

Log for AC D. Ellis in relation to incident number 076029 flat 16,Grenfell Tower,

Lancaster West Estate, London, W11 1TG, Incident date 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**11:30 IC Handover between AC Andrew Roe and AC Dominic Ellis now in progress.**

**11:35** I SM Peter Cox (██████3E) formally took over the role of loggist from SM Jackie McConachie (██████5V) recording key information and also any key decisions made. Start of hand over from AC Andrew Roe (██████8B) to AC Dominic Ellis (██████6D), During the handover the following tactical priorities were discussed/reviewed

- Life: Rescues achieved and fatalities recorded so far. Crews had reached and searched ground to 9<sup>th</sup> floor including all flats on those floors. Strong doubts as to whether anyone further will have survived within the building. Still all efforts are to press on up in the building in case there is any further saveable life and to locate deceased where possible.
- Operations: Overview of scale of operations so far and ongoing plan to extinguish remaining fire, building structure concerns, safety strategy/structures in place, resources required now, implementation of current relief plan and crew welfare concerns
- Command Support: Briefre' structures in place and officer roles.
- Investigation: Overview of Police/DVI/LFB crime scene, deceased body identification and fire investigation processes so far.
- Press: overview of press strategy.
- Multi Agency Involvement: Overview of all multi agency partners involved, i.e. Police (MET & BTP0, LALO, borough surveyor/DSE, TFL/LUL, LAS.
- Wider Infrastructure: Major Incident protocols, communication with LFB Gold and Commissioners group

This hand over covered all the areas above outlining officers responsible for each area, tactics, strategy, plans, issues to date and how these had been resolved, what the strategy/plan was at that point including outstanding issues and the strategy for moving forward. This included a full and detailed walk of the scene reiterating all the points covered and allowing for AC Ellis to visually see where we were at that moment in time with the incident.

11:45 DAC Rick Ogden (██████) 3V reports crews have search up to the 12<sup>th</sup> floor

**12:39** Due to communication issues at scene AC Ellis instructed Command Unit Staff to request attendance of radio engineer to look at ways of alleviating the issues that were being encountered on scene. This action was carried out.

**12:41** AC Ellis requested DAC Lee Drawbridge (████5R) attend hand over meeting to update on the situation regarding bussing in crews as part of relief strategy.



asbestos) AC Ellis stated that he has considered the possibility of asbestos however no information from any agency has indicated that this is a hazard for this building.

AC Ellis also stated that he had requested the asbestos register to confirm and would be able to provide an update once he had this, however as the building had recently undergone a full refurbishment he would expect that any asbestos has been removed.

**MPS:** no major changes since the last TCG all cordons were in place with an adequate number of officers, the following houses may still have persons inside Barrington House, Testerton House and Hurstway House, and LFB were asked if these needed to be evacuated ( this would be looked at and LFB would provide feedback)

Delivery of the forensic tents was imminent. Looking to start committing DVI teams as soon as possible ( guided by LFB ) their teams were capable of working with LFB USAR and ideally they would look to work one floor below the LFB activity, AC Ellis requested that they continue to work with GM Spooner as this would allow for the deceased to continue to be removed once possible.

Alistair Hutchins asked if it was possible to do a scan of the roof to see if any casualties were there, AC Ellis stated he would arrange for NPAS to carryout this function if they were able to, if not then he would get KFRS to look utilising their drone.

Next press release would be carried out by Stuart Cundy at 16:00

**LAS:** Requested that all deceased to go through casualty clearing station, they were still running at major incident and would support us maintaining the same number of personnel and ambulances at this time. They asked about timescales and AC Ellis explained that at this time he could not provide timescales due to the large amount of firefighting continuing and that where possible LFB would be carrying out a systematic search of the building and it was unknown at this time how long it would take. At this time they provided an update in casualty numbers, 65 known casualties, 10 self presented, 20 critical.

Request was made to the LALO if there was a larger respite centre available as there was a large number of people who were currently fasting and were at a local church which was not adequate.

