

IN THE MATTER OF THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANNE MURPHY

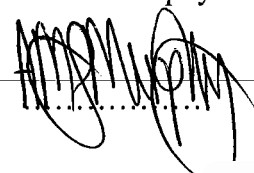
I, Anne Murphy (DOB: [REDACTED]), c/o Birnberg Peirce of 14 Inverness Street, London, NW1 7HJ, WILL SAY as follows:

Background information

1. I am a Core Participant in the Inquiry. I make this statement for the purpose of Phase 2 of the Inquiry. Save for where otherwise indicated, the content of my statement is true to the best of my knowledge.
2. I have made a statement to the police dated 2 February 2018 and I have also previously made a statement to the Inquiry dated 1 July 2018 (IWS00001126).
3. My brother, Denis Murphy d.o.b. 10 October 1960 lived in 111 Grenfell Tower, Grenfell Street, London, and W11 1T. He lived on the 11th floor, which became the 14th floor after the refurbishment. My brother died in the Grenfell Tower Fire of 14 June 2017.

Fire safety systems

4. Whilst my brother; Denis was living in Grenfell Tower ('Tower') he made several complaints about the lifts as the lifts did not work whilst the refurbishment was going on. During the refurbishment of the Tower only one lift would be working at a time. Due to my brother's physical ill health including breathing problems due to his emphysema this made navigating around the Tower extremely difficult for him. Even when one lift was working, that lift would not go all the way down to street level, it would instead only stop as far as the walkway.



5. After the refurbishment you would need to be buzzed in to get through the main door and then there would be a short period to get from the main door to the next door to enable you to access the Tower. My brother; Denis would often worry about our mum getting stuck between the two doors, as there was a very short time limit on the period between getting from the main door to the next door to gain entrance. He or another family member would always go down to meet her to ensure that she did not get stuck within the main entrance and the entrance into the building itself. .
6. Prior to the refurbishment on my brother's floor there were fire safety signs within the lobby of the floor where he lived, but after the refurbishment when you came out of the lift the lobby/hall was much smaller in size due to the refurbishments and there were no fire signs anywhere at all in the lobby/fire. The only fire safety measure I was aware of in the Tower was the smoke alarm in the kitchen of my brother's flat and the ventilation system, which would only kick in if you needed it to.

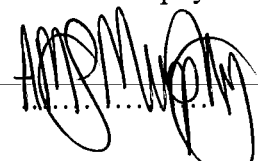
Fire safety advice and complaints

7. I do not think my brother ever knew there was a stay put policy. I have no memory of him ever discussing this with me.

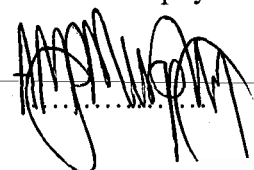
Emergency Shelter and Accommodation

8. On the night of the fire, in the early hours of the morning after we left Grenfell Tower, I was at my mother's house, she lived very near Grenfell Tower. All of us congregated there as it was the most appropriate place to be. None of us could leave the vicinity until we found Denis. A lot of other family members were there too, they were coming in and out as different people were going to different places to get more information on Denis.

Information and Assistance

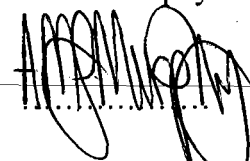


9. Whilst my nephew Peter and my partner; Brian were out looking for information, I rang 999 to find out what I needed to do. I was told to wait for an emergency number that would come up at around 6-6:30am. As soon as the emergency number did appear, I called immediately and got a recorded message that there were no people to answer the calls as they were waiting for call handlers. I eventually did get through to the emergency number, I cannot remember exactly what I said but their response was that someone would come round or someone would call me. However we did not hear anything back from this emergency number. It was of no practical use to us at all.
10. Whilst I was at my mother's house we had different family members there, all who were going to and from different hospitals and centres looking for Denis.
11. Whilst we were searching for information about Denis' whereabouts we were constantly being given false and conflicting information which was incredibly distressing for us. I recall seeing Denis' picture come up on the TV, and I started screaming because I was so distressed. I even had family members ringing from Ireland about Denis as they had watched T.V. there and heard false information. That he had died. This was when we were hoping that he was still alive and in hospital.
12. I remember that my two daughters came back from the Rugby Club with information that Denis was alive. We questioned them and asked them how they knew that. It transpired that they were told by someone with a badge that Denis was rescued. When my daughters queried this, they were told that this information came from a good source. Even my brother, Michael Galligan phoned me on the afternoon of the 14th June, to say that Denis was alive, as he had just been told at one of the centres that he was in one of the hospitals. We all cheered at this news, but we were just being given completely false information from all different sources.
13. The following day on the 15 June, my partner Brian, my daughter Lauren and I drove to Grenfell Tower very early in the morning. We spoke to the police there to ask them what we could do, as we had still had no news about my brother. I cannot remember



what their response was, but we did not get any answers that would assist us in any way.

