

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: HOOPER, MARTIN DOMINIC

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

Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 11 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 HOOPER

Date: 22/01/2018

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

This statement refers to the Grenfell Tower fire on the 14th June 2017.

I am a Fire Fighter based at Croydon Fire Station on the red watch, I have served as a Fire Fighter (FF) in the London Fire Brigade for 19 years. This is the same rank and role that I held on the 14th June 2017. I am currently rated competent in relation to on-going training and this was also the case on the 14th June 2017.

During this statement I will refer to notes I made at Paddington Fire Station on the 14th June (MHO/1). This incident took place at Grenfell Tower, North Kensington which is a tall tower block in the middle of a housing estate. I am not familiar with Grenfell Tower and this incident is the first time I had ever attended a call to this location.

During this statement I will refer to a number of Fire Fighters that I worked with, Crew Manager (CM) FEARNLEY, FF NWAGWU, FF BUNDEY and FF DOTCHIN who are all part of my crew on the Fire Rescue Unit (FRU). I will also refer to FF Tom ATKINS who is on the pump ladder at Croydon, FF Mick DENNY and GMs Pat GOULBOURNE, Julian SPOONER and Dave O'NEIL.

On the night of the 13th June 2017 I came on duty at 20:00 for a night shift at Croydon Fire Station. We received the call to attend the Grenfell Tower Fire at approximately 04:00 on the 14th June 2017. The request was for a fire and I believe it was to make pumps 40, make FRU's 10. I don't remember the journey from Croydon to Grenfell Tower at all until we got really nearby and I could see the glow of the fire lighting up the spaces between other tower blocks. FF NWAGWU was driving the FRU truck with

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CM FEARNLEY in the front with him and I was sat in the back with FFs BUNDEY and DOTCHIN so I wasn't really paying attention to the route and I couldn't see the MDT so I didn't get any further information about the incident en route. Our callsign was H316.

I was already aware that this was a major incident because of the huge numbers of resources that had been requested but it was at this point I realised how serious the fire was. When I first saw the tower itself from the side we were approaching it from it looked like it was entirely engulfed in fire from top to bottom. I remember everyone on the truck was shocked and making comments like 'FUCK ME' 'WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT' 'JESUS, WE'VE LET THAT ONE GO' I can't remember who said what but I think we were all astonished by what we saw as we drove up to the tower. I was expecting it to be big but I had no idea it would be that bad. The pictures later didn't do it justice, it was like something out of a film, it almost looked like special effects, like it wasn't real.

When we arrived at the scene we couldn't find the RVP initially and almost circumnavigated the entire scene trying to find it. I saw the tower from all sides and there was fire and smoke almost from top to bottom on each of them. Eventually we found a few pump ladders and a couple of other FRUs and just stopped behind them. I'm not sure where this was in relation to the tower or what direction we were looking at it from then. I got out of the truck and immediately started putting on my Extended Duration Breathing Apparatus (EDBA). I was wearing fully fire-fighting kit: tunic, trousers and boots, I had my smoke hood in my pocket as I find it quite stifling to wear and was carrying my gloves and my helmet. I then started walking with the rest of my crew towards the tower, we were all kitted out in EDBA. I walked down a little alley way between two other high rise buildings to reach the site but I'm not sure of any road names or direction of travel. There were still a lot of people from the local area around behind the cordons and they were calling out to us things like "THERES PEOPLE TRAPPED. HELP THEM. THERES PEOPLE STILL IN THERE. YOU'VE GOT TO GO RESCUE THEM" and things like that. I just remember hearing "YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING" several times but I didn't stop and speak to any of these people one on one as I just wanted to get in and get started. They were happy to see us and I just replied "OK" and "THANKS" to some of them as I walked past. There were lots of Police Officers about and lots of other Fire Crews as well, it was noisy and chaotic. I saw an aerial ladder directing a jet at the side of the tower but it didn't look like it was having much impact.