**LFB:** AC Ellis asked for an update from GM Ashman (LFB FSG Co-ordinator), he stated that at this time there were:

- 9 deceased, 3 were inside the building and 6 outside, all were now in the temporary morgue.
- LFB had received 171 FSG calls, 44 had been resolved, 118 still unaccounted for and they were working with partner agencies to cross reference all data.
- Ground to level 9 had been searched 3 times ( where safe to do so) and was believed at that time to be clear.

**LALO:** At this time there were four nominated refuge centres and each centre had a manager



adopt this strategy, clear one floor then move forward utilising ongoing risk assessment as crews progress out from the central core of the building.

**14:39** AC Ellis requests meeting with BTP following their earlier request.

BTP state that Latimer Road station is half in and half out of the exclusion zone, there is debris on the track so the station is closed, they want to start cleaning the track but admit this is not a good idea, they want to know if we would allow staff to start the clean up.

AC Ellis advise that as the building is still alight then they should take a logical approach and avoid putting staff in potential areas of danger as we cannot guarantee that debris would not continue to land on the track, this would also be a potential issue should there be a potential collapse, not thought to be likely at this stage but a possibility.

**14:50** risk assessment written for working strategy:

## Risk Assessment for crews fire fighting and search and rescue.

“Following advice and guidance for the dangerous structural engineer the IC (AC Ellis) has decided on the following strategy for crews working within the building.

Crews to clear one floor at a time in a coordinated manor following a risk assessment of the area.

They are to monitor for spalling and any potential structural failure.

They are to work from the central core of the building working their way out, onto the floors of the building where safe to do so, ensuring minimal numbers of crews on the outer edges of the building.

There should be no crews working on the floor above, this will ensure that each floor receives a search whilst minimising the risk to personnel”

**15:30** TCG meeting (now being held at the leisure centre)

Key stake holders as before with the following amendments:

LUL: Jack Saville

LAS: Martin Barry

MPS: Chris Jones

Structural engineer: Jose Anon

**LFB:** AC Ellis opens meeting, safety briefing still the same as earlier, crews are now up to the 16<sup>th</sup> floor, there is more debris at the higher levels, crews are working with DVI to remove deceased, he feels that we are starting to get close to our limit and we will start to look at potentially getting the building stabilised by outside contractor.

Gas authority are now digging up the road to isolate the supply to the building. There are 3 supplies to the building resulting in 3 areas to be dug up.

KFRS drone has been working taking images of the building, these are being used by LA DSE to assist with ongoing building stability assessments and decision making,

Following questions raised at the previous TCG AC Ellis states he will look at possibility of getting A40 reopened, subject to TEL carrying out a survey of the affected roadway ( he will send this to Gold for a decision)

GM Ashman updates that there now 10 confirmed deceased, 4 inside the building and 6 outside the building, 5 have now been removed by undertakers.

**MPS:** cordon relief is currently going in.

Rumours circulating that images of deceased are being circulated on social media (Face book) they ask if anyone sees these images then to make a note of the link and report to police.

**LAS:** No change on numbers of casualties, they request that HART wish to move forward with the DVI teams

**TFL:** Happy to carry out survey of A40, AC Ellis advises to wait for direction from Gold

**LALO:** Status quo the same now looking at accommodation

**Dangerous structures engineer:** concerns about flooring, states to stay within the confines of the central core.

**LUL:** Ask if they can run out of service trains, AC Ellis states that he would not advise this but they know the hazards and risks and if they chose to then they do so at their own risk.

AC Ellis closes meeting stating next TCG will be at 18:30 at the same location.

