

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

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

Statement of: LARDER, DARREN

Age if under 18: Over 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:

Date: 15/06/2017

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

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Statement typed in the writing room at Larkhall Lane. Statement started at 1830 hours on 15th JUNE 2017. I was wearing body worn camera that was switched on and recording during this incident.

On WEDNESDAY 14th JUNE 2017 I was on duty posted to a TSG carrier on a commissioners reserve shift. Our call sign was U534. I was posted as the operator for the carrier. Also posted to the carrier was A/PS Griffiths 5321U, PC Spiteri (driver) PC Chaudhry 5411U, PC Mills 5296U, PC Roberts 5320U and PC Burrows-Smith 5796U. We were posted to MD. At 0238 hours we received a call-out to BS, to assist with a large fire on the Lancaster West Estate, CAD 482 14/06/2017 refers. We were informed that the RVP was Clarendon Road. We made our way on blue lights to the RVP arriving at 0255 hours. As we arrived I could see that a large tower block, Grenfell Tower, was on fire. The blaze was spread over a number of floors. It was quickly apparent to me that this was a very serious incident and a serious threat to life. We were directed to change into flameproof overalls, head over's and nato helmets for protection. We then moved in section file with U533 and U535 around the block to Bramley Road. We were directed that we needed to clear members of the public from the area around Station walk onto Bramley Road and behind the cordon tape that was by Latimer Road Tube Station for their own safety. This area around the top of Station walk was to be used as an access point for emergency personnel and also a casualty retrieval/treatment area. I assisted officers from U534 in directing members of the public out from Station walk into Bramley Road and past the tube station. A couple of males were obstructive and aggressive towards other officers. One male was wearing a red t-shirt and red shorts, and another was wearing a brown coloured robe. Once these males had been cleared past the tube station I was directed to stop any

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more members of the public from passing back towards Station walk. Whilst at this point I was approached by a male who told me he was on the phone to a friend what was trapped inside Grenfell Tower. He told me that there were two adults in Flat 133, on the 13th floor, and they were unable to get out. I relayed this information to GT over the working channel. A short while later a circulation then came out over the radio from Gold commander that they were advising residents still inside the block to try and get themselves out and not to wait for LFB crews to reach them. I looked to see if the male that had told me about the people trapped in flat 133 was still there to pass this information on to him, however I could not see him.

I was relieved at this location by another police officer and was directed to move round to the casualty retrieval area in Station walk with the rest of U53. We were then briefed that we were to assist LFB getting into the base of the Grenfell Tower. There was a considerable amount of burning debris falling from the building that was causing significant danger to the LFB crews. We were briefed that we were to use our long shields, held overhead, to protect the LFB crews as they entered the ground floor of the block. I made numerous trips into and out of the base of the tower protecting the LFB crew. I did this until we were relieved by 2 area TSG at 0750 hours. We then returned to our carrier and we were directed to attend a debrief at Kensington Police Station. We made our way to this location and at 0840 I attended a debrief. We then returned to Larkhall Lane.

Statement finished at 1910 hours.

Signature:  
2017

Signature witnessed by: