

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

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

Statement of: SMITH, HARVEY

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

Occupation: UTILITIES DIRECTOR, tRIIO

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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: H SMITH

Date: 16/11/2019

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

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1. My name is Harvey SMITH. I was employed by Skanska Construction Limited within tRIIO, until February 2017, as the MOB's Support Manager.

2. tRIIO is a joint venture between Skanska Construction UK Limited and Morrison Utility Services Limited.

3. I make this statement on my own behalf and do not speak for tRIIO.

4. The purpose of this statement is to respond to a request from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) for a witness statement in relation to my role in tRIIO's work at Grenfell Tower (the Tower) as part of its investigation into the tragic Grenfell Tower fire.

My background in the Gas Industry

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5. I have worked in the gas industry for all of my working life (40 years) including experience of transmission and network analysis as well as distribution. I have previously been employed in a variety of roles by British Gas, by TransCo as a network operations manager, by Fulcrum as a Field Operations Manager (a subsidiary of Transco) and most recently as a contract manager for Forefront Utilities Ltd.

6. I have attended various training courses. For example, I am SCO (Safe Control Operations) trained and registered- I am SCO (SCO 1, 2 & 5) qualified as an authorising engineer and competent person for works up to 2bar. I am an accredited New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) supervisor.

7. I have received training on industry standard IGEM/G/5. I did not receive any training specific to the Tower but this work was part of my role.

8. As far as health and safety training generally is concerned, my training included IOSH training on managing safely, a NEBOSH course on the management of health and safety and a course on the principles of gas in multi occupancy buildings.

9. I understand that Addleshaw Goddard received an email from Emma WEST of MPS on 19 February attaching a set of questions which the MPS would like my statement to cover. This statement addresses those questions to the best of my recollection.

10. I first joined Skanska in August 2011 working on the North London Gas Alliance - a joint venture involving Skanska and National Grid Transco- to replace gas mains across North London and East Anglia. My position was as a MOBs (multiple occupancy buildings) support manager which involved responsibility for the replacement and installation of steel riser networks (MOBS) in those buildings.

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11. I became involved in the tRIIO work from 2013 when the joint venture commenced.

12. My role eventually included MOBs and customer services (when I took over from Stuart STEVENS) until I left Skanska in February 2017 to take up another position as Utilities Director with the Ferns Group which, amongst other things, does “reinstatement” work.

#### Work at the Tower

13. I am aware that tRIIO’s work at the Tower has previously been described by other witnesses and I do not intend to repeat the detail but, suffice to say, that in accordance with tRIIO’s contract with National Grid who later became Cadent Gas Limited, tRIIO were informed of a gas leak at flats 22 and 32 at the Tower on 1 October 2016.

14. tRIIO were subsequently instructed to design and construct a new riser and lateral gas pipes to reinstate gas to those residents who had lost their gas supply.

15. I had overall responsibility for the delivery of that work, including health and safety, and Andy RADLEY the site manager for tRIIO at the Tower reported to me.

16. Andy would normally report to Cerianne TALBOT but, due to her work load, it was decided that he would report to me on the Tower work. I probably visited the Tower between six to ten times between October 2016 and February 2017 but Andy had day to day involvement.

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17. We were also assisted by Michelle UMAGHO-UKUEKU who was tRIIO's health and safety advisor and she carried out health and safety audits.

18. I was aware that the Tower was residential and tRIIO received information about the building in a document called the Riser Request Proforma which was forwarded by Cadent to tRIIO following the leak in October 2016.

19. There were a number of subcontractors involved in tRIIO's work at the Tower which I understand are detailed in Matthew DOLAN's statement.

20. It was tRIIO policy to ensure that each contractor and operative were competent and safe to do the work. Each operative had an induction before they began work on site. I was not personally involved in providing training to sub-contractors. tRIIO did use the Achilles accreditation system for contractors.

21. My work was not inspected by others although tRIIO's work was obviously seen and discussed with Pat KELLY of Cadent and audited by Michelle from a health and safety point of view. Andy RADLEY would have audited some work as would I. Had there been any health and safety issues with tRIIO's work I would have been made aware of them but nothing springs to mind.

22. I am asked about safety measures regarding fire applicable to tRIIO's work at the Tower. I do not recall anything specific apart from us asking the TMO as a matter of course what advice they had given residents, for example, to "stay put". All hot work was undertaken by sub-contractors and K and S, for example, would extinguish and dampen down and wait 30 minutes at the end of each day's work before leaving the site.

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23. I am not aware of any defective fire measures reported to any person by any means at any point prior to my departure in February 2017.

24. I am asked about equipment and materials supplied to tRIIO during work at the Tower. I understand that this has already been listed in other statements.

25. I did not carry out any work relating to the cladding or subcontract for it neither did tRIIO. That was not part of our remit.

26. My involvement in the route of the gas riser was that as part of my role I oversaw the survey (Simon BOYGLE was instructed by K and S to carry it out) which considered compliance with IGEM/G/5 and reported back to tRIIO's design team who would also consider building regulations.

27. IGEM/G/5 contains a hierarchy but we were told that the riser could not go outside the building due to the cladding. I recall that the surveyor Simon BOYGLE also considered using the shaft housing the bin chute. A "buy out" of residents was also considered by Cadent but only a small number of properties were effected so that wasn't really feasible.

28. There was discussion between the TMO, Simon and the design team about the route. As I now recall, I had some involvement about the bin chute route and Martyn WISKEN (tRIIO's design engineer) was involved in the fire escape route. The building's owners made the final decision about the route of the riser.

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29. K and S were subcontracted to install the riser for tRIIO. They were very experienced in this type of work. We would also have had involvement with the other contractors involved such as Express Building and Cape Electrical.

30. I am asked about plans and supporting emails relating to works carried out at the Tower. I understand that these have already been disclosed.

31. My role did involve giving advice, carrying out checks and inspections. My experience is set out above.

32. I am asked about the use of subcontractors. I understand that Matthew DOLAN's statement details all the various subcontractors used in tRIIO's work at the Tower. I am also asked about other companies working at the Tower. I am not aware of any.

33. I do not have a list of the occupants of the Tower through the work tRIIO carried out.

34. I am not aware of residents being sent fire safety instruction or information. tRIIO would have enquired about fire evacuation with the TMO.

35. I did not carry out any refurbishment work neither did tRIIO. That was not part of our remit.

36. I did attend the Tower a few days after the gas was cut off. Initially we met with an unusually aggressive and challenging response from tenants who were suspicious about why we were there. They

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said they had been poorly treated by the TMO generally and had not been properly informed and were very unhappy, for example, about the cladding.

37. Once we explained who we were and why we were there, most residents were friendly and cooperative. I do not recall any reaction to the decision to route the riser in the stairwell.

38. I am asked about work done on the flats specifically on a tenant to tenant basis either by myself or through sub-contractors. All of tRIIO's involvement with residents was as part of the replacement pipe work and not in relation to anything else. We did enter some flats to run pipes to the original meter position.

39. I am asked about complaints about building management at the Tower. My only recollection is the general unhappiness of residents with the TMO as mentioned above to a degree which I had not previously experienced. Especially about the cladding and fire concerns related to it.

40. I had no interactions with resident's group's forums or blogs.

41. I am not aware of any mention of legal proceedings by any resident.

42. I have no other information, to the best of my recollection, which might assist the investigation or inquiry.

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43. I am asked about providing supporting information. I have not worked for tRIIO for almost two and a half years. I understand that all supporting information and relevant documentation has previously been disclosed to the MPS and to the public inquiry.

44. I agree to this statement being shared with the public inquiry.

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