

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF SUHAIL FAROOK DADABHOY

(Rule 9, Inquiry Rules 2006)

I SUHAIL FAROOK DADABHOY say as follows:

	Title	GTI URN
SFD/1	Retained papers from D Job Number 1456940	
SFD/2	Retrieved email response to consultation dated 12 th December 2014	

1. I SUHAIL FAROOK DADABHOY have been employed by the LONDON FIRE BRIGADE, (LFB), since 2004 as FIRE SAFETY INSPECTING OFFICER (FS IO). My current role is as a TRANSPORT FS IO, within the TRANSPORT TEAM, BUSINESS SUPPORT GROUP (BSG), based at LFB HEADQUARTERS.
2. I have been trained by the LFB for that role and undertake ongoing development in fire safety. I have completed my Fire Safety Diploma (level 4) and studying for a Fire Risk Engineering, BEng (Hons) degree. The London Fire Brigade is sponsoring my studies, to support my role in fire engineering consultations, which form integral parts of most transport infrastructure projects.
3. I was based within the LFB Hammersmith & Fulham Borough fire safety team since starting in the LFB until my elected transfer to the TRANSPORT TEAM BSG in September 2015.
4. The LFB Hammersmith & Fulham Borough fire safety team was incorporated with the Brigade's Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC) team , to form a larger Fire Safety Team in April 2012.
5. The Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea Fire Safety Team (TEAM) are part of the LFB fire safety regulatory framework that covers the London area.

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6. The TEAM consists of LFB FSIO's, who principally carry out inspections of commercial premises within the London Boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, in accordance with the fire safety legislation:- the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Order)
7. The Order empowers the LFB, as the enforcing authority, to carry out inspections and consultations with other agencies and authorities.
8. As of April 2012, my desk was located on the third floor, within the fire safety teams offices of KENSINGTON FIRE STATION.
9. As part of my day to day duties, I would check fire incidents within the two London boroughs, assess if post fire inspections were required. I also carried out research in preparation to carry out fire safety inspections of commercial premises.
10. I would also undertake a duty officer role for the team, this would involve contacting every member on duty to ensure they were safe and on route to their respective destinations. The team duty officer would also field calls and assist with enquires from the public.
11. My experience as a FSIO, gave me the privilege to inspect special premises under the following designations; Diplomatic Missions (Foreign Embassies) , Football Stadium (Chelsea, Fulham and QPR), Heritage Buildings (Museums of South Kensington) and all the Schools within both London boroughs.
12. As part of my day to day duties, I would liaise with watches based at fire stations, local authority teams, housing providers & responsible persons.
13. I was also the officer responsible for reducing false and unwanted fire alarm activations that lead to brigade attendance. I officially started this role on 6th September 2007, when I presented the Action Plan to the then Borough Commander Steve Lumb at Hammersmith Fire Station.
14. My first bi-monthly meeting with the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (KCTMO) took place on 16 October 2012 at 11:00 (according to my Outlook 2010 Calendar entry) at their offices (The Network Hub, 300 Kensal Road, W10 5BE).

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15. The meeting invite was organised by my then Team Leader Nicholas Comery. The invite was sent to me on Wednesday 26th September 2012 at 16:13 and I accepted 27th September 2012 at 06:36.
16. The bi- monthly LFB and KCTMO liaison meeting was chaired by Janice Wray (Health, Safety and Facilities Manager KCTMO)
17. I would go on and attend most of the meetings with my Team Leader until my final bi-monthly LFB and KCTMO liaison meeting on August 19 2015 10:00-11:30
18. The Station Manager of North Kensington fire station Dan Hallissey also attended the bi-monthly meetings
19. My principle role was to prepare and discuss fire alarm actuations at KCTMO supported housing schemes. My aim was to explore methods to reduce false alarm activations at the schemes, which were leading to brigade attendance. The properties were small flats with full smoke detection systems for vulnerable older persons with varying abilities and disabilities.
20. I regularly discussed various options to reduce false alarms with the KCTMO in the liaison meetings, including reviewing the placement of smoke detectors and various modern types of detectors. I also conducted tenant education campaigns, which involved short presentations for tenants and a discussion prior to an inspection at the scheme.
21. The policy to replace leaseholder flat front doors with certified 30 minute fire doors was a continual agenda item. The KCTMO would provided a status of their efforts and difficulties negotiating with leaseholders. To my best recollection, the KCTMO were moving forward, albeit slowly and exploring various legal means to do so.
22. Having reviewed the KCTMO bi-monthly meeting minutes for April 2014, I vaguely recollect a discussion with Claire Williams KCTMO on smoke ventilation calculations for a proposed system at Grenfell Tower. The minutes state that I advised her that I was Fire Engineering Liaison Officer (FELO) for the borough team. I was advised by Claire Williams that a smoke calculation proposal for Grenfell Tower would be forwarded for consideration.
23. Having reviewed the KCTMO bi- monthly meeting minutes for June 2014, I am quoted advising the chair of the meeting, that previously discussed smoke calculations for Grenfell

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Tower had not been forwarded. Therefore no further progress has been made. I am also quoted as stating that my FELO role provides a conduit to the LFB Fire Engineering Team.

