

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: FOX, GARY

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: MANAGER

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This statement (consisting of 4 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: GARRY FOX

Date: 19/01/2019

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

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This statement relates to the Grenfell Tower fire investigation.

In this statement I will discuss my role at Manse Masterdor which later became Masterdor, my responsibilities and colleague's I worked with.

I became a joiner by trade after leaving college in the early 80's and set up my own company named Carey & Fox with a business colleague in 1984. The business was a joinery manufacturer's of timber doors, timber windows and later we included conservatory's and orangeries. The business was a success up to 2010 when the recession hit the company and we went into liquidation.

I started with Manse Masterdor around April/May 2013. I was made aware of the position through a friend named Brian LEE who was employed in the company already. I obtained the position that I would describe as 'Works Manager' in charge of running the factory and became responsible for the full production at Ambergate Derbyshire where we were situated. I was also responsible for research and development, looking for new developments producing a better door efficiently. The timber door was the one (1) with the company, as I believed the current door wasn't fit for purpose.

When I joined the company I believe Manse Masterdor was in financial difficulty or more specifically L8 plastics who ran Manse Masterdor under the Litchfield Investments Group as there were a management

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team sent in to run the group on behalf of the bank. I reported to a male named John ARMSTRONG who was the Manufacturing Director and one of approximately three or four persons in the management team. I had Brian O'SULLIVAN report to me and he was like the 'production manager' and my second in command on the 'factory floor'. Pete WHITTON and Wayne HOPE were the section supervisors on the 'factory floor' and reported to myself and Brian O'SULLIVAN.

I wasn't personally involved in obtaining the contract for Grenfell Tower as this wasn't my role. The contract would have been secured by Steven MOCKLOW who was the London representative. I believe the contract was through the London Housing Consortium (LHC).

Manse Masterdor produced two types of doors with approximately five variants, a timber door and a GRP door. The doors for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and specifically Grenfell Tower were the FD30 which gave thirty (30) minutes fire protection. These doors are manufactured with a frame in a pre profile within the profile. Steel is inserted and in the corner steel brackets. The frame's also had intumescent strips, the blades were obtained from 'Distinction' and sent to our factory. Inside the factory we would use a machine called a 'CNC machine to cut the 'blank' or 'blade' to size, and any glazing aperture's out and any secondary hardware ie letter plates, spy holes. The doors would then go through the production line to fix certain things such as aluminium rails, hardware to them. Before the doors were hung, they were glazed if they required glazing. The glazing had 20mm x 2mm intumescent strip around the whole outside, the cassette had a seal which sealed the glazing to the door aperture. Each door had its own individual door reference on a job card. The job card specified, door type, size, colour everything needed to complete the door.

I wasn't involved in any of the door testing as that was Jim DUNCAN's domain, I did watch some of the videos of some of the tests as I was trying to re-engineer the timber door known as the Masterdor. I believe we manufactured two (2) GRP doors for fire re-test every year.

Due to financial difficulties, changes were having to be made to streamline processes and keep the company going. On the timber door side, the manufacturing process and material changed taking out five machinery process and four operatives.

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Around the end of 2014 Synseal accuired the business of Manse Masterdor and assets and we became Masterdor Ltd eventually we moved to Heage, Derbyshire. At around the same time Jim DUNCAN had started working with a male named Dan JONES formerly of Norseal who had set up his own company known as Seal Tight Solutions, which was a fire safety company. One of the changes implemented was the removal of the intumecent strip around the glazing and moved to around the aperature, and not using Norseal products but Seal Tight Solutions. I don't know the reason for this change. This is a change that would require a re-test of the door. I'm sure these were post Grenfell Tower production.

I left the company [REDACTED] in around August/September 2017 feeling physically and mentally exhausted, due to work and commute pressures.

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