We had just got inside the cordon when CM FEARNLEY tasked FF DOTCHIN and myself to go and get a second set bag as there was a report of a Fire Fighter missing in the tower. A second set bag is a canvas bag about a metre by half a metre in dimensions into which you can put a spare BA set. You then velcro it

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all up securely and it can be taken into a fire and be given to someone in there. I took my BA set off and so did FF DOTCHIN as this was a matter of considerable urgency and speed would be of the essence. I then ran back to our FRU as fast as I could and grabbed a second set bag, FF DOTCHIN did the same and then we ran the bags back to our crew. As we ran out there was a Police Constable on the cordon and I remember he joked "FUCK, DO I NEED TO BE FOLLOWING YOU?" and I laughed and said "YOU'RE ALL RIGHT MATE, CALM DOWN."

We came back with the bags and the crew had found a couple of BA sets, these were tested to make sure they had air in them and packed in the second set bags. These were handed off to another crew, I'm not sure who as I was catching my breath after the sprint for the bags. I didn't hear any more about this and we weren't tasked with anything else immediately so I put my kit back on and waited with the rest of my crew for deployment in the holding area in between the leisure centre and the tower itself. I just remember really wanting to get started and do something and the waiting was really difficult. There were so many people around and a really lengthy queue seemingly to get into the tower it made me think of a factory or conveyor belt.

I paced around a bit and spoke to other Fire Fighters but I can't remember who or what about specifically. Bits of the tower were falling off and coming down, some bits were on fire and some weren't. I was watching the Police Officers with their riot shields ferrying people in and out of the tower and narrowly avoiding the debris. There was a lot of movement and a lot going on but there was nothing for us to do. There were lights on inside the tower as on this side there seemed to be slightly less fire coverage. Where we had walked up initially the tower looked like it was ablaze from top to bottom and all you could see was flames but on this side you could still see lights at some of the windows and people moving around inside. I saw one man about half way up walking back and forth in front of the window on his mobile phone. It made me really want to get in and get started knowing there were still people alive in there and we could potentially still save them.

CM FEARNLEY then told us that it was our turn to go in so I followed behind a Police Officer and ran across the open area to get into the main foyer at the bottom of the tower. It was just starting to get light at this time. There was debris all over the floor but it seemed that a slight path had been cleared for access where the debris was a bit lighter. I entered the foyer which was full of kit and people, there was lots of hose rolled up and left about, lots of open first aid bags as well as the BA boards and Fire Fighters monitoring them. I was directed to wait in a small store room or lift room on the ground floor, I don't remember who by. I have marked this room on my exhibit (MHO/2). I was with CM FEARNLEY, the

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rest of my crew and several other Fire Fighters from Chelsea and we waited in this room for about 15 minutes. It was very warm and humid and water was cascading down from above. There were several inches of water on the floor so you couldn't sit down so we were all trying to lean on walls and things and were soaked through in minutes.

I kept looking out of the door of the room to check what was happening and to make sure I didn't miss being called for a tasking. Police Officers were also coming in and out of this room as they waited to be needed to run people in and out. There were a lot of crews coming down as well, taking their tallies and debriefing at the bottom of the stairs. I also saw a member of the public coming down the staircase, he was being helped but was walking. He was given oxygen I think but was moved out of the building quickly to where the ambulances were. I remember thinking that there were still people coming out, we can still save people from this. It made me even more impatient to get our tasking and go up.

After about 15 minutes waiting in the little room someone came over and said "OK WE NEED A CREW OF FOUR TO GO UP". At that point I was there with three other members of my usual crew but there were two Fire Fighters from Chelsea who had been waiting longer so I was assigned with CM FEARNLEY to go in with them. We went over to near the BA boards and were given a briefing by GM Pat GOULBOURNE. We were tasked to go up to the 11th floor with a length of hose and a branch and try and get into the foyer and plug into the dry rise and, if successful with that, commence fighting the fire from there and carrying out search and rescue. He said "DO WHAT YOU CAN, THERE'S NOT MUCH WATER" which I've never had in a briefing before, I got the sense that it was a case of just do as much as you can but normal procedures are a bit out of the window at this point. The last thing he said was "COME BACK ALIVE". I didn't think much of it at the time but I think this briefing was when I first really knew that this incident was completely unlike anything else I'd ever been at.

