

**IN THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY**

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**PHASE II WITNESS STATEMENT OF  
SAMUEL DANIELS**

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I, SAMUEL DANIELS, DOB [REDACTED], previously of Flat 135 Grenfell Tower, Grenfell Road, London, W11 1TQ, of c/o Birnberg Peirce Ltd, 14 Inverness Street, London NW 7HJ, WILL SAY as follows:

1. I am a Core Participant in the Inquiry. I make this statement for the purposes of Phase 2 of the Grenfell Inquiry as I experienced it. Save for where otherwise indicated, the content of my statement is true to the best of my knowledge.

**BACKGROUND**

2. My Phase 1 witness statement to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry dated 31 May 2018 [IWS00000608], addressed some of the issues relevant to this Phase 2 witness statement and will be referenced by its numeric paragraph in my aforementioned witness statement.
3. I provided live evidence to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry on 10 October 2018 and will reference any relevant evidence by page and line number of the transcript of my oral evidence

## **2012-2016 REFURBISHMENT AT GRENFELL TOWER**

4. Initially we were told that workers required access to my flat for a total of two to four days. This then went on for months, access being required on and off throughout. A letter would arrive informing me that the tenant liaison officer would be - around, and would liaise about how the works were going. We would receive about a week or two notice.

## **PREVIOUS FIRES**

5. I refer to previous fires at Grenfell Tower at paragraphs 22 and 23 of my Phase 1 witness statement.
6. At paragraph 22, I mention when I have recalled fires in Grenfell. The communal hallway would be smoky. A long time prior to the refurb, people would sometimes set fire to rubbish at the bottom of the tower in the basement of the tower and smoke would come up through the shaft and enter the hallway. The smoke would be wispy and you would only notice it if you were in the hallway. I cannot recall if it set off the fire alarm in the hallway.
7. At paragraph 23 I note a fire that took place in 1996, I have since found out the fire was in 1999. My mother told me that when this fire happened we had stayed in our flat as she was aware of the 'Stay Put' policy.

## **FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS**

### **Lifts**

8. I refer to issues with the lifts at Grenfell Tower at paragraphs 32 and 36 of my Phase 1 witness statement.
9. During the refurbishment workmen would be using the lifts all the time, loading equipment into them. The lifts would be constantly in use from about 9am when kids would use them to go to school. As the lifts were being overused they were constantly breaking down. This meant that I had to use the stairs.
10. My father was unable to get out of the tower unless he used the lift. Therefore towards the end of the refurbishment he was unable to leave our flat and the tower, dependent on his condition, if the lifts were not in operation.

11. Whilst growing up I remember the lift alarm would go off a lot, usually when someone pressed the alarm in the lift. You would hear the alarm sound in the communal landing and from your flat. If the sound was distant, you could gauge if the lift was far away. It was like a school bell, but faster. During the refurbishment the lifts were out of order more frequently than in the past, but I do not recall hearing the lift alarm.

## **Doors**

12. I refer to issues with regard to flat doors at paragraphs 20 and 21 of my Phase 1 witness statement.
13. We had a new front door installed during the refurbishment, I think around 2011; this is confirmed by correspondence dated 10 February 2011 between the TMO and Manse Mastdoor Ltd who were contracted to install the new internal front doors. [MAS00000027]. It was not self-closing and was much lighter than the original door. Sometimes the door would not lock by pulling up the handle; a key had to be used to lock the door. The latch would not engage and fully close unless you forced it closed. My housing file shows that the issue with the lock was logged on 28 February 2011 at 12:31 as "OVERHAUL UPPER LOCK IN FRONT DOOR" and is recorded with a target date 3 March 2011. [exhibit SD/01] Despite this repair the lock still did not function all the time.
14. One evening this fault was raised with the TMO by phone on an emergency line as it was at night and the front door was not closing. According to my housing file, this happened on 4 April 2017. I remember a caretaker came out and took out the middle hinge in the door. This made the door close once you pulled it close; but there was still an issue with the lock system. The caretaker said that they would come back and replace the entire door, but they never did.
15. The housing file shows that the issue with the door was logged on 4 April 2017 at 17:04 as "FRONT DOOR NOT CLOSING" and is recorded as priority attend in 4 hours, target date 4 April 2017 21:04. The job status is recorded as approved. [exhibit SD/02] The following day, 5 April 2017 there is a log at 12:06 recorded as "OVERHAUL COMPLETE UPVC FRONT DOOR" with a priority of 20 working days and a target date of 8 May 2017 12:06. [exhibit SD/03] The same day there is another log it is logged at 13:12 as "PLEASE ATTEND TO FRONT DOOR LOCK AS DOOR WILL NOT SHUT" the priority is recorded as attend in 4 hours with a target date of 5 April 17:12. The job status is recorded as fully abandoned. [exhibit SD/04] There are logs for 5 April 2017 to "RENEW FRONT DOOR" and "OVERHAUL COMPLETE UPVC FRONT DOOR" [exhibit SD/05].



