

IN THE MATTER OF THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

STATEMENT OF DANIEL EUDEY

Preamble

1. I make this statement from my own personal knowledge and from matters that I have been told about by others; where the information does not come from my own personal knowledge I make this clear below.
2. I make this statement because I was a resident of [REDACTED] Grenfell Walk at the time of the Grenfell Tower fire and I witnessed the spreading of the fire and the emergency response. I am a core participant in the Inquiry.

Personal background

3. I was born on [REDACTED], and I was 68 at the time of the fire. I am originally from Melbourne, Australia, and I am an Australian citizen. I have lived in London for over 40 years.
4. I am currently living at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Living in Grenfell Walk

5. I moved into [REDACTED] Grenfell Walk around 23 years ago, and I had a secure tenancy with the Council, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. I lived alone in Grenfell Walk.
6. At the time of the fire I was working as a [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. In June 2017 I was working [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have not worked since [REDACTED]

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Signed:



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the fire, and they have been very good to me at work. I am planning on returning to work soon, perhaps in May of this year.

7. I knew many of my neighbours on Grenfell Walk. The lady who lived next door to me at [REDACTED] was elderly, and I would be over at her house almost every day and do a bit of shopping for her. On the other side lived a man I knew as Moses. He was from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I would look after his cat.
8. I would say hello to many people who lived in Grenfell Tower as I passed it. I did not know them as such, but everyone was very friendly and you say hello. Many years ago I got to know someone who lived in the tower, on the top floor, but they had moved out by the time of the fire. I remember visiting their flat, with its view over Holland Park. You could see over to the City and Canary Wharf. I remember thinking that I would've liked to live there.
9. My flat was at the end of Grenfell Walk in the left block, looking at the Tower. Because of the way the estate is built, my flat is around level with floor two of the Tower. If you look out of my front door, there is the Tower directly in front of you. The main entrance to the Tower is to the right, looking from my front door.

13 June 2017

10. The 13th June 2017 was a Tuesday, which was then my day off work. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I would have to get up at around 8:30am on Wednesdays. On 13th June I had a few things to do during the day, and in the evening I had packed my bag and lunch for work the next day. I think I went to bed at around 12:30am. At that time, I was having some trouble sleeping. On 13th June I took some Night Nurse, which knocked me out.

14 June 2017

First awareness

11. I remember that I was originally awoken by the sound of people screaming. I thought it was a dream initially, and I did not respond or get up. What got me up was the thumping

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on my front door. This scared me – I thought ‘what is going on’. I think it was the police who was thumping on the door.

12. When I opened the door, I can’t remember whether it was a police officer or a firefighter at my door. I was still drowsy from the Night Nurse. It was someone in uniform, and they told me to get out. They were going down the hallway getting everyone out of their flats. They didn’t wait for me to go.
13. I think I was quite late to leave my flat, as almost everyone else had left Grenfell Walk. I think the lady who lived next door to me had realised that I wasn’t out, and told them to come and get me out. I do not remember the time that I left, but I think it would have been between 1:30am and 2am. I don’t remember looking at a clock all night, and I don’t wear a watch.
14. When I first opened my flat door, the first thing I saw was the Tower. The fire was in full swing. It was massive, and there were flames shooting in all directions. I think the flames themselves were a light colour, but there were other colours I saw on the building. I can picture now reds and yellows and blues in the fire. I don’t know where the colours were, but the blue I saw in the fire was a light blue.
15. I saw the fire going up. I could only see the side which faced my flat, but it looked like that whole side was going up very quickly.
16. I remember seeing things coming off the Tower. The cladding was exploding. A lot of it was going onto the play area beneath the Tower. There was flames on whatever was falling.
17. When I went back to my flat, a long time after the fire, I remember seeing lots of bits on the floor. This was on the walkway down between Grenfell Walk and Grenfell Tower – not the walkway directly outside my flat. Those things looked like polystyrene that had melted and burned. It reminded me of a polystyrene coffee cup that had been set on fire – that sort of material.
18. The smell I could smell in my flat and when I first opened my door was quite pungent. It was smoke mixed with burning. That evening was during a hot period anyway, and I

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had my window open during the night. Some smoke came into my flat, and I think I breathed it in. The smoke itself was like a chemical smell. I remember having to put tissues over my nose and mouth to stop breathing it in. I have had chest problems for a number of years, and I get a chest infection usually once a year. After that night I think my chest got worse, and I developed a chesty cough. That is only just getting better now.

19. When I opened the door I took in the scene for just literally a couple of seconds. I didn't stop and stare at it. I knew I had to go quickly because I knew it was serious. I don't remember hearing anything from the Tower itself, just the people around Grenfell Walk screaming. I was just in my boxer shorts, so I threw my clothes on and grabbed my bag.

Leaving my flat

20. They were taking us to the sports centre. I was just following everyone else – I was walking very quickly. To get to the sports centre we had to go round past Hurstway Walk to Latimer Road, because the steps round the other way were too close to the Tower.
21. I don't remember seeing anyone exiting the tower, but they must have been coming out through the fire exit which was over on the other side of the Tower from where I was walking. I didn't know the layout of the Tower as I hadn't been inside since the refurbishment took place.
22. When I was leaving my flat I saw fire engines on the other side of the tower, towards Lancaster Road. That was the only way they could get to the Tower. I didn't see any hoses or the firefighters near the Tower. We walked to the sports centre, up the road past Latimer Road train station. I saw fire engines here too, but I don't remember seeing any firefighters and I didn't speak to any.
23. When I arrived at the sports centre, it was like a refugee camp. They were giving out tea and coffee and bacon sandwiches. All I had was the clothes I stood up in. There was no one from the Council there to help, but there were many other volunteers.

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Later on the 14th June

24. Just as dawn was breaking, I left the sports centre. It was cold and depressing to stay there. I walked around the whole estate, down St Anne's Road, and I arrived at St Clement Church. [REDACTED] Alison, was here. She said that someone had phoned her around 2am to come down and help. I stayed here until I was taken to a hotel in Holland Park.
25. I moved around a few hotels and a serviced apartment for a few months, until I was given the flat that I now live in, on the [REDACTED]

Statement of Truth

26. I confirm that the contents of this witness statement are true.
27. I am content for this statement to form part of the evidence of the Inquiry and for it to be published on the Inquiry's website. However, I do not want to give oral evidence to the Inquiry in either Phase 1 or Phase 2.

Signed.....



DANIEL EUDEY

Dated: 9.5.2018

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