

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

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

Statement of: DOE, ANTHONY-MAWUSI

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

Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

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This statement (consisting of 6 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: A DOE

Date: 31/01/2018

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

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My name is Anthony-Mawusi DOE and I have been a Fire Fighter for about 6 or 7 years. I joined the London Fire Brigade in 2011. After completing my basic training I was initially sent to Green Watch at Finchley for around 4 years. I was then posted to Red Watch at Kentish Town and I have been there for around 2 ½ to 3 years.

In the London Fire Brigade you receive continuous on the job training ranging from running practical exercises and receiving computer training. We do receive specific training on certain days. Since leaving training school I have received a lot of training. I have received training on high rise fires on the tower in the back yard of the fire station.

I was posted night duty at Kentish Town Fire Station starting at 8pm on 13th June 2017 but I think I went in earlier to relieve a fire fighter on Blue Watch who had to get away early. I can't recall exactly what time I started that night. There are two appliances at Kentish Town. I was posted to the pump ladder during the shift and we had the call sign of A431. Also posted to the pump ladder that night were Watch Manager (WM) GREGORY, Fire Fighter PATEL, Fire Fighter PORTUPHY, and Fire Fighter JACKDEO.

Out of these I can't recall who was driving. There was also a crew on the pump but I can't recall who was on the pump. There is normally a minimum of one officer in charge, a driver and two firefighters per pump.

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On roll call that night and during the call out I was wearing my safety boots, leggings, tunic, helmet (which we call a lid) and gloves. I also had with me a whistle and a torch, a flash hood, a china graph crayon, ear defenders and an ancillary pack which contains latex gloves and face shields.

I think we were called out a couple of times that night prior to being called to Grenfell Tower. I remember one of the calls was to Delancey Street on Euston's ground. There are sometimes a set number of fire appliances that have to be despatched to a certain type of call depending on the building type, and I believe we attended an Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) call along with a pump ladder from Euston Fire Station.

I don't tend to sleep that much on night duty as I find it hard to settle. I am usually awake during the night. I do quite a lot of reading. I can remember being in the kitchen, probably eating, when the call came in. I think it was around 1.20am but I can't be exact. I think some of my colleagues were in the lecture room. I remember the call system was activated in the station and I can remember hearing that it was a 25 pump fire.

From what I can recall, the call was to a Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) in Grenfell Tower. An FSG call is when somebody can't get out of their house or flat due to the fire and smoke. They contact the brigade and our control room keep them on the line. Our control room will dispatch a Command Unit, a station manager and a watch manager to help the command unit with administrative side on the fire ground.

When we mobilised we took a left from the fire station up Highgate Road, then into Kentish Town road, then a right onto Price of Wales road, went via Haverstock Hill, left Eton road, into Adelaide road, Hillgrove, Alexandra road, down Carlton Vale, Kilburn lane, Ladbrooke Grove, Basset road.

I remember the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) was working in the front of the appliance but I couldn't see it as I was sitting in the back. There was radio communications going on. This seemed quite steady, not frantic. We got there very quickly after being called.

We mobilised and made our way. We approached via Bramley Road. I can't remember the name of the road we turned into. There were lots of cars and fire engines parked near the tower and I recall we couldn't get through due to residents vehicles blocking the road. We left our vehicle and our Watch Manager told us to go round to the Latimer Road station side. I have marked on a map with an arrow the direction of our approach and I produce this as my exhibit AMD/1.

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As we approached I saw the fire was on the Bramley Road side of the building. The fire was between the middle and the bottom of the building and the smoke was going upwards. During the rest of the night I didn't really look much at the building due to concentrating on the tasks I had been asked to do. I had never been to any call at Grenfell Tower before.

When we got out of our vehicle I saw my Watch Manager talking to a number of other Watch Managers. We refer to senior officers as "White Helmets" due to the fact that they wear a white helmet instead of a yellow one. They also have insignia on the collar of their tunics which denotes their rank.

Our Watch Manager returned to us and tasked us to supply water to Richmond's pump which was already parked up when we arrived. We had parked on the west side of the tower. We got out of our truck and I "bowled" out our hose. This is a fire-fighters term for rolling the hoses out. We set up to supply the Richmond engine by connected up hoses. We located a fire hydrant and plugged into it. It was a 70mm hose that we connected to the hydrant. We connected the other end to our machine. We then connected up a second 70mm hose from our machine to the one from Richmond.

Ground monitors had already been set up so water was then projected onto the building. I have marked on a second map where the trucks were parked and where the hydrant was. I produce this second map as my exhibit AMD/2. The water pressure seemed fine, I don't recall any issues with it. I don't recall us having any issues with getting our appliance close enough to the hydrant to connect up.

I do recall lots of other engines arriving. I don't remember if I knew where the Command Unit was located but I didn't have any need to go there. Our Watch Manager would have checked us in at the Command Unit. I don't recall who the Incident Commander was when we arrived but I do remember hearing radio messages through the night informing everyone of a change in Incident Commander's but I can't recall any names. Incident Commanders would normally get more senior owing to the severity of the incident and the resources needed.