16. Months went by and nobody came out to fix it. I think about two months after the hinge was taken out the self-locking system on the door stopped working. I do not think anybody came out to fix this. The logged target date for 8 May 2017 never happened. Since the fire, I understand that a number of residents have had similar problems with their front doors.
17. I understand that the communal doors to the stairs were kept the same.

## Windows

18. After the refurbishment there were drafts which came from underneath the window. I could not see any gaps around the windows.
19. As we lived on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor, previously the 13<sup>th</sup> floor, and were at a height, it could get quite windy. I could tell the difference from the previous windows we had prior to the refurbishment. The main difference was just at the bottom of the windows. I can only say that I noticed the issue from my bedroom window. My bedroom is number 2 in the attached floor plan of flat 135 [exhibit SD/06]. There were drafts after the refurbishment and there were no drafts before. The draft was always at the bottom of the window. I don't recall any noise coming from the windows.
20. The other windows in the flat were usually kept closed, so I cannot remember if there were any issues with the other windows. I think there may have been a draft in the living room window but I cannot be sure. No complaints were made about the windows as far as I am aware.
21. [RYD00093596] shows that the windows were signed off in my flat in July 2015; by a Rydon representative and my father. However [RYD00056126] and [RYD00057500] are emails dated 2 and 12 November 2015 respectively, between Rydon and SD Plastering where Rydon are requesting that the trim by the windows be properly installed. I am only aware of this issue through reviewing the disclosure, and do not recall raising this as an issue; as the windows in the living room were generally shut. Neither do I recall anybody coming back to fix this.
22. Another example of the incomplete and shoddy works done to my flat during the refurbishment, was that there were exposed copper pipes running along the entire length of the flat, on the north side. The attached picture [exhibit SD/07] was taken on 1 May 2015. Disclosure suggests that the flat was close to being signed off as complete around November 2015 [TMO10011314]. Some 6 months later the pipes had still not been boxed in. Throughout the refurbishment different workers would come in and do different jobs. It was difficult to know who was responsible for

completing which job. I recall talking about the exposed pipes with a Rydon representative, as there would have not been anybody else to raise it with. Again, this was never resolved.

23. I stated at paragraph 30 of my Phase 1 witness statement the issue regarding the extractor fan in the kitchen window. At some point it broke, and I believe I made the Rydon representative aware. This was later fixed, and according to document [RYD00059521] the work was completed on 25.8.15 then inspected and signed off on 28.11.15.

### **Fire safety signs**

24. I confirm my understanding of the fire signs in the tower at paragraph 25 of my Phase 1 witness statement. I do not recall them after the refurbishment anywhere in tower.

### **Escape routes**

25. There were always 4 exits out of the tower, and one at street level. The lifts would give you the option of exiting at "W" walkway level or "S" street level. The Walkway level would lead you to 3 exits, 2 exits via staircases and 1 onto the walkway. All these exits were available whilst I was growing up.
26. I attach a picture of Grenfell Tower taken in the 1970s, [exhibit SD/08]. 1 exit to walkway (A). 2 other exits from walkway level to street level (B- North side; 2 exits one on north side and one on south side). 1 exit on ground floor on south side (C- on south side). From the picture you cannot see the South side which has 1 exit at ground level and another at walkway level. Prior to the final refurbishment, A was still available and used for 6-12 months as an exit whilst the lower floors and foyer were being refurbished.
27. I knew from growing up in the tower that the exit on the roof had a large gate and was padlocked, so I would not have used that as a fire exit.

### **Emergency lighting**

28. Paragraph 31 of my Phase 1 witness statement mentions emergency lighting in the tower, as I recall.

29. On occasions the lighting in the hallways would flicker on and off or just not be working. It would not be completely dark in the hallway, as half the hallway would have light from what must have been another light circuit which was working. I do not recall any emergency lighting.
30. Usually within a couple of days the lighting in the hallway would be fixed.
31. In recent history, I recall if I had used the stairwell it was lit.

