

## Witness Statement

Form MG11

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, s.5A(3) & 5B; MC Rules 1981 r.70)

Statement of Michael John Scott RUMBLE

Parks Police Office, The Stable Yard, Holland Park. W8 6LU – 0207 938 8187

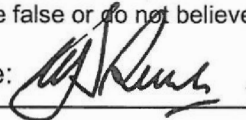
Age: Over 18

Occupation: Parks Police Inspector

This statement (consisting of 7 pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Signature:



I am the Parks Police Inspector for The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. I am employed by the Councils of those Boroughs and attested as a Constable under S.18 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Act) Act 1967. The Parks Police Service are responsible for enforcing the byelaws and regulations for the Parks, Open Spaces and Cemeteries and for enforcing legislation under The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and Orders made thereunder. Amongst other duties I am trained for is the role of Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) working with the Contingency Planning Teams for both RBKC and LBHF. I am part of an 'on call' response and as part of my contract of employment I am required to live at Council premises situated within Holland Park.

I served with Sussex Police from 1971 to 2000. During that time I attended or was involved with a number of major incidents including the Sweet Hill train crash outside Brighton in 1978 and the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel in 1984. My last job with Sussex Police was Inspector in the Community Safety Unit. The Unit's secondary role in the Force's major incident plan was that of Evacuation and Repatriation. As part of the role I produced contingency plans and flowcharts dealing with such eventualities as well as leading training sessions for police staff on this part of a major incident response.

I then served with West Sussex County Council between 2000 and 2008 in the Community Safety Department as Community Safety Officer for Worthing and Horsham, and latterly as Community Safety Manager for Horsham District. I am a Chartered Manager and a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute.

I was appointed Parks Police Inspector for The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBKC) in 2009 and also took on the same role for The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (LBHF) in 2013.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 I took part in 'Exercise Unified Response' held at Dartford Power Station. I acted as the London Local Authorities LALO on the final day of the exercise, which was the largest multi-agency major incident exercise held in the history of the London Fire Brigade.

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I was the LALO for LBHF Council at the scene of the Tower Block Fire at Shepherds Court, Shepherds Bush Green, Hammersmith on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2016 from 1625 hours to 2210 hours. Luckily the block was swiftly evacuated and there was no loss of life.

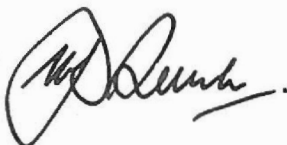
At about 0245 on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 I was asleep at home when I received a phone call from David Kerry the RBKC Contingency Planning Manager. He told me that there was a major fire at Grenfell Tower. Nick Layton, another LALO, was making his way to the scene but in view of the scale of the fire further assistance would be required. I immediately got up and dressed in my uniform. I walked up to the Stable Yard Offices where I obtained the 'LALO' Hi-Viz jacket which I wore over my uniform. The jacket is marked 'Local Authority Liaison Officer' on the rear and 'LALO' on the front. It also bears a RBKC corporate logo on the front right breast. I gathered some equipment and then took a marked parks police vehicle to drive to the scene which was less than a mile away. I had been told that the Rendezvous point (RVP) was at Bomore Road. I got as far as Sirdar Road opposite Avondale Park. It was obvious from the number of fire engines and emergency vehicles parked in the road that I was unlikely to get any further. I parked the vehicle on the pavement in order that it did not obstruct any other emergency vehicles en-route to the scene. The streets in this area are all narrow and with parking on both sides of the road make it difficult for wide vehicles to access. It is possible to get a dust cart or a fire engine down them, but they would not be accessible for articulated vehicles.

I walked from the vehicle to Bomore Road arriving there at approximately 0310 hours. Having found the Fire Control 'Silver' Vehicle in Bomore Road I then visited The Kensington Leisure Centre and found that the Fire Brigade had forced an entry and were using the building as a temporary mortuary. The forecourt was in use as a marshalling point for the emergency services. Returning to the 'Silver' command vehicle I made contact with Nickolas Layton who was acting as 'LALO'. He told me that he had attended the 0315 'Silver' meeting and that about 100 people were thought to be still trapped in the building. Emergency Evacuation Centres were being set up at the 'Bellasuis' restaurant on Shepherds Bush Green, The Harrow Club in Freston Road. I also ascertained that St.Clements Church in Treadgold Street and The Latimer Christian Centre in Bramley Road had been opened and were taking in survivors.

At that time I also made contact with 'Hash' from the Kensington & Chelsea Tenant Management Association who had been on scene from an early stage. I had brought two additional parks police radios with me and I gave one each to Hash and Nick in order to facilitate better communication with them and with the Bi-Borough CCTV Room. The radios were operating on Channel 3 which is the events and emergency frequency. I was in possession of a council issued smartphone – [REDACTED] All my telephone calls were made on this phone until the battery ran out at about 1250.

I made notes on what I was doing and what resources may be required on a 'LALO' Incident Pack Form. I have retained these notes as my notes made at the time.