We were then tasked with putting up our 135 pump ladder to gain access from the west side of the building which we did. I tied off the ladder to secure it against the ledge.

At some stage I was tasked with going to get first aid kits and oxygen cylinders from parked appliances. I was told to deliver them up on a ramp which I have also marked on AMD/2. I think I was asked to do this on my own and to take them to the location on the ramp. I mainly then did other work like picking up

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hoses and taking them inside the tower in case they were needed. I was then tasked to go into the building on standby with Fire Fighter PORTUPHY.

I was tasked by another white helmet with getting fire fighters and officers in and out the building by assisting with police riot shields. I remember WM Gregory instructing me to pick up a police riot shield and hold it over my head to shelter fire fighters going in and out of the building from falling debris. We would run in pairs with one behind and one ahead with the person we were protecting in the middle. I remember doing this for a long time until after sunrise and more light. I did well over 20 runs doing this in and out of the building. When we were inside the building I can recall seeing firefighters coming down from the bridgehead. They looked exhausted but I didn't see any injuries.

I can't really recall what the falling debris looked like. I know some of it was alight as it was coming down and was smoking. I think some of the debris was light as it seemed to be floating as it came down.

After being released from doing the shield runs I recall being tasked to go and get tools to break into some of the flats. It was another White helmet that tasked me. I don't know who it was but I think his rank was above that of a Station Manager. He tasked me and 3 others to go into the tower to check for signs of life in various flats. These flats had been searched before but we were tasked with double-checking. Can't recall the exact tasking but I know we went up to around the 4th to the 6th floor. The other three firefighters who were tasked were FF PORTUPHY, FF PATEL and another FF that I didn't know. The firefighter that I didn't know wasn't from my watch. We were told to go up and search all the flats to see if they were empty of residents.

We weren't wearing Breathing Apparatus (BA) and I don't recall it being that smoky when we first went up. We took with us a Crows Foot (CF) which would help us lever open doors, a Halligan Bar which is another tool used to effect entry through doors, a rubber mallet, a small crowbar, an enforcer and a sledgehammer. I carried the Halligan bar and the sledgehammer.

We all went up together. When we entered the tower at ground floor level we went through the main door and I saw the stairs directly in front of us as we entered from the west side. We went up these stairs and then there was another stone staircase leading up. I remember it wasn't very wide, two people would have had trouble passing each other on the stairs.

The stairs were pretty narrow in relation to other stairs I have experienced in other new build blocks. I think there was lights in the stairwell and I do recall water coming down the stairs. It reached up to a level

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which would have been at the top of my shoe. I can't recall much smoke in the stairwell as we were going up. I didn't have any trouble breathing.

I couldn't see any floor numbers but after going up a few flights of stairs I remember leaving the stairwell and going into a lobby off which were a number of flats. I can't recall seeing a lift I remember that there were flats to my left and right but I can't recall which way I went. At each flat we would knock on the door, if it was shut or ajar, and shout something like "London Fire Brigade can anyone hear me". If there was no reply and the flat door was shut we would force entry and then undertake a search of the flat. If the door was open we would just go in and search.

Sometimes when we enter a flat, (not wearing breathing apparatus) we would all be together, two of us at most times or solo. I did force entry to some flats but I can't recall how many or their door numbers. I didn't find any casualties or dead bodies. I remember that all the flats were fire-damaged.

Eventually on one of the floors as we moved higher, there was smoke and we were forced to return to the ground floor. Once back on the ground floor, inside the main foyer, I was again tasked by a white helmet to help out with the police riot shields, bringing people in and out. I also recall helping fire fighters with brining hose lengths in through the main entrance using the riot shields. After this I went outside to try to find some water to drink.

I found some water and took it on board. There were many bottles of water just laying around outside. I don't believe I was deployed again that night as I believe our crew was being relieved by another crew so we could leave. I remember being tired, very tired. When I was outside I did see some casualties walk out of the building. I remember seeing a man, a woman and a child but I don't think they were a family. I can't really remember what they looked like.

Outside there were lots of members of the public, many of whom were distressed. I spoke to some of them to try to comfort them, to reassure them that everything was being done to sort the situation. I recall hearing one member of the public speaking to another fire fighter. The man was telling the fire fighter that his brother was trapped somewhere in the building. I remember then just resting until about midday when we were relieved. I was mainly in the ramp area that I had indicated earlier. I helped deliver water to fire fighters that needed it during this time.

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Form MG11(T)

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An officer that I didn't know drove us back to Paddington fire station in minibus as our appliance was still being utilised to pump water to the Richmond appliance. Here we made our statement before the same officer drove us back in the minibus to Kentish Town fire station. I remember there was a senior officer at Paddington asking if we were OK and trying to look after our welfare.

I don't know how long we were at Paddington but we were there for over an hour. I produce a copy of the notes that I compiled at Paddington as my exhibit AMD/3.

I went home and had a shower and change of clothes. I then paraded for duty at 2000 the same night.

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