#### **Smoke control/ventilation**

32. Paragraphs 30 and 33 of my Phase 1 witness statement discusses ventilation prior to the refurbishment.
33. Post refurbishment we had different neighbours living above us. I think it was a show flat during the refurbishment. We were never told that the flat above us would be used as a show flat, but assumed so as there was so much noise above us. This is confirmed in documents before the Inquiry such as, [RYD00025356] which are emails dated December 2014. I did not notice any smells. I cannot remember if I could smell anything from downstairs.
34. As mentioned above, initially the fan in our kitchen did not work. I am not sure if the air vent in the bathroom worked, but as far as I am aware, this was never part of the works done under the refurbishment.

#### **Smoke alarms**

35. Paragraphs 26 and 27 of my Phase 1 witness statement discusses fire alarms.
36. Prior to the refurbishment a general smoke alarm would go off anywhere in the building. I remember a friend lit a cigarette in the communal landing and set it off. It sounded like the same bell you hear when someone is stuck in the lift, as described above.
37. After the fire on 14 June 2017 a lot of residents noticed the communal fire alarm did not go off. We do not know when or if it was removed.
38. Inside my flat, there were fire alarms in the kitchen and hallway. They are shown on the attached diagram of flat 135. A is the fire alarm in the hallway, and B is the fire



alarm in the kitchen [exhibit SD/06]. This was a new addition as there were no fire alarms in the flat prior to the refurbishment.

39. On the night, the fire alarm in the hallway went off, once I had opened the front door on the second to last or last occasion. A lot of smoke had come into the flat by then, so the alarm was not that sensitive.
40. On one occasion I remember the fire alarm in the kitchen went off when the oven was left on, and there was a lot of smoke. The alarms would seem to only go off when there was a significant amount of smoke.

#### **Gas works**

41. We had no gas inside my flat. During the refurbishment, workers came and fitted pipes in my flat that ran from the communal lobby to the boiler in the hallway in my flat. I enclose a picture of the pipework as [exhibit SD/09]. The pipes ran above the doorway into the flat and to the new boiler/HUI. These works reduced the space in the hallway.
42. There was a big pipe red pipe in the stairwell. I was told by other residents that this was gas pipe.
43. My Phase 1 statement deals with electrical surges at paragraphs 28 and 29. From what I recall all flats received compensation.
44. I do not recall any electrical issues in my flat after the refurbishment.

#### **Fire safety check/inspections**

45. Prior to the refurbishment, I do not remember any fire safety checks or inspections being made to the tower or my flat, apart from the fire brigade checking we had working fire alarms.
46. I have now since the fire, been told by some people that the fire service came to the tower a few days before fire. I remember being on the ground floor a few days before the fire. It may have even been the day before. There was fireman looking at a panel with lights on. The location of the panel was immediately just in the entrance to the lift area on left, shown in document [EXO00001489]. I do not recall any of the objects in this picture, but I do recall what I thought to be a fireman standing in that location looking at some sort of electronic system with lights.

47. A couple of months before the fire, I think fire fighters came to check that the fire alarms worked. I don't think any fire advice was given. My father at times may have let people in when I was not aware, as I do not think he would have mentioned this to me. Somebody had explained how to use the smart meter to my father, when it should have been explained to me. In the end I only used it to gauge the temperature in our flat. This may have happened because I may have asked for an explanation on how to use it, but this is a vague recollection.

### **Fire Safety Advice**

48. At paragraphs 23 and 24 of my Phase 1 witness statement I discuss how I was aware of the Stay Put advice at Grenfell Tower. Essentially I was told by my parents, I am not sure who told my parents. I remember seeing a fire safety sign, but I do not recall where.
49. Stay Put meant that unless the fire was in your flat, stay put. This is common sense, but I am not sure if I was told by anyone.
50. I am not aware of any communications or provisions of fire safety advice in the first place, never mind for those with language needs. Fire advice could have been given to my father when I was not there. If so, this would not have registered with him and he would not have told me when I got back home.
51. My Phase 1 witness statement at paragraphs 5 to 13 deals with vulnerabilities of my father which authorities were aware of, particularly vulnerabilities which were relevant to fire strategy; such as his mobility and state of mind.
52. Around a year and half to two years prior to the fire I contacted social services. I went to see social services in Kensington and Chelsea Town Hall and contacted social services via the phone at the Town Hall. I had to make quite a few calls. First call went by, then a month later I chased, and there was no record of the first call. I think an appointment was set up and I met a nurse at Westbourne Grove; Luke O'Connor. He came for a house visit as my father would not leave the house. He diagnosed my father with dementia and said I needed assistance looking after him; and we needed to have a plan in place.
53. Social services gave him mobility aids months later, a raised toilet, and zimmer frame. My father used neither.
54. They were supposed to put hand rails in the bathroom but they never did. One day a parcel just turned up with aids, I can't recall any assessment being done.



