

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF
PHILIP GALLAGHER

I, Philip Gallagher, WILL SAY:

I make this statement about the fire in Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017. At the present time, I am not a core participant to the Inquiry. The evidence contained within this statement is within my own knowledge unless otherwise stated.

1. Please summarise the nature of Astra DC Limited's ("Astra DC ") business, including the size of the company and the range of products it supplies. **Designer, developer and manufacturer of concealed door controls. The offices and factory are in Preston, Lancashire and employ 12 people.**
2. Please set out your role and responsibilities at Astra DC, in particular, say when you started in your present role. **I have been a Director since 2011 and the Managing Director since 2015**
3. Please could you describe what relationship, if any, Astra DC has with door manufacturers. **Astra supply door controls to door-set manufacturers/fabricators.**

4. Please can you describe what relationship, if any, Astra DC had with Manse Masterdor Limited (“**Manse Masterdor** ”) between January 2006 and November 2014. **Manse Masterdor was a customer.**

5. Please confirm whether and, if so, to what extent and when, Astra DC had any knowledge of the contract between Manse Masterdor and the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation for the supply of fire doors for properties across the borough of Kensington and Chelsea (“**the contract** ”). If so, please give details of Astra DC’s knowledge, and provide documentation, of any direct communication between Astra DC and Manse Masterdor in relation to the contract. **Astra was completely unaware of any contracts between Manse Masterdor and K&CTMO.**

6. The type of self-closing device on the flat front doors at Grenfell Tower was the DCL-Astra-303.

In relation to that self-closing device, please could you: **The door control was the AST3003.**

a. provide all technical specifications relating to it, including any fire test reports and Building Standards reports for tests carried out between January 2010 and August 2014; **The AST3003 was tested to BS EN1154 and EN1634-1, reports attached for EN1634 (Exhibit PG/1), EN1154 (Exhibit PG/2) and Field of Application (Exhibit PG/3).**

b. set out the information (including technical details, installation and maintenance advice and any other information) that was or would have been provided to a purchaser between January 2010 and August 2014; **Installation instructions, adjustment instructions and power size guidance was provided on an ongoing basis (Exhibit PG/4).**

c. indicate whether that device was supplied with all the necessary screws to fit it to a fire door between January 2010 and August 2014; **Wood screws were/are provided with all door controls. The door-set fabricator specifies screws to the materials it is using.**

d. from the perspective of Astra DC, summarise the advantages and disadvantages of that device; **The door closer is concealed so aesthetically more pleasing than an overhead type. The door can open to fully 90° when opens flush to the wall. Easy to adjust with a tool for the contractor. The**

only disadvantage is if the wrong power AST3000 door control is specified. i.e. a 3003 instead of 3002 or 3001.

e. summarise the history of problems or complaints (if any) with that device that have been reported to Astra DC since it was first put on the market. If there were any problems or complaints, please provide a brief summary of the problem or complaint (including its date) and the remedial action (if any) that Astra DC considered to be necessary. Astra supply the door control at the door-set fabricators request. Therefore, it is not Astra that places the product on the market. The door-set fabricator would receive the complaints. I do know that the fabricators had complaints about the closers being too strong when fitted on a narrow door. Astra maintains a policy of recommending lower powered closers such as the AST3001 and AST3002 for narrow doors. This advice isn't always adopted.

7. Were you aware of any fire safety tests undertaken with the Sureдор fire door and the DCL-Astra-303 prior to August 2014 (“**the Sureдор tests**”)? Astra is unaware of any testing on the Sureдор door-set. However, Astra is aware of testing on the Nan-Ya door leaf. All fabricators will have their own primary test evidence which would have been submitted to the client. Astra have an indicative test as attached (Exhibit PG/5). If so, please provide set out:

- a. when you first became aware of the Sureдор tests;
- b. who informed you of the Sureдор tests; and
- c. the nature and detail of the information you received in relation to the Sureдор tests.

No to the above.

8. Were you aware of any field of application fire safety tests relating to the DCL-Astra-303 before August 2014? If so, please set out: AST3003 is tested in many configurations of fire door leaf and frame. The fabricator will put together its preferred leaf, frame and hardware and the test in its own right. Therefore, owning its own primary test evidence.

- a. when you first became aware of the field of application tests;
- b. who informed you of the field of application tests; and

c. the nature and detail of the information you received in relation to the field of application tests.

No to the above.

Publication

I understand that my statement will form part of the Inquiry record and will be published on the website for the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed:



Dated:

9TH MARCH 2020