

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: BRODERICK, BENJAMIN

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

Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 8 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: B BRODERICK

Date: 23/02/2018

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

This is a statement regarding the Grenfell Tower fire and my role at this incident.

In this statement I will mainly refer to nine of my LFB colleagues, Watch Manager (WM) O'KEEFE, Crew Managers (CM) STERN, SEPHTON and DAVIS and Firefighters HIPPEL, MURPHY, CORNELIUS, BRODRICK and O'HANLON.

I am also aware that I am entitled to have representation during this interview, so I have requested that my London Fire Union representative Nigel COX, and Station Manager Ben KING are present for the duration of this interview. I have prepared notes to assist my recall of events that took place that morning of the 14th June 2017. I exhibit these documents as:

BJB/1 - Original notes made at Paddington on the date of the incident sometime between 1300hrs – 1500hrs hours.

BJB/2 - Additional notes made by myself on 02/12/2017. I was asked not to read directly from my notes that I had prepared 02/12/2017 and therefore found it hard to use them during the interview.

BJB/3 - Map of the area with locations and exit routes added.

My name is Benjamin James BRODERICK, [REDACTED] I am employed by the London Fire Brigade as a trained fire fighter (FF) based at Kensington Fire Station (G33) attached to Red Watch. I have been posted to Kensington for the entire eleven years of my service as a FF. I joined the London Fire Brigade in July 2006, and completed the four months basic training which was based at Southwark training school. During the training we were taught to use a broad range of fire-fighting equipment, such as our Breathing Apparatus (B/A). As well as undertaking FF awareness, first aid training and a variety of

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other training, until we reached a competent level to be deployed at a fire station. In November 2006, on completion of my initial training, I was posted to Kensington Fire Station Red Watch.

When joining the watch as a newly trained FF you are required to complete a development book this usually takes somewhere between a year and a half, to three years.

I've also been trained as an Emergency Fire Appliance Driver, I completed this training around 6 years ago. Being a driver enables me to drive the pump ladder. The training involved me passing my HGV licence, and the Emergency Fire Appliance Driving (EFAD) training which includes skid pan training and Emergency response, as well as other more advanced driving training.

As well as station based training we are also required to complete a number of compulsory training courses. For example:-

Every year we receive a compulsory one day B/A refresher training course, and every two years you are also required to attend a two day B/A refresher course.

Every three years we also have to complete our immediate emergency care ticket. (slightly advanced first aid). Once a year a trainer will also come to the station and deliver training and updates on the current knowledge and recommended practice.

In terms of High rise training, we cover it every couple of months but are limited in what we can actually recreate physically.

We also do theory lectures which cover things like on arrival tactics, which would include things like how we set up at the incident what machines do what etc. These for the most part are Guidelines and best practice. The drill towers at neighbouring stations are our best source of practical training. We tend to use Paddington's tower which is a plain concrete tower of about 7 floors, which has a concrete staircase running up the middle interior. It has a dry riser with outlets on the floors to allow us to plug in our hoses and use water. We can also pitch ladders and simulate as best as possible high rise tactics.

During my service I've attended a few high rise fires, most recently and perhaps notably was one in Shepherds Bush, that was probably a year or two ago. I don't recall which floor it started on, but it ended up involving two or three floors. I would say that was the second biggest high rise fire I've attended.

On Wednesday the 13th of June 2017 I reported for duty at Kensington Fire Station at 20:00 hours and was assigned driver of G331 Pump Ladder for that shift. On completion of roll call I undertook my vehicle checks. This would include checking equipment and B/A kits were stored correctly and in working condition ready for use, doing checks to make sure the pump was in working condition and the

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vehicle was road worthy etc. I then tested my B/A set. This is compulsory practice at the start of a shift for the designated driver and crew. I do not recall anything of note prior to the call coming in.

At around 00:55 hours we received a call. I made my way down to the watch room where FF HIPPEL had the tip sheet (call information message). The call was to a fire at Grenfell Tower, Lancaster Estate. I was driving, WM O'KEEFFE was in the officer in charge's seat (front passenger), CM STERN sat directly behind me and FF HIPPEL sat behind WM O'KEEFFE, FF MURPHY and FF CORNELIUS were sat in the middle seats.