I gave over my BA tally and went under air and started up the stairs. At the bottom the lights were on and you go up a set of stairs in the foyer area to a mezzanine floor before you enter the main staircase of the tower. There were a lot of hoses going up and lots of water coming down so it was difficult going. There was a bit of smoke in the staircase at the bottom but it was quite clear but as we went higher the smoke got steadily thicker and I couldn't tell if the lights were still on after a couple of floors. There was so much hose on the floor that I had to walk on it, there was nowhere else to tread and it was very difficult as I was carrying a length of rolled up hose which is about 3ft in diameter and quite heavy and it kept coming unravelled and getting in my way. I wound up going up on my hands and knees to keep from stumbling and falling. It was getting hotter and hotter the higher I went up and was almost completely

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dark for the most part with only brief moments when the smoke would clear suddenly and you could see for a moment.

At around the 9th floor I encountered a large casualty who was lying prone on their back in the stairwell. I was on my hands and knees and first noticed a pair of bare feet in my face. I initially believed it was a male due to the size and they were very clearly deceased and had clearly been there for quite a while as there were hoses under and over them. I tried to go around them but they took up the entire stairwell. It was a narrow stairwell and I'd say 2 average sized people could just about fit side by side. The casualty was completely immobile and I couldn't move them to the side at all so I crawled over the top. There was a lot of noise in the stairwell from other Fire Fighters under BA but I was completely focused on my own task and I don't remember seeing any other members of the public other than that casualty.

I got to the 11th floor with CM FEARNEY and the two other Fire Fighters from Chelsea and there was a crew already there with a hose. I couldn't see anything marking it as the 11th floor as it was so dark and smoky but CM FERNLEY was speaking to the crew who were already here and it was clearly where he thought we should stop. The crew waiting for us were supposed to be covering us as we entered the 11th floor lobby and connected our hose to the dry riser. The Fire Fighter holding the hose which was supposed to be used to cover us was able to close the end by pinching it with his fingers, when he let go there was a small jet of water which travelled maybe a metre and a half. This is completely insufficient. Normally you would have enough water going through the hose that it would essentially be rock solid and you'd never be able to hold it closed just with your hands like that. There was basically no water pressure, it was like a dribble. I don't know what his hose was connected to but there was no way it would have been able to cover us even slightly.

We had a discussion as a crew on the landing of the 11th floor at this point. One of the Fire Fighters from Chelsea had been standing still for too long and his ADSU had gone off. This is an alarm which sounds when a Fire Fighter is stationary for a length of time and it also sounds on the BA boards at the bridgehead. It is standard procedure to exit the fire immediately if an ADSU goes off so with that plus the lack of water we should have left. CM FEARNELY said "THERE'S NO WATER, WE CAN'T GO IN WITH NO WATER". I was frustrated as we had waited and then finally been given something to do and to get this far and then leave without doing anything didn't sit well with me. I said "LET'S HAVE A LOOK ANYWAY" and opened the door to the 11th floor lobby. I was hit immediately with a wall of heat and gases and almost knocked off my feet. I shut the door almost immediately and agreed that there was absolutely no way we could go in without water, it was incredibly hot. I felt bad for opening the door and

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letting all that extra smoke into the stairwell. I left the 45mm hose I'd been carrying rolled up by the 11th floor door with a branch and turned to leave.

