

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: HOLMES, GAVIN

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

Occupation:

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: GAVIN HOLMES

Date: 19/08/2017

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

I commence this statement at 19:25 hrs on Saturday 19th August 2017 at Redhill Aerodrome. I am a serving Police Constable employed by Sussex Police and attached to the National Police Air Service (NPAS), as a Tactical Flight Officer, at Redhill Aerodrome, Surrey.

At about 08:21 hrs on Wednesday 14TH June 2017 I was on duty on board a police helicopter along with Captain Clive SAMUALS and Police Sargent Paul SOCHON when we departed from Redhill Aerodrome to the area of GRENFELL TOWER, GRENFELL ROAD, LONDON, W11. Our call sign was NPAS64. My role on board the police helicopter was tactical commander which means that I sit in the rear right seat and I am responsible for directing the helicopter to achieve the policing purpose, operating the mapping systems and all communication with police officers and control room. PS SOCHON was camera operator during this incident.

We arrived on scene at about 08.30 hrs and took over air support cover from Police Helicopter NPAS16 from RAF Benson. Upon arrival we conducted orbits around the tower with our main role as providing an overview with live downlink of our camera footage of the tower to the police control room. All of the footage obtained was recorded and has been exhibited by PS SOCHON. We also assisted with checking the south and eastern aspect of the building for any indications of persons still trapped. Due to heavy smoke we were unable to view the northern and western aspect very well. We left the scene at 09.45hrs

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2017

Signature witnessed by:

after police Helicopter NPAS 13 from Boreham was on scene to take over from us and we returned to Redhill Aerodrome.

At about 10.59 hrs the same day we left Redhill Aerodrome again to re-attend GRENFELL TOWER, GRENFELL ROAD, LONDON, W11 arriving on scene at about 11.10 hrs and taking over coverage of the tower from NPAS13. Again we provided downlink to the Police control room providing on overview of the tower and surrounding area and also to London Fire Brigade command unit. We left the scene at 12.25 hrs and returned to Redhill Aerodrome.

On 29th June 2017 at 10.30 hrs I handed DC 204699 Takeshi ISHIDA the master exhibits of the footage which we obtained in both flights above, which had been exhibited by PS SOCHON as PSG/1 REDHILL/2017/28/M sealed with seal 00281NPAS15 and PGS/2 REDHILL/2017/29/M sealed with seal00282NPAS15.

I have then had no further dealings in relation to this investigation.

This statement was made using information held on the National Police Air Service STORM command and control log NPAS-20170614-0057 NPAS-20170614-0072. And also the evidential DVD/CD record pages.

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