

**GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY**

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF GRAHAM WEBB**

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- 1 I was Managing Director of Repairs Direct Ltd from January 2016 until November 2017.
- 2 Repairs Direct Ltd was a wholly owned subsidiary of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisations (TMO) and its role was to deal with reactive repairs in residential housing managed by TMO.
- 3 I have been asked by the Public Inquiry to make this statement recording my involvement within the police cordon at Grenfell Tower between the hours of 1am to 8am on 14 June 2017.
- 4 On the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 I was at home when I realised that I had several missed telephone calls and I became aware of a text message from Kevin Griffiths who worked for a maintenance organisation that looks after council homes in the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham asking if he could offer any assistance. This caused me to check the news and upon learning of the fire at Grenfell Tower, I rang Teresa Brown, TMO's Director of Housing, from whom I had missed several calls. I called Teresa at about 05:30am.
- 5 Teresa was on site at Grenfell Tower and updated me. I told her that I would attend to assist and I left my home in West London and arrived at site at about 6.30 - 6.45.
- 6 When I arrived, I could see that the top of Grenfell Tower was still alight and the rest of the building was extremely charred. There was a lot of smoke and many anxious and upset members of the local community. People were offering blankets, cups of tea and food. I was very upset by what I was seeing.
- 7 I met Teresa outside St Clement Church and together we went to the Fire Brigade Command Unit that had been set up in front of Treadgold House where I met up with Robert Black.
- 8 When I arrived at the Command Unit I immediately sensed a very sombre mood and that this was a huge tragedy in which many lives had been lost.
- 9 I remained at the Control Unit to offer whatever assistance I could and I took over from Robert as the TMO point of contact when he left at about 9am to attend a

Gold Command meeting. Throughout, I liaised verbally with LFB officers, the RBKC Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) on site and I spent most of my time on telephone calls to TMO staff to liaise and give briefings and to seek requested information as well as to plan going forward including in relation to ongoing obligations reading other premises. I helped LFB with the information they wanted, ensuring that RBKC were also aware of the information from site.

- 10 I spent the rest of the day at the Command Unit as the point of contact for the fire brigade to answer any questions they had. This was in respect to the building, the flats, and the residents. I left site at about 9:45pm.
- 11 During the time I was at the Command unit and after 8 am I was asked by the LFB about structural plans, flat layouts, floor plans, names and numbers of residents, and asbestos registers. I answered questions verbally where I was able to otherwise I contacted others, mostly in the Asset team to provide the information which was mostly sent by email to an address they gave.
- 12 I liaised in particular with the Asset Team and Teresa Brown who was able to access the list of tenants and leaseholders. She had a team of people that interact with the tenants daily and they care passionately about what they do.
- 13 Teresa's teams were on site at the rescue centres and they were attempting to collect a register of people who were shown as living in the Tower and to account for them and to share that information with the fire brigade in the form of updated spreadsheets.
- 14 We tried to give as much information to the fire brigade as we could and attempted to cross reference the registers held at the rescue centres with the tenancy and leasehold records. As the morning progressed, it became clear that the number of deaths was quite considerable.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 22 August 2018