55. I don't think I mentioned any of this to the council or TMO, as I did not think it was their place. However I now see since disclosure of my housing file that the TMO were aware that my father had dementia and mobility issues as there appears to have been some sort of an assessment and he was referred to St Charles in 2015. [TMOH00024715].
56. The TMO semi-threatened me as my father had thrown tea bags out of the window. They said they would start eviction proceedings if this was done again. That is why I then became my father's full time carer in 2016; as he needed almost round the clock supervision. Based on the above document, I can assume that the TMO were aware of my father's conditions. I only saw the role of TMO as being involved in repairs and rent. Once I became his sole carer rent no longer became a problem and the TMO did not have much contact with us.
57. During the refurbishment my father was unhappy with the level and duration of noise as he thought the neighbours above us were making noise; but it was the refurbishment, and more likely the show flat above us. There was constant drilling and hammering, for what felt like years on end, from 8.30am to about 5pm. I am not sure if this happened pre or post his dementia diagnosis. There was a major decline in his mental and physical wellbeing during this period. His health got worse, he wasn't able to walk any type of distance.
58. During the refurbishment, for about a month, the builders were constantly in and out of our flat. There were big gaps in between. It got too much for my father and me, on occasion, when they asked for access to the flat I would say no; and then rearrange for the work to be done a week or two later.
59. In the last 3 years prior to the fire he became hunched over which affected his mobility. He should not have been on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor with one fire escape, only by stairs.
60. I confirmed this in my oral evidence at the inquiry on day 56, and at page 4-9 of the transcript; also cited in the Chair's Phase 1 report at paragraph 11.67.

### **Fire safety complaints**

61. At paragraph 37 of my Phase 1 Witness statement I deal with the relationship between the Rydon contractors and residents.

62. I understand that the contractors or workers would get into arguments with residents. For example you would be waiting for the lift that would then turn up in 5 minutes and be full of builders. They were rude and residents were rude back. There were lots of arguments. This led to resentment and a nasty atmosphere, which started some time after the refurbishment had begun. The refurbishment took longer than we were told it would, which fuelled the tensions.
63. The residents were offered a room to go to if the noise got too much. I never went to the room offered, I imagine only a couple of families could go as the room could not comfortably hold many people. Initially, the room was on the ground floor, and then it got too noisy from there, so it was moved to a nearby block. My father couldn't use that room, and there were no other provisions made, as far as aware.
64. I was not aware of any provisions for those with language or other special needs to send/receive communication from TMO, RBKC or Rydon regarding fire safety.

#### **Floor signs**

65. The Chair has noted in his recommendations section of his Phase 1 report, chapter 33 at paragraphs 33.27 the issue regarding the lack of internal signage. He also confirmed that I was in stairwell longer than others at chapter 11 paragraph 11.84 of the Phase 1 report. One reason for this is that neither the firefighters with me or myself could locate where we were, or where the 16<sup>th</sup> floor was. These crucial minutes which were wasted, could have been used to attempt rescuing my father.
66. Prior to the refurbishment the floors were numbered. During the refurb they were painted over as the floors and therefore numbering had changed. From hearing other witnesses' oral evidence, I understand that some floors were numbered, but around 12 or 13 to the 16 floors there was no numbering.
67. I support the Chairs recommendations on this point, as well as all other recommendations; however I assumed that well-lit and clear floors numbering, particularly in fire escape routes, was a requirement in all buildings. If fire safety inspections could include try to ensure the owners of buildings have complied with this, it may assist in an issue like this happening again.

