

Statement of Events by : Barry McAuliffe

Grenfell Tower : AOV call out on the 25 May 2017

Statement date : 26 June 2017, Burgess Hill, 14.30am

Written By : Andy Vernal

I have been employed by Allied Protection since 1 September 2016 as a trainee engineer. I have my City and Guilds 236 electrical installation certificates, 17th Edition electrician, City and Guilds 2377 (Pat Testing) and FIA Part 5 Maintenance Fire Alarm Systems.

I was asked to complete the planned preventative maintenance visit of the Automatic Opening Vents at Grenfell Tower on the 15 May 2017. This was my first visit to this site, arriving on site at 8.30, at first I had no access due to the "access fob requirement". I attended the KCTMO offices on site and was instructed to speak to Paul the Caretaker to gain access, there was no response from his telephone number, so I waited in the office.

At 12.30 (approx) Paul arrived in the office I asked for his assistance to find the equipment in the Tower, I was also provide an access fob and Girder Key. Paul escorted me to Grenfell tower, I asked for the information on the nurse, main building and smoke vents.

I was instructed the nurse was not connected to the fire alarm system at Grenfell Tower, Paul also informed me there was no fire alarm system in the building, only an AOV system. I asked Paul if he did the weekly tests, which he did, and he showed me to the AOV Panel, located in the Ground Floor Reception Lobby.

I do not recall seeing any automatic smoke detection system in the reception area.

I went to the top residential floor, doors to the plantrooms where padlocked, then proceeded to make way to the ground floor to familiarise myself with the building. I then commenced the test, after asking Paul the caretaker to reset the panel after each activation (which he refused).

I then proceeded to activate the smoke detector in the lift lobby of each floor, listed for the vents to open, you can both see and hear this activity. After each activation; I returned to the ground floor to reset the panel before proceeding to the next.

I had tested all the lift lobbies with the exception of smoke detectors on the ground floor (lobby area) as I was called away to complete a reactive repair.

I was not aware of the override switches on each floor.

This was my one and only visit to Grenfell Tower.

I Barry McAuliffe to confirm this statement was taken on the 26 June 2017 and is a true recording of my interview with Andrew Vernal, Managing Director Allied Fire Protection.

Signed : 

Date : 26/06/17