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By 0505 hours I was made aware that Reception centres, whether 'official' or 'unofficial' were operating in the following locations and were hosting the approximate number of people indicated:

St. Marks Centre, St.Mark's Close – 60+  
Latimer Christian Centre – 8  
Harrow Club – 2  
St.Clements Church, Tredgold Street – 80 +

At around 0630 hours Nick Layton had to leave the scene to attend to the opening of Kensington Town Hall and I took over as LALO until relieved by Steve Gibbs at approximately 1640 the same day. Prior to his departure I had made contact with Sergeant Helen Tilbury who was leading the 'Early Turn' Parks Police Unit who commenced duty at 0700 hours. I had asked Helen to make this incident her first priority. I was aware that Constable's Hazel Ryan and Yvonne Shorten were rest centre trained. Constable's Emma Hicks and Kelly Hicks were also RC trained. Helen had just completed her LALO course and PC David Pullan has many years of experience in dealing with major incidents. That team was therefore on standby from 0700 and were later utilised as described.

At 0710 I attended the Multi-Agency Silver Meeting held in the Fire Brigade Control Tender. At that stage I reported that I had no update from the reception centres and believed the numbers were still similar to those reported at 0505, with the exception of the Harrow Club, where numbers had risen to 50+.

At that meeting the LFB Commander indicated that they were looking at 'significant fatalities'. The scene was a hostile environment with debris falling and whilst the superstructure appeared stable there had been a partial collapse at the corners. Fire crews were being rotated on a 20 pump turnover basis. The casualty situation was reported by London Ambulance. I was asked by LFB to obtain a copy of the Electoral Roll for Grenville Tower from RBKC together with a Floor Plan from the TMO. The next meeting was scheduled for 0840.

After that meeting I was made aware that a Borough Emergency Control Centre (BECC) had been set up at Kensington Town Hall and were utilising the phone number: [REDACTED]. As LALO this would become my main point of contact as all requests should be channelled through the BECC, both as a recording point and to ensure my role remain focussed as the council's eyes on the ground. In a very fast moving and confused situation it would be very easy to become distracted and sucked into other situations, so I made my main contact area Bomore Road near the LFB Control Vehicle.

*Mr. Councillor Fielding -*

Mellen and Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, the leader of the Council were also on scene at a very early stage.

During this period, I made contact with Superintendent Paul Warnett, The MPS Ground Commander, John Allen the RBKC District Surveyor, Teresa Brown from KCTMO and Robert Black the Chief Executive of the TMO. Cllr Rock Fielding –

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By 0740 PS Helen Tilbury had made contact with me and had deployed staff at two of the Rest Centres in the immediate area. PC Dave Pullan came to my location and I then utilised him for various tasks within the perimeter.

At the 0820 Silver Meeting I was asked to obtain a 17 seater minibus and driver for the purpose of ferrying LFB staff to safer rest areas. Although this request was passed to the BECC, I do not know whether it was ever actioned, although I was told to expect a phone call from the driver. I cannot recall ever getting that call.

I had also been told that the Reception Centre at Shepherds Bush Green had been closed down as no casualties had arrived at that location – this I relayed to the meeting. I also reported that John Allen the District Surveyor had reported to me that the cordon may have to be moved further out and there may be a need to evacuate further premises if the situation deteriorated. This was relayed to the Fire Commander.

I was aware that Robert Black from the TMO had a copy of the floor plan of at least one floor of Grenfell Tower on his smartphone. I remember him speaking with the Fire Officer at the 'hatch' of the Silver Command Vehicle and I believe the plan was 'pinged' to the requested fire email address. I know that a printed version of a plan of the block had been requested and this request had been passed to the TMO. I did not personally see a printed version of the plans.

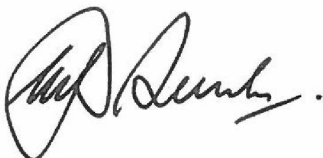
I was also asked to make urgent enquiries of the TMO as to the identity of the occupant of Flat 16, where the fire was believed to have started. I was informed that DCI Matt Bonner had been appointed Police Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) and that information was key to the enquiry. I was also asked to obtain a list of all occupants of Grenfell Towers. After leaving the meeting I liaised with Teresa Brown from the TMO to action those requests.

By about 1000 hours I was aware that the main 'official' rest centres that were operating were at The Rugby Portobello Trust (with about 100 people present), The St. Clements Church Hall and The Harrow Club. I was uncertain about the St. Mark's Close Centre and despatched PS Tilbury and PC Pullan to ascertain what was happening there. They reported back to me at a later stage that it was not being used, however staff could handle up to twenty evacuees if required.

At about 1010 hours I was given information by a TMO representative, who I believe was Teresa Brown, that the occupant recorded at Flat 16 was Mr Behailu Kebede, [REDACTED] it was a two bed flat [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I wrote this information on a piece of paper which I handed to Dany Cotton the LFB Commissioner who was waiting to enter the Silver Command Vehicle.

