

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

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

Statement of: BEER, MARK

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

Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

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This statement (consisting of 15 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: M BEER

Date: 16/01/2018

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

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This statement refers to the time I attended Grenfell Tower Fire.

My name is Mark BEER and I am a Fire-fighter for the London Fire Brigade and have been so for 28 and a half years. I have been based at Wembley fire station located at 591A HARROW ROAD, WEMBLEY HAO 2EG all my career and I am considered as competent in my role.

In regards to my training to High Rise Blocks I have received training over the past 10 years through lectures and conducting drills in Wembley Yard where there is a drill tower. In this time I have been to 2 or 3 derelict High Rises to conduct as part of my training. I am an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) operator. This role is for the ALP appliance that has a ladder and platform that can reach the height of 10 floors high.

The last realistic training I had at a High Rise was approximately 3 years ago on Acton Lane near a Canal where we conducted training on a derelict building. The last training at Wembley was 3 months ago. I was not aware of any pre planned Fire Fighting plan for Grenfell Tower but there is guidance in regards to when Compartmentation fails within in a block of high rise flats. I am also Trained to use Standard Duration Breathing Apparatus (SDBA) which is a breathing mask attached to an oxygen cylinder. The SDBA has a small single cylinder of oxygen. I am also trained to use Extended Duration Breathing

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Apparatus (EDBA) sets which is similar to an SDBA but have a longer working duration as it has two cylinders.

At Wembley we have 5 types of Appliances. We have a Pumping appliance which is a fire engine which carries SDBA sets. We have a Command Unit (CU) which has 2 watch Managers which is used to hold meetings and to coordinate fire response when there are 4 or more pumps called to a fire. The CU has a large screen, couple of radios and various tabards. We also have an Aerial Ladder Appliance (ALP) which is a fire engine with a ladder that has a platform on the end which can reach a height of 10 floors which can be operated from the cage or ground level. We also have a Fire Rescue Unit (FRU) which is a fire engine that carries EDBA. We also have a Pump Ladder which is similar to a Pumping Appliance but carries additional items such as Breaking in Gear which consists of Sledgehammers and axes. Every Pump Ladder also carries a Thermal imaging Camera (TIC). The Officer in Charge of the watch will usually ride on the Pump Ladder. When a crew is required to go to a call the bells sound and a tannoy announces which crew is required. If the tannoy doesn't announce a specific crew then that shout is for the CU to go out.

Prior to attending Grenfell Tower on Wednesday 14th June 2017 I have never attended Grenfell Tower, have any knowledge of Grenfell Tower or been posted to a fire safety department. I have also not been on a Section 7 (2) d familiarisation visit to Grenfell Tower.

My crew for the shift originally consisted of myself as the driver of the Pump appliance, Crew Manager (CM) Dan BURTON who was the officer in charge of the crew but was then replaced by CM Jason HUNTER from Northolt, Fire fighter (FF) Larry PITT and standby FF Colin DOWDALL. Standby means that we were short of 1 Fire Fighter so FF DOWDALL was brought over from Northolt where he is normally based to join our crew.

On the Pump Ladder the crew was Watch Manager (WM) Pete Clark, FF Enrico BELTRAMI, FF BOULTON and FF DEVANI.

The location of the incident was Grenfell Tower, Kensington, London. Grenfell Tower is a High Rise Tower block. I have not been to Grenfell Tower before.

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On Tuesday 13th June 2017 I was due to start duty on Red Watch at 2000hours but came onto duty early at 1830hours to take over from Blue watch which is common practice. I paraded from Wembley Fire Station, 591a, Harrow Road, Wembley. I was assigned as driver of Pump Appliance call sign G302 where I then conducted standard checks on the Fire Engine.

It was a quite night at Wembley and I can't recall if we had been called to any other fires. I tried to get some sleep at approximately midnight maybe 0045hours I have heard the CU leave the station and then the Pump Ladder has left approximately 10 minutes later.

At some Point during the night FF BURTON received a call from his wife stating that she was having a baby so FF BOULTON had to leave. Due to this our appliance had to go off the run which means that we couldn't go to any calls as we didn't have a full complement as we need to ride with a minimum of 4. We waited for a standby who was CM Jason HUNTER from Northolt Fire Station. I couldn't get to sleep due to the bells ringing and the phones ringing so I went downstairs to the Watch room where FF PITT was. I asked FF PITT WHATS GOING ON? WHAT HAVE THEY GOT? FF PITT stated THERES QUITE A BIG FIRE 25 PUMP FIRE I then asked where it was and he replied NORTH KENSINGTON.

