

**GRENFELL TOWER  
PUBLIC INQUIRY**

---

**Witness Statement of  
Michael John Scott Rumble**

---

I, MIKE RUMBLE, WILL SAY:

1. I make this Witness Statement further to receipt of the Rule 9 letter from the Public Inquiry dated 12 July 2018 and to provide assistance to the Public Inquiry.
2. The matters contained in this statement are either known to me or are ones which I believe (in which case I have specifically said so) or are derived from records including computer records maintained by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea ('the Borough', 'RBKC'), and to which I have access and with which I am familiar and which I believe to be accurate.
3. I would like to add my sympathy and ongoing thoughts to the survivors and relatives of those who died in what was an unprecedented tragedy, which will remain in my memory for many years to come.
4. Since 2009 I have been the Parks Police Inspector for The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. I am appointed under the Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Act 1967, which enables Local Authorities to employ Police Constables within its parks. In 2013, under a re-structuring exercise, my role became a Bi-Borough role and although I remained an RBKC employee, I was responsible for the Parks Police covering both RBKC and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham 'LBHF'.



- 4.1 I am responsible for 28 Officers who all report to me and work on a rota of working an early shift, a late shift or a rest day. I report to Claire Rai who is the Head of Community Safety for LBHF.
- 4.2 Prior to working for RBKC, I served with Sussex Police from 1971 to 2000, when I retired from the rank of Inspector. Between 2000 and 2008 I was employed by West Sussex County Council as a Community Safety Officer for Worthing and Horsham and then latterly as Community Safety Manager for Horsham District.
- 4.3 I am a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and a Chartered Manager – a qualification I obtained approx. 5-6 years ago.
5. 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. Within the parks themselves, we have the same powers as the regular Police Service.
6. When I started employment with the Parks Police Service, only a small number of the Police Constables were trained as Local Authority Liaison Officers ("LALO"). A LALO is someone who is part of an on-call response team and attends incidents on behalf of the Local Authority and liaises with the Contingency Planning Teams. The role is to be the link between the incident scene and the Borough via the Borough Emergency Control Centre (BECC) if one is set up. The key role is to survey, assess and disseminate information and to relay requests from the emergency services back to the BECC.
- 6.1 In 2013, I decided that more of the Parks Police should be trained as LALO's and currently about one third of the Officers are now fully trained.
- 6.2 I am a trained LALO and am part of the on call response team for RBKC and LBHF. I completed my LALO 2 training Course in October 2015 and from that time I have been a LALO. I completed my LALO 1 Course the year before and that allowed me to be a LALO support officer. Having completed the training I was provided with a 'JESIP Aide Memoire' which I carry around with me. I exhibit a copy of this as MJSR/1.



- 6.3 RBKC has a Contingency Management Plan that I have a copy of and am familiar with. This sets out a series of actions that should be considered during and after an incident. I exhibit a copy as MJSR/2. I am also familiar with the London Resilience Major Incident Procedure Manual which is a publically available document that I obtained around the time of my training. I exhibit a copy of the Manual as MJSR/3.
- 6.4 I also have experience of dealing with emergency response situations from my time in the Police Force, having been involved with a number of major incidents including the Sweet Hill train crash in 1978 and the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984. By the time I retired from the Police I was fulfilling a role as Inspector in the Community Safety Unit at Headquarters and was involved with numerous emergency response situations. The Units secondary role in the Force's major incident plan was that of Evacuation and Repatriation and involved close liaison with Local Authorities.
- 6.5 Since becoming a LALO I have also taken part in 'Exercise Unified Response'. This was a large scale multi-agency disaster training drill that was held on a mock site in Dartford in March 2016. I believe that this was the largest such incident ever held in the history of the London Fire Brigade. On the final day of the exercise I acted as LALO during the 'incident'.
- 6.6 I was the LALO for LBHF at the Shepherds Court fire in August 2016. Although everyone was evacuated safely on that occasion, approx. 20 households were unable to return to their properties that night and had to be placed into temporary local accommodation.

7. As a result of the cost of living within Kensington and Chelsea, many employees commute to work, but it is a part of my contract of employment that I live in the Borough.