14. We were told to go to the Salvation Army on Portobello Road as the police would meet us there; I believe this was also the following day on the 15th June. I went with Brian, Denis's ex wife Tracy, my brother Tim and his wife Angela. When we arrived we sat there for hours, as they the Salvation Army was inundated with donations, so they were locking the Media and others out of the building as it was becoming too difficult for them to manage. As we continued to wait, we were told that the police were still coming to see us. The Salvation Army were very apologetic about the fact that the police did not attend to interview us. We have no complaints about how we were treated by the Salvation Army. They looked after us and even encouraged us to help ourselves to the donations.
15. After some time we were then told that we needed to go to the West way. I was on crutches, as I had an operation on my foot on the 13th June 2017. We had to get a taxi, which we were ushered into amongst all the Media outside the building.
16. Once we got to the Westway it was incredibly packed and I was struggling to walk. Someone from the Red Cross team noticed this and came over and got me a wheelchair. Once we got inside we were told that detectives would interview us, which they did after a while. It was like a missing person interview, as they took details of Denis. After the interview concluded we were told that someone would be in touch, but just like the emergency number, no one contacted us after the interview.
17. We continued going around different places to get more information on Denis. In total we were at my Mum's house for about three to four days. It was only on the 16th June that we got in touch with our local MP, Rosena Allin-Khan. I left a message for her to phone me, which she did. I explained the distress we were in, desperately trying to find out information about my brother Denis, who had been in his home on the night of the Grenfell Tower inferno. She told us she would get in contact with the borough commander, which she obviously did as within a few hours the police; Simon Feighan



and Helen came to my Mum's house to do a missing person's interview. They did not take any statements from us; it was just a missing persons interview. Simon Feighan and Ben Rouse later became my Family Liaison Officers ('FLO'); Ben is still my FLO today.

18. No one from RBKC or TMO ever contacted us or came to assist or offer any support to us.

19. It was only around the August bank holiday, which was two and a half months after the Grenfell Tower inferno that Denis was confirmed dead and identified. My nephew Peter, Denis's son and I were asked by the police previously to give DNA samples but they ended up not using them.

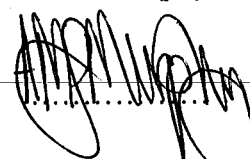
Psychological Support

20. I was in such an emotional state that I found it difficult to cope with daily life. I had to go to my GP for assistance. He recommended me for counselling. I was only given 12 sessions of bereavement counselling. After the 12 sessions were up, my counsellor was still concerned about me as I was still in severe trauma and not in an emotional state to work. So she wrote to the Grenfell support service to offer further support. I started therapy with the service in January 2018 and continue to attend up till now.

21. The Media confirmed that Denis was dead, before we had been told officially by anyone. I remember that a cousin of mine from Ireland called to offer their condolences and I remember shouting that he is alive and not dead. It was shocking that the Media had information that we did not have.

Co-ordination and Leadership

22. Within the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and indeed the other emergency services there was no teamwork and there did not seem to be any



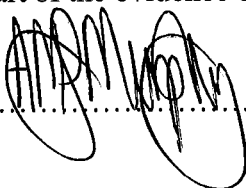
department/specialists/group of people designated to assist/support families and survivors with people who were missing.

Adequacy of response and lessons learned

23. There needs to be a proper emergency response plan that goes in place immediately to deal with major incidents such as the Grenfell Tower Fire Disaster. There also needs to be adequate personnel in place to be able to respond and act in accordance with the emergency response plan. The local people and volunteers were the only people of assistance what so ever.

I believe the contents of this witness statement to be true. I am willing for my statement to form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and published on the Inquiry's website.

Signed.....



Date.....

26/02/20

ANNE MURPHY

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