We had some general chat stating that IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING as we normally do and "ITS OVERKILL as we normally say it is. CM HUNTER has arrived at Wembley and we have tried to get the pump back on the run. We do this on a computer but FF PITT was having problems and wasn't able to get through on the phone with the Control Room. When FF PITT did get through to Control they said they were too busy and put the phone down, which we then knew there was something big going on. After a while of waiting FF PITT called the Control Room again and he managed to get the Pump on the run. 5 minutes after getting back on the run the bells have gone down and we are sent out.

The time now was definitely after 0100hours, I am aware I have written 0130hours in my notes, Exhibit MJB/O1 refers but I remember it was slightly earlier. I also mentioned in exhibit MJB/O1 the Location was Lancaster Gate but this was incorrect. The call gets printed through the tele printer and I believe stated attendance was regarding a 25 pump fire at Grenfell Tower on North Kensington's ground. I've got into the Pump with CM HUNTER sitting in the front passenger seat and FF PITT and FF DOWDALL sitting in the back.

On board in the front we have what is known as a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT). The MDT is a screen that has a map showing the position of the fire. The map starts off large and tracks the appliance. As you

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get closer to the incident the map gets more detailed. There are issues with this system and it doesn't always work perfectly and tend to use Google maps which is what I believe CM HUNTER did. So I proceeded out of the Fire station and headed towards Hanger Lane Roundabout, I got on to the A40 and got off at the White City turn off, I then went down a road I believe to be NOTTING HILL GATE ROAD, we went over the canal and past North Kensington Fire Station. At this point I can see a plume of smoke and a bit of a glow but not much. I have then turned a corner but I can't remember what the road was called, it was right in front of us, it was a massive shock, I looked at CM HUNTER and he looked at me, we were like JESUS CHRIST WHAT DO WE DO? All of us in the appliance have over 10 years' service and it was a case of OH SHIT WEVE GOT SOMETHING! At this point we were less than half a mile away from Grenfell Tower and I could see what I later found out was the West facing side of the Tower. I can only describe what I could see as a scar as if a tiger had clawed the side of the building. From a third of the way from the bottom, right to the top was on fire with black smoke just pumping out and I could even see the embers flying around even from the distance I was at away from the Tower. I have then driven under a railway bridge but don't know the name of the road. There was a tube station which at the time I thought was Lancaster Gate Tube Station but later found out it was Latimer Road Tube Station and as we came under the railway bridge there was a pedestrian walkway on my left hand side where I could see a fire engine parked in the walkway. I don't believe it was a local Fire Engine as I didn't recognise the crew. There were probably 3 or 4 fire engines in this area. As we have now turned up CM HUNTER has peeled away to find out where exactly we were supposed to go.

I approached the Driver of the other Fire Engine whose name I do not know and asked him if he needed a hand in which he did. The Fire Fighter said that he needed water. I was just standing there looking at the Tower in shock and the fire was taking my attention. The Fire Fighter then gave me a stand pipe key and bar which is used to access a hydrant which I located on the other side of the road. At this moment in time there were a lot of civilians around and a couple Police Officers in this area. A lot of people were asking me questions and at this stage I thought it was a case of you know what mate fuck off I'm busy. I have connected a length of hose to the hydrant when CM HUNTER has returned and said we had to leave. "A" on exhibit MJB/02 shows where I stopped to assist a Fire Fighter locate the hydrant.

CM HUNTER told us that we had to go around to the church. We all got back into the Fire Engine. There were some orange road works barriers which we moved out of the way so we could drive through. I have driven through some back streets and stopped where there was a church in front of us.

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On arrival to this area I could see an Ambulance, a Police Car, some Fire Engines plus some civilian cars who were trying to get through, I don't know where they were trying to get to but they were heading towards the fire but they were blocked in and there was no way for them to get through. At this point I am less than 100 meters away and no more vehicles can get through as it is gridlocked. I have had to leave the Fire Engine in this location which I have marked as "B" on Exhibit MJB/02. I left the Fire Engine unlocked which remained unlocked and in the same position throughout the time I was at the incident.

