

## **GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY**

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### **WITNESS STATEMENT OF MIKE HALLIMOND**

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#### **I, MIKE HALLIMOND, WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:-**

1. I make this statement to assist the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. I understand that I may be called to give evidence to the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry in relation the matters raised in the Public Inquiry's letter of 9 March 2020.
2. The matters in this statement cover the period between August 2011 and January 2013 during which I worked for the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation ("TMO") as the Interim Capital Programme and Investment Manager.

#### **Career history**

3. My career began in 1970 when I started as a trainee architectural draftsman in a small architectural practice in Newcastle. In the 1980s I worked in capital works management roles and throughout the 1990s I worked at senior level in housing management organisations in capital works management roles.
4. I was employed by the TMO as the Interim Capital Programme and Investment Manager in August 2011 after being approached by Mark Anderson, the Executive Director of Assets, Investment and Engineering. I recall that when I joined, Mark was carrying out a restructure and wanted someone who had a deeper understanding of contract management and EU procurement rules. I had a team reporting to me and I reported to Mark. I had very little involvement with the Executive Team, although I did assist Mark with producing monthly progress reports to take to the Board. I left the TMO in January 2013 as I had only ever intended to be interim.
5. The main projects I was involved in during my time at the TMO were the Trellick Tower lift and external fabric repairs, which was a huge and complex project, the

Silchester Estate kitchen and bathroom refurbishment, the Worlds End Area Office provision, the borough wide cyclical decorations programme and the procurement of suppliers to set up the Direct Labour Organisations which became Repairs Direct.

6. I was also involved in putting together a five year programme of improvements in the stock. By way of background, when I joined, the capital improvement programme had been responsive/based on local knowledge. The intention was to implement a planned preventative maintenance programme based on the life cycle of materials and components.

#### **Grenfell Tower's original design, construction, composition (completed 1974**

7. I had no involvement in the original design, construction and composition of Grenfell Tower and it follows that I have no knowledge of whether the Tower, as originally constructed, complied with the relevant regulations, legislation, British Standards, guidance and industry practice. I also have no knowledge of what assessments and decisions were made about the Tower's compliance or by whom.

#### **Modifications to Grenfell Tower**

8. At the beginning of my contract in August 2011 the fire door programme was already in progress for Grenfell Tower. I do not recall being directly involved in the fire door programme, apart from that I may have occasionally been copied into correspondence in relation to the programme however I cannot recall the details of this correspondence.
9. I recall there were two issues with the fire door programme. The first was regarding leaseholders. The leaseholders flat entrance doors were part of the demise of the lease and as such the leaseholder was responsible for their maintenance and compliance. The TMO however was responsible for the tenant flat entrance doors and communal areas doors. There were a number of instances where on a landing serving four flats the TMO had replaced three flat entrance doors but the leaseholder in the fourth flat refused to upgrade or replace their door or pay the TMO to do this work on their behalf. I imagine that is the issue being referred to alongside my name

in the minutes of a Project Meeting on 8 March 2012 (MH/6, 8.3.2012 'FRA MTG No 9. 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012:' ).

10. The other issue I recall was a supply issue where the contractor was experiencing delivery issues and the contract had to be paused until the doors were delivered to site.
11. As explained later in this statement, I was sometimes involved in resolving complaints at Stage Two of the TMO's complaints process. In preparing this statement, I have been shown an email in which I was assigned a complaint relating to the front entrance door of a flat at Burleigh House (MH/1, 29.7.2011 'FW: Fire doors - [REDACTED] Burleigh House - Ms McDouall;' ); (MH/2, 29., 'RE Fire doors - [REDACTED] Burleigh House - Ms McDouall:' ). (MH/3, 11.8.2011 'Re: Fire doors - [REDACTED] Burleigh House - Ms McDouall': ). I am unable to recall this specific complaint however the following emails demonstrate that Ms McDouall's front door was replaced as part of the fire door replacement programme (MH/4, 12.3.2012 'RE: My flat door - [REDACTED] Burleigh House:' ); (MH5, 19.4.2012 'Re: Ms McDouall, Front door:' ).
12. I have no other detailed knowledge of any other modifications to Grenfell Tower. At the time that I worked for the TMO, the refurbishment project was at RIBA Stage One and was being dealt with by Paul Dunkerton and Mark Anderson. Other than the odd occasion where I may have sat in on a meeting on Mark's behalf, say if he was on leave, I had no direct involvement in the refurbishment project. Likewise, I may have been copied into emails to do with the project, but this would only have been so that I could monitor Paul Dunkerton's capacity.
13. Because of my lack of involvement in the refurbishment project at Grenfell Tower, I have no knowledge of the nature and extent of the modifications, the purpose of the modifications, the design and construction of the modifications or whether the Tower, as modified, complied with the relevant regulations, legislation, British Standards, guidance and industry practice.

14. To the best of my recollection, I have never been inside Grenfell Tower. However, as explained above, I was leading on a project at Silchester Estate which was across the road from Grenfell Tower, so I am familiar with the external site.

#### **The fire and safety measures within the building at the time of the fire**

15. I have been asked about the fire safety measures that were in place at Grenfell Tower at the time of the fire on 14 June 2017, however I had no involvement in any fire related decisions about Grenfell Tower nor did I have any role in the Fire Risk Assessment programme. While I have an understanding of the building regulations generally, I have no knowledge of whether the fire safety measures at Grenfell Tower were compliant with those regulations.

#### **Inspections**

16. I have been asked what fire and other relevant inspections (including building control inspections) were carried out at Grenfell Tower, however I was not involved in any inspections at the Tower and therefore I have no knowledge of this.

#### **Governance/Management**

17. I have been asked about the legal relationship between the different persons and organisations who were responsible for fire safety at Grenfell Tower as at 14 June 2017. However, other than what is set out above, I had no involvement in Grenfell Tower during my time at the TMO and I have no knowledge of this.

#### **Communications with residents**

18. I have been asked about the extent of my communication with residents in the borough. I had day to day interaction with residents at the properties I was involved with, such as Trellick Tower and Silchester Estate. I recall that the TMO would meet with residents at the start of works to explain the proposals and sometimes give residents a choice about colours and materials. Additionally, the contractors that the TMO hired also had Resident Liaison Officers who would provide updates to residents.

19. I was aware that the TMO had a formal complaints process. I was sometimes involved in complaints if they were escalated to Stage Two of the complaints process. My recollection is that most complaints were service enquiries, such as if a contractor had not shown up. I have never dealt with a complaint in relation to Grenfell Tower.

**Fire advice to residents 2012 to 14 June 2017**

20. I have been asked what advice was given to residents about fire precautions. While it was not my role to give fire advice to residents, I was aware that the fire strategy for high rise buildings was “stay put.” This policy was already in place when I joined the TMO. If I became aware that a contractors was doing something on site which might breach compartmentation, such as leaving a fire door open, I would make sure that this was stopped.

**I confirm this statement to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief.**

**I confirm that I am willing for this statement to form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and published on the Inquiry’s website.**

Signed: M Hall

Dated: 16.05.19