

STATEMENT PRINT

Surname: HARRIMAN

Forenames: DANIEL

Age: Date of Birth:

Address:

Postcode:

Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

Telephone No:

Statement Date: 03/12/2017

Appearance Code:
Height (From):

Build:
Height (To):

Hair Details: Position Style Colour

Left Eye Colour:

Right Eye Colour:

Complexion1:

Complexion2:

Glasses Worn:

Glasses Use::

Accent Details: General Specific Qualifier

Number of Pages: 4

I am the above named person and make this statement of my own free will to assist in the investigation into the Grenfell Tower fire on the 14th June 2017 (14/06/2017). I am a Crew manager based on Red watch at Paddington Fire Station.

I have served within the London Fire Brigade for some 14 years.

On Friday the 10th November 2017 (10/11/2017) I was interviewed on audio disc. The interview took place at Paddington Fire Station and was conducted by DC PREOU and DC ROZARIO.

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In this statement I will talk about the day I was on duty and was tasked to attend the Grenfell Tower fire incident with other fire fighters as the Crew Manager on A213 (TL).

Within the statement I will mention the following people that I interacted with whilst at the incident. Fire Fighter Chris Reynolds, whom was hit by a falling casualty. I will now mention the following Fire Fighters who I had dealings with on the morning of the 14th June 2017 (14/06/2017). FF Christopher REYNOLDS, WM Michael DOWDEN, WM Steve COLLINS.

On Wednesday the 14th June 2017 (14/06/2017) I was on duty at my base as the Red watch Crew Manager on a night duty shift. I have been a Fire Fighter for approximately 14 years and the last 6 years I have been based at Paddington.

I have never had any previous dealings with Grenfell Tower or its immediate surrounding areas. I have had previous section 7 (2) D familiarisation visits to other tower blocks but none to Grenfell Tower. In relation to fire safety, I have never been attached to or worked within a Fire Safety Department. I have previously dealt with a fire on the 23rd floor of a high rise block of flats called Trellick Tower. This was a similar type of flat fire where we had problems with the water supply and the wet riser. However the flat contained the fire and did not spread further. I have received regular fire training at Park Royal by a company called Babcock Ltd. I consider myself competent in this field. Also Paddington has one of the highest training towers in London. I am not aware of any pre-prepared firefighting plan for Grenfell Tower or for firefighting when compartmentation fails in a high rise building.

Whilst at Paddington Fire Station I received from the Tip sheet printer information that there was a large fire at Grenfell Tower. Although the Tip sheet gives very limited information. At the time of ordering myself and my crew member Chris Reynolds travelled to the venue on call sign A213 which is a turn table ladder. We approached the venue from Holland Park Avenue and as we did so I noticed heavy traffic as we got nearer to the incident. We were mobilised to Grenfell Tower at 01.18 hrs. It took us around 11 minutes to get to the scene.

We turned left onto the Harrow Road got onto the A40. We took the next turning after Westfield shopping centre (as the main road from the A40 to the Holland park roundabout was closed) around Shepherds Bush into Bayswater Road. And continued into Grenfell Road. There were no traffic issues until we got close to Grenfell Tower where there were large amounts of parked vehicles in small side streets. My colleague Chris REYNOLDS drove the appliance and I was the operator/passenger. As we approached we could see the fully developed fire and the roads around the tower were busy with unattended vehicles.

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On arrival we parked the TL on the corner of Grenfell Tower nearest the front entrance to the building. We booked status 3 which means we are ready to be deployed. I liaised with WM Michael DOWDEN of North Kensington Red watch.

I could clearly see the fire was from about the 4th floor up to the 7th or 8th floor but only on the right hand side of the building was on fire at this point. The commanders would also have been aware of the fire spread as it was clear to see, although fire fighters would have been able to see the fire spread and feed this information back to the commanders. This job is not specialised. The fire was fully developed and progressing up the building. It was escalating pretty quickly. WM DOWDEN told us that he wanted the water tower up as soon as possible. We sited the turn table ladder (TL) in the middle of the building slightly to the right as you look at the front of the building. As the TL was being sited someone else got a monitor and we started to put water onto the building. We started to fight the fire. We sprayed the water but it didn't really make any impact. I noticed the cladding fixed on the outside of the tower had a gap between itself and the building. We put approximately 2000 litres of water per minute onto the face of the building but it did nothing. The fire was in the corner of the building which went straight up to the top then started travelling downwards. There was three sections on each side of the building, it would go up one section move across to the next section then drop down. Our vehicle stayed where it was as long as we could keep it there. Due to the falling debris hitting our vehicle and the ladder which I have never seen before. We were forced to move away. Large sheets of flaming tin and other materials were falling down from above. Myself and Chris REYNOLDS were nearly hit a few times by the falling debris. We reversed the TL back about 15 to 20 metres and parked it up under causeway and liaised with WM Steve COLLINS. He informed us that there was someone that needed rescuing 6 to 7 floors up. Though the TL could reach higher, due to the distance we were parked away from the building and the falling debris we could not physically reach the male. From the cage area I shouted at him to stay put until the internal crews got to him. The male was calm and said that his son was still in bed and that there was no smoke within his flat. He was a White middle aged guy. WM COLLINS was using a ground monitor to the side of the building. We used a hose reel from another machine to extinguish the burning debris from the mezzanine floor and cleared the area to stop it from catching on fire. After we did this we returned to the TL.