CM HUNTER has then asked us to grab our SDBA sets and put them on our backs. We have also grabbed what is known as Breaking in Gear which are items such as Sledge Hammer, Axe and Crowbar. Myself, FF PITT and FF DOWDALL have then preceded to a Marshalling Area (MA) where there were approximately 30 other Fire Fighters. I have seen FF BOULTON and FF DEVANI who are also based at Wembley at the MA who were in front of me in a queue. As this MA was under a covered car park I couldn't see Grenfell Tower. I have marked the MA as "C" on Exhibit MJB/02. It took us about 5 minutes to walk to the MA. The person in charge of the MA will be an officer with a rank of WM or higher. The officer in charge of this MA whose name I do not know directed us in whereby we had to go under a walkway which was about 4 floors off of the ground. This area had a kind of car park and was separate to Grenfell Tower.

We have then proceeded towards the main entrance of Grenfell Tower. As we have approached the Tower I have noticed a Turntable Ladder to my right hand side parked long ways from me that was parked up but had not been setup at this moment in time. As an Aerial Ladder Operator I was thinking what the hell is he doing? Why is he even in that position? he is way too close. I think the Fire Fighter with the Turntable Ladder was from Paddington. I thought to myself he's got some balls to be that close.

We carried on walking to the entrance of the Tower where I have seen an officer wearing a white helmet of unknown rank standing under the porch area directing Fire Fighters into the building while there is loads of debris falling down. The officer has directed us into the Tower and I have now entered the Lobby area. I am now waiting in the lobby area. At this point I have seen a few Fire Fighters going up the tower but have seen a lot more Fire Fighters coming down with residents. I saw approximately 10 Women, Men, Babies and Kids coming down with Fire Fighters, some of whom were being carried down by Fire Fighters and some being assisted down. At this stage this lobby is a holding area for Fire fighters waiting to be directed. The Entry Control was upstairs on a Mezzanine which is half a floor up from the Lobby. This Mezzanine is where the Bridgehead was located. I know this as I can see crews with BA Boards. The

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Bridgehead is a location normally located 2 floors under the fire Incident where an Entry Control for BA wearers is located. An Entry Control is where Fire Fighters passes through and checks in with a controller. This is where we hand in our BA Tally; a BA tally is a plastic key which has a Fire Fighters name on it. The Entry Controller will take our tally and mark up the time we go through the Control Entry and what time we should be back to the Entry Control by on a BA Board in relation to the amount of oxygen we have in our cylinders. When we exit the Control Entry we take back our BA tally. This system is used so a Controller knows who has gone past the Control Entry and when that person is due back. In this holding area there is approximately 20 other Fire Fighters wearing BA ready to be tasked.

After 45 minutes all Fire Fighters in the Lobby area waiting to go in have been pushed back into a community room. We didn't go into the room and were hanging around in the corridor as we were desperate to go in. He have been waiting when EDBA have begun to show up. An officer whose name I do not know but was a WM has then stated that we had to clear out as there were too many people waiting around and it was too difficult to get people out. We have then left through a broken window in the community room which was on the West Side of the Tower. The window was approximately 2 and a half foot wide which was narrow as I had to squeeze through. The window was at least 6 foot tall. This window went from the floor upwards. There were two of these windows that had been broken and Fire Fighters were exiting through. We were told to go out of the window, past the park and to another MA where other FF had started to gather.

As I left through the window there was debris falling but not a lot. There was an officer that was guiding Fire Fighters through letting us know when it was safe to pass through. When I got out towards the park and looked back at the Tower I could see that the fire was moving very slowly and it was wrapping around the Tower. The fire was wrapping its way up from the 6t floor from the North and South sides onto the West side. There was more fire spreading from the North to West side than there was from the South to West side. I could see 3 people for definite using lights from mobile phones or torches. I am sure that one of the flat lights was on and I could see silhouettes. These people were in flats located on the West side closest to the South side. The fire was spreading from all sides towards these people in the flats. Once I was at the MA near the park there were 2 officers I believe of WM rank. The 2 WM are trying their best to stop Fire Fighters running back into the Tower. As a group we were all staying focused and I thought we will deal with this as it comes. At this point FF DEVANI and FF BOULTON are at the MA. There were also a couple London Ambulance Service (LAS) crew around this area as well. On a regular

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basis now there are Fire Fighters coming out of The Tower with other Fire Fighters going in to replace those that were coming out.