24. I do not recollect receiving the smoke ventilation calculation pre-proposal for Grenfell Tower from Clare Williams KCTMO. To the best of my knowledge, no informal or formal consultation took place on the matter with myself and the KCTMO.
25. Having reviewed the KCTMO bi-monthly meeting minutes for September 2014, Claire Williams confirmed that works at Grenfell Tower were in progress, including the ventilation system. The ventilation system was being 'upgraded/refurbished' with plans, still being finalised and an estimated completion date of Christmas 2014. To the best of my recollection, no discussion with regards to the smoke calculation pre-proposal for Grenfell Tower from Clare Williams KCTMO took place at this meeting. The Minutes state that the fire risk assessor Carl Stokes was overseeing the fire risks during works. The minutes also state that contractors, Rydon were liaising with local Station Manager Dan Hallissey (North Kensington Fire Station) to ensure LFB fire appliance access during works. I do not have any specific memory of this meeting, but I do not have any reason to think the minutes are wrong.
26. Occasionally I would contact the local crews at North Kensington Fire Station to discuss a particular supported housing premises, which the crews had become familiar with due to the levels of fire alarm activations
27. As part of my duties and in accordance with Fire Safety Information & Guidance Note (FSIGN 501), I dealt with consultations of LFB under section 15 of the Building Act 1984, the Building (Approved Inspectors etc.) Regulations 2000 Regulation 13 and Articles 45 and 46 of the Order. The duty to consult rests in all cases with the Building Control Bodies (BCB).
28. The Building Control Bodies (BCB) either Local Authority Building Control Authorities or Approved Inspectors, would submit building consultations in the form of a document comprising of a cover sheet detailing their identity, location and intent under the legislation to consult the fire authority. The series of documents, typically included a fire strategy that details the existing physical site, existing fire safety measures and the proposed changes. The proposed material changes in the report, typically outline the impact on fire safety, therefore leading to either enhancements to fire safety measures, or maintenance to ensure the same

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standard of fire safety is maintained. Where proposed changes reduce the level of fire safety protection, the proposal may be rejected or re-evaluated with specific compensatory features (e.g. site specific suppression or ventilation systems etc.)

29. As part of my consultation by BCB's, I have a statutory responsibility to consider two primary areas of the building regulations (Means of warning and escape, and Access and facilities for the fire and rescue service)
30. One of the principle guidance document used by BCB's and the LFB is the Approved Document B Volume 2: Buildings other than Dwelling Houses - 2006 edition incorporating 2007, 2010 and 2013 amendments (ADBV2)
31. ADBV2 outlines the guidance on the two primary areas of the building regulations concerned in the consultation. **Section B1** Means of warning and escape, and **Section B5** Access and facilities for the fire and rescue service
32. ADBV2 defines - **Section B1 – Means of warning and escape** 'the building shall be designed and constructed so that there are appropriate provisions for the early warning of fire, and appropriate means of escape in case of fire from the building to place of safety outside the building capable of being safely and effectively use at all time
33. ADBV2 defines - **Section B5 – Access and facilities for the fire and rescue service**
 - a. The building shall be design and constructed so as to provide reasonable facilities to assist firefighters in the protection of life
 - b. Reasonable provision shall be made within the site of the building to enable fire appliances to gain access to the building
34. As an LFB FSIO consulting with a BCB, it is expected that the BCB has reviewed the proposal it has received from the client and ensured that it complies with B1 and B5 guidance set out in ADBV2 or equivalent.
35. In all cases it is expected the BCB has provided sufficient information and comments, stating acceptance, rejection or acceptance under specific conditions
36. It is my duty to review the B1 and B5 elements of the proposal and compare the comments of the BCB