I was not familiar with Grenfell Tower by name and have limited knowledge of the area as it is not on our ground. I have not been in the estate before, so I wasn't aware if it had a "stay put" policy, or if it had been implemented or even rescinded. The policy is basically advice which is given to residents by 999 calls, or on notice boards as part of fire safety advice within buildings. It basically tells residents of buildings like Grenfell, if you can't leave safely stay put and we will come and get you.

We approached the tower via Grenfell Road. The road was narrow and access for appliances to the building was difficult. There were vehicles parked either side of the road. By the time you got near the entrance to the tower the road was only wide enough for one appliance. So we were pretty much in single file. I don't recall any radio traffic en route.

I pulled up behind North Kensington's Pump and Pump Ladder. We all exited the Fire Engine my initial concern as the driver was to see if the other drivers needed any help setting up. As a driver you are usually the one running around, finding hydrants, getting them set in and helping set up hose. There was a paved area to the right of us, we couldn't access this area due to the bollards along it. There was also a small grass area to the front the tower.

At that time the fire was visible in a window on the 4th floor and seemed to be confined to that point. Outside directly under the window a covering jet had been laid out and charged. Water was being directed around the affected window. FF ARCHER (G36 Hammersmith) was on the branch. FF MURPHY and FF CORNELIUS relieved FF ARCHER and took control of the covering jet.

I can remember a few members of public watching on but, don't recall seeing any large groups of people at that time. They were gathered to our left facing towards the east side of the tower watching what was going on. At this point the only appliances on scene were North Kensington's two appliances, us and Hammersmith's Pump.

I could see the North Kensington appliances in front of me were setting up, so I went to see if the drivers needed help. I found FF BILLS (G27 North Kensington) near the area with the overhang on the south side

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of the tower. He was driving one of North Kensington's appliances. I asked if he needed any assistance but he said they were pretty much done.

Within that initial period I was contacted by WM O'KEEFFE and told to send a message to make pumps 6 (appliances) plus 1 aerial. I asked WM O'KEEFFE if he required a specific aerial. He said "no just whatever is nearest".

As I was making my way back to my pump ladder to send the message, I remember looking up at the tower. The fire could be seen on the fourth floor on the east side of the tower slightly to the right of the middle of the tower inside the flat. It looked to me like the window had gone like it was either open or broken within its frame. First impression, I wasn't overly concerned by the fire, It certainly didn't look out of control or to big at this point, just an orange flame in a window. My first thoughts were not overly concerning, just getting on with what needed to be done at that point.

Once at my appliance, I radioed control using the priority button on our radio. Control came back and asked me to go ahead with my priority message. I relayed the message given to me by WM O'KEEFFE. Control received the message of making Pumps 6 and 1 Aerial. I knew this had been received as the request was relayed back to me after a few seconds as confirmation.

After sending the message and exiting our appliance I could see that the fire had spread quickly in a straight vertical line to the 5th and 6th floor windows, outside along the facade of the building. In the time that it had taken me to send the message the fire had made rapid progression up the building. I began to get more concerned as it was clear the fire was moving very quickly, and in a very straight vertical line. It looked to me like the facade of the building was on fire, because the fire seemed to be moving behind it going up in straight columns. As you looked at it you could see the fire moving up the tower.

I then saw CM DAVIS (G36 Hammersmith) just outside the Tower. I know him from standing by at Hammersmith, and he has also been to us on standby. I informed him that I had just sent a message from WM O'KEEFFE ordering extra appliances and an aerial, and that I was concerned that there would be significant issues with access because of the limited space, and fire appliances parked as they were.

Vehicles would need to be moved before the aerials arrival. Because of the narrow road, other vehicles, restrictions such as bollards and the positioning of some of the appliances attending, I asked CM DAVIS to help me move a couple of Fire Engines by seeing me back and making sure no on coming appliances blocked access.

