

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: MOORE, GRAHAM

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

Occupation: FIRE 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: G MOORE

Date: 15/02/2018

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

I am a serving fire fighter at Sidcup Fire Station where I have been since 2002. In this statement I will describe my actions on the 14th June 2017 when I was deployed to the Grenfell Tower Fire. I will also provide details of my training history.

I am currently stationed at Sidcup Fire Station and was on the night of the Grenfell Tower Fire. On this particular evening, I was completing a night shift. We all take it in turns to drive and that night I was posted as the driver for Pump Engine - E402. Also part of this crew were colleagues Crew Manager VINCENT and fire fighters JACKSON and TOOTILL. Throughout the night I interacted and was teamed with other fire fighters from different fire stations. I didn't always get to know their names.

I have never been to Grenfell Tower nor am I aware of any fire-fighting plan in relation to this particular building as it completely off my ground of coverage. I am familiar with high rise buildings and the existence of these particular plans. I have completed familiarisation visits to other high rise buildings. There is only one high rise building on my ground so I haven't been to a high rise building fire since I joined Sidcup Fire Station. We frequently complete relevant training in similar building type and size. This includes practical and theoretical training. Our training expands to other areas too, including compartmentation fires and how to tackle this. Should this fail, each individual fire would be risk assessed and the appropriate tactics would be applied. I am aware of the stay put policy' and what it entails. Should a person dial 999, the operator will provide fire safety guidance. If appropriate, they will tell the caller to put wet towels under doors, open windows and wait for the fire brigade. Alternatively, if not safe to do that, they will be told to evacuate. I am trained in Standard Duration Breathing Apparatus.

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We have to regularly take training refreshers (yearly) in this and other areas such as first aid. I have also gained a number of qualifications during my time as a fire fighter (26 years). This includes driving, ladder and fire rescue. I am at a competent level.

On Tuesday 13th June 2017, I began my shift at Sidcup Fire Station at 8pm. There was nothing out of the ordinary at the beginning of the shift and as usual we began with roll call followed by checks of equipment (including EPD, BA set, PPE). On this particular night, I was driving the pump and so my checks included driver checks - lights, water levels, fuel, vehicle equipment and completion of the vehicle log book. I also checked the appliance's inventory. At 0430 hours, we were alerted to our mobilisation. I read the call slip and saw the massive ordering. I can't remember much about the call slip only that it stated relief - Grenfell Tower - RVP Ladbroke Grove. The crew of the pump ladder hadn't been ordered but began researching the news as we got ready. I knew this was a major incident and saw pictures of the burning tower on their phones. After we made contact with control, they confirmed we were a relief unit and we were to make our way at normal speed. We left around 20 minutes after we received the call. CM VINCENT directed me as he followed the MDT's sat nav. I remember crossing Westminster Bridge but don't really know much detail about the route. We drove North up Ladbroke Grove and parked at the RVP. I can't remember the exact junction but know it was to the east of Grenfell Tower. When we arrived, dawn was just starting to break. I could see the thick black billowing smoke rising from the direction of the tower. There were at least 10 fire engines parked in front of us at this RVP. We provided our crew details, including BA qualifications, to a senior manager here and told to wait. Members of the public began approaching us asking us if we were ok and asking for information. I explained that we had just arrived and they would be able to receive up to date information from the news channels. One woman stuck in my mind, she said to me 'it's the cladding'. She explained that she lived in a block close by that had cladding and they had an incident with the cladding burning. She told me she had informed the council of this at the time. She was adamant it was the cladding. This meant nothing to me at the time. We remained in this area for around an hour until we were deployed. We were to collect our BA sets, wear PPE at all times and take spare cylinders. CM VINCENT had already been to control so I don't remember if this information came from him or if we were informed by somebody else. I locked up the vehicle and took the key. We walked around a quarter of a mile towards Grenfell Tower. This walk involved zig zagging through residential streets. I didn't actually see it until I had turned the last corner and saw its east side. It seemed like the lower part of the tower was possibly protected by trees and was relatively untouched. Above this was black and alight. I just wanted to get in there and do my job.