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

8. At approximately 02.45hrs I received a telephone call from David Kerry, the RBKC Contingency Planning Manager and he informed me that there was a major fire at Grenfell Tower. I was informed that Nick Layton, the Borough Duty Officer and LALO, had already been informed of the fire and was making his way to the scene, but in light of the scale of the fire, further support was required.



- 8.1 I immediately put my Parks Police uniform on and put on my LALO Hi-Viz Jacket. This is a luminous jacket which has 'Local Authority Liaison Officer' written across the back and 'LALO' on the front, as well as bearing the RBKC corporate logo on the right breast.
- 8.2 Using the marked Parks Police vehicle I headed towards Bomore Road, which is where I had been told the rendezvous point was. Due to the narrow streets in that area and the number of emergency response vehicles already present, it was difficult to get right up to the site, so I parked a little further back on Sirdar Road, making sure I did not block any other emergency vehicles that would be attending.
- 8.3 I took with me a number of additional UHF / GPS radios in case they would be required and I walked to Bomore Road, arriving there at approximately 03.10hrs. I was also in possession of a LALO Incident Pack issued by Lambeth Council which contained a handy aide-memoire / checklist on 'immediate problems to consider' – MJSR/4. RBKC didn't have their own incident pack. During the course of the morning I worked through that list and ensured that all points had been considered and where relevant had been actioned by the BECC. I located the Fire Control 'Silver' vehicle and informed the Command Control of my presence.
- 8.4 I then attended the Kensington Leisure Centre and saw that the door had been forced to allow for the centre to be used as a temporary mortuary.
- 8.5 I returned to the Silver Command vehicle and met up with Nickolas Layton, who was acting as LALO. He informed me that he had attended at a 'Silver' meeting at 03.15hrs and that approx. 100 people were believed to still be inside Grenfell Tower.
- 8.6 My key role as LALO is liaison with the Local Authority and to provide the liaison between the Local Authority and the emergency services. In this role I would observe what is happening and report that back to David Kerry (as BECC) so that he could get a picture of what was happening and could assess the requirements and put actions in place. I was unsure at this point whether the BECC had formally been set up and I didn't have a contact number for it, but I was aware that David Kerry was 'in charge' and I would feed back to David as and when required.
- 8.7 I was aware that a number of rest centres had been set up, at the Belushi's restaurant on Shepherd Bush Green and the Harrow Club in Freston Road, as well as St.Clements Church in Treadgold Street and the Latimer Christian Centre in Bramley Road.



9. I believe that the Kensington & Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation ("TMO") also have some form of emergency call out system. There were representatives from the TMO on site from early on. Around the time I met with Nickolas Layton, I also made contact with someone whom I only knew as 'Hash' – I believe that he was a warden from the TMO. TMO representatives were not allowed into the Silver meetings, so as LALO we also had to act as the liaison between the TMO and the emergency services. Robert Black, the Chief Executive of the TMO and Teresa Brown (also of the TMO) were in attendance.

9.1 I gave one of the spare Parks Police radios to 'Hash' to facilitate better communication with him and I gave the other to Nickolas Layton. The radios operated on Channel 3 – the events and emergency frequency.

9.2 I maintained some notes of my actions and what resources may be required on a 'LALO' Incident Pack Form, which I attach as Exhibit MJSR/5 as my LALO log from the 14<sup>th</sup> June. I have used those notes in the preparation of this statement for the purpose of recalling specific times and to aid my recollection of events.

10. By 05.05hrs I was made aware that the 'official' and 'unofficial' rest centres were open and taking people in. From my notes, I have recorded that the following rest centres were accommodating people (the number of people taken in at the time are represented by the corresponding numbers):

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

11. Sometime prior to 06.30hrs I telephoned Sgt Helen Tilbury, who was due to start her shift at 07.00hrs. Sgt Tilbury is also a LALO, having just completed her course, and I informed her of what was happening and asked her to make this her priority when the rest of the team came on shift. I was aware that Constables Hazel Ryan, Yvonne Shorten, Emma Hicks and Kelly Hicks were all rest centre trained and due to start shift at 07.00hrs. PC David Pullan also has many years of dealing with major incidents and the team remained on stand-by from 07.00hrs. Sgt Tilbury and PC Pullan came to the scene to meet me, arriving at approximately 07.40hrs. Sgt Tilbury had deployed Police



staff at two of the rest centres and PC Pullan assisted with various tasks within the perimeter.