I decided to move our pump ladder (G331). CM DAVIS stood behind and saw me back as I reversed along GRENFELL ROAD passed the junction of BOMORE ROAD. Once safely positioned I made my

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way to the next obstructing appliance. I don't remember which fire station it belonged too but I knew it had to be moved. Again CM DAVIS watched me reverse the appliance back near to wear I had repositioned G331.

I don't really have any real recollection of time it took to reposition the appliances; I do remember thinking that we had done a important job, now there was less to impede the Aerial upon its arrival at the incident. As I was getting out of driver's door of the unknown appliance, Hammersmith's second appliance (G361 Pump Ladder) also arrived. CM DAVIS told me to jump back on my machine get kitted up and get rigged in B/A and make a crew with members of G361 that had just arrived.

I didn't take much time to get kitted up, I got my tunic, which was on the back of the driver's seat, and then rest of my gear from the near side front locker. I then got on the back of the pump where my B/A set is stored and put my set on. Once my B/A was on I made sure my personal radio was switched on. I've then made my way towards the G361 which was near the junction of BOMORE ROAD and GRENFELL ROAD. CM SEPHTON (G36 Hammersmith) and FF BRODRICK (G36 Hammersmith) and I formed a crew and made our way along GRENFELL ROAD towards the tower.

I'm unable to recall exactly how much time had passed since changing into my set and meeting the G36 crew. This was when I got my third view of the fire. Again it was clear the fire had spread quickly. The fire was at least two thirds of the way up the east side of the tower.

We made our way along GRENFELL ROAD towards the tower until we reached the south side of the tower where the entrance was situated. I have marked this section on exhibit BJB/3. We entered the tower. The lobby area was a big open space, there was a glass partition wall to the right which was where the staircase leading to the mezzanine level was. To the left there was an open corridor at the end of which there was another room. I wasn't aware what was in the room at the time, but this was the room where FF CORNELIUS and I later made the emergency exit/entrance. Straight ahead slightly to the left as you entered is where I think the lift was. I wasn't aware if the lift was in operation as we only used the stairs. But because of this I take it that it was not. We got to the mezzanine level donned and started our B.A handed in our tallies to be booked in with entry control, started up and made our way up the stairs. I cannot remember the exact location of the Entry Control Board (ECB) but it was before you got to the main staircase leading to the upper levels.

The ECB is system we use when entering an incident, they are controlled by a designated operator known as the Entry Control Officer (ECO). WM O'KEEFE was at the Entry Control Point, but I'm not sure who was actually running the board at the time. The officer collects each firefighter's Tally prior to them being

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committed inside an incident. The tallies are taken from the B/A then placed into the ECB, a B.A Tally will show the FF's Name, Rank, Time Of Entry and Cylinder Pressure. When the tally is entered into the board the board and the set then begin to share data. You can see the current pressure on a wearers set, Time To Whistle, which is how long they have left until they should exit among other things. After handing our Tallies to WM O'KEEFE we were given our brief to fire fight search and rescue on the fifth floor.

FF BRODRICK led I followed with a sledge hammer I had acquired somewhere on route and CM SEPHTON was behind with a Thermal Image Camera (TIC). The staircase was narrow especially when wearing FF uniform with B.A and hose running up the stairs. Visibility was ok and I don't remember feeling any heat. As we moved up the staircase I could see that hoses had already been laid down going up towards the fourth floor. This made the already narrow staircase even more restrictive. It was difficult as we were in full B/A carrying up our equipment, walking over the hoses and trying to allowing enough space for the residents to pass us. As you can imagine we had to be careful how and where we walked to ensure that we avoided any accidents or injuries. There were residents passing us on the narrow staircase trying to flee the fire. I cannot recall the number of resident that passed us on route to the fifth floor, but I would say it was certainly in double figures. At no point do I remember hearing any kind of fire alarm actuating.

