

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: GILLIES, CHRISTOPHER

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: POLICE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) 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.

Signature:

Date: 25/09/2017

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

This statement was written about 3 months after the incident at Grenfell Tower and I've written this to the best of my knowledge and memory.

On TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2017 I was on duty in full uniform part of serial 997B conducting counter terrorism patrols in central London. My shift started 1800hours and was meant to finish at 0300hours on WEDNESDAY 14th June 2017.

On WEDNESDAY 14th 2017 between 0200hours - 0300hours we were informed to make our way to Kensington to help with a residential fire. We arrived on WALMER ROAD J/W BOMORE ROAD and we were briefed by the duty officer in front of the leisure centre. While I was getting briefed I could see the block of flats. As I was looking at it I could see that the fire had started near at the bottom right hand side and it had spread right up to the top of the tower and was starting to spread towards the middle. There was a lot of smoke coming from the tower. LFB were there and I lost count of how many fire trucks were there. LAS were there but more were coming all the time.

The duty officer asked our serial to make BOMORE ROAD a sterile area and put a cordon in place at the junction of WALMER ROAD and assist with other emergency services getting in and out of the area.

Whilst on the cordon a large crowd gathered of about 50-80 people and serial (1 PS and 6 PCs) was the only serial trying to keep it under control. Everyone in the crowd were very distressed due to friends and family possibly being in the block of flats and were getting more frustrated as time was going on. While on the cordon the serial and I tried our best to calm and reassure the public.

Signature:
2017

Signature witnessed by:

RESTRICTED

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Form MG11(T)

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Members of the public were on the phone or trying to get through to the friends and families in the tower.

I lost count of how many times people said to me I'm on the phone to mum/dad/daughter/son/friend and they're in the tower on floor X and their screaming for help. All I could say was that LFB were in the tower doing all that they could and they will be with them soon. Then they were asking for more information and I wasn't able to provide anything which just frustrated everyone more.

A message came out from LFB on my radio stating that if family or friends are in contact with people in the tower they need to rescue themselves and get out as LFB weren't able to get to everyone. When someone asked me about the chances of his disabled father who lives on the 20th floor getting out alive I didn't know what to say apart from if he can't get out himself he will have to wait for LFB. However judging on the circumstances we both knew his chances weren't good.

This went on all night and I was on this cordon with my serial until early turn serials relieved us.

Signature:
2017

Signature witnessed by:

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