

# THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

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## FOURTH WITNESS STATEMENT OF

STUART PRIESTLEY

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I, **STUART PRIESTLEY c/o Kensington Town Hall, Hornton St, Kensington, London W8 7NX, WILL SAY:**

1. I make this Witness Statement further to receipt of the Rule 9 letter from the Public Inquiry dated 21 July 2020 and to provide assistance to the Public Inquiry. I am able to assist the Inquiry with question 3(c) and (d).
2. I have previously provided three witness statements to the Inquiry, dated 28 September 2018, 28 January 2019 and 26 June 2020. This is my fourth statement to the Inquiry. Exhibits referred to in this statement are numbers SP4/X. I have provided an index of exhibits at the end of this statement.
3. I set out below the questions raised by the Public Inquiry in their 21 July 2020 letter and my response.

### Questions from the Inquiry's Letter of 21 July 2020

4. By way of question 3, the Inquiry has asked:

*"The Inquiry has been provided with a Home Fire Safety Risk Referral Matrix prepared by the LFB [LFB00000072]. The Matrix identifies fire risk factors and measures that can be taken by the LFB to mitigate the risk and by Care Providers to mitigate the risk. The note at the end states "While designed for the London Fire Brigade Staff, this matrix is available for use by all parties involved in the care and protection of vulnerable people as a guide to reducing the risk of death or injury from fire through consistent and appropriate risk control measures".*

- a. *Was this matrix available to members of the Adult Social Care team in RBKC?*

- b. If so, how was it made available and how was it referred to?*
- c. Was this matrix made available or referred to by any other RBKC teams?*
- d. If so, please specify."*
5. I recall that I have seen the Home Fire Safety Risk Referral Matrix before and set out below my recollection of this document, having reviewed the contemporaneous documents.
6. Broadly, in late 2016, there was discussion between the Community Safety Team ("**CST**") at RBKC and the London Fire Brigade ("**LFB**") about whether the CST could look after the administration of the LFB Community Fire Safety Investment Fund. It was ultimately agreed that CST would not be involved and that the appropriate place for this to sit in RBKC was with the Adult Social Care Directorate. ("**ASC**").
7. For the avoidance of doubt, CST have not, and do not, undertake Home Fire Safety Visits or make referrals to the LFB for such visits.
8. The relevant history is as follows. On 16 August 2016, I received an email from Rob Davies of the LFB containing information about the LFB's Community Safety Investment Fund. Thereafter, there was a discussion about where the money would come from and Mina Cobbinah from my team assisted me in communicating with Rob Davies. I assigned Lorna Platt as the project lead on this work on 13 September 2016, I exhibit the email as SP4/1. On 21 September 2016, Rob Davies contacted Mina and I to let us know he had a list of vulnerable residents that would benefit from the community investment funding and asked for a meeting with Mina and me. I exhibit the email chain as SP4/2 and the attachment as SP4/3. I am aware that Lorna Platt and Mina Cobbinah met with Rob Davies on 5 October 2016 to discuss the LFB's Community Safety Investment Fund, I exhibit the relevant email as SP4/4.
9. On 2 November 2016, I was sent a pack of documents by Dorcas Aboah, CST, for a meeting of the Community Safety Commissioning Group that was scheduled to happen on 3 November 2016. The documents were also sent to Lorna Platt, Mina Cobbinah and Rachel Merriman who were in CST and

Raffaele D'Orsi who worked for the London Metropolitan Police Service. The Community Safety Commission Group is a joint Council and police meeting which provides financial monitoring of the Council's community safety budgets. It also oversees the strategic commissioning of the Council and Safer RBKC Partnership's budgets in support of the delivery of their community safety priorities. I can see from the agenda that the LFB's Community Safety Investment Fund was to be discussed. Paper 4 was a copy of the LFB's Community Safety Investment Fund Information Pack which included the LFB's Home Fire Safety Risk Referral Matrix at page 13. I exhibit the email, agenda and Paper 4 as SP4/5-7.

10. I exhibit minutes of the meeting of 3 November 2016 as SP4/8. The LFB's Community Investment Fund was discussed as is recorded at page 3 of the minutes. It was agreed by those attending that ASC were better placed to manage the set up and administration of the fund. Lorna Platt of the CST emailed Rob Davies to inform him of this on 10 November 2016. I exhibit the email as SP4/9.
11. On 5 December 2016, Rob Davies emailed Lorna Platt with a copy of an agreement for the Community Fire Safety Investment Fund. Lorna contacted Mina Cobbinah to ask to discuss the agreement. I exhibit the email and attachment as SP4/10 and SP4/11. The attached agreement listed 5 addresses where the LFB proposed intervention. I note that none of the addresses were in Grenfell Tower.
12. Lorna Platt responded to Rob Davies recommending that ASC sign off the agreement and Rob Davies responded, saying he would print off the agreement and see Marcia. I do not know to which "Marcia" this refers. I exhibit the email chain as SP4/12.
13. For completeness, I note that the email chains referred to above state that CST would match the LFB funding from the LFB's Community Investment Fund. An officer in my team has checked and cannot find any record of CST providing such funds to either the LFB or ASC.

14. Other than in respect of the discussions set out above, I cannot recall using or referring to the LFB's Home Fire Safety Risk Referral Matrix.

**STATEMENT OF TRUTH**

**I believe that the facts stated in this Witness Statement are true.**

**I am willing for my statement to the Public Inquiry to form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and for it to be published on the Inquiry's website.**



2 October 2020

Signed.....Dated.....

### Index of documents to the witness statement of Stuart Priestley

Number	Document	FORT/URN
SP4 1	Email from Stuart Priestley to Lorna Platt dated 13 September 2016 assigning Lorna as the project lead on the LFB's Community Safety Investment Fund	FORT01550986
SP4 2	Email chain between Rob Davies, Mina Cobbinah and Stuart Priestley dated 21 September 2016 regarding a list of vulnerable residents who would benefit from the community investment funding	FORT01477100
SP4 3	Community Safety Investment Fund – Bid Application Form	FORT01477101
SP4 4	Email from Mina Cobbinah to Rob Davies dated 22 September 2016 regarding Community Safety Commissioning Group meeting on 5 October and informing of Lorna being project lead	FORT01441439
SP4 5	Email from Dorcas Aboah-Maycock dated 2 November 2016 attaching papers for Community Safety Commissioning Group meeting on 3 November 2016	RBK00036581
SP4 6	Agenda for Community Safety Commissioning Group meeting on 3 November 2016	FORT01433985
SP4 7	Paper 4 Community Safety Investment Fund	RBK00036582
SP4 8	Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Commissioning Group dated 3 November 2016	FORT01476069
SP4 9	Email from Lorna Platt to Rob Davies dated 10 November 2016 informing Rob of the agreement made during the LFB's Community Investment fund	

	that ASC were better placed to manage the set up and administration of the fund	
SP4 10	Email from Lorna Platt to Mina Cobbinah dated 5 December 2016 asking to discuss the Community Fire Safety Investment Fund Agreement	
SP4 11	Community Fire Safety Investment – Fund Agreement	
SP4 12	Email chain between Lorna Platt and Rob Davies regarding the sign off of the community fire safety investment fund agreement	