## AFTERMATH

### 14 June

68. My mother kept a log of the events that took place the months after the fire. I recall the events but not the dates which they took place. I have referred to that log.
69. According to the CCTV in the tower I exited the tower at 01.38 [INQ00000445].
70. I called my mother at 1.39am and told her there was a fire but my father was still inside the tower and she joined me soon after. I watched the tower burn until about 7am. Throughout the night we kept going to different areas near the tower to check if my father had been evacuated or had somehow managed to get out. I recall myself and my mother asking firefighters and police officers about my father in flat 135. After leaving the tower I then went to my girlfriend's house until about 10.am.
71. A few hours later I went to RBKC Town Hall. I was the only person there from Grenfell Tower, as far as I know. I spoke with someone and was given one night's stay at Premier Inn Earl's Court.
72. It had been a chaotic night and I had had no sleep.
73. I went round to the hospitals with my mother and girlfriend. I went to Chelsea and Westminster hospital and called St Mary's and Hammersmith hospital. We may have gone to other hospitals I cannot remember. We spent all day looking for my father in case somehow he had got out. We called all the hospitals we were told Grenfell Tower victims had gone to: University College London, King's College Hospital, St Mary's Hospital, and Charing Cross Hospital.
74. I was told by my rent officer to go to the Salvation Army in Portobello where they have a family reunion centre; and that my father was there and marked as safe. I told them that he was not there and that he cannot be safe. I went and my father was not there.

### 15 June

75. I can't remember how, but believe it was probably by a group of residents in the hotel I was staying at, but we then heard that there was a gathering point for survivors at the Rugby Club in Kensington. We went and there was a board with a



list of people marked "missing" or "safe". We, the community, were trying to do what the council should have been doing, noting who was accounted for.

76. I later received a message from someone from Camden Charities, Junied Samad, a Grants Officer, to go to their office in Notting Hill. I was given Marks & Spencer vouchers and told that they would be able to help with furniture and white goods when I had a new home if I was housed locally.
77. Whilst there I received a call from RBKC housing. They asked if I was in the Premier Inn and whether I had spent the night there. They said they wanted to meet with me at 3pm at the Premier Inn. We rushed back and waited at the hotel from 2.50pm to about 8pm. When they finally arrived there was no apology for not arriving at 3pm or informing me that they would be coming to see me much later. There was neither any discussion about my housing. They simply handed over to me an envelope of cash. There was no discussion about how I could obtain any further assistance at all.
78. Probably after this meeting, I received a piece of paper under the door of my hotel room telling me I had been booked to stay with breakfast and an evening meal until Tuesday 20 June 2017.

## **16 June**

79. I was called by RBKC housing and told they would try to keep in touch with me by phone, but I may be staying in the hotel for several weeks.
80. Though breakfast and an evening meal were offered at the hotel, I started to get ill from eating the same food every day.
81. I registered my name and joined a contact list of Grenfell Tower residents at the Rugby Club. They had a wall chart and had put details of "missing" and "found" on it. They also donated cash to me. I put my name down on more lists at the Westway Sports Centre.
82. There was a demonstration at the Town Hall which I attended with my family; and a rally in Westminster which we also briefly attended. We decided to go because we wanted to express ourselves and show solidarity.
83. There was still no confirmation about what had happened to my father.

## **18 June**

84. I had a 2 hour meeting with Police Family Liaison Officers and gave a detailed account of the events of 14 June. They also took my DNA.
85. At about 5.30pm I met with Ashely Kay from Westminster Council and had a housing assessment. This assessment was done as if my father was going to be living with me. They asked about his mobility issues and needs. This was clearly distressing, not only because my father was not with me, but also the fact that the ineffectiveness of these assessments had played a part in my father not surviving. It was a pointless assessment as he wouldn't be living with me. Despite me making it clear that my father would not have survived, the assessment continued and I was told until my father was declared lost or deceased, they would have to carry out the assessment in this way.
86. I think these assessments should be rooted in common sense and flexible. If it is necessary, then the answers to the assessment can be later adapted to take into account new evidence. Consideration should be given to the person who is being assessed and what they are going through. Their needs should be at the forefront of the assessors mind, and sensitivity used.

## **19 June**

87. I was told that I could collect a Government grant from the Post Office; but I cannot recall by whom. I vaguely remember going to Westbourne Grove Post Office to find it had been closed for years. I then went to Golborne Road Post Office, where cash was given to me.
88. I attended meetings at the Rugby Club. Mark Simms CEO of Rugby Portobello Trust explained what funds were available and gave advice, such as not to feel pressured to sign things and to go to the Westway Centre for housing, passport and ID issues. I found out about many of these meetings via WhatsApp groups.
89. During this time most of my contact was with residents as they were organising meetings. There was a meeting around 6.30pm at the North Kensington Law Centre. This was when I met my solicitor Marcia Willis Stewart.

