the fire brigade and reported Tony.
126. I remember I was still talking to Tony at around 3:30am, he said to me that he was alright there and then I could see the fire creeping around the top and I told him that he needed to leave.
127. At Latimer Road Station, Tony was at his window I could see him at the window, I could hear him. He had his head out of the window and he was screaming help. This was around from 2:30am-3:30am. I stopped seeing Tony when he moved to the bathroom. He told me that he knew he would not make it down the stairs and gave me a message to tell his boys.
128. When I saw Tony at the window, I could see his neighbours and could see two adults and their children waving, I do not know them personally. I saw other figures but I could not tell you who they were. I was always looking at the West side of the building.

129. Tony had said that he had spoken to the fire brigade half an hour ago, I remember him saying this around 3:15 to 4.00 am. At this point I told him to leave.

130. I stayed there until the blaze had consumed the West Side.

131. I went to a friend's house who was in the tower block opposite Grenfell Tower, the next day.

132. [REDACTED]

133. [REDACTED]

134. No one was helpful that night, namely neither the fire fighters nor the police, I just found everyone was very rude and not sympathetic.

135. The only people that assisted me was the Muslim community. They were trying to help people in the best way they could by providing food and assistance.

136. Counselling

137. I have been offered counselling and I am working with the services. I am waiting to start art therapy to help.

138. Aftermath

139. I rang the TMO and asked about what I would do about my accommodation, she worked for RBKC and she said she was unable to speak to me but was glad I was safe.

140. I was in a hotel for about one month and then they gave me a temporary home and I stayed there. I did not want to go back to the hotel.

STATEMENT OF TRUTH AND CONSENT

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I further confirm that I am willing for this statement to form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and be published on the Inquiry's website.

Signed: *SHaley*

Date: *6/12/2018*