

GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

SUPPLEMENTARY WITNESS STATEMENT OF SIOBHAN RUMBLE

I, SIOBHAN RUMBLE WILL SAY AS FOLLOWS:-

1. I make this supplementary statement to assist the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. I understand that I may be called to give evidence at the Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry in relation to the matters raised in the Inquiry's letter of 22 July 2019.
2. As outlined in my earlier statement to the Inquiry, dated 8 February 2019, I was the Area Housing Manager for the Lancaster West Estate for the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation ("TMO") from 19 November 2012 to February 2016.
3. I have been asked what experience and training I have in relation to health and safety. I do not recall receiving health and safety training at the TMO however, I have had regular health and safety training throughout my career. I have worked in housing management for a long time and therefore I believe that I have a good awareness of the health and safety responsibilities that a housing management organisation has in relation to the residents and properties that it manages.
4. I have been asked how I monitored the Estate Service Assistants' performance and work. Every week I reviewed the inspection checklists filled out by the Estate Service Assistants to ensure that they had been carried out and that any matters that required follow up had been completed. I also had formal one to one meetings with each Estate Service Assistant every six to eight weeks.
5. I have been asked to provide examples of the "minor issues" raised during estate inspections in relation to fire safety. By minor issues I am referring to things such as rubbish and belongings being left in the corridor. These are issues which might

create a fire safety hazard but which can be remedied easily by an Estate Service Assistant, without the need to raise a repair request.

6. I have been asked what issues arising from estate inspections I raised with Janice Wray, however I cannot recall any issue in particular. This is just the process I would have followed if I felt that a matter could not be resolved by the Estate Service Assistants or by Repairs Direct.
7. I have been asked what opinions I offered at residents meetings and project meetings during the refurbishment of Grenfell Tower. The opinions I offered were only in relation to how best the TMO could communicate progress updates and information about the refurbishment to residents. I never offered any opinions about technical matters relating to the project.
8. I have been asked to provide further information about the vulnerable persons list at Grenfell Tower. This list was stored electronically and could be accessed by all TMO staff who worked on the Lancaster West Estate. Specifically, this would be Deon Wilkes, Janice Jones, Victoria Marcos, Rob Regan, Seamus Dunlea, Paul Dunkerton and myself. The type of information recorded included, from memory, the name, age and address of the resident and information about how they were vulnerable. For example, it might say "John Smith, 87, address, has an oxygen tank and is bed bound". The list was updated as and when it needed to be, such as if a resident informed us that they had broken a leg. We knew who our residents were and spoke to them a lot so the list would have been regularly updated.
9. I have been asked what checks Estate Service Assistants carried out in relation to the flat entrance doors and communal fire doors. The Estate Service Assistants' would inspect the communal doors during their inspections and if there was an issue, such as if a self-closing device was too slow such that the door did not properly shut, they would report this using their PDA and a repair request would be raised. The Estate Service Assistants did not inspect the flat entrance doors as these formed part of the Fire Risk Assessment programme undertaken by Carl Stokes Associates. However, obviously, if they observed an issue with a flat entrance door they would report it. The Estate Service Assistants' did not carry out checks on the compliance of any doors with regulations as they would not

have had the expertise to do this and this was the responsibility of the company that installed the doors and Carl Stokes Associates as part of the fire risk assessment programme.

10. I have been asked what checks were carried out by the Estate Service Assistants in relation to the lobby ventilation and the dry rising fire main, however I cannot recall this.
11. I have been asked what checks were carried out by the Estate Service Assistants in relation to the lifts. I know that the Estate Service Assistants' would check that the lifts were functioning correctly and record this on their PDA, however I am not aware of the specific way in which they would do this.
12. I have been asked what provisions if any were put in place to ensure that those with language or other special needs were able to understand the contents of the newsletters provided to residents. I recall that there was a section at the back of the newsletters which said, in several different languages, that if a resident needed the contents of the newsletter to be translated they should contact the TMO.
13. I have been asked to detail any concerns raised by residents in the Grenfell Tower evening meetings. I recall many discussions about whether or not there should be a canopy. I do not recall any fire safety concerns being raised.
14. I have been asked why I believe that the "Stay Put" policy was well known. My understanding from many years in the housing management industry is that "Stay Put" is the fire strategy in most high-rise buildings. My understanding is that this advice comes from the London Fire Brigade.
15. I am not aware of whether any provisions were put in place to ensure that those residents at Grenfell Tower with language or other special needs could send and receive communications to and from the TMO about matters of safety. While it was not my job to organise this, I am aware that the TMO could access a translation service called Language Line. Furthermore, as discussed earlier, we knew our residents and their needs as we communicated regularly with them.

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: 31/8/19. _____