I started walking down the staircase again. It was really busy, there were loads of other Fire Fighters and we were all sort of having to climb over each other. There was no obvious side for up and side for down in the staircase and everyone was just making their way as best they could. At some point I saw the pump crew from Croydon who had arrived after us but must have been put in straight away, I'm not sure what floor that was on. I was walking behind CM FEARNEY and reminded him just a moment too late about the casualty on the 9th floor. He tripped slightly and I said that we should at least try to move the casualty out of the way. I tried to pick up an arm but it was a dead weight and I couldn't move the casualty at all. I knew I was in the way of other Fire Fighters and that I wouldn't be able to move the casualty without more people or equipment so I left it and carried on walking down the stairs.

We got back down to the bridgehead, took off our BA masks and got back our tallies. CM FERNLEY and I went to debrief with Borough Commander Pat GOULBOURNE again who looked a bit surprised to see us so soon. CM FEARNEY explained that there was no water and no way of getting into the 11th floor and that frankly it was so hot up there that even if we'd got in there was no way anyone would be able to get out through that heat. We made sure he knew there was no water and no way of covering anyone at the 11th floor and no way of getting in without water due to the heat at this time. I was thinking if we had had water it could have been really dangerous as we would have gone in and stayed in and with that level of heat it could have gone really wrong.

I went out of the building under a riot shield again. By now it was properly light outside but I'm not sure how long we were in the tower in total. I went back to the main grassy area outside the leisure centre to service my BA set. I drank some water, tested my set and made sure it was ready to go again and then waited to be deployed again. Everywhere around me were people, it was as busy a scene as I have ever experienced. Along with the Fire Crews, Police and Ambulance staff I could see there were also people from PEG turning up with more cylinders and equipment. I was with CM FEARNEY and the pump ladder crew from Croydon. I don't remember much about what we were talking about only that we all wanted to get back in and do more and that everyone was amazed that the fire had got as bad as it had. I'd been waiting for a short while when I saw two Officers I know, Dave O'NEIL and Julian SPOONER who are both Borough Commanders I believe. I spoke to them briefly and mentioned the bariatric casualty in the stairwell at the 9th floor and that they should ideally be moved to allow better access and prevent them being trampled on by everyone. They said they would feed it in and let people know about

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it. I then went back to the holding station and waited with my crew. We then got moved around to the other holding area, I'm not sure exactly where it was but I walked through a covered area and then there was a concrete area with a big high brick wall from the train line. I sat there with my crew to wait for my turn to go back in. I don't know how long I waited but I think it was at least an hour. I was quite frustrated by the delay but there were so many Fire Fighters and the fire was so big so I understood it. We had a fireground briefing from DAC ROE, he spoke to everyone who was around at that time thanking us for our hard work and giving a welfare check. He said that he knew we had gone outside policy but that he appreciated what we'd been doing.

A short while later Borough Commander Julian SPOONER came over and said that he had a tasking to go and move the bariatric casualty on the 9th floor. He asked me to get together kit to help move them and I went and scavenged as much as I could. I think I found most of the equipment on Battersea's FRU. I got stretchers, slings, ropes, everything I could think might be useful in moving the casualty and went back to Mr SPOONER. I can't remember who else was on the crew for this tasking but there were four or five of us in total and a Police DVI Officer who came up to the bridgehead with us. I was really pleased to have something else to do and that my suggestion was going to be acted on because I did think it was an issue for access that the casualty had been left in the staircase as well as the fact that people clambering over it was likely causing additional damage to the body which would cause distress later.

I went back into the building under a shield again. I didn't go under air on the ground floor as the bridgehead had been moved by this time up to the 4th or 5th floor and there were BA boards set up in the lobby there. When we got to the bridgehead there was a disagreement between the Officer in charge of the bridgehead and Mr SPOONER. The Officer running the bridgehead didn't know about our tasking and didn't want to use EDBA crews to move a casualty when he could use us for other more specialist tasks. I didn't get involved in the discussion but tried to stay out of the way as it was extremely busy at the bridgehead and I was there with a large stretcher and other bulky equipment taking up space. Our tasking was officially cancelled and I went and sat in a flat that was out of the door from the stairwell over to the left hand corner of the lobby.