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A little later and certainly before 1100 hours I was handed a list of all the tenants of Grenfell Tower by Teresa Brown. There was a computer spreadsheet printout A3 size. I believe that there was another A4 size list with it. I informed Silver Control that I had the list. I was then asked to convey it to the Bronze Control vehicle parked in Grenfell Road, which I did. I was then asked by staff at Bronze control whether I could email it to [REDACTED] and I passed this request to the TMO. I also asked them to email it to the BECC and the MPS Casualty Bureau. These actions were confirmed to the 1100 Silver command meeting.

Others actions from the meeting I was asked to complete included locating an 'asbestos register' for the building and notification of a joint press conference to be held at 1630 hours. I do not know whether the asbestos register was located, if it was it would have gone directly from the TMP to the Fire Brigade without passing through me.

The presence of a Director or above and a press officer from RBKC was requested. These requests were passed to the TMO and the BECC for actioning.

After this meeting I was notified by the BECC that another official rest centre had been opened at The Westway Sports Centre, 1 Crowthorne Road. The other centres were reaching capacity and any new casualties or evacuees should be directed to The Westway Centre. As I was within the bronze cordon I did not have any direct contact with members of the public however this information was passed to LFB Silver Control.

At 1250 hours the battery on my mobile phone expired but I was able to borrow a spare parks police duty phone and informed the BECC of my new number. – [REDACTED]

At 1300 hours I attended the Silver Meeting and was updated on the casualty and death rate. At each silver meeting these figures were given and I relayed them back to the BECC.

Between Meetings I was in phone contact with my parks police officers at the Rest Centres although I encouraged them to speak to the BECC directly rather than involve me as a 'middle-man' which could lead to confusion, in the event of any requests from those locations. I also visited the Kensington Leisure Centre to liaise with staff from Greenwich Leisure to ensure their staff welfare was being looked after and they were doing all they could do to help, which was the case.

At 1430 hours I was told by the TMO that they thought from cross checking casualty figures that about 37 residents were still unaccounted for.

At 1500 hours a new District Surveyor took over from John Allen. He was Jose Anon (contacted on [REDACTED]).

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At 1510 I received a request from the Portobello Rugby Trust for support from two more RBKC staff and two MPS Officers to assist and help with public order. I was able to send two more Parks Police Officers and asked the MPS to send Officers to the location as well as informing the BECC.

At 1530 I attended a Silver Meeting which had been relocated to the Kensington Leisure Centre. At that stage there was no change on casualties. There was a request for an updated list of tenants to be emailed to LFB and this was passed directly to the TMO to action.

At 1640 hours I was relieved by Steve Gibbs as LALO at the scene.

In my experience the scale of this fire and the emergency operation to tackle it was unprecedented. The network of small streets surrounding Grenfell Tower made access problematic for the Fire Brigade, Police and Ambulance, this made the establishment of an effective Rendezvous Point for all emergency services and multi-agency partners very difficult. Whilst the Fire Brigade Silver Control Vehicle was apparent and the major point of contact I was not aware of a similar Police or Ambulance control point. The presence of the Kensington Leisure Centre and the plaza in front of it proved very useful for marshalling firefighters, ambulance crews and support networks such as the Salvation Army, although in hindsight it was a little too close to the scene of the fire and might have had to be evacuated had the stability of the building been in question.

Whilst the scene was confused, smoke was in the air and the scale of the incident enormous the fire service, police and ambulance crews all worked effectively with little fuss. The Cordon was effective and apart from some early public order problems the public were kept at the cordon. I was not in a position to see what was happening at the Reception Centres but received reports from my parks police team who were advising the BECC and requesting resources as needed.

The role of the LALO is to be the link between the incident scene and the Council via the Borough Emergency Control centre (BECC) if one has been set up. The key role is to Survey, Assess and Disseminate and to relay requests from the emergency services back to the BECC. I was in possession of a LALO Incident Pack issued by Lambeth Council which contained a handy Aide-Memoire on 'immediate problems to consider' – During the course of the morning I worked through that list and ensured that all the points had been considered and where relevant had been actioned by the BECC. I was happy that I had sufficient resources at the scene for my part of the major incident plan – my parks police team were deployed at the nearest rest centres and I was in radio contact with them. I had made contact with Oliver at the Kensington Leisure Centre and the Greenwich Leisure team (GLL) were facilitating access to their facilities effectively and working closely with the police.

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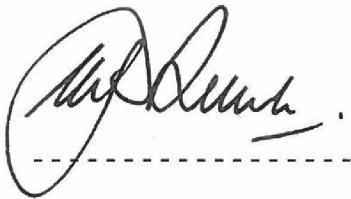


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Whilst I was on scene for almost fourteen hours I should have probably been relieved earlier, however I have personal knowledge of the area and its community and extensive experience of major incidents, albeit not on this scale, I did feel a personal obligation to utilise my skills and remain with the situation until my effectiveness was compromised by tiredness.

Whilst I cannot comment on the aftermath of the tragedy and what came before it, I can say that everybody at the scene, whether emergency services, volunteers, multi-agency partners or council and TMO Officers worked tirelessly to do their best for the victims, survivors or evacuees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJS Rumble', written over a dashed horizontal line.

MJS Rumble

Statement made on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017 without reference to any other member of the Council or other party and based on my notes made at the time.

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