

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

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

Statement of: KEANE, DAN

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

Occupation: POLICE OFFICER

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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: DAN KEANE

Date: 26/09/2017

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

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On WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 I was on duty in full uniform working at part of an AID SERIAL initially tasked with patrolling in and around LEICESTER SQUARE. Our callsign was 994C. The other officers on my serial were PS33LX SEAL, PC984LX MATTIACE, PC199LX NICHOLLS, PC357LX HARMON, PC253LX MCGREGOR and PC507LX HEFFERNON.

At approximately 01 :00am we were re-assigned to attend an RVP at BOMORE ROAD junction with AVONDALE PARK ROAD W11. We were to assist local officers who were dealing with a large fire. Arriving at the location I could see that a large tower block was on fire. I was subsequently informed that the tower block was called GRENFELL TOWER. The fire covered the whole building. I could see numerous firefighters at the base of the block trying to tackle the blaze, and paramedics from there LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICES(LAS) were already treating people on the pavement outside a local leisure centre. There were also people beginning to congregate on AVONDALE PARK ROAD near the junction with BOMORE. These were residents evacuated from the tower, their relatives and local residents who had come to offer them comfort and assistance.

More and more people were being brought to the aid point the LAS had setup outside the leisure centre. I could see that paramedics were giving CPR to a female and that one poor person had passed away. The deceased person was laying on the pavement under a sheet as there was nowhere for the LAS to take anyone. PS33LX had spoken with the local inspector in charge of the incident and then tasked us with creating a sterile area around where the LAS were treating people. We managed to encourage the crowd that had built up on BOMORE ROAD to move back onto AVONDALE PARK ROAD. People were

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obviously very distressed and in shock. It was hard for everyone, including my colleagues and myself to take in what we were seeing. Every time more casualties were brought out people in crowd would surge forward to see if it was a loved one, friend or neighbour. We managed as best we could to keep people back. People in the crowd where taking to relatives and friends, via mobile phones, still trapped in the building awaiting rescue. The LONDON FIRE BRIGADE(LFB) were doing all they could to rescue people, but the fire was too bad and it soon became apparent that they were not going to be able to get to everyone. In despair some people pushed passed officers and tried to run to the tower. We had to physically stop some people and reassured them, as best we could, that the LFB were doing everything they could. Tragically more people had passed away at the LAS treatment point and more bodies were laying on the pavement under sheets. The LAS did everything they could to treat the deceased with dignity, but just had nowhere to take the bodies and treat people out of view. Local borough officers forced open the door to the leisure centre and PC507LX and I went in with them to get the light on and identify suitable area for the LAS to treat people, and move any bodies from the pavement to somewhere private.

The crowd of people on AVONDALE PARK ROAD had become larger and we were asked to move them a bit further back, to allow more room for emergency vehicles and equipment to be place on BOMORE ROAD at the junction with AVONDALE PARK ROAD. The crowd were was understandably reluctant to move further back. Some were still on their mobiles to relatives in the block, while others were awaiting news of family and friends. We managed to encourage the crowd to move a bit further back along AVONDALE PARK ROAD to the junction with THRESHERS PLACE. PC199LX was talking to an Asian male who had been talking to his mother. She was trapped in the block on the twentieth floor. This male remained on BOMORE ROAD with PC199LX when we moved the crowd a bit further back. PC199LX subsequently told me that the male had lost contact with his mother. About this time it came over our radios that the fire was too intense and that the LFB were not able to get back into the build. Anyone who was still in communication with people in the building should advise them to try and make their own way down if possible. I think we all realised now that any last hope of rescuing people within the upper floors of the block was gone. PC199LX tried to comfort the Asian a male as best he could, but in truth, what can you really say that will comfort someone who has most likely just witnessed his mother die in such dreadful circumstances. It was heartbreaking. There was an outside possibility that his mother had got out via an exit on the other side of the block from where we were, but I remember hearing him say that his mother was disabled and wouldn't have been able to get down without

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Form MG11(T)

Page 3 of 3

help. There was a sense of helplessness amongst all the emergency service personal that people were dying in the building and we couldn't help them, — Colleagues arrived to assist us with maintaining the cordon we had set up on AVONDALE ROAD at the junction with THRESHERS PLACE. Members of the press also began to arrive and were directed to a press area on THRESHERS PLACE. I and the officers on my serial remained on the cordons we had set up throughout the night until we were relieved at about 08:00am

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