I waited in that flat for several hours. Most of the rest of my crew wound up there as well, I was with FFs Mick DENNY, Tom ATKINS, Tom DOTCHIN and CM FEARNLEY along with some others as well. I sat on a bed or sofa and just waited. I don't remember much about the actual flat itself, there was minimal fire damage and it was clearly quite well kept but nothing stood out. I took my set off at one point at used the toilet but otherwise just passed the time sitting and waiting and talking a bit to the other Fire Fighters.

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I think generally we just spoke about how big the whole incident was and about how long we'd been waiting in the flat. Morale did dip quite a lot the longer we were there as we no longer really believed we'd be able to rescue anyone given the ferocity of the fire and how long it had been going on which was disheartening. I periodically stuck my head out to ask if they needed us for anything but they just replied that they didn't yet. There was a constant flow of people going in and out people giving their tallies over and going up and taking them back and leaving, it was loud and busy but we were just left where we were.

We then got informed that the bridgehead was going to be moved up to the 6th floor. There weren't as many people about as there were when we first got to the bridgehead on the 4th or 5th floor but it was still quite an operation to move everyone up. I helped carry a couple of things up, bottles of water and stands for the BA boards. They set up again in the lobby in much the same way as it had been with BA boards by the lifts and we went to the equivalent flat to that we had been but now slightly higher up to carry on waiting for a tasking. It was clear on the 6th floor as you would expect for them to have moved the bridgehead up and there was no or very minimal smoke in the stairwell at that level too at that point. We all went and set up again in the flat out of the way waiting for a tasking. I can't remember what this flat looked like either but there was a bit of smoke damage.

After a while FF ATKINS got up to use their toilet and came back saying that the flat next door was on fire. He'd felt it as it was warm at head height as he hadn't had his helmet on so had been able to feel it more keenly. When I went and had a look I could see that in the flat next door there was a built in wardrobe which was on fire. It was on fire all the way across the room to the window. It was all charred and smoking and there were orange flames coming out and quite a bit of heat. I had a squeeze bottle of water and put some of that on it to damp it down a bit until FF ATKINS came back with a hose. I remember thinking "WHAT AM I DOING?" and that this was the best water pressure I'd had so far at this job which is ridiculous.

FF ATKINS came back with a hose. I don't know what it was connected to but it had pretty good water pressure. He gave a quick squirt but it obviously steamed straight away and he still wasn't wearing his helmet so he stopped quickly. There was an Officer there who shouted "PUT YOUR BLOODY HELMET ON" but I went over instead and took over. I put it out which only took a minute or so as it hadn't spread too far. When I came back out of the flat everyone was packing back up to move back down to the previous bridgehead as clearly the 6th floor wasn't as far out of the reach of the fire as people

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had thought. I left the hose up on the 6th and returned back down to the flat I'd been waiting in previously to wait for a proper tasking.

I don't know how long we were waiting exactly but I think it was a bit before 4pm when I heard that red watch were all going to be relieved. I was really irritated by this because we had been waiting for so long and I didn't want to leave without doing something. I went and spoke to Borough Commander Leon BACK and explained the situation. He said he would see what he could do given the circumstances. A few moments later he said he had a job for us and sent me and FF ATKINS to get a briefing from a Station Manager who had set up a briefing room in one of the flats opposite the BA boards. I don't know his name and don't think I'd ever seen him before but he gave us our tasking which was to go up to the 10th floor, plug in a hose to the dry rise, fire fight if necessary and then repeat on the 11th, 12th and so on as far as we could get to make it easier for crews following us to fire fight.

