

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: STEAD, REBECCA

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: 16/09/2017

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

My name is PC REBECCA STEAD 1620CW. I have been employed by the METROPOLITAN POLICE as a Police Officer since August 2015. I am currently attached to response team A Westminster North, based at KILBURN POLICE STATION.

On Wednesday 14th June 2017 I was on duty in full uniform in company with PC REED 1850CW in vehicle call sign CW89N, which is a marked Police vehicle. During the night shift (I do not recall the time) we received a call to attend Grenfell Tower, which was on Kensington and Chelsea borough. to assists officers from the neighbouring borough already there dealing with a major fire (CADs 482/14JUN17 and 1652/14JUN17 refer). We approached the tower from the north-east, along LANCASTER ROAD. We stopped at the bottom of LANCASTER ROAD, where it turns the corner into SILCHESTER ROAD. A large crowd of members of the public had formed here. The crowd were obviously extremely concerned as they could see the tower was on fire, and there were people still inside, trying to draw attention to themselves out of the windows. There was an aid serial at the location with myself and PC REED. and between us we moved the members of the public out of the road and safely onto the pavements. I used cordon tape to cordon off the pavement to keep people out of the road. There were vehicles parked on both sides of LANCASTER ROAD, with some cars presumably parked in a hurry. and some double parked alongside other vehicles. It was clear that LANCASTER ROAD would be a main access point for LFB and LAS, so myself and PC REED went up and down the pavement asking members of the public if they owned any of the vehicles, or if they could contact people who owned them, as they needed to be moved immediately. There was one car in particular which was parked

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with the rear of the car sticking out into the road, which would mean any large vehicles wouldn't be able to get through. No one moved the car, or made themselves known to us. We could see two Ambulances approaching at the top of LANCASTER ROAD, and the vehicle parked in the road needed to be moved immediately. The vehicle was locked and the handbrake on, so PC REED used the end of his baton to smash the driver's window. He could then reach in and release the handbrake. Between us we pushed the vehicle to the side of the road, to give the Ambulances now waiting behind us, access further down the road. These actions were necessary to allow access to the area for emergency vehicles, and were recorded on the CAD.

The Sergeant of the aid serial also on LANCASTER ROAD had posted two officers at the junction of LANCASTER ROAD and ST MARKS ROAD. He asked us to take over from them so his serial could reconvene. The officers had already cordoned off the top of LANCASTER ROAD, at the junction of ST MARKS ROAD to prevent any non emergency vehicles driving down, or any pedestrians walking down. The aid serial moved the crowd of members of the public safely up to this junction, and myself and PC REED, along with two other officers from Tower Hamlets borough controlled the cordon. Whilst on the cordon, several individuals and families approached me, and the other officers, whilst they were on the phone talking to people still inside the tower. In some instances I spoke to the residents on the phone and advised them to put wet clothing or towels at the bottom of their doors, to try and make a safe area in their flat. In other instances I advised their families who were talking to them on the phone to pass this information on. I noted down the flat numbers and which floors they were on in the tower, and called up on the radio so the location of the trapped residents could be recorded and passed onto LFB.

At a later point, information was received over the radio from the Commissioner of LFB stating that residents should make all efforts they could to try and get out of the building themselves. I spoke to at least one family after this point who were talking to a resident still inside the building, and relayed this advice to them. Whilst we were on the cordon, members of the press arrived throughout the night. At times it was necessary to stop and direct traffic at the junction, in particular when emergency vehicles were entering or leaving the cordon. At approximately 0800 hours on WEDNESDAY 14th JUNE 2017, myself and PC REED were relieved at the cordon by early turn, and we returned to KILBURN POLICE STATION.

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