Myself, FF PITT, FF DEVANI and FF BOULTON joined as a crew of 4 as we are all EDBA trained. FF DOWDALL has joined another crew. Myself and FF PITT got the feeling that EDBA wearers were being sought after. We went to the Officer in Charge of the MA and informed him that we were EDBA wearers and that if he could get us EDBA sets then we would be ready to go. The Officer in charge asked us to wait and he would get us EDBA sets but asked us to remind him because he had a lot going on. We were waiting and waiting and waiting until we saw a crew of 4 come out of the Tower. FF BOULTON pointed out and said "THERES A CREW THERE" so we approached the crew and told them that we would take their EDBA sets. 2 of the crew seemed exhausted and the Officer In Charge stated he wasn't sure. 1 of the Fire Fighters that had just come out and said "THERES NO WAY IM GOING BACK IN THERE AGAIN" so we said to the Officer in Charge that we now have 4 EDBA sets we just needed cylinders. The Officer in Charge then told us to take off the current cylinders and that he would go and get us some new ones. After waiting 10 to 15 minutes later a senior officer of Group Manager (GM) rank came back with 4 cylinders. We put the cylinders on, tested the cylinders using a Fireground A Test. We put the EDBA on and the Officer in Charge said "GO" so we went back into the Tower through the community room window.

From exiting the Tower through the community room window to then re-entering the Tower through the community room it felt like hours but I was outside for approximately 30 to 45 minutes. As we got into the community room we were moved very quickly into the Lobby area as there were very few Fire Fighters in the community room. Once in the Lobby area there was a crew of 5 wearing EDBA and everyone else wearing SDBA. At this point I could see that Entry Control had been moved to the ground floor at the bottom of the stairwell. I am not aware of the decision of moving the Bridgehead to the ground floor but from my experience I believe it was moved due to conditions worsening. I recognised the Group Manager of the Entry Control as GM Richard WALSH who I have known since he was a Fire Fighter. GM Pat GOULDBORNE who I also recognised. Personally I believe GM WALSH and GM GOULDBORNE were doing their best to control the area. So we stood there for approximately 10 minutes when GM GOULDBORNE asked for a crew of 4 EDBA wearers. The other crew of 5 stepped forward but GM GOULDBORNE said "NO I WANT A CREW OF 4". I looked at the rest of my crew and they nodded at me so I said "THAT'S US". GM GOULDBORNE called us over and said the

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following words to the effect of “ HOW ARE WE ALL”. “ARE WE GOOD”, I replied ‘YEAH’. GM GOULDBORNE then said “ARE YOU READY TO GO, RIGHT, YOU CAN PROBABLY SEE THE SITUATION, YOU’VE GOT NO WATER ABOVE THE 8TH FLOOR, THIS IS A SEARCH AND RESCUE, SAVEABLE LIFE ONLY, IF YOU COME ACROSS ANYBODY WHO ISNT SAVEABLE DEEM THEM DEAD, DON’T TRY AND RESCUE PEOPLE THAT CANT BE RESCUED, WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO, I WANT YOU TO GO UP TO THE 12TH FLOOR I WANT YOU TO GO IN TO THE FLAT LOBBY AND I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT” I can’t remember which flat numbers he said but he continued to say “ IF THERE IS CREWS ALREADY THERE I WANT YOU TO PROCEED TO THE 13TH ,GO INTO THE 13TH WEVE HAD TO REPORTS FROM FLAT NUMBER” then he gave me 2 flat numbers but I can’t remember what they were, he continued “IS EVERYBODY OKAY TO GO”. I looked back and everyone said yes. He continued “HAVE YOU GOT COMMUNICATIONS” and I replied “IVE GOT COMMUNICATIONS” He continued “TAKE YOUR TIME, LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER AND I WANNA SEE ALL 4 OF YOU COME OUT, DON’T LEAVE ANYBODY BEHIND”.