On reaching the 5th floor the visibility had started to reduce a little and there was a slight haze within the staircase leading up beyond. The door was to our right and closed. As we prepared to enter the 5th floor landing the door to the stairwell then opened and FF ARCHER (G36 Hammersmith) came out. Thick black smoke billowed out from the open door. Visibility quickly became impaired but it slowly improved as the smoke rose up the stairwell. FF ARCHER was waiting for his partner to exit, but had to shut the door as to try to prevent any more smoke logging in the stairwell. Within a few seconds of the door being closed the door was pushed open again from the inside, this time FF ABLE (G27 North Kensington) exited. He was carrying a branch (hose)

We had a brief exchange on the stairs FF ARCHER and FF ABLE told us that you couldn't see anything inside the main lobby, they had tried to access a flat round to the right but they didn't get very far and had to withdraw. Both FF's looked tired and had noticeably been working hard in what were zero visibility conditions. FF ABLE passed the branch over to FF BRODRICK, I'm assuming the dry risers were working on the floor as the hose was already attached, however I was never on branch so would not be in a position to know if there were any issues with the water pressure, CM SEPHTON had control of the

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TIC, FF ABLE and FF ARCHER made their way back down the staircase. FF BRODRICK led the way into the lobby carrying the branch while I was carrying the sledgehammer and CM SEPHTON followed up behind as the door way to the landing area closed as best as possible on the hose reducing the amount of smoke entering the stairwell.

Upon entering the 5th floor visibility immediately became zero. As far as I'm aware no one was familiar with the layout of the floors. A decision was made to follow the right hand wall as we believed the fire was on the right side of the building and that was the direction the previous crew had been heading. We slowly made our way along using the right hand wall as a guide.

As we moved slowly along we passed what could have been either a cupboard or bin area before we reached a door to a flat. It was noticeable that the temperature had risen, it was definitely warmer but not overly hot that would suggest that the fire was in our immediate vicinity. We followed the wall around to what we believed to be the first flat. There was some heat but not anything that would make you overly concerned about what you were entering. The smoke layer was floor to ceiling, thick and black. You couldn't see your hand in front of your face. I'm not sure if the door was open or not, but I definitely didn't have break the door open to gain entry. As we entered the flat I couldn't tell if the door had any fire safety precautions, like fire door closers on it. FF BRODRICK entered holding the branch I followed leaving the sledgehammer next to the flat entrance and CM SEPHTON was behind carrying the TIC. Once inside the flat visibility was still zero, we moved slowly along the hallway checking any rooms we came across for possible occupants on the way, still using the right hand wall as our guide. CM SEPHTON tried using the TIC to locate the seat of the fire and possible occupants/casualties inside. Unfortunately the TIC had whited out, this means the screen display was completely white and unreadable, it could be the ambient temperature was higher than the recommended levels for the camera, apparently this can cause a white out or it could be the TIC was rubbish as we've had problems with them in past. I believe we must have reached about halfway down the hallway before we forced to stop due to our hose snagging.

This can sometimes occur during an incident when a hose has been stretched out for a long distance. In this case the hose had come from within the staircase, across the lobby and into the flat and somewhere along the way it had snagged on something. I made my way back along the hose to the flat entrance and managed to shuffle the hose along so that we could move further forward within the flat. I then made my way back to my crew. Once back behind my colleagues we moved further into the flat along the hallway, I think we made it to the end of the hallway before the hose snagged again. CM SEPHTON suggested that

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we should withdraw, make our way back across the lobby and down to the fourth floor to get some idea of how the fourth floor was laid out, as this would give us a greater understanding of the area we were working within. At the same time we could free up and gather more hose.

We made our way back following the wall and the route in which we had come. Upon reaching the staircase door CM SEPTHON pushed the door open into the stairwell landing, CM SEPTHON lead the way with FF BRODRICK and myself following, within a few seconds we made our way down the stairs towards the fourth floor, We all managed to take a brief look through the door into the fourth floor lobby, the visibility was much better on this level, although there was still smoke inside you could still get an understanding of how and where the flats were located and duplicated upstairs on the fifth.

