

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

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

Statement of: BARWICK, GRAHAM

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

Occupation: LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE IRO

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This statement (consisting of 5 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: GRAHAM BARWICK

Date: 12/02/2018

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

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This statement relates to my attendance at the Grenfell Tower Fire on 14th June 2017

This statement was made on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at Romford Ambulance Station where I was interviewed by DC Rachel O'CONNOR and DC Paul PHILLIPS. During the interview I referred to my Incident Response Log and a daily log which is known as an LA21. I completed my Incident Response Log at the scene.

I exhibit a marked map of the scene as GCB/1 showing two sectors and the direction I travelled from.

At the time of the Grenfell Tower fire I worked as an incident response officer. A role I still currently hold. I have worked for the London Ambulance Service (LAS) for 26 years having joined in 1991. I joined as a qualified ambulance technician and then became a paramedic in 1995. In 1999 I then worked as a Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) paramedic. In 2001 I then became a clinical team leader. From 2004 I then worked as a duty station officer in Whipps Cross. Since September 2015 I have worked as an Incident Response Officer (IRO) [REDACTED] This is a role I currently hold.

As an IRO my main role is to respond to major incidents and to make sure patients are being dealt with in line with policy. We go to any incidents outside the normal line of business or classed as serious. I would also attend cardiac arrests and road traffic collisions.

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On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 I started work at 1900hrs and arrived at [REDACTED] Ambulance station at 1830hrs in order to relieve day shift. I then had a handover from day shift where we discussed any issues from the previous shift. During the handover no local issues were identified. At 11930hrs I then took a conference call with Amanda WHEATON and the other Incident Response Officers (IRO's) who were working at that time. Amanda WHEATON is a silver officer based at [REDACTED] Ambulance Station. The other IRO's in the conference call would Tom GLEASON, Maria CONYERS, Dav BARNES, Laurence IOANNOU, Paul HAMMOND and Andy GOULD. I do not think there were any issues discussed during that call.

I then completed various duties until at 0050hrs I attended Bow Ambulance Station/LAS HQ. Some of the other IRO's were also in attendance and I had refreshments there. At around 0130hrs a call came out over the radio, [REDACTED], which stated there was a fire at Grenfell Tower. IRO IOANNOU and IRO HAMMOND were despatched to deal with the call. I was still in the office and was listening to the radio as the call was unfolding. When IRO IOANNOU arrived at the scene he declared the fire a SIGNIFICANT incident. I heard this over the radio. A significant incident is a step down from a MAJOR incident. I was sat with IRO CONYERS and IRO GLEASON. When IRO IOANNOU declared the incident SIGNIFICANT IRO GLEASON went to be the loggist for Amanda WHEATON. I then went outside with IRO CONYERS and we continued to listen to the radio. At around 0225hrs IRO IOANNOU declared the fire a MAJOR Incident. At 0239hrs the call was then sent to me via my Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) and I was despatched to the Grenfell Tower fire.

IRO GLEASON's vehicle had a fault with the MDT and was at the time out of service so I took him to the scene. My call sign was IR41. IRO CONYERS also headed to the scene with us in convoy on blue lights. IRO GLEASON knew the route fairly well and directed me whilst I drove. I do not remember the route but do recall driving along the WESTWAY. Whilst I was on the WEST WAY I saw the fire in the distance on my left hand side. I saw the whole building on fire and it looked like a serious incident. I have never seen a tower block completely engulfed in flames. We arrived on scene at 0306hrs and I parked in CLARENDON ROAD jnc PORTLAND ROAD W11. IRO CONYERS then parked behind us. I could not see the building from where we parked. I was wearing a full green service uniform and donned my helmet and yellow jacket. I then grabbed my Major incident bag, which IRO GLEASON then carried for me. My Major Incident Bag contained tabards and a lot of kit that allows you to set up the major incident

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structure. We then made our way to the incident and eventually at 0307hrs found IRO Laurence IOANNOU who I was aware was Bronze Medic and in charge of the LAS response to the incident. IRO IOANNOU was stood around 200 meters from the building and that was when I had my first good look at the fire. There were lots of police and fire personnel at scene. My only thought was to then speak to IRO IOANNOU and find out what my role was going to be. IRO IOANNOU then informed me that he had set up "Sector 1" which included a Triage area and a casualty clearing area. I was then informed that people were coming out of a second area of the building and IRO IOANNOU wanted to then set up a second casualty clearing area which he would then call Sector 2. IRO CONYERS and IRO GLEASON were then told to set up and run SECTOR 2.

IRO IOANNOU then stated he wanted to know 100% that Sector I was set up correctly. He then told me to go to Sector I and make sure everything was in place and running correctly. IRO Paul HAMMOND was Bronze Sector 1. I then went and spoke with Paul who stated he was aware of his role. At 0313hrs I went and spoke with Bronze CLEARING Pete APPLEBY call sign AP60, who is an advanced Paramedic Practitioner, to confirm his role and make sure he had a tabard. Casualty clearing had been set up near the leisure centre and was in a good location.