We have then begun to walk up the stairs in the following order, FF BOULTON at the front, FF PITT 2<sup>nd</sup>, FF DEVANI 3rd and myself at the rear. It was fairly clear and I could see what I was doing up until the 8th or 9th floor where the smoke logging became heavier. Smoke logging is where the smoke becomes difficult to breathe through and to see through. I would say that the stairwell was quite narrow approximately 3 to 3 and a half foot wide with a lot of people using the stairwell, like the size of a single bed. I noticed that there was water coming down the stairwell but there wasn’t a great amount of it. As we are moving up the stairwell the smoke is getting thicker as well as the smoke getting lower to the ground. When we got to about the 9th and 10th floor there was a large black lady in the middle of the stairs. At this point there are other crews coming down against us and there is hose going up the side of the stairs which were charged with water. As the other crew came down we went over her. At this stage the smoke is getting thicker and lower. As we got to the 11th floor I couldn’t see anything. As I couldn’t see anything I put my hand on the back of FF DEVANI cylinder. I know that FF BOULTON has got a TIC that’s why he is leading us. The TIC was obtained from another crew that were coming down to the lobby and swapped equipment. Whilst going up the stairs we have found spare Breaking in Media. I believe FF PITT picked up the enforcer and FF BOULTON picked up the sledge hammer.

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As we approached the 12th floor I saw a crew up there but at this moment in time didn't know who they were until after the incident I found out it was Wembleys' Fire Rescue Unit (FRU). There has been an exchange between my crew and the FRU but I couldn't hear what had been said. I have heard someone say "WE'RE GONNA GO UPTO THE 13th". So we started to walk up the stairwell again when there is another dead body. I couldn't see the body, but due to the slow rate we were walking I have ended up kicking the body and fallen down. I have then felt his arm then a shoulder then a head then a neck and in a vain attempt I have put my gloved finger on the Carotid artery but I knew I wasn't going to feel anything due to wearing gloves. There was too much smoke in the stairwell and I honestly believed he wasn't alive.

We have then moved up to the 13th floor where there was another crew in that area who I think were coming down. The Neutral plane at this point was down to the ground. The neutral plane is how low the smoke is, so we really were going in quite blind. We proceeded to go in through a door which was a pull handled door which I assume was a fire door but I can't be sure, we stayed to the right hand side of the wall. FF BOULTON has led us around where we have gone down a very small corridor. FF BOULTON then shouts "THAT'S THE BIN ENCLOSURE, THE BIN ROOM". We carry on round and there is a flat in front of us which we need to check. FF BOULTON has had a go to open the door with a sledgehammer but couldn't get the door open. FF BOULTON has taken a break and FF PITT has had a go to open the door which he did successfully. FF BOULTON and FF PITT have gone into the flat. FF BOULTON said "ITS ACTUALLY NOT TO BAD IN HERE". FF BOULTON informed us that the TIC showed a reading of 400 degrees. Whilst FF BOULTON and FF PITT are inside the flat, myself and FF DEVANI are outside the flat waiting to take over and search the flat. FF BOULTON informed me that as he moved in he has put the TIC around a corner to have a look and he has withdrawn his hand straight back due to the heat. Whilst outside the flat I've still got my hand on FF DEVANI cylinder because I still can't see anything. I can just about see the flashing light on FF DEVANI Distress Signal Unit (DSU) which is a unit that attracts other BA wearer's attention when the wearer is in distress. At this point I have felt uncomfortable with the heat pretty quick. I can feel the heat around my shoulders, neck and back. I said to FF DEVANI "IS IT GETTING HOT" in which he replied "YEAH IT'S GETTING FUCKING HOT". Within the next 20 seconds the heat has got unbearable which I felt has come straight at me from the flat so I said "LADS WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW". I didn't hear a response from FF BOULTON or FF PITT so I said to FF DEVANI "D WE NEED TO MOVE" where he replied "YEAH I KNOW". I asked FF DEVANI if he could see them be he said he couldn't. I pushed FF DEVANI towards

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the flat as I was thinking "THESE LADS COLLAPSED WERE GONNA HAVE TO PULL THEM OUT".

As I pushed forwards I said "LADS YOU GOTTA MOVE NOW". I then heard "YEAH WERE COMING". I told FF BOUTLON and FF PITT to get on the back of FF DEVANI and then started to lead out. I got to the door where there was some confusion regarding if the door opened inwards or outwards so I started to feel around for the handle. I asked FF BOULTON to use the TIC to look for the handle and he told me it was down. I found the handle and pulled the door out and in and we got out.