**16:15** AC Ellis instructs SM Andrew Williams (████6J) to assess if the gas supply can be shut down in the basement.

**16:26** from GM Ashman ongoing updates regarding persons found deceased. This was 2 x found on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 1x 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 x 14<sup>th</sup>, 1x 15<sup>th</sup>, 1x 17<sup>th</sup>, 1x 18<sup>th</sup>, 2x 19<sup>th</sup> and 1 x 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**16:35** update from GM Spooner, assessment carried out with himself as UA and DSE, whilst carrying out review a number of booms/bangs were heard and they believed that some of the floors may have been compromised, AC Ellis declared a tactical withdrawal, this is carried out during which time there is a general update as follows;

Search of all floors and stairwells carried out as best as possible considering amount of debris that has fallen on each floor, following the tactical withdrawal AC Ellis stated that he would like confirmation that the 30m hazard area is still adequate and discusses this with GM Spooner and the DSE and has tasked them with finding this out.

AC Ellis states that at this time no further work will continue within the hazard zone for a minimum of 45 minutes at which point a review will be carried out. Purpose of this is to allow any movement in the building to settle and to monitor for any further movement in the building whilst it cools.

**16:50** SM Williams (██████6J) reports that they gained access to the basement, however due to the tactical withdrawal they were unable to shut off the gas supply.

**17:45** Following discussion with AC Daly from LFB Commissioners group AC Ellis agrees for Dangerous Structures Expert Dr Barbara Lane (BL) to attend the scene and give advice re' building safety. Whilst waiting AC Ellis decides to use KFRS drone and to take images to see if there were any visible signs of building collapse or movement. Two reviews of external structure carried out using Kent's drone, no obvious signs of further collapse evident, still awaiting arrival of structural expert BL.

**17:50 LA DSE and GM Spooner** have spoken to expert BL by phone, she believes thuds could be coming from floor slabs, if this is correct then it could affect the columns making them unstable.

AC Ellis agrees for Gas authority to continue working within the hazard area to isolate supply to Grenfell Tower. The rationale for this is that the remaining fires in the tower are mainly gas fed fires. These will not go out until gas is isolated. Extinguishing these before gas is isolated will lead to possible gas explosion hazard which could in turn lead to building damage/collapse. To make this as safe as possible a system of safety officers and spotters will be implemented to actively monitor the building and to give warning of any signs of collapse so that gas workers and LFB safety staff can retreat to a place of safety.

**17:53** SM Andrew Williams (██████6J) instructed to reattempt gaining access to basement to knock off gas supply.

**18:00** Due to lack of activity because of tactical withdrawal internally AC Ellis has decided to utilise crews with a different plan until arrival of DSE expert, minimal crews to have covering jets on the external of the building utilising relief crews, Surrey ALP to continue with covering jet on sector 4 and side of sector 3, all sectors to ensure safety officers are in place and fully briefed to monitor for any signs of collapse and debris falling from the building.

18:30 TCG

Key stake holders now as follows

LFB: AC Ellis, GM Pugsley, GM Ashman, SM Cox

MPS: Graham Price, Alistair Hutchins, Tom Wingate, Chris Taylor H&S

LAS: Martin Bowden, Tracy Porter

LUL: Jack Saville

**LALO: Steve Giggs**









21.00: AC Ellis asks to inspect the building for himself to reassure himself of structural safety of building and relative safety of responders working inside. AC Ellis, GM Ogden, GM Munro and SM Williams walk and inspect all fire damaged floors of the building up to the top (23<sup>rd</sup>) floor. Although there is obvious spalling of concrete and sagging of some floors in places it is observed that no floors have collapsed, either partially or fully. Therefore no building columns are left unsupported. AC Ellis confirms with accompanying officers that having seen the interior now for himself that he is satisfied that there are no collapsed floors and columns left unsupported and that the risk of total collapse appears minimal. AC Ellis is satisfied that crews can continue to work in the building in line with the previous RA and SSOW of working of utilising the floor by floor with no one above approach. GM Ogden, GM Munro and SM Williams all in agreement with this position.

#### **21:30 TCG**

Key stake holders as before but with the following additions.

LFB: GM Mulholland

MPS: Duncan McMillian

LAS: Jason Hallahan, Simon Woodmore, Tom Gleeson

AC Ellis opens meeting:

LFB: situational update, the specialist structural engineer has been on scene and following a review we can confirm the following.