At 0315hrs I then went to see Bronze Loading Dave MOSS, who is a clinical Team Leader, call sign NW98. I asked if he was ok and asked him if he knew what he needed to be doing. He stated he was fine.

At 0320hrs I then met with Bronze Parking Jonathan MERRIFEILD, who is a clinical Team Leader, call sign N997. He had no issues. There was also another Paramedic there called Jack BROMLEY who was unsure of his role so I told him to assist Bronze Parking.

At 0327hrs I returned to Bronze Medic IOANNOU and updated him with the roles from Sector 1.

0329hrs I then went to see Bronze Triage Andy GOULD call sign IR21. At that point I was very close to the building. Andy GOULD stated he felt he was also too close to the building. I also thought that the Triage area was too close to the building. There were bits of debris falling from the building which was still alight. There were also numerous firemen in a pool of water at the base of the building fighting the fire. I thought the Triage location was very tight and there was not a lot of room there and it felt quite confined. I was happy that Andy GOULD was doing what he should.

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At 0343hrs Bronze Medic IAOUNNOU then gave me the role of Bronze Safety which I confirmed with EOC over the radio. Having been given the role I consulted my Incident Response Action cards to confirm the criteria for my role. The role of Bronze Safety is to oversee the safety off all medical and LAS staff attending the incident. To ensure correct levels of PPE are worn by staff and to liaise closely with all other Bronze Officers and other agency safety Officers. I then looked at my Incident Card check list and used that as an aide memoir to complete the rest of my tasks.

At 0345hrs I went back and spoke with Andy GOULD and I told him that I thought he was too close to the building. I thought he was too close if the building were to collapse. Certainly the twin Towers building collapse was in my mind. I then told Andy to move his Bronze Triage operation on top of a grassy mound near the leisure centre. This would also mean that Bronze Triage was in sight of Bronze clearing. Although it did mean that the fire fighters had to carry the patients further although nobody was coming out at that time.

After doing that I was trying to find Bronze Safety for the London Fire Brigade (LFB). I then spoke with LFB officer Dave CARROLL at 0353hrs. Dave CARROLL did not know who was Bronze safety for the LFB. I then informed him that I had moved Sector 1 Triage and it was a further fifteen (15) meters away from the building.

At 0404hrs I further liaised with Bronze Clearing Sector 1 and he stated he had no patients coming out to him.

At 0413hrs I gave Bronze Medic IOANNOU a safety update and also informed him I could not find Bronze safety for the LFB. I also informed him that Bronze Triage had been moved back.

At 0415hrs Bronze Medic IOANNOU then went to Command Unit 7 and then informed me that the LFB safety was Kevin ONIEL but unsure where his working location was.

At 0417hrs I raised the fact that I had not spoken to LFB Bronze Safety as a concern at the next Silver meeting with LFB.

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At 0436hrs I then walked over to Sector 2. As I made my way there I could see lots of parked fire engines and members of the public standing around. I had a lot of difficulty finding my way from Sector 1 to Sector 2. I needed to speak with the Bronze officers at Sector 2 to make sure everything was being done correctly. As I approached Sector 2 I could see that the fire appeared a lot more ferocious making it a more hazardous area than sector 1. The wind also appeared to be picking up. I then met with IRO Maria CONYERS who was Bronze Sector 2 and I also liaised with IRO Tom GLEASON who was Bronze Sector 2 Triage. I thought that Tom and the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) were too close to the building. There did not seem to be a lot of patients coming out of the building at that point.

At 0437hrs I then called Emergency Operations Centre (ECO) over the radio and asked them to put out a message that should any whistles be blown at the scene then all LAS staff are to evacuate away from the building.

Looking at my log I then wrote "all LFB white hats unable to confirm safety of building".

At 0446hrs I requested that Bronze Triage Sector 2, IRO GLEASON, to move away from the building. I then updated EOC with this information.

At 0455hrs I returned back to Sector 1 and updated Bronze Medic IOANNOU with what I had found in Sector 2.

At 0515hrs I walked back thought Sector 1 and spoke with all Bronze staff to make sure they were ok and told them to get some food and drink.

At 0529hrs I logged that the Salvation Army were on the scene with refreshments.

At 0600hrs I went back to Sector 2 and noted that building was still alight and smoking. There were no further patients and I conducted welfare checks on the LAS staff.

At 0630hrs I returned to Sector 1 and conducted further welfare checks on the LAS staff.

From 0630hrs onwards I continued checking the welfare of the LAS staff and walking around the scene

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between Sectors 1 and two.

At 0812hrs I then handed over my tabard to Bronze Medic IOANNOU who himself had been relieved and was happy to relieve me.

At 0835hrs I left the scene and drove my vehicle back to [REDACTED] Ambulance Station. I then booked off at around 1000hrs

I then went on holiday. I did not receive any sort of welfare call from the LAS management. I was later told it was because I was on holiday.

I had no contact with police at the scene. I have not conducted any interviews with the media.

Reflecting on the incident I believe that all of the LAS officers did their best and from what I saw I was happy with the LAS response to the fire.

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