

## IN THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

ALFIE DISSON

### STATEMENT OF TRUTH

1. This is a statement of truth by Alfie Anthony Disson, my date of birth is the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I am male. I am currently living at [REDACTED]
2. Background
3. Anthony (Tony) Disson was my dad.
4. My dad used to be in Flat 194 of Grenfell Tower which was on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor.
5. My dad used to live there and so did my little brother Charlie.
6. I have two brothers, Charlie and Harriboy (Harry).
7. I remember dad moving there around 8 years ago.
8. Dad was a council tenant and he used to pay his rent with his housing benefit. There were no pets in the home.
9. Tony's Health
10. My dad had a health problem and mobility was always an issue.
11. Background on Grenfell Tower
12. I do not remember much about when Grenfell Tower was built.
13. I do remember it having a caretaker but I don't remember much about him to be honest.
14. Regeneration
15. There was a period between 2016 and 2017 when the regeneration began.

Alfie Disson

16. Before regeneration
17. I remember when dad first moved in, it needed a lot of work as there was no flooring and it needed painting. But we managed to get this sorted for him.
18. It was not furnished beforehand.
19. I do not remember much before the regeneration.
20. Doors
21. I cannot remember the doors beforehand.
22. Windows
23. I remember the old windows were made out of metal. They had double glazing, like there were two panes of glass.
24. Landing
25. I remember there were fire hoses on the landing, but they went after the regeneration.
26. I remember the rubbish chutes, but there was never really a lot of rubbish lying around.
27. After the regeneration
28. I remember my dad telling me that the flats were getting refurbished and that they were getting new windows.
29. Exterior
30. I remember that they changed the outside which used to be brick/stone and put the cladding up outside. I admit that it made the place warmer.
31. Academy
32. I remember they put an academy there, because beforehand it was a giant car park.
33. Lifts
34. I do not remember if they changed or not.

35. Lights
36. They were dim, they were not bright.
37. Interior
38. Windows
39. I remember them putting up these plastic windows, they were nice.
40. Doors
41. I know they changed it to plastic I believe. I do not remember them bouncing back at all. It would just naturally open and shut. I believe Dad's was a white door and that the others were different colors, to be honest I cannot remember. I believe they were all the same type of doors. I think the neighbors were blue. I do not remember about hinges.
42. I remember Dad complaining about the drafts and stuff. But I do not remember if Dad made a complaint or not.
43. The letter box used to be metal and gold.
44. I remember all the doors being open. They were always open. I don't remember him having a door on the kitchen. He had one on the bathroom and the bedroom.
45. Bathroom
46. I know outside the bathroom, the floor was damaged by the works.
47. Other problems
48. I cannot recall whether there were any other problems in the flat. I remember there was a problem with the wiring. There was a wire, between the bathroom and bedroom and it was exposed. It was around 2015-2016. He went to the TMO about this.
49. Fire Alarms
50. I remember hearing the alarms go off when we were in the flat, when I was on the phone to him on the night, but I do not remember hearing the alarms when he was outside of the

flats. I believe the fire alarms was one by the hallway by the bathroom and the other in the kitchen.

51. Extractor fans

52. I know there was an extractor fan in the bathroom. I don't believe there was one in kitchen, he used to leave the window open.

53. Boiler

54. I remember the boiler being put in by the cupboard right by the front door.

55. Compensation

56. I know Dad got around £200 in compensation because of all the works.

57. Fire safety

58. If I knew dad like I knew him he would have left, I know he only stayed because he was told to. I believe he would have knocked on the neighbors, I don't see a reason why he wouldn't.

59. Hours leading up to the fire

60. I was at home in my house in Staines the day before the fire. I was with my partner Sinead. On that day I was with my dad at around 1.00 pm and he left to go and pick up my mum and nan to drop them off at their Chalet [REDACTED]

61. It was a normal day to be honest, my dad had come over as my girls have horses in a yard near us and we was told about rubbish that had been dumped in the yard. Dad offered to assist me cleaning it up.

62. This was the last contact I had with him that day.

63. Fire

64. At the beginning I did not know anything about the fire. I had a missed call from my dad but I did not answer it as I was asleep. The first time I knew about it was when my partner

Sinead's mother called her and told my partner that there was a fire at Grenfell Tower. This was around about 1.00 am to 1.10 am.