We started to descend the stairwell and got to the 12th floor where I could see FF PITT and FF BOULTON were tired as their hands were on their knees. I noticed that the male I fell near on my way up was still there. As we approached the 10<sup>th</sup> floor the visibility got better. FF PITT and FF BOULTON were now really struggling. I couldn't see the others clearly but could just make out an image. At this point the black lady I saw on my way up the stairs I did not notice her on my way down but I know that crews that went into the Tower after stated she was still in the Tower. Somewhere between the 13th floor and 9th floor on my way down I am fairly certain I saw an extra deceased body that was in the corner of a landing but I can't be certain. I have then grabbed FF PITT and FF DEVANI grabbed FF BOULTON and we dragged them down the stairs and would stop every 2 floors as FF PITT and FF BOULTON couldn't make it any further. When we got to the bottom of the stairs in the lobby I grabbed a FF who was going up and told him to take FF PITT down. We have gone by the back of the Lobby stairs where FF PITT and FF BOULTON had their EDBA sets and face masks removed and dumped them where they were which is unusual. I have noticed a lot of water in the lobby at this point. A Group Manager came over with water and was making sure FF PITT and FF BOULTON were okay. You could see the exhaustion of their faces which were very red due to doing short amount of work in a very hot space. I felt fine at this time but I believe that was due to adrenaline. I have then grabbed our BA tally's back. I briefed the Group Manager that was in charge of the area in the lobby with what we had come across. I have noticed that by the Entry Control there was a drawing of the Tower on a wall which seemed to have notes in regards to each floor.

We stayed by the stairs of the Lobby for 5 minutes when we were told "IF YOU CAN GET THEM OUT THEN GET THEM OUT". We said to FF PITT and FF BOULTON "IF YOU CAN MOVE THEN WE'LL MOVE" and they responded "YEAH OKAY". I took FF PITT and FF DEVANI took FF BOULTON and we took them to the community room. We spent a couple minutes in the community room before a Fire Fighter came into the room with a riot shield. We planned to exit The Tower under riot

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shield. A Fire Fighter with the riot shield would assist us in exiting the Tower with one Fire Fighter in front of the shield and one FF behind the shield. FF DEVANI and DD BOULTON left first, I asked that FF BOULTON to go to the front and FF DEVANI to the rear of the Fire Fighter under the shield so we wouldn't lose FF BOULTON off of the back. I did the same with FF PITT at the front, another Fire Fighter in the middle and myself at the rear with the shield above us and exited the Tower to the West side by a ramp. After exiting the building the 4 of us sat down and took off our EDBA sets and rested. It was at this location I have met our FRU crew again and other crews. From where we are sitting all I can see a glow. I took a photo at 0550 hours and believe I came out of the Tower at approximately 0515 hours.

Whilst we were resting our commissioner Danny COTTON came round and was asking everyone how we were, where we had been, to take our kit off and relax. I was highly impressed that COTTON came round to speak to us as in my 28 and a half years' service I have never spoken to a commissioner at an incident. COTTON asked me where I had been and how it was and I could only reply with "13th FLOOR, FUCKING AWFUL"

After a while resting I took my EDBA set to be serviced which was by the leisure centre. At this point I was desperately trying to hold onto the EDBA set so I could go back into the Tower but they were taken away from me. From where I was standing at the servicing area I could see that the Tower way still burning but there was now a lot more smoke. I could see that all the windows and the side of the building was blackened. Whilst walking from the resting area to the servicing area I was approached by civilians who were residents. I remember 1 girl in particular because I had come past her 3 times on my travels up and down who was asking if we had got to the 21st floor, if there was anyone alive in the 21st floor and if anyone had been to the 21st floor. I tried to give a standard answer of "NO I DIDN'T GO, YES I BELIEVE THERE WERE PEOPLE UP THERE, I DON'T KNOW IF THEY WERE RESCUED, SPEAK TO THE POLICE THEY'LL HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION WE DID". This was the same answer I gave to anyone that asked me what had happened. I was stopped by members of the press who were trying to get information and just through my experience I knew that they were press. I have then gone to a pub and church to use the facilities and get refreshments.