11.1 Nickolas Layton had to leave the scene at approx. 06.30hrs as he had to go to the Town Hall and unlock it in readiness for the staff arriving that day. As a result of his departure, I took over as LALO and attended the subsequent Silver meetings – the first of which I attended at 07.10hrs in the Fire Brigade Control Tender. During this meeting I updated that the numbers at rest centres were as reported at the earlier meeting – which I was aware of having spoken to Nickolas Layton and taken his LALO log notes from him. It was at this meeting that the LFB Commander indicated that there was likely to be 'significant fatalities'. I was also asked to obtain a copy of the Electoral Roll for Grenfell Tower from RBKC as well as a Floor Plan from the TMO – this was the first time these requests had been made. I asked Teresa Brown from the TMO to obtain the Floor Plan. The next meeting was scheduled for 08.40hrs.

11.2 Shortly after this meeting I was made aware that the BECC had set up at Kensington Town Hall and I was provided with a contact number for them. All of my requests were now channelled through BECC and I requested them to obtain and provide a copy of the Electoral Roll for Grenfell Tower.

11.3 At approximately 07.40hrs I was made aware that Robert Black had a copy of the plan of one floor on his mobile phone. I recall him speaking to the Fire Officer at Silver Command and I believe he forwarded the plan to the requested fire email address, although I never saw a hard copy of the plans.

11.4 I was aware that Cllr Feilding-Mellen was at the scene along with Cllr Paget-Brown and they were both allowed within the cordon area.

12. I attended the 08.20hrs Silver meeting and I was asked to arrange a 17-seater minibus and driver for the purpose of ferrying LFB staff to safer rest areas. I passed this information on to BECC. This was the last involvement I had regarding the minibus and I don't know whether it was ever actioned as I never heard anything further from BECC or the driver.

12.1 I had also been informed that the rest centre at Shepherds Bush Green had been closed down as people had not arrived at this location – I relayed this information during the meeting.



- 12.2 I was aware that John Allen, the District Surveyor, was already on site as he had identified himself to me. John was wearing an RBKC jacket with District Surveyor written on it and a safety hat. John had told me that the cordon may need to be moved further back and there may be a need to evacuate adjacent premises if the situation deteriorated. I passed this information on at the meeting.
- 12.3 I was also asked to make urgent enquiries regarding the occupant of Flat 16, where the fire was believed to have started and to obtain a list of all of the occupants of Grenfell Tower. I passed both of these requests on to Teresa Brown.
13. By approximately 10.00hrs I was aware that the main 'official' rest centres that were operating were at the Rugby Portobello Trust – which had about 100 people present, the St.Clements Church Hall and the Harrow Club. I was not sure what the position was at the St.Marks Close Centre, so I deployed Sgt Tilbury and PC Pullan to ascertain what was happening there. It was reported back to me that St.Marks was not being used, but could handle up to 20 evacuees if required.
- 13.1 Shortly after this I was passed the details regarding the occupant of Flat 16 and I was given his name, contact numbers and details of his tenancy. I think it was Teresa Brown that gave me this information and I wrote it down on a piece of paper and handed it to the Fire Commissioner, Dany Cotton, who was waiting to enter the Silver Command vehicle.
- 13.2 A little later, but before 11.00hrs I was handed a list of all of the tenants of Grenfell Tower by Teresa Brown. I remember that this was a computer spreadsheet printout on A3 size paper and it contained a list of the residents' names. It was given to me at the Silver truck and I informed Silver Control that I had the list. I was asked to take it to the Bronze vehicle, which I did and I asked Teresa if she could email it to the designated LFB email address, BECC and the Metropolitan Police Casualty Bureau. These actions were confirmed at the 11.00hrs Silver Command meeting.
- 13.3 During this meeting I was also asked to obtain an 'asbestos register' for the building and was notified of a joint press conference to be held at 16.30hrs. I asked Teresa Brown to locate the asbestos register, but I don't know whether it was located as it never came through me. It is possible however, that it went straight from the TMO to the Fire Brigade and I was never asked to locate it again. I passed on to BECC that a Director or above was requested to attend the press conference.