65. I then called my dad straight away and he was telling me that there was a fire at Grenfell Tower, I told him straight away that he should leave the flat. He said to me that he was not going to leave as the firefighters have told him to stay. I kept pleading with him to leave. He kept telling me that there was black smoke everywhere.
66. At first I did not think it was a bad fire, I just thought that there was a small fire in a flat below, I did not realise the extent it would be. I constantly said to him that he should leave.
67. I cannot remember how many phone calls I made to my dad but I do remember some of the contents of them.
68. I know my dad was on the phone to me, my mum and the firefighters. We were all trying to communicate with each other at the same time.
69. I remember we all called him throughout between 1:00-3:00am.
70. I remember one conversation I had with him and they were always lengthy phone calls. I would say that I was on the phone to him each time around 20 to 30 minutes.
71. I remember him always being in the passage and he kept saying that the smoke was gradually getting worse each time. I know he opened the door and then shut it again because the smoke was so thick.
72. I remember during one conversation that he was saying that the smoke was filling the flat and he was coughing and coughing and saying that he cannot breathe. I know at one point I told him to go to the bathroom and to fill the bath with water and to block the doors. I am not sure if he did this, but I could hear him doing something in the background and then at one point I could hear it was like a towel over his mouth. I could also hear the tap running, I had told him to run the cold tap.
73. Between the phone calls with my dad I must have spoken to the firefighters more than twice, I remember calling and getting through to Surrey and I explained to them that he was 65 years old and that they said not to worry as they will get my dad out.

74. I know my partner also made multiple phone calls to the firefighters as well, I believe she phoned them more than me.
75. I remember one phone call they said that they were unable to get up there yet.
76. Dad always talked about the smoke but he never spoke about any flames to me during this. I do not think he would have taken pictures or videos.
77. I know my dad spoke to the fire services, I do not know how many calls he made.
78. At around about 3:00 am I rang him and asked him what was going on. He said to me that they are not coming and then I told him to get out of there again. I kept saying he needed to get out, but we both knew that he would not get out. We had a 5 minute conversation between me and him and he was saying to me that if he did not make it, that he loved me and my brothers and I should not forget this. He said that he was going to attempt to get out. The only reason he went was because the fire services finally told him that he needed to make his way out.
79. I heard him opening the door and heard him talking about the black smoke. I knew that he had his tablets, phone and keys on him. I was told by the fire fighters to turn off the phone and that they would talk him down.
80. I then spoke to the firefighters to find out what had happened and they told me that they lost contact with my dad at 3:07am.
81. I jumped in the car, after 3:30am, Sinead was in the car with me. I thought that I might be able to do something, but I got halfway down to Hounslow and I realised that there was nothing that I could do and so I decided to stop and turn back.
82. Next morning
83. The next morning, my mum and all my family all came to my house. I would say this was around 8:00 am to 9:00 am. We then all went down to Grenfell Tower. I will be honest with you the Tower looked disgusting at the time, it looked like someone had burnt a newspaper and left it. The Tower was still on fire at this point and there was smoke still coming out of it. The smoke was so bad I could see the smoke on the motorway when we were on our way there.

84. We all went down there, but I was convinced that if he made it out we could find him. I went around about 7 different hospitals to see whether he was in any of them and my uncle and cousins was waiting around Grenfell Tower to see whether they could find him.
85. Death
86. I did not know anything about Dad's passing until 3 days later. My mum got a phone call from the liaison officers who had told us that they had seen Tony. I kept asking mum when and where have they seen him, mum said that they could not tell us over the phone and that they had to speak to us in person.
87. Liaison Officers
88. They then came around the next day. The liaison officers were Sarah and Bromewin. When those liaison officers came through the door, I knew by their faces that something had happened and I knew then that my dad was dead. I could not cope listening to everything and I decided that I would leave and go upstairs. I did not speak with the liaison officer that night or since. I have not been able to cope with it.
89. Counselling
90. I have been receiving counselling twice a week and have a psychologist that I attend to, I see him on Monday.
91. Inquiry
92. I am happy for my statement to be read and made public. I am willing to give evidence at the inquiry if I am needed.
93. I do not want to see any photos, nor do I want to listen to my 999 calls.
94. I have been on one TV show with Reggie Yates, but this was to speak about my dad's life and nothing else.

#### STATEMENT OF TRUTH AND CONSENT

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I further confirm that I am willing for this statement to form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and be published on the Inquiry's website.

Signed: 

Date: 17.5.18