

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: GODFREY, ANDREW

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

Occupation: PARAMEDIC

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: A.GODFREY

Date: 09/04/2018

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

My name is Andrew GODFREY and this is my account of the time I attended Grenfell Tower London in my capacity as a paramedic.

I work for the London Ambulance Service (LAS). I have worked for the LAS since 1994. I was first posted to Poplar for 14 years, before going to Newham for three years. I have been HART paramedic since 2011 (Hazardous area response team). I'm stationed at HART East – [REDACTED]

Prior to Grenfell, I have attended other major incidents such as the Canary Wharf bomb and the Croydon train crash.

On the 15th of June 2017, I was driving to work for a day shift that was due to start at 6:30 am. My drive would take me on the A13 from Basildon; I could hear on the radio that there was a fire at Grenfell Tower. I could also see a plume of smoke in the air. I could not see the building just the smoke. I was about fifteen miles away from the tower at this point. I never thought much of it at the time.

Once I got to our base, one of my colleagues said that this (Grenfell Tower) was a working job and that we are all going to attend.

I would have been working with Dave Lambeth WILLIAMS (team leader), Simon TANNER, Charlie CRAWFORD, Kevin BAKER and Ken WILKINSON.

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I grabbed my kit. I cannot remember if I travelled down to the tower by myself or with other colleagues but I do remember that I drove down.

I had to manually navigate to Grenfell Tower. I remember being slightly lost and the traffic was chaos around there. I had with me my incident ground kit, paramedic bag, and drugs. All the standard equipment I would have as a Hart officer.

I parked my car in a side street to the north east of the tower, between Silcheser and Lancaster road. I think I arrived at about 7:15 to 7:30am. Marked A on the map

I have been shown a map of Grenfell Tower and the surrounding area; I have marked this map A to D to denote the following things.

A – Where I parked my vehicle

B – Location of deceased male who jumped from tower.

C – Location of where DVI set up

D – Entry / Control Point.

E – LAS and LFB command centres

I exhibit this map as my exhibit ANG/1, sealed with police number MPSZ13134492.

I changed into my 'incident ground kit,' this looks like fireman's kit but in green. I could see Dave Lambeth WILLIAMS (HART team leader) liaise with Ian SIBTHORPE, the night turn supervisor. They conducted a handover of the incident. At his point, we were told that all patients that had been evacuated and taken away from the scene.

The word was that no one was going into the tower, as it was too dangerous, therefore we were placed on standby, in case there was a change in circumstances. So all that was left to do was grabbed some refreshments and wait.

There were many firefighters milling around, and LAS and fire brigades command centres were located near the tower (marked E on the map). We waited by the leisure centre until we for further instructions.

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The building was still on fire, I could see an ALP (Aerial ladder platform) I believe from Kent – it was spraying water onto the building. We were waiting for a long time.

From the earlier briefing, I learned that someone had jumped from the tower and landed on Grenfell walk. Because of the danger to the fire crews, the body had been pulled into a covered walkway. This was between 18 to 28 Testerton road. (This is marked B on the map

At some point during the afternoon, there we were tasked to attend point B and retrieve the body. This task would have come from one of the supervisors I'm not sure whom.

A group of five of us were tasked with this job. All paramedics. I can only remember the names of Kevin BAKER, Ken WILKINSON and I cannot remember the names of others. We made our way to Grenfell Walk I stayed at the bottom of Grenfell Rd junction with Grenfell walk, whilst the others went to retrieve the body.

During this time a group of dignitaries walked towards me, these included the mayor and other high profile people. I knew that the likelihood of media and cameras being present would be high. I told my colleagues to wait with the body for a few moments, until they had passed. We did not want the body bag to be filmed on camera.

Once they had gone, we moved the body downstairs to one of the garages. I'm not sure which one, but there the was already deceased body in side. I cannot remember if this body was in bag or whether it was covered with a blanket. We left the body in the garage area and returned via the same route back to the leisure centre where we were being held on standby.

That is all we did on first day. We relieved by night duty at about 19:30 hours. I came back to Cody road, we did not have a debrief and I drove straight home.

I was scheduled to work the next day for 06:30 hours to 18:30 hours. I had feeling that we would have returned to the tower, as no paramedics had been deployed inside the tower to retrieve the bodies, as the tower was un-safe.