## 20 June

90. I had another meeting with Family Liaison Officers Lisa and Nick, at about midday. They agreed to pass on the notes from a meeting at Westway Centre the day before. They were advised not to attend that meeting due to a public order issue. I can't recall if I ever received the notes. They informed me that there were fire services and police officers still going through the tower and they were conducting a fingertip search. They had had to stop for safety reasons, but were working their way from the bottom up.
91. They explained that a cordon was still in place as it was still potentially a crime scene. Latimer Road tube station was still closed. I went through a plan of the 16<sup>th</sup> floor with them. I confirmed who I had seen as safe since the fire.
92. I received a message from RBKC housing that I had been offered a 2 bedroom house on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; and a viewing may be available that day or the next. I agreed to the viewing. I was told it would be "settled accommodation" for 12 months. I explained that I did not wish to keep moving and that if after the viewing that led to and accepting, and I was happy, I would like to stay permanently.

## 21 June

93. There was a meeting at North Kensington Law Centre. I was told that I would receive a call about my benefits and obtaining ID such as my birth certificate. I then went to the Rugby Club to collect the Evening Standard donation.
94. There was still no contact from the council and most information was via the Family Liaison Officers and residents; as there were lots of meetings being organised.
95. A day after the viewing I accepted the accommodation I had previously viewed. I was told that once shown the accommodation, no one else would be able to take it. I accepted straight away.
96. The day after I viewed and accepted the property it was on an evening news programme. A politician was showing the property as the type being offered to those who had been affected by the Grenfell fire and needed to be rehoused. On the programme they said that that property I had accepted had been taken by a family who would be moving in. This made me mistrust the council. Now I also doubted



whether I had the property. After some stressful and frantic calls to the council, about two weeks later, I found out that it had been reserved for me.

### **Contact with RBKC**

97. There was absolutely no contact from the council. I had to physically go to them. There was no information at RBKC Town Hall explaining what to do or where to go.

### **Permanent accommodation**

98. When I was given my tenancy agreement, it was a hostel agreement for the homeless or ex-prisoners, and I was told it was the only template she had and it would be sorted out at a later date. It had specific clauses, which were for a tenant not in my position. One example was, the council could enter the property at any time, I could not have anybody stay with me over night; and I had to sleep there every night. This caused additional distress. In the end it was resolved, but not for at least a few months as far as I remember. This compounded the stress of all the previous housing issues I had had to endure.

### **Hotel**

99. RBKC would never tell you how long you were able to stay at the hotel. The manager of the hotel would simply put a note under your room door saying "you booked for another week". There was not one person to contact for information or assistance. Even the hotel manager was shocked that the council were not telling people how long they were staying. Once the night before last had been paid, they would be told. It was very last minute for them too. Then the manager said that I would not be thrown out despite the council not keeping either of us informed.
100. I did not want to stay at the hotel but I just needed a safe room. The hotel's location in Earl's Court was not suitable for walking to the Rugby Club, St Clements' Church and Westway Centre etc. I would spend the day wandering around between these places searching for information. If the hotel was closer to these areas, it would have been better.
101. I stayed in the hotel for about three and a half months or 14 weeks. Some demanded to stay in nice hotels and were given that. I did not complain and so was not moved, as others were. Whilst in the hotel people were cautious to speak about their experiences on the night or their position as a survivor to each other; it was more about what could be done to move forward.

## **Subsistence**

102. I ate hotel food for about 1/1.5 month until another resident told me how we could use the funds provided to us. If you could not eat the food at the hotel, you would be offered £300 a week food allowance. I was never told directly about this provision and use of funds by any council officials
103. The subsistence offered was on a sliding scale. It began at £300pw in the hotel and stayed at that. Then told if you moved out it would reduce to £300 for 3 months then £150 for 3 months. The money was enough.

## **Co-ordination and assistance**

104. The wider community and voluntary sector were the only people helping. Sometimes people would come to the hotel with donations.
105. After a while organisations would come to the hotel. Counsellors would come to the hotel I think on their own volition.
106. There simply was no co-ordination.
107. I consent to this statement forming part of the evidence before the Inquiry and also to this statement being published on the Inquiry's website.

**STATEMENT OF TRUTH**

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed:                     *MM*                    

Dated:           27.2.2020