We started trying to identify which of the hoses laid on the stairs was ours, find it and free it up. We found the hose that we had been using, it was twisted and trapped under other hose and needed straightening out. We each grabbed a section of the hose and started to shuffle, pull and untwist the hose. We must have been doing this for few minutes or so, just shuffling the hose up the stairs step by step until we'd reached the fifth floor. It was difficult, tiring and hard work in very difficult conditions. We gathered as much hose as we could for us to make progress on the fifth floor again. During my time in the stairwell I don't recall seeing anyone else trying to leave or go up the building, but that said I was focused on what we were doing. There could of I just don't remember seeing anyone.

This fire had started to concern me as the smoke was showing absolutely no sign of letting up, we thought we had been close to the seat of the fire but we had found no fire during our searches. There were large volumes of smoke but no audible alarm activations or sprinklers systems present on the floors visited by me, which I thought was strange in itself for a building of this size. If there had been audible alarms or sprinklers systems that might have helped. And more people may have got out of there.

We had just reached the fifth floor landing area so took a few seconds to compose ourselves before entering the fifth floor lobby area. FF BRODRICK took the branch again, CM SEPHTON had the TIC and I followed up behind. The door was pulled open, the smoke billowed into the stairwell again, just as thick and black, still floor to ceiling, still zero visibility. We slowly made our way towards the flat we had been to previously to continue Fire Fighting, search and rescue. We walked along the right hand side using the wall as our guide until we reached the flat again. FF BRODRICK and CM SEPHTON went in first as I held back at the doorway where I shuffled the hose along so it went further. I have then made my way along the hallway behind CM SEPTHON. It was around this time that I heard one of them say that their B/A gage was low, we tried to make one last attempt to get further but the hose had started to

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become snagged again we decided it would be better if we withdrew as we had not really come across much during our search. We made our way back to the flat entrance, I collected the sledgehammer and made our way back along the wall towards the stairwell and the fifth floor landing area. FF BRODRICK carried the branch back to the stairwell where it was left behind and CM SEPTHON carried the TIC. In my original notes I have mentioned that I have looked out of window and seen the fire was going up the side of the building, I have not mentioned this during interview as I cannot remember where I was when I had seen this, I can only think that it was during our first visit to the fifth floor flat when I was briefly separated when searching the inside of the flat in a room along the hallway. But I honestly cannot remember where I was.

We reached the mezzanine level which was busy, there were crews coming and going, it was busy but there was an element of control, nobody was panicking, just getting on with their tasks they had been set. I shut down my B.A set, removed my mask and collected my tally. WM O'KEEFE was still at the ECB, we briefly informed him of which floor we'd been to, what we had done and the general poor conditions on the floor we had been to. We then made our way out through the mezzanine floor towards the staircase to the lobby, there were fire crews coming up the stairs, so our progress downstairs was slow as we gave those going coming up priority. The ground floor lobby was busy.

Upon exiting the lobby area and walking outside the tower, I made my way to the grass area. As I approached the grass area, I could see FF HIPPLE, FF CORNELIOUS, FF MURPHY and CM STERN from my crew at Kensington sitting down resting and taking on some fluids, getting themselves rehydrated. I placed my B/A set on the ground and sat down on the grass with them, someone passed me some water so that I could rehydrate myself. I have marked this area on the map (Exhibit BJB/3). As I sat on the grass I began looking up at the tower, I could see that a large part of the front of the tower above the fourth floor was on fire, it looked as though the facia was alight, the flames had taken hold and were yellow and orange in colour, thick black smoke was now billowing out and debris falling down from various parts of the tower. I could see that there were people leaning out of windows, but you couldn't hear anything due to the noise being produced from the fire and the work going on. I cannot remember specifically which floor they were on though it was high up. I could also see that someone had tied some bed linen together and this had been hung out down the side of the tower, I didn't see anyone trying to use it to escape.

We rested for a few minutes. There was then a call for help casualty handling. FF CORNELIUS and I decided to make our way back towards the entrance to see if we could help ambulance crews with

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casualties exiting the building. As we made our way there were large amounts of debris falling onto the ground around us. We were just outside the main entrance to the building when an officer who I didn't know approached and asked us if we were busy, as he had a job that needed doing. We had not yet started to do anything so went to help.

