

IN THE GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANDREW BELL

Rule 9, Inquiry Rules 2006

**I Andrew Bell say as follows:**

1. I am a Deputy Assistant Commissioner with London Fire Brigade and was appointed by the London Fire Commissioner as the Head of the Grenfell Tower Investigation and Review Team at its establishment in the immediate aftermath of the fire in June 2017. I have been an operational firefighter and latterly an operational officer since September 1993, serving in the London Fire Brigade and East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service with two periods, totalling three years, on secondment to the Fire and Rescue Service National Resilience Assurance Team.
2. London Fire Brigade has a statutory duty to review its performance and investigate safety events under (The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and Local Government Act 1999). The fulfilment of that duty includes the carrying out of an internal learning and safety investigation, which will be informed by all evidence available to the Brigade, including the evidence gathered and called by the Inquiry during Phase 1.
3. A key output from the investigation is the 'Operational Response Report' which will provide a factual narrative of the Brigade's actions from 00:54hrs to 08:00hrs on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017, which the Brigade understands is the key time period the Inquiry will focus on during Phase 1. To assist the Inquiry and Operation Northleigh the report is being released in seven stages, each reflecting approximately an hour of the key time frame.
4. The first iteration of the report based on evidence presently available to the Brigade and covering the first hour has been disclosed to the Inquiry and Operation Northleigh, and through the Inquiry to Core Participants. It covers the period from 00:54hrs to 02:00hrs.
5. In the event material new evidence becomes available during the course of phase 1 of the Inquiry, the London Fire Brigade will amend the report.

Statement of truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Andrew Bell



Dated:

14 June 2018.