

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: JONES, TONY

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

Occupation: POLICE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 3 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: 29/09/2017

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

On TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2017, I was on duty in full uniform at FOREST GATE POLICE STATION. My tour of duty was between 1600hrs and 1000hrs. I was posted to a marked police carrier (callsign: 997B) with A/PS Matthew VINCENT 813KF, PC Glen CALVERT 422KF, PC Christopher GILLIES 715KF, PC Lyndsi HURLEY 126KF, PC Lee HIGHAM 788KF and PC Waqas MAHMOOD 716KF. I was the operator of this vehicle. We were tasked with protective security patrols on OXFORD STREET, W1C. This statement relates to the fire at GRENFELL TOWER in KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA. Between approximately 0000hrs and 0100hrs on 14th JUNE 2017, our vehicle was on the way back to borough as GT had directed us to return to borough for dismissal. We got to OLD STREET ROUNDABOUT, EC1V when a unit from KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA borough asked for assistance due to a fire in a set of block of flats. Our vehicle and all other vehicles were directed to WALMER ROAD, W11 to assist with the incident 'on the hurry up'. On arrival at WALMER ROAD, GRENFELL TOWER was substantially on fire and the street was full of members of the public and residents of the tower. We were able to park our vehicle on WALMER ROAD at the junction with BONMORE ROAD. We could park no closer as the roads were impassable due to fire engines, other police vehicles and a large number of people made it dangerous to proceed any further. A sea of people were walking towards us, as it appears they had been directed to evacuate the vicinity. Every available space had a person in it, between fire engines, ambulances and police vehicles. We assisted in directing people from BONMORE ROAD and onto WALMER ROAD. An elderly IC3 female shouted at me and asked me where the rescue centre was, at this stage, I had been on scene no longer than 5 minutes and I

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simply could not tell her whether there was one or where it was. She was sitting on the floor against the wall of the doctor's surgery blocking the footpath. I told her she had to get up and move because she would be crushed if she remained on the floor. She said she could not because her legs were tired. I assisted in bringing her to her feet along with another resident, she then walked along the road and out of the cordon.

Our serial was tasked with creating and maintaining a cordon at the end of BONMORE ROAD, junction with WALMER ROAD. Police tape was stretched across the junction between the tree on one end of the junction and the doctors' surgery on the other. The mood of some residents of GRENFELL became extremely volatile at this point, to the stage where many of us thought that disorder would ensue.

Emotions were understandably running high and residents were desperate, especially as many of them still had relatives and friends inside the building which by now was burning ferociously. For my part, and I imagine every other officer on our cordon, all we could do was reassure residents that the LONDON FIRE BRIGADE were doing their utmost to help all those inside the building. I had to explain to an IC4 male who was crying and swearing at me that we were not allowing people to go near the building for their own safety.

Some time later, we were directed to extend the cordon into WALMER ROAD creating a clear path for any survivors who require medical attention to be transported by gurneys through to CLARENDON ROAD via the alleyway between them. The cordon was thus extended and residents were informed that the extension was to ensure that those injured could be quickly transported to waiting ambulances. I manned this cordon on the southbound side. I spoke to a fireman in order to ask how everybody was and what progress was being made in regards to evacuating from the building. He told me that the heat was so intense that the LFB were finding it impossible to get passed the 10th floor. I did not pass this information on to members of the public because I felt it would have been detrimental to the work that was being done by emergency services and because it had not been verified. I had many residents on my side desperately asking for advice for their relatives who remained in the building. At once point, an IC4 female, approximately 30 years of age approached me and said that her sister was on one of the extreme upper floors and was asking for advice because smoke was getting into the flat. The only advice that I knew I could give was to get a damp towel and place it at the bottom of the door to prevent smoke from getting in and for her to try and keep as low to the floor as possible. I then advised that she call 999 and speak to the fire brigade for further advice, because I simply had no further advice I could provide. She asked whether her sister should try and get herself out of the flat and try to walk down. I said no because I had

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been told by a fireman at a flat fire on my borough that 'stay put' was safe as fires are generally well contained by the design of the concrete flats and that running down the stairs can increase likelihood of injury to residents and hamper rescue efforts on the stairs. The lady remained at the cordon with me and asked me questions at points. I received the same questions from several other people at the cordon. At approximately 0300hrs, a male approached the cordon and asked to be taken to whoever was in charge; I now know this male to be Nicholas PAGET-BROWN, Leader of KENSINGTON and CHELSEA COUNCIL. I asked him of identification which he duly provided. I escorted him through the cordon to the LFB command unit on BONMORE ROAD just outside KENSINGTON LEISURE CENTRE. I told Mr PAGET-BROWN that it was the most horrific thing I'd ever seen to which he agreed. As we walked up to the command unit a male, who I cannot remember the name of from the KENSINGTON and CHELSEA TENANT MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION, said in the direction of PAGET-BROWN "Hello, Mr Leader of the Council". The male from the TMO had been escorted to the command unit by one of my colleagues from my serial. I left them and returned back to my cordon where I remained until we were relieved at approximately 0900hrs.

I exhibit a photograph I took from BONMORE ROAD, W11, FIVE (5) minutes after we arrived at GRENFELL. I also exhibit a photograph taken after dawn of the fire from the same position:

TJJ/01 - Photograph of GRENFELL TOWER — MPSC38519440

TJJ/02 - Photograph of GRENFELL TOWER at dawn — MPSC38519439

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