We waited until we felt there was a sufficient gap between the falling debris and ran across through the entrance and into the entrance lobby. Once inside the lobby I could see that it was intensely busy. There were more officers and FF's were getting ready to either go up the tower or exit it. I also believe that the fire survival guidance had started as there people were writing flat numbers on walls and relaying various information to Entry Control.

The officer led us round to the left down to the far end where there was a large room. As you entered the room straight ahead at the rear of the room there was a large UPVC window and panelling which had a roller shutter covering it.

Once inside the officer told us that we needed to make entrance /exit to assist firefighters entry and exit, and use for casualty evacuations because the main entrance was becoming compromised and too dangerous to use.

Myself and FF CORNELIUS took turns using a sledgehammer to smash the window, window frame and panelling. We must have been doing this for a few minutes when we were joined by FF O'HANLON from Hammersmith, he helped us brake and remove the remaining pieces of the frames until it was big enough to be used safely as a doorway. I'm not sure when but we were also joined by FF ARCHER (G36 Hammersmith)

Once the new doorway was made I remember feeling drained so I sat down on the floor and rested with my back up against the wall. I don't know who but someone gave me some water to drink which really helped me feel better. Another officer came inside the room, I didn't know this officer either, I remembering him saying something along the lines of "Good job boys, well done we can start using this now". The message was then sent for BA crews to start using the entrance we had created. I have marked this on the MAP I exhibit this on BJB/3. This entrance became the main entry/ exit point for everyone who wanted access in or out of the tower and was operational nigh on immediately. At some point I was separated from FF Cornelius who had been taken to do another task.

Looking to help FF O'HANLON, FF ARCHER (G36 Hammersmith) and I made our way out of the room back into the main lobby area. I could see there were fightfigters with casualties, they were escorting them down the stairs from the mezzanine floor to the lobby, nobody actually directed us to do this, but

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myself FF ARCHER and FF O'HANLON went over to help. We took the casualty that had been brought out by the BA crew from the bottom of the stairs in the main lobby. We then took them through to the room where we had made the Entry/Exit, and ran them across past a playground area to another group of Firefighters the other side. They then passed them to ambulance staff. The ambulance crews were unable to enter the building due to falling debris and lack of access. We then re-enter the building to collect more casualties.

By this point large groups of B/A crews had started to gather in the room waiting to be committed. We repeated this over and over, collecting casualties at the bottom of the stairs and extracting them to awaiting crews outside. We started a system. As we were coming out with a casualty we would borrow a helmet off of one of the incoming Firefighters, who were waiting to be committed. We would put this helmet on the casualty to help protect them from the falling debris. We would then wait holding the casualty at the Entrance/Exit. A Firefighter on the other side would then act as a spotter looking up at the building for falling debris. You could hear the loud noises of the fire, lumps of metal, burning pieces of insulation and glass falling to the ground. When it was believed to be safe they would signal and we would run the casualties across and hand them over removing the helmet. The guys would then escort the casualty to the LAS. I have no idea where the LAS were actually located or how many LAS crews were on scene. I have marked the route taken by myself on the map which has been exhibited as BJB/3. We would then come back, return the FF's helmet and go to collect another casualty

I would say we helped many casualties that night, I wouldn't be able to say exactly how many though. Of the casualties I saw that evening, some were old, some young, some black, some white, some conscious and able, some unconscious. But there were a few casualties that really stuck in my mind. There was a little black girl she looked about the same age as my daughter she was four maybe five years old, she was unconscious when I was carrying her. Her body was so small and she was just limp and unresponsive. I also remember a little black boy, he was about five to seven years old, I remember his eyes were open but he was really struggling to breath, he looked in a bad way. I remember saying to keep breathing mate we're going to get you out, we're going to help you. Another lad I remember came through he was walking he seemed okay, I remember as we were waiting to leave the tower, he looked at me and said "My brother has died".

I remember lots of elderly people being escorted, one elderly woman with a light coloured head scarf was walking slowly, she was shuffling along and didn't want to be carried out, and it was like I was pulling her along to get her out.

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I think I must have escorted four or five people from the tower before we were given some police riot shields to protect us, during the time without the shields I never received any injuries. I had various debris from the tower hit my helmet and body but nothing which have me sustain an injury, however I know that FF O'HANLON was burnt by some falling debris during the time we were casualty handling.