All floors have been assessed and there are no collapses and no evidence of structural columns left unsupported which had been a major concern. Therefore AC Ellis stated that he and his command team and advisors felt that it was extremely unlikely that the building would suffer from a total collapse. A localised collapse may still be possible – but again it was felt unlikely. This is good news as had there been then it would have caused major issues as there would have been a minimum 100m cordon implemented which would have had a huge impact on the local community, roads and rail services. , There are still pockets of fire on multiple floors caused by the gas still supplied to the building, LFB are confident that these will go out once the supply has been isolated, all of this information has been fed back to Gold.

LFB confirmed that having checked all floors as far as possible, they were confident that there was no further saveable life within the building and that operations should now move into the recovery stage of this incident. AC Ellis highlighted again that we would need to look towards a specialist company to work with the partner agencies in relation to shoring and making the building as safe as possible for future body retrieval and investigation operations, as previously agreed LFB would continue to assist with any localised shoring to enable extrication of deceased as required.

LFB would look to scale back for the night and re assess in the morning, however operational activities would continue ( primarily externally ) as this would both ensure

safety of surrounding properties, safety of partner agencies who maybe within the hazard area and also to maintain a visible presence throughout the night.

**MPS:** having issues with cordons and were looking to see if these could be reduced, they were just waiting for a report back from bronze, this was agreed and would be discussed outside of the meeting as to an agreed size to ensure public safety.

DVI area located to put up temporary mortuary and this would be for DVI access only, they had provisionally identified an area for the USAR modules and this was agreed but would be re confirmed with the UA. They requested that LAS HART supported them within the body recovery process and LAS stated that they would look to Gold for approval. They would look to have a joint risk assessment and joint safety assessment, this was agreed by AC Ellis. DVI would be looking to arrive at 08:00 and the preferred strategy would be to enter the building with LFB support, deceased would be photographed, bagged and tagged inside the building and then removed, AC Ellis agreed but stated that they must ensure they liaise with the LFB Incident Commander in the morning. Contact had been made with the coroner and they very supportive understanding some of the issues in regards to body location.

Chris Taylor from MPS health and safety stated that Karl Cochlin from PSD would be on scene to remove cladding, it was unsure at this time as to why so would be looked into, TCG was supplied with his contact number [REDACTED]

**LAS:** They now have 4 officers on scene, 4 ambulances and an equipment lorry, they would continue to remain at scene to support partner agencies although they would be looking to scale back resources from 00:00, this was agreed by AC Ellis due to the reduced activity that would be taking place overnight.

An issue was raised in regards to cordon control, a private ambulance (Beals) had arrived at a cordon and been let though it was only apparent that they were on scene when they were discovered walking around the hazard area (no LAS resources were forward at this time), they were politely asked to leave, LAS request that MPS challenge all personnel arriving in green uniform and check that they have valid LAS ID.

**LALO:** TMO now off scene contact numbers if required OOH are Peter Madison [REDACTED] Hash Chamchoun [REDACTED] LALO were also looking at leaving scene for the night.

**LUL:** Advised that staff are going to be coming in for photos of their site AC Ellis advised that there is still a possibility of debris falling onto the track. They asked if any debris is believed to contain asbestos, AC Ellis advised that asbestos is a low risk and the LFB had no concerns as this as a hazard. The question was asked if we were still happy for crews to work outside the inner cordon and also if we would allow for trains to move ( no passengers ) under caution, AC Ellis stated that at this time there is still a potential risk to all areas and LFB would not be prepared to authorise this, however LUL are fully aware of the potential risks and if they were to start any activity then it would be under their own risk assessment.

**Structural engineer:** no updates following on from brief provided by AC Ellis, he will be leaving scene at 23:30 and either himself or John will be returning at 07:30am

AC Ellis thanked everyone for there support during this incident and stated that the next TCG will be scheduled for 08:30 in the morning at the same venue, he also stated that the leisure centre had agreed to remain open throughout the night for use by responders.

**22:15** Meeting concluded.

**22:56** DAC W Brown takes over as IC.