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We made our way to the next waiting area. It was in between Grenfell Tower and a leisure centre/eatery/gym. I have marked where I think this was on a map that I have exhibited as GRM/01. We were there for another hour. I spoke to other crews who had already been inside and we discussed their experiences. There was around 30/40 people in this area. As I sat in this area, I saw continuous debris floating down from the tower. Some of it was alight. There was nothing substantial and was mostly ash and bits of curtains. After around 40 minutes of waiting here, CM VINCENT was posted to entry control. At that point we were adamant we would be sticking together as a crew and made our way in with CM VINCENT. We walked from this waiting area underneath some sort of subway. I saw a couple of fire engines parked up. I think I saw an aerial appliance along this route but may have seen this on our way out. Because of the dangers of falling debris, we had to be escorted two at a time in by police officers holding riot shields. I have marked the entrance to the tower on GRM/01. Once we entered, you would turn right to head to the stairs but we turned left towards a basement holding area. As well as fire fighters in here, there was police who were waiting to escort people out with riot shields. This area was rammed with people and must've been about 40 people waiting to be committed. It didn't seem to empty so I presume people were coming in as others were committed into the tower. By this time, CM VINCENT had left to take over as entry control officer and I had paired with a fire fighter called Dave who was stationed at Barking. We waited for around an hour until it we were committed. Myself and Dave made our way up the stairwell to the fourth floor where the bridgehead was set. We passed the through the lobby where I noticed a generator. The stairwell leading up to the this was wet and water was cascading down. Visibility was fine. Once we reached the fourth floor we were asked to wait in a flat. There was around 5/6 crews in there. We waiting 5 minutes or so until we were called forward and briefed by CM VINCENT and another entry control officer. I think it was a CM from Bromley or Orpington. The briefing was to take rolled up 70mm hose, go up to the 9th floor and note the flat numbers before attending the 10th floor, use existing hose and fight fire. We repeated the briefing back to CM VINCENT. Our breathing apparatus was checked and each tally was placed in the entry control board. We left the fourth floor and couldn't see anything really. I led and carried the hose. The stairwell was full of hose and water making it quite difficult to manoeuvre up. It was dark and smoky too. Because of lack of vision I soon became disorientated as to what floor we were on so. You couldn't see any floor identification markings on the stairwell so I instructed Dave to enter one of the floors to check the number. We weren't on the ninth floor yet so continued. I was careful with where I was walking because of the hose and as we got to the 9th floor, I realised there was something else obstructing our path. I felt around and looked

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closer. It was a deceased female that was half on the stairs and half around the landing. She was large and black. I'm sure it was the lady I saw reported as missing a few days later. I told Dave because I was mindful of him standing on her. Dave opened the door to the communal lobby to the 9th floor with the intention of noting the flat numbers. Visibility was too bad because of the smoke so I told him to forget that and that we should continue with our task on the 10th floor. We entered the communal area of the 10th floor and although the visibility was bad from the dense smoke, it was improved by the light given from the fire. We made our way towards the fire, by using the left hand wall, and saw that the door to this particular flat was open. I instantly saw that the fire was intense and covered the entire flat. I don't know the flat number but know that it was in the far left hand corner as you entered the communal lobby. The hose was tangled to a point that we couldn't move it and we couldn't reach the fire. It wouldn't quite reach the flat door. I picked up the branch and attempted to reach the flames with no success. Something needed to be done to solve the issue with the hose. There was too much smoke and I couldn't see where the wet riser was to plug in the hose we had. I decided to go up to the 11th floor to locate the position of the wet riser as it would be in the same location on each floor. I made my way up and entered the 11th floor. Visibility on this floor was a lot better and I could easily locate the wet riser. It transpired that it meant the wet riser was directly next to the flat we were attempted to extinguish on the 10th floor. I managed to find a branch in between the 10th and 11th floor. It was impossible to untangle the existing hose so needed to use the hose I brought up. I reentered the 10th floor and saw the conditions were still the same. I found Dave and we extended our hose and fitted the branch. I plugged the hose into the wet riser and ensured Dave had turned off the branch.

At this point I wanted to radio control to ensure the wet riser was charged. I tried with my personal radio and Dave tried with the radio attached to his BA set. This was unsuccessful. Radio transmissions inside the building was hit and miss. I turned on the wet riser and from then we were able to position ourselves to begin tackling the fire. We were close to the flat door and the heat was so intense. It was only 30 seconds after we began extinguishing the fire that our whistles on our BA sets indicated we were running out of air and we needed to leave. We walked back down the stairs towards the bridgehead and noticed that the deceased female had gone from the stairwell. I can't remember what the conditions were like as I was on my way down. We removed our BA sets and spoke to CM VINCENT who was still acting as entry control officer. I debriefed him and informed him on what actions we completed and what we encountered. We made our way back to the ground floor and was escorted out the same way with police and their riot shields. We walked back through the underpass and back to the grassy area. I removed the

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Form MG11(T)

Page 5 of 5

used cylinder and picked up a spare cylinder. I tested the BA set so I was ready to go in again. This area now had a canvas tent close by. I think this was a temporary morgue. I have marked this on GRM/01 . I sat and refuelled, waiting to receive my next ordering. I looked up at the tower and it was still in the same state. Everything above the 7th/8th floor was either on fire or had been damaged by fire. The ALP was still in the same location and active. Firefighters JACKSON and TOOTILL came out about 10 minutes after me and CM VINCENT a while later. Around 4pm until I was informed by CM VINCENT that we were dismissed and we were to attend Paddington Fire Station for a debrief. We made our way to our fire engine and drove to Paddington. We were there for around an hour before driving back to Sidcup for around 8pm.

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