

**Request for Evidence under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006**

**WITNESS STATEMENT FROM:**

**CHRIS POWELL**

**PREVIOUSLY TECHNICAL MANAGER FOR THE C5 ARRANGEMENT (Now retired)**

**C/O LHC**

**2 VINE STREET**

**UXBRIDGE**

**UB8 1QE.**

**General**

1. Please give details of your role and your responsibilities at LHC.

As Technical Manager my role was to prepare, tender and oversee framework arrangements for:

(a) PVC-U Windows and Doors

(b) Aluminium Windows and Doors.

I also took over the managing of the C5 External Doorsets Arrangement in 2011.

2. In relation to doors sold as FD30 or FD30S and the British and European standards that relate to them please give details:

a. of your expertise or knowledge;

My experience of procuring the other windows and doors frameworks was a good grounding for taking over management of the external doorsets. The preparation of tender documents and specifications involves extensive research and knowledge into products' performance requirements – eg British and European Standards – plus Regulatory and Best Practice requirements. Research into the preparation of the C6 documentation (drafted in 2011) provided detailed expertise and knowledge for the FD30 / FD30S products. I also served on technical committees including the British Standards Technical Committee for Windows and Doors (B/538/1).

b. of any training or information you were provided with by LHC

I attended several technical seminars and fire testing facilities to keep updated with product performance updates and current practice. Technical knowledge and information was on-going with the research that was required for tender specification preparation.

3. In relation to the period preceding 2012:

a. please give details of research carried out by LHC into FD30 and FD30S doors supplied by its appointed companies;

The preparation of the C5 tender documentation and subsequent evaluation / award was carried out in 2007. Within the C5 tender documentation, LHC would detail the requirements necessary to offer FD30 / FD30S doorsets. This would include detailed technical conformities drawn from Building Regulations, product standards, technical guidance and testing criteria. To prepare such technical demands, extensive research would have been carried out to ensure the requirements reflected current and best practice.

b. please summarise the steps LHC takes to ensure that the FD30 doors it promotes complied with the relevant British and European standards;

Manufacturers are required to declare all relevant demanded British and European Standards conformity supported by third party testing certification. In the case of FD30 doors, this would be through fire testing carried out by an approved and regulated fire testing authority.

c. please indicate whether LHC appointed companies supplied FD30S doors through its Framework Agreements. If so, please give details of how LHC ensured that the FD30S doors procured through it complied with the relevant British and European standards.

Yes, if an appointed company wished to offer FD30 doors through the C5 arrangement, then this would have been acceptable.

However, in doing so, current certification as proof of FD30 conformity would have been submitted to LHC at tender stage for compliance and approval. Failure to do so, would have disqualified a doorset from being offered as an FD30 product. During the operation of the framework, it would then be incumbent on the manufacturer (appointed company) to provide the client with current FD30 testing certification on the product(s) to be used.



4. Please give details of any feedback or complaints made in relation to FD30 or FD30S doors supplied by Manse Masterdor Limited (“Manse Masterdor”) under LHC Framework Agreements, including those relating to their self-closing devices.

I am not aware of any complaints received during my tenure as Framework Manager, including those relating to self-closing devices.

5. Please give details of any claims made under warranty in relation to FD30 or FD30S supplied by Manse Masterdor under LHC Framework Agreements.

I am not aware of any claims made.

*Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (“KCTMO”)*

6. In 2010 LHC was involved in the procurement for the supply and installation of doors in properties managed by KCTMO and Manse Masterdor (“the Contract”). In relation to the Contract, please give details of:

a. the role of LHC

The role of LHC would have been to liaise with KCTMO and advise on the products offered by Manse Masterdor under the C5 framework, including the choice of door patterns and types available that had been appropriately certificated to FD30 conformity during the tender evaluation process.

b. the contractual obligations on LHC, including requirements to:

i. to act as Contract administrator;

No involvement.

ii. to sign off doors once installed;

LHC would not have had any involvement.

iii. to ensure installation was carried out to a high standard;

Part of LHC’s commitment to KCTMO was to carry out a limited number of site visits to inspect doorsets to monitor manufacturing and installation quality. Site visit reports were prepared recording our findings and submitted to KCTMO and Manse for information.

iv. to ensure high quality standards were maintained.

Site visits were carried out to inspect doorsets to monitor manufacturing and installation quality.

Reports were prepared recording our findings and submitted to KCTMO and Manse for information.

c. your role and responsibilities;

My role would have been to provide technical support to KCTMO and/or LHC personnel in the event of any problems or queries.

d. the roles and responsibilities of others from LHC.

My recollection was that Alan Davis was the Client Support Manager who liaised with KCTMO on the operation of the framework and service given to them by Manse. Alex Fomin was Client Support Officer who inspected a selection of installations and prepared the site visit reports submitted to KCTMO.

7. Please summarise what checks you carried out on doors installed under the Contract, including checks on:

- a. self-closing devices;
- b. intumescent strips; and
- c. smoke seals.

A visual inspection of all the above would have been carried out by Alex Fomin during the LHC site visits. Any concerns would have been recorded in the site visit reports and brought to the attention of both KCTMO and Manse Masterdor.

8. Please summarise any deficiencies you were aware of on doors installed under the Contract, including deficiencies with:

- a. self-closing devices;
- b. intumescent strips; and
- c. smoke seals.

No deficiencies on any of the above were brought to my attention.

9. Please give details of any complaints or problems arising from installation including those relating self-closing devices.

No complaints or problems were brought to my attention.

10. In relation to doors installed at Grenfell Tower, please indicate which flats doors you inspected and what your findings were in relation to those doors.

I was never required to visit the site and consequently did not inspect any products or installations.

I confirm that the responses within this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

I also confirm that I am willing for the statement to form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and published on the Inquiry's website.

Signed

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C J Powell', is shown on a light blue rectangular background.

**C J POWELL**

Date of statement - 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019.