14. It was shortly after the 11.00hrs meeting that I was notified by BECC that another official rest centre had been opened at the Westway Sports Centre on Crowthorne Road. I was informed that the other rest centres were reaching capacity and any new casualties or evacuees should be directed to the Westway Centre.
15. I personally did not have any direct contact with members of the public as I was in the Bronze Cordon, but I passed this information on to LFB Silver Control. I was only moving really between Silver and Bronze Control vehicles so was not aware of any other Borough officers other than those involved in first response so did not see any at rest centres – I was not aware of a lot of people, but I may not have seen them. It is also possible that they were not wearing RBKC tabards so would not have been clearly visible.
16. My Police staff were still assisting at Portobello Trust and St.Clement rest centres and they didn't go to Westway as we were informed that a number of Borough Officers were already covering the Westway.
17. At 13.00hrs I attended the Silver meeting and was updated on the casualty and death rate. These figures were given at each subsequent meeting and I relayed them back to BECC on each occasion.
18. Between meetings I maintained contact with my staff at the rest centres, whilst encouraging them to liaise directly with BECC. I also visited 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 they were.
19. At 14.40hrs I was told by the TMO that they thought that 37 residents were still unaccounted for. This was based upon cross checking the list of residents against those that had been accounted for.
20. John Allen left about 15.00hrs and was replaced by Jose Anon, another District Surveyor from RBKC.
21. At 15.10hrs I received a request from the Portobello Rugby Trust rest centre, who required support from 2 more RBKC staff and MPS officers to assist with public order.



I passed this information on to BECC and MPS and send two Parks Police Officers to assist.

22. A further Silver meeting took place at 15.30hrs at Kensington Leisure Centre. There was a request for an updated list of tenants to be emailed to the LFB and this was passed directly to the TMO to action.
23. I left the scene at 16.40hrs and was relieved by Steve Gibbs who continued in the role of LALO. Steve is a Neighbourhood Warden Manager at LBHF.
24. I was not involved over the next few days, but acted as LALO again on the 28<sup>th</sup> June as we covered the scene daily from about 6am to midnight throughout the rest of June and July. I acted as LALO at the base of the Tower in order to facilitate requests and actions. The area was, by now, a crime scene and the MPS were responsible for the area and we provided additional support. By the end of July our involvement had finished, although we remained on call and MPS would call upon us via BECC if anything was required.
25. 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 and this made the establishment of an effective Rendezvous Point for all emergency vehicles 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.
26. I was happy that I had sufficient resources at the scene to be able to fulfil my role within this incident and I was able to maintain contact with the BECC and the rest of my Park Police team who had been deployed to assist at the rest centres.
27. I attach to my Witness Statement an Index of the Exhibits to which I refer in the following paragraphs of my statement.



28. On the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017, I prepared an 'MG11' witness statement myself and subsequently disclosed this to the Metropolitan Police. I consent to my Police statement being disclosed to the Public Inquiry for use in evidence.

**Statement of Truth**

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

I am willing for my statement to the Public Inquiry to form part of the evidence before the Inquiry and for it to be published on the Inquiry's web site.

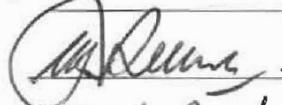
Full name:

MICHAEL JOHN SCOTT RUMBLE.

Position or office held:

PARKS POLICE INSPECTOR

Signed:



Date:

24th September 2018

**GRENFELL TOWER  
PUBLIC INQUIRY**

---

**Index to  
Witness Statement of  
Mike John Scott Rumble**

---

Exhibit MJSR/1 – JESIP Aide Memoire (attached)

Exhibit MJSR/2 – RBKC Contingency Management Plan

- FORT01450292
- RBK00004396

Exhibit MJSR/3 – London Resilience Major Incident Procedure Manual

- FORT02071285
- RBK00013294

Exhibit MJSR/4 – Lambeth LALO Incident pack (attached)

Exhibit MJSR/5 – LALO Log 14<sup>th</sup> June (excluding 1<sup>st</sup> 2 pages)

- FORT01516942
- RBK00028838