

IN A MATTER CONCERNING THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

SECOND ADDITIONAL WITNESS STATEMENT OF MICHAEL FALLIS-TAYLOR

I make this second additional statement to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry in response to a question arising from my additional statement to the Inquiry dated 12th January 2021 and further to my previous statement to the Inquiry dated 18th November 2019.

As was the case for my additional statement and previous statement, the information contained in this statement and given in response to the Inquiry's questions has been obtained for me by a number of different individuals that have worked for the business at either this time or previously. I do not have first-hand, direct knowledge of the information given in this statement and I have relied on facts and matters both told to me. I confirm, however, that the facts contained in this statement are accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make a Rule 9 statement to the Inquiry on this basis.

To make this second additional statement as clear and helpful as possible to the Inquiry, I repeat below question and answer from my additional statement dated 12th January 2021 (**in bold type and using the original numbering**), then Inquiry's question, followed by my response.

28. **You state at paragraph 25 of the Witness Statement that engineers were “*trained and instructed to and did undertake this test*”. In this respect:**

- a. **Set out how/when/by whom engineers were ‘trained and instructed’ to test the fire control switches;**
- b. **Exhibit any relevant training materials or instructions;**
- c. **In the absence of any reference to fire control switch testing within the service visit reports, how is PDERS able to ascertain now that engineers “did undertake this test”?**

My understanding is that all PDERS engineers were trained as part of their NVQ (or earlier equivalent) training to check a variety of lock release mechanisms and the Fire Control Switch was one of these. I believe the specific NVQ training module is “ENM3/046 – Checking Lift Function”. While there was no specific reference on the Service Visit Reports to a Fire Control Switch, I am satisfied that our engineers did undertake a test of the Fire Control Switch each time they carried out a service visit to the Grenfell Tower lifts because they are skilled and experienced professionals who have since confirmed to PDERS that they did so. They have also signed statements to this effect which have been submitted to the Inquiry.

By an email on 13th January 2021 the Inquiry asked if PDERS had any copies of the NVQ training material mentioned above. By a further email on 4th May 2021 the Inquiry requested that the response be provided by me in a further witness statement.

In order to respond to the question PDERS’ Field Operations Director made enquiries with the company’s external training assessor, LITS Ltd, to see if there might be written NVQ training materials (for the current course) which identifies specific training in the checking of fire control switches. He has not been able to obtain any such materials from LITS Ltd, who indicate that there won’t be written training materials specific to this point.

In terms of information of wider relevance, LITS Ltd have advised that the operating principles of every possible lift component are not specifically covered by the written NVQ units as this would not be practicable. The list would be too long. Instead, written criteria contained within the training units is more general. For example, the lift Inspecting and Servicing unit makes reference to checking the condition of “electrical equipment”. LITS Ltd also advised that the candidate would need to convince their assessor that they understand the principles of operation of the equipment they service, that assessors will always guide candidates on what equipment needs to be covered, but it is an understanding of the operating principles that is important and that the criteria within a specific set of NVQ units will be covered in different ways by different candidates. When an assessor is confident that candidates are competent with respect to their occupation, they are signed off. That said, LITS Ltd have told us that each unit does have an “assessment route” description which provides assessors with an overview of competency requirements and which might help better explain what is covered by the NVQ Level 3 service qualification.

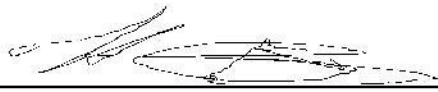
For the mandatory units within the service NVQ, the following extracts may provide an idea of some of the competency requirements relevant to fire control switches:

- Carrying out fault diagnosis on lifts
 - ...identify the fault and its probable cause, and to suggest action to remedy the problem
- Inspecting and servicing lift equipment
 - ...ensuring that the system is maintained to the required specification
- Checking lift function
 - ...learner will understand the lift equipment being checked and adjusted, and its application, and will know about the use of appropriate equipment and information, in adequate depth to provide a sound basis for carrying out the activities, correcting faults and ensuring that the lift operates to the required specification
 - ...learner will also be expected to report where the outcome of the checks identifies the need for further investigation or maintenance work
- Rectifying faults in lifts
 - ...will include faults in...safety equipment
 - ...components to be replaced will include...switches
 - ...learner will understand the operation of the lift equipment, and its application...in adequate depth to provide a sound basis for...ensuring that the repaired lift operates safely and correctly

In summary PDERS' Field Operations Director's enquiries with LITS Ltd have not identified a specific written reference within the current NVQ materials to engineers being specifically trained to check fire control switches. My understanding is that PDERS' engineers would have been trained to do this as part of previous NVQ or equivalent training as set out in Paragraph 28 of my additional statement to the Inquiry which was based on discussions with experienced colleagues within PDERS who believed this to be the case but I am not able to provide to the Inquiry any NVQ materials specific to this point.

The contents of this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am content for this statement to form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and to be published on the Inquiry's website.

Signed:



Michael Fallis-Taylor

Dated:

13/5/21
