

GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

SUPPLEMENTARY WITNESS STATEMENT OF ROBIN CAHALARN

I, ROBIN CAHALARN, WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:-

1. I make this supplementary statement to assist the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and in response to the Public Inquiry's letter of 17 June 2020.
2. The matters raised in this statement cover the period during which I worked for the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation ("TMO"). I was made redundant from the TMO in 2012 and have not worked since. Unfortunately, due to the passage of time, I am unable to provide some of the information requested of me. Additionally, some of the information requested relates to the period after I left the TMO. Despite this, I will of course do my best to answer the Inquiry's questions, which I have set out below as sub-headings.

As part of Project 1, was there a system installed which automatically brought the lifts down to ground in the case of the fire alarm being activated?

3. In preparing this statement, I have reviewed the relevant documents which are referred to in the Inquiry's letter. I was aware that this project was taking place and was copied on some of the emails however I was not involved in any detail of the works required. Unfortunately, I am unable to recall whether or not the system installed automatically brought lifts down to the ground in case of a fire alarm being activated.

Was this system distinct from the manually operated fire/fireman's control switch?

4. Based on experience, I would expect that the system would be distinct from the manually operated fire/fireman control switch, however as I had no direct involvement in this project I could not say for certain.

Why was the fire recall function installed? Was this done to comply with any guidance, requirement or specification?

5. Unfortunately, I do not know the answer to this question. My understanding was that the lifts, as installed, complied with British Standards. I do not believe that a fire recall function was needed to comply with any guidance or was a requirement of any British Standard.

How was the fire recall function intended to work? What would trigger the recall (e.g. activation of lobby smoke detectors, activation of fire alarm etc.)?

6. I do not know the answer to this however, based on my experience, I would expect that the fire recall function would have been part of the wider building management system for which there would have been a panel on the ground floor. This panel would have controlled the lighting, ventilation, fire alarms and smoke detection.

Who installed the fire recall function?

7. I do not know who installed the fire recall function or who manufactured the parts necessary for its installation.

Was the fire recall function tested and, if so, by whom?

8. I do not know with any certainty however it may have been Roger Green and Apex. I do not know whether records were kept of this testing.

Was the fire recall function disconnected?

9. In preparing this statement, I have reviewed the documents referred to me by the Inquiry as requested. All of these documents post-date the time I left the TMO. I have no knowledge of whether the fire recall function was disconnected or not. This information may be available through the Thorough Examinations undertaken by Zurich, or as part of the O&M Manual, as in my experience I these documents typically contain information about fire recall systems.

Do you consider there was confusion at TMO regarding whether the fire recall function was still connected? If so, how did this confusion come about?

10. Unfortunately I am unable to answer this question as these discussions took place three years after I retired from the TMO.

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: _____

Dated: _____