On 15th June 2018, I went to work as normal. As confirmed, we had to go back to the tower I grabbed my kit and we drove to Grenfell tower with the rest of my colleagues. Hannah BOND another HART paramedic that works on a different shift pattern to me joined us.

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We got the tower and relieved our nightshift colleagues. We waited in the same location as the previous day. We were briefed, the building had yet to be deemed safe for us to deploy, so we were placed on standby.

At some point in the day, we were told that the stairwell in the tower was structurally safe. This information would of come from the incident support officer Collin PINNINGTON. He was the ranking HART officer at there at that time.

We were tasked to go the 15th floor as there was a bodies blocking the stairwell. This again would come from Colin PINNINGTON but this tasking was delayed as some asbestos monitoring had to take place. Another reason for delay in deploying into the building was because our LAS risk assessment had not been completed by the relevant commanding LAS officers. I was aware the Disaster and victim recovery team had attended the location and were setting up. They set up on point C on the Map.

Later in the afternoon we were told that we the likelihood of body retrieval would be conducted by the night duty. We argued that we should carry out this process as we had been waiting for two days to deploy and felt that we needed to do this job for our own 'mental health.'

By this time I was made aware that the body that was causing an obstruction on the 15th floor had been moved. I assumed that it was the LFB had done this. This information would of come from the incident support officer.

We were tasked in the late afternoon by about 17:00 hours. We were told that there were going to clear the stairwell, to allow access to the other emergency services.

We split into two separate teams. The teams included two paramedics and five or six DVI staff. A team of approximately eight people each. Ken WILKSON and Kevin BAKER's team would go to the 19th floor and we would go the 18th floor.

I was with Hannah BOND.

Shortly before 18:45 we entered the tower. We entered the tower through the front door on the south side. Once inside we went into the mezzanine floor and then into the stairwell. There was water everywhere. The water level was about two inches deep it was not that hot. I was wearing my ground kit, FFP3 mask, (which is mask that place on your face. It covers your mouth and nose. It has two filters, which prevents

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the wearer breathing in dust and debris), I also wore eye goggles a structural firefighting helmet and safety boots.

I took with me a life pack monitor 15 Defib, and a MIBBS stretcher. It took us about 10 to 15 minutes to get to the 18th floor.

The stairwell was not lit; we had to rely on torch light and the very little light that was coming from the landing area. Once we reached the 18th floor I came across a body, which I believe was a male. This was body was covered in soot, it was fully intact. The hair was really short almost like an afro hair and was really close to the scalp. The male was clothed. Hannah removed the shirt whilst I set up the life pack Defib machine.

Due to the amount of water coming down, the body was wet. I had to place ECG dots onto the males bare chest. Two on the upper body either side and the other two patches on the abdomen area. This was difficult due to the water. Eventually we managed to get a flat line trace for about 10 seconds. This provided a rhythm strip which indicated a flat line. I also noticed that rigor mortis was evident. The time of death was recorded as 19:12 hours or recognition of life extinct (R.O.L.E). This is recorded n patient report form number 236388189 with a DVI tag number PM 445983. I took the rhythm strip and placed it in my inside jacket pocket. We stood here for about 15 minutes whilst the DVI team took photographs, conducted a search of the body and other necessary procedures. They placed the body into a body bag, and left in the lobby area of the 18th floor. Once everyone was ready, we moved up the stairs to the 20th floors.

On the stairs between the 19th and 20th floors, we encountered another body. It was laying on the stairs, heavily covered in soot. The body was clothed, I cannot remember if it was a male or female. I conducted the same procedure as with the previous body. Another rhythm strip was produced showing a 'flat line reading.' I place this strip in the same location as the other stip. The DVI team conducted the same process with this body as they had with the previous one

This information is recorded on patient report form number, 235199415 with a DVI tag number PM445704 and ROLE time of 19:58 hours. The body was placed in a body bag, and then onto the MIBBS stretcher. Between six or seven of us carried the body to point D. which is the entry control point for the tower.

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Form MG11(T)

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The DVI team continued with the body whilst Hannah and I had a welfare check by Colin PINNINGTON.

From here, we made our way back to the stand by point by the leisure centre. I handed the strips to a member of the LAS team that were completing the paperwork. By this time the strips of paper was soaked through with water and had a mushy consistency.

We were then dismissed at about 21:30 hours. We made our way back to [REDACTED]

I'm sure that there was a debrief of the incident but I did not attend. I have not spoken to the media nor have I sought medical assistance from my GP.

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