This was to fire fight on Grenfell Tower and cover surrounding risks. Whilst performing this role we attempted to change a burst 70mm hose along with other fire fighters that was supplying the Dry Riser. At this point I remember Fire Fighter REYNOLDS and one of the crew managers, although I do not know his name being struck by a falling casualty. I think the man must have hit a parapet wall on the way down as he had a leg missing. We never heard the male scream or shout as he fell due to the commotion around us. His right leg was missing. I helped the CM and FF REYNOLDS to their feet and luckily they seemed uninjured.

The casualty that fell I would describe as a middle aged Black man with no clothes on. I was shocked and was concerned about Chris and the CM. The dead man was removed from the area though I did not see who removed him.

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Due to the amount of falling debris we were unable to change the burst hose without sustaining possible injuries ourselves so we used a hose reel to extinguish the falling debris.

As the TL could not be used due to the amount of debris falling which would have caused damage to the pump we decided to put our BA gear over our shoulders and head to the holding area to see if we could assist.

Casualties were coming out of the tower some were being assisted by fire fighters getting them to medical help. We helped the police with their shields to get further people in and out of the side entrance to the building. This lasted for approximately 1 hour. We were eventually ordered by a WM whose name I also do not know to enter the lobby area of the tower.

As we entered the lobby area we saw lots of fresh water cascading down the stairs which I assumed was coming from burst hoses. I was not aware of any fire fighter lifts being used as I was outside the building for the majority of the time and only entered up the stairwell. I never heard any alarms being activated and saw no sprinklers visible. We put on our SDBA and then entered the ground floor lobby. Whilst in this area we assisted putting in light weight pumps and changing hoses.

Eventually we were instructed to go to the bridgehead. When we arrived there we were tasked to go to the 6th and 7th floors and check for casualties and sweep the area for any signs of fire. We were aware that these floors were previously checked by other fire fighters as we had spoken to other crews on our way up the stairwell. As these floors were clear we went up additional floors which were also clear but did have a few hot spots. All the doors appeared open on the 6th floor of the flats. We did not have to open any doors or windows on these floors as they were already open. Our vision was good but it was very hot and our BA sets were steaming up. By now it was around 07.00 hrs.

The 7th floor was similar to the 6 floor with extensive fire damage and hot spots. As we approached the floor we saw a very large dead female in the stairwell. The area within the stairwell was extremely tight so passing firefighters in the stairwell was restricted. By now we were running out of air so we decided to go back down. This was due to the fact we had passed our turnaround time. We returned to the bridgehead and advised them of what we had found and seen and closed down by taking off our BA sets and returned outside to the holding area. We put our BA sets back onto our machine and waited in the immediate area.

Our communications on our radios were fine but the radio traffic was very busy. I assume the Dry Riser was working as North Kensington were already in fighting the fire so I can only guess they were using it. I am also aware that Thermal Imaging cameras were used but body cameras are not standard issue and therefore not used. There was the main entrance and a side entrance where I helped people out with the help of the police. We were not prewarned or briefed about the cladding issues but it

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was obvious for everyone to see that there was something very unusual about the way the building was behaving.

The rising main is a pipe that goes up the middle of the building and on each or every other floor supplies water. I am unsure where the Incident Commander was when we arrived. The Stay Put policy is implemented as the residents are instructed to stay within their flats unless unsafe to do so. If everyone was evacuated every time there was a fire then people would just stop evacuating. Also there would be limited space on the stairwell to get everyone out safely. I believe this to be a National Policy. I don't know who made the decision to implement the Stay put policy on the morning of the fire or who made the decisions around the removal of the stay put policy. These decisions may possibly be found on the CU which is a vehicle used by the commanders of an incident and where decisions may be recorded although I'm not sure what the unit actually contains as I've never really been within one.

In relation to the command structure the IC would be in charge and then authorities filter down through the chain of command until you reach the level of Fire Fighter.

I'm unaware if or how this changed on the day.

In relation to the operational tactics for this incident I am unaware how they were determined or in relation to the establishment of the decision making structure.

At around 13.00 hrs we were taken back to Paddington by Blue watch who had now started their shift. We left the TL in situ at the site as it was blocked in by other vehicles and could not be removed. The fire in the tower was still burning when we left. I can honestly say that this is the fastest I've ever seen a fire spread on a building and do not remember seeing any windows on the side of the building I looked at.

In my opinion had sprinklers been fitted to the tower and no cladding this would have assisted with better compartmentation. I received no injuries and only witnessed Chris REYNOLDS and the unknown CM being hit by the falling man. I have not received any NHS treatment or treatment from my GP and have declined any counselling from the LFB although it is available if I require it. This is by far the most traumatic fire that I have attended and witnessed. I had no contact with any members of the public. I have nothing further to add to this statement.

I exhibit the notes I made back at Paddington fire station as DH/1 and they are sealed with police seal MPSZ11209828.

Signed: DANIEL HARRIMAN Signature Witnessed By:

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