

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: SWADDLING, BRYAN PETER

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

Occupation: FIRE INVESTIGATOR

This statement (consisting of 4 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 SWADDLING

Date: 09/02/2018

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

Statement of Bryan Peter SWADDLING

1. I, Bryan SWADDLING, am a Watch Manager (WM) in the London Fire Brigade (LFB). I have been employed by the Fire Authority for 23 years and held my present rank for 9 years. I have been attached to the London Fire Brigade Fire Investigation Team for the past 3 years. My Fire Investigation qualifications include, a two week Fire Investigation theory course, the Gardiners Practical Fire Investigation Course, the Bond Solon Expert Witness Course and Bond Solon Advance Professional Certificate in Investigative Practice. I also undertake training within the Brigade's Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme. I have carried out in excess of 250 fire scene investigations. I have attended Coroners Court and Crown Court to provide evidence regarding Fire Investigations.
2. This statement is in relation to a fire I attended at Flat 16, Grenfell Tower, Lancaster West Estate. W11 1TG. On the 14th June 2017.
3. I will be referring to the following people:
WM LEAVER — LFB Fire Investigation Red Watch
WM REED — LFB Fire Investigation Red Watch
WM GIRLING — LFB Fire Investigation Red Watch
WM KENT - LFB Fire Investigation Blue Watch

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WM WILKINSON — LFB Fire Investigation Blue Watch
Station Manager (SM) ROBINSON — LFB Fire Investigation
Group Manager (GM) PUGSLEY — LFB Fire Investigation
Mr JOLLIFFE — Bureau Veritas (Scientific Advisor for LFB)
Mr TUCKER — Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Operational Forensic Manager for this incident

4. I will be referring to the following premises; - Flat 16, Grenfell Tower, Lancaster West Estate. W11 1TG, this is a 24 storey tower block, of concrete slab frame construction, built circa 1970. Grenfell Tower was supplied with mains gas and 230v electricity throughout.
5. On the 14th June 2017, I reported early for the day duty at Dowgate Fire Investigation Team. I was aware of the fire at Grenfell Tower due to news coverage and conversations in the office with other investigators. WM KENT was contacted via phone by GM PUGSLEY to arrange for our attendance at Grenfell Tower to continue the investigation. WM KENT and myself checked our vans and equipment and then proceeded to Grenfell Tower. WM WILKINSON was asked to attend Paddington Fire Station to assist SM ROBINSON with contemporaneous notes of initial fire crews who were returning there from the incident as a pre arranged measure to ensure the capture of initial information.
6. WM KENT and I arrived on scene at 10:48 hours. Phone contact was made with WM LEAVER, the initial fire investigator, who was about to go to an interview. WM REED was with WM LEAVER and agreed to meet us at Stonleigh Place.
7. WM REED gave WM KENT and myself an appraisal of the situation. We then went to locate and meet with WM LEAVER and WM GIRLING to discuss the latest information about the incident. GM PUGSLEY met with us and a fire investigation rendezvous point was set up on the pavement on Grenfell Road, opposite Bomore Road.
8. WM's REED and KENT went up to Flat 16 to assess the flat and decide a plan for our investigation. WM GIRLING and I went to the Fire Investigation vans and collected equipment required for the investigation.
9. We all met back at our rendezvous point and we were joined by WM WILKINSON, who had left Paddington Fire Station to assist us at the request of GM PUGSLEY, owing to the work to be undertaken, time restraints being placed on the investigation and due to building stability issues.

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10. GM PUGSLEY joined us and we discussed our plan. Following the formulation of our plan, GM PUGSLEY got agreement of our plan from the MPS Operational Forensic Manager Mr TUCKER to carry out our investigation due to unknown time limits with the incident. We knew that there were time constraints as the incident was ongoing with fire fighting, search and rescue operations still taking place.
11. It was decided that WM KENT and WM WILKINSON would carry out the investigation, I would photograph the progress and scene. Following our final safety briefing we gathered our equipment and made our way to Flat 16.
12. Entry into flat 16 was via the open door, which led into a hallway. On the right hand side of the hall was a low level cupboard containing the electrical meter and consumer unit. The Residual Current Circuit Breaker (RCCD) and kitchen socket (rated B32) Miniature Circuit Breaker (MCB) had operated. The main switched was in the off position.
13. Once we had viewed all the rooms and from our observations and the information received we focused our attention to the kitchen.
14. After the initial photographs were taken we formed a relay to remove the water from the flat into the fourth floor landing and out via a lift shaft. This was due to the large quantity of water from fire fighting and we needed to clear the floor before we started our examination.
15. To assist in the removal of the water from the floor of the flat, the entrance door's threshold strip was removed. During this process the fourth floor landing became the bridgehead for fire fighting, due to the deterioration of conditions above.
16. We were joined by Mr JOLLIFFE who would assist/advise us in our investigation.
17. The debris in front of the fridges was cleared of large items (dining chairs and table legs) and the floor gridded using tape. The grid was photographed, then one section at a time was photographed and placed into a corresponding numbered bag. The bag was placed in the living room for inspection/collection later.
18. The top door to the fridge freezer had fallen from its position and was on the floor, it was held back in position for photographing. It was then placed into an evidence bag and placed to one side. Sampled as (BPS2).
19. The debris on the left side of the fridge freezer was examined. Electrical wires and contacts were identified, we were not sure where these wires had fallen from, so they were placed into a plastic bag for protection and inspection later. Due to time constraints these wires were sampled (BPS3).

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20. The compressor had become separated due to fire damage from the base. The compressor pipe was cut, to allow ease of sampling. The compressor was removed and sampled (BPS4).
21. The fridge freezer was laid on its side to allow the base to be photographed and inspected. The fridge freezer was then completely wrapped in plastic and sampled (BPS1).
22. The wall and wiring behind the fridge freezer was photographed. At that point we were informed that there was a possibility of the building collapsing and we all had to evacuate immediately, leaving everything in situ. We all made our way out of the tower and returned to the Fire Investigation rendezvous point.
23. GM PUGSLEY joined us and we informed him about our investigation and the samples, including the fridge freezer that were ready to remove, as the possible cause of the fire and their importance into the fire investigation, we requested to be allowed to return into the building to retrieve them. We were advised to rest/recover and GM PUGSLEY said he would get back to us with a way forward.
24. GM PUGSLEY reported back that he had gained permission for us to re enter the tower for the specific removal of samples from flat 16. WM KENT, WM WIKLINSON, Mr JOLIFFE and myself would retrieve the samples and then leave the tower, within a fifteen minute time window.
25. Before re entering it was agreed that WM KENT and WM WILKINSON would remove the fridge freezer. Mr JOLLIFFE would remove the wall wiring from behind the fridge freezer (BPS5), plus some samples. I would remove our equipment and any remaining samples.
26. Removal of items from the flat was made difficult due to the large quantity of water, hoses and equipment being in the staircase.
27. Once we left the building we headed for the FI rendezvous point. Once there all the samples were checked and all paperwork was completed by myself. The samples were always kept under the control of FI for continuity, including the removal to FI DOWGATE.
28. It was agreed with GM PUGSLEY and MPS Operational Forensic Manager Mr TUCKER that the samples would be taken to FI DOWGATE. It was also mentioned that the samples would need to be opened to reduced the deterioration of them.
29. I completed my contemporaneous notes and the samples were removed to DOWGATE.
30. Throughout the investigation I recorded the scene with the aid of a digital camera. Upon my return to the office I burnt the images onto a "WORM" type CD. This statement was made with reference to contemporaneous notes and photographs.

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Statement of: SWADDLING, BRYAN PETER

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