After a while I met FF PITT who had retrieved my SDBA set and we took these back to our appliance. We conducted a check of the appliance to see if anything was missing and seemed as if were trying to find things to do. This moment in time seemed like a haze, I was fairly tired and knackered. We were

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waiting for FF DOWDALL and CM HUNTER to return to find out what was going on. We found FF DOWDALL and CM HUNTER at approximately 0830hours. CM HUNTER stated he had a couple more things to do and he would get back to us. CM HUNTER returned and told us that we were not needed anymore. We then left the incident at approximately 0930hours and headed to Paddington fire station which took us 30 to 45 minutes in traffic.

I would like to mention that the communication radios were rubbish so I turned it off. I couldn't hear anything, I was getting constant feedback, crackling and just nothing I couldn't hear anything. I could hear voices but I couldn't hear what they were saying. Me being me I don't really use Radios as I don't like them, it never bloody works since the day we've had them. I couldn't hear what the lads were saying. It was more important what they were saying so I turned it off.

My knowledge of the Stay Put policy is that advice is given to callers to wait for us to turn up, we'll get you out. I was not aware during the incident if the stay put policy was changed but obviously someone had said something as residents were leaving the Tower.

My knowledge of the gas and electricity supply is that I don't have a clue if it was turned off. I would assume it was. But in a tower block it needs to be done by the electricity board not us. The only reason I could say the electricity was turned off was because the emergency lighting was on. I didn't know where the lifts were, I never saw them.

My knowledge on the command and decision making structure is that an Incident Commander (IC) would be in charge of the incident. I know the IC was the commissioner for Grenfell Fire. There would also be Sector Commanders (SC) the IC and SC would report back to the CU. Decisions would be recorded on the CU and in control. A WM would have been in charge in the beginning and as the incident got bigger the person in charge got higher up.

In regards to my observations and actions I don't think there were any fire precautions personally. My decision making was to be safe.

In regards to what could have been put in place to deal with the fire better I would say that Aerial appliances to be put on the pre-determined attendance which weren't on there. There could have had

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improved communications which they hadn't and I don't think they ever will because they won't spend the money, it's as simple as that to get better communications. To be honest I don't think communications would have ever worked at Grenfell because there were too many people. In addition having sprinklers fitted in the Tower would have helped.

As far as I am concerned the building regulations were far too relaxed from my experience.

The following are my exhibits:

MJB/01 — contemporaneous Notes that I wrote on return to Paddington fire Station on 14/06/2017 regarding my involvement at Grenfell Tower.

MJB/02 — A map provided my police where I was marked the following:

A — Location we initially arrived on scene and where I helped another crew locate a hydrant

B — Where I parked the Pump (G302) appliance on arrival to incident

C — Initial Marshalling Area on arrival to incident after parking up Pump appliance

I took 6 photos whilst I was at the incident from arrival up until I left Grenfell Tower. I previously mentioned to PC PATEL I had taken 23 photos but upon checking 17 photos were duplicates of exhibits MJB/03 to MJB/08 I sent these photos to by PC PATEL upon his request on 03/01/2018. I will exhibit the photos as the following:

MJB/03 — One (1) photo taken at 0237 on 14/06/2017 at Grenfell Fire. This exhibit has been sealed with a police evidence label marked MPSZ13184857.

MJB/04 - One (1) photo taken at 0308 on 14/06/2017 at Grenfell Fire. This exhibit has been sealed with a police evidence label marked MPSZ13184858.

MJB/05 - One (1) photo taken at 0547 on 14/06/2017 at Grenfell Fire. This exhibit has been sealed with a police evidence label marked MPSZ13184862.

MJB/06 - One (1) photo taken at 0740 on 14/06/2017 at Grenfell Fire. This exhibit has been sealed with a police evidence label marked MPSZ13184861.

MJB/07 - One (1) photo taken at 0547 on 14/06/2017 at Grenfell Fire. This exhibit has been sealed with a police evidence label marked MPSZ13184864.

Signature: M BEER  
2018

Signature witnessed by:

**OFFICIAL**

Statement of: BEER, MARK

Form MG11(T)

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MJB/08 - One (1) photo taken at 0547 on 14/06/2017 at Grenfell Fire. This exhibit has been sealed with a police evidence label marked MPSZ13184863.

Signature: M BEER  
2018

Signature witnessed by:

**OFFICIAL**