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37. The outcome of my consultation, would result in a Portable Document File (PDF) letter with comments, which I would email to the BCB as an attachment and cc FSR Admin (LFB Fire Safety Regulation Administration Team mailbox) . The policy at the time (December 2014) was for FSR Admin to upload the email and PDF to the fire safety portal as a permanent record and close the job process.
38. These type of building consultation tasks are classified as D Jobs within the LFB and raised on the Farynor computer database and listed on my electronic workload.
39. I carried out 99 individual D Jobs between April 2014 to March 2015
40. The Grenfell Tower D Job, was opened by Richard Parsons - RBKC ref FP/14/03563 dated 11 Nov received 18 Nov - 0001916A 18/11/2014 14:17 BC K&C Scanned Mail 18-11-2014 (Attachment 18-11-2014-04). I exhibit a copy of those papers now retained by LFB for this consultation as **SFD/1()**.
41. I began to review D Job Number 1456940 on the 12th December 2014 (Farynor file number 12/020696), Grenfell Tower, Grenfell Road, London W11 1TH
42. The proposed works stated on the RBKC cover sheet (dated 11th November 2014 – LFB date stamped 18th November 2014) included, their intent to consult under article 45 of the Order **for new floor areas, new overcladding & windows , new heating system, reconfigured podium and entrance.**
43. BCB will often outline all proposed works in their titles (e.g. like new heating systems and windows) The BCB form, **Section 5 - Fire Brigade comments**, specifically stipulates that the brigade should comment on the Means of warning and escape, and Access and facilities for the fire and rescue service. Although the BCB provide and enclose bespoke forms, the LFB will always respond to B1 and B5 D Job consultations on LFB template letters.
44. Enclosed with the RBKC cover sheet was the following documents: 1279(05)101 REV00, 1279(05)102 Rev00, 1279(06)100 REv00, 1279(08) 101 issue 01, 1279(08)100 issue 01. Also included: Memorandum - B1 Means of Escape Observations and Outline Fire Safety Strategy.


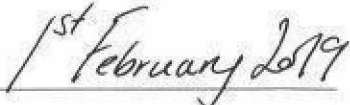
45. I reviewed the B1 Means of Escape Observations and Outline Fire Safety Strategy and concurred with the RBKC Building Control Officers observations and conditions outlined in the internal Memorandum on 12th December 2014.
46. The BCB officer surmised that **'RBKC are not in a position to approve the proposals at this stage due to the need for the design team to establish an acceptable extract rate for the powered lobby ventilation system and the provision of ventilated lobby protection to all stairway connections to residential and other uses'**
47. I considered the means of escape elements proposed in the Exova Grenfell Outline Fire Safety Strategy as compliant on conditions and observations set out by the BCB officer.
48. I considered the British standard escaping lighting proposed in the Exova Grenfell Outline Fire Safety Strategy as complaint
49. The means of warning elements proposed in the Exova Grenfell Outline Fire Safety Strategy, focusses on the proposed Nursery and Office accommodation. The proposal states that these occupancies will be provided with stand alone manual (break glass call point) fire alarm systems with no smoke detection in accordance with British standards (BS 5839:1 (M). New apartments would be provided with one or more interlinked mains powered smoke alarms with an integral stand-by supply in accordance with British standards (BS 5839:6 (LD3)). I considered this element complaint, on conditions and observations set out by the BCB officer.
50. The Access and facilities for the fire and rescue service elements proposed in the Exova Grenfell Outline Fire Safety Strategy, outline a new dry rising inlet within 18m of a possible fire appliances location. The strategy further outlines if the ground floor entry is used by crews, therefore the stair would be used to access the mezzanine floors. The existing stairs form part of the fire-fighting shaft serving the building, therefore will be constructed to a 120 minute fire resisting standard to comply with B5. The strategy document further outlines locations and their conforming fire resisting standards. I considered these elements compliant, on conditions and observations set out by the BCB officer.
51. To the best of my recollection at the time, I considered the proposal compliant, on condition the BCB officer's conditions were met. The principle BCB condition was a fully detailed and calculated smoke ventilation proposal that could justify B1 and B5 compliance

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52. I prepared an official response letter from the brigade's word letter template wizard to draft a D Job building consultation response stating that the fire authority was satisfied with the proposals, subject to 'The Building Control Officers observations and conditions'
53. The D Job response letter was sent as a PDF file via email to Mr Hoban RBKC Building Control Officer (building.control@rbkc.gov.uk) and cc'd to FSR-AdminSupport at 08:12 on 12th December 2014
54. The job progress sheet on Farynor step 50.00 was entered as 12/12/2014 'Email BCO/Approved Inspector'
55. In accordance with policy at the time (December 2014), FSR Admin would have uploaded the email and PDF to the fire safety portal as a permanent record and closed the job process.
56. On my return to duty in the New Year (January 2015), the D Job was still open on my electronic Farynor Workload. Occasionally jobs may remain open, if FSR Admin have overlooked or missed the open job. In this case I assumed FSR Admin had missed closing out the job and because my open jobs are not considered in monthly quota targets, I completed the job on Farynor 06/01/2015.
57. I was advised in June 2017 that the original email I sent the BCB had been traced, but the PDF response letter attachment was missing. I exhibit a copy of the retrieved email as **SFD/2** () To the best of my recollection, an attachment was sent, but due to the passage of time, I do not have a definite recollection. It is possible that I may have not attached the letter and therefore I asked if my emails in the days and weeks after the 12th of December 2014 contained the missing attachment. I have been advised that no emails containing the PDF response letter have been recovered.

Statement of truth

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

(witness signature)  Dated: 
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