It was a stressful task. I know at some point during the casualty handling, I was made aware that there had been a few jumpers from the tower I don't recall who told me I just remember hearing it mentioned I can also recall briefly seeing a firefighter dragging a body by the ankles from across the front of the exit/entrance doorway from the right side to the left. I didn't know who the firefighter was, or whether the person being dragged away was alive or dead, male or female, or where the body was being taken too, it was just something I remember seeing.

I wouldn't know how long we were actually casualty handling but it seemed like hours. It was I think it was the longest time I did a single task at the incident, it was very tiring. I think I'd asked WM WATSON from Hammersmith if we were getting any assistance or if we were getting relieved from these duties, it was literally just the three of us, full time doing this task. We were eventually relieved from our duties, I wasn't aware of the time, how many or even which firefighters replaced us. Myself, FF O'HANLON and FF ARCHER made our way out of the tower by basically walking along the same route we'd been using earlier for the casualty handling, that's when I eventually noticed that it had begun to get light. We walked along the west side, and away from the tower.

Not too long after I met up with my crew. Various officers were around, and a few of the FF's were asked to gather up the cylinders (B/A's) that were scattered across the floor, some of the guys were asked to fetch water so that those still dealing with the fire could get hydrated. I remember collecting a few cylinders from the ground and leaving them near to the leisure centre, it was very busy and there were more Pumps parked around the tower, it seemed frantic a hive of activity, pumps and firefighters were everywhere. Occasionally an officer would ask some of the crew to run a message.

I hadn't seen WM O'KEEFFE since I had left the building so was unaware of his whereabouts.

I'm not sure how long we were collecting cylinders and doing other tasks. After a while a meeting was held by the leisure centre by an officer I did not know. It was an update as to what was going on, although I can't remember the details.

Sometime shortly after the Meeting WM O'KEEFFE rejoined us. We reported to the Command Unit to see if we were going to be released. We were held for a while and eventually dismissed from the scene, but would still need to go to Paddington for a debrief. We found our pump ladder which was blocked in

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by the other pumps in attendance, there was no way we would be moving our pump ladder any time soon, so we tried to locate the next available van or truck we could use. Eventually we found a USAR Van parked at a junction with Ladbroke Grove. I took the keys from the driver and we left the incident. I think it was around 1300 hrs when we left the scene of the fire and headed Paddington

When we arrived at Paddington I parked the van up, I could see that there were people gathered around the bay area of the station, we alighted from the van and made our way to the bay area. I had no idea what was happening, but myself and my crew remained here for while, we were eventually approached by an officer, someone who is unknown to me, he explained to all the firefighters waiting that we would be required to make our own initial statement, before we can be released to Kensington. I have never made notes like these before. After I had written my initial statement we had to visit the job counsellor, this was just a short introduction, giving them my name and my contact details. I have, since this date been contacted by them (counsellor). Upon completing my statement and the quick counsellor introductions, those that had finished hung around, rested for a bit and hydrated ourselves. Once my watch had completed their statements we left Paddington and made our way back to Kensington where were dismissed, this was around 1500hrs.

For the record I would like to clarify that I have never revisited Grenfell Tower since that fateful day in June 2017. I have neither spoken too or been contacted by any residents, press or council officials or members of the public since the fire in any shape or form.

My only contact with residents was during the incident when I spoke with the casualties that I helped extract when I was causality handling, this was only to provide reassurances that we were getting them safely out and not any actual conversations about the fire, my main goal was to evacuate those that had to get out.

I did not sustain any injuries at the incident and I have not been affected by it since other than being shocked that something like this could happen. The fire at Grenfell Tower was an unusually big fire which I hope will never happen again on this scale.

I have provided an account to the best of my abilities for the situation that I found myself involved with on the night and day of 13th and 14th June 2017.

Signature: B BRODERICK
2018

Signature witnessed by:

OFFICIAL

Statement of: BRODERICK, BENJAMIN

OFFICIAL

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2018

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