I took a reel of 45mm hose and went under air then FF ATKINS and I left the bridgehead and headed up the stairwell. The stairwell was much clearer now, the windows were all gone on the higher floors and there was quite a breeze clearing out the smoke. There was still a lot underfoot in terms of hose and debris so it was quite difficult to walk up but not as bad as it had been earlier. I noticed that the casualty that had been at about the 9th floor who we had planned to move had been removed but I didn't see that and wasn't involved in the end. I was walking in front of FF ATKINS and was trying to keep count of the floors but they weren't clearly marked at all and suddenly I heard a shout of "OI, WHAT FLOOR ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE ON?" I said the tenth and they then told me I was on the 15th. I had completely miscounted so we turned around and went back down to the 10th floor.

I entered the 10th floor, it was completely grey with ash and there were pockets of orange flamed fire about. Most of the interior walls had burnt away and it was open with breeze coming through because the windows were all gone. There was debris all over the floor, bits of metalwork which hadn't burnt, you could see hose remnants and other fire-fighting media which had been left and which had burnt. The floors were really greasy and slippery. There was wiring hanging down which hadn't completely burnt. It was quite dark but visibility was mostly good and there wasn't much smoke at all. I don't remember which of us plugged in the hose but we did a bit of spot fire fighting to get the bigger pockets of fire which remained. The water pressure at this time was good and I had a jet which would reach across a flat easily. I was holding the branch and every time I directed the jet at some fire there would be a lot of steam which meant I was having to wipe my mask a lot to be able to see anything. It was warm up there, I think

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the building had just soaked up so much of the heat from the fire that there was residual heat rather than from the active fires.

After a few minutes we agreed to move on to the 11th floor and I left the hose and branch ready for the next Crew to use. The floor looked much the same as the 10th floor, most of the partition walls had burnt away, the visibility was good, there was debris and leftover burnt hose everywhere and there were pockets of flame dotted all over the floor. Again, I don't remember who plugged in the hose but I started putting out some of the larger pockets of fire again. As I tried to duck down to avoid some wiring hanging from the ceiling I slipped over and landed on my back. When I was lying there I remember looking to my left and seeing what I thought could be a body on fire, it could have been metal work but was twisted by heat, blackened and smoking. I didn't look at it closely as there were things on fire on my other side, I was stuck on my back like a turtle and FF ATKINS was laughing at me.

I managed to get up and continue fighting the fires on the 11th floor. The majority of the fires were orange flamed but there was a small patch of blue flame that appeared to be gas. FF ATKINS pointed it out and told me to be careful not to hit it with a jet as then there could be a gas build up and explosion. It was coming from some metal work which I think would have been a valve for the gas which had clearly been damaged in the fire. I don't know if the gas supply itself was still on, it was only a small blue flame so it could have just been residual leftover gas burning. I made sure to avoid it and focused on putting the larger seats of fire out. There was nothing too outrageous left but I wanted to do my part and make sure that I didn't leave anything which could cause problems for the next Crew coming up. The pressure remained good and all I can think is the reason we had such bad pressure earlier on the 11th floor was that the hose was connected to a pump outside and lost pressure because of the distance it had to go up and all the kinks in the hose up the staircase.

We went up to the 12th floor, it looked very similar to the 10th and 11th floors. There were similar hazards — still trip hazards all over the floor and the floors were still really greasy and slippery. We plugged in the hose, again I don't remember who actually did it or if there was anything plugged in already that we had to remove. FF ATKINS slipped over this time, almost doing the splits. The floors were really hard to move around on as you had to avoid the trip hazards and it only took getting off balance really slightly for you to slip because the floors were so wet and greasy. There were still spots of fire all over the 12th floor as there had been on the two below and we had just started putting a bit of water on the larger bits when the Crew in the stairwell called to us and said we were being pulled out. I was a bit frustrated as I think we could have done more floors and I was still fine for air but I appreciate that I wasn't best placed to

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make that decision as you can get caught up easily in your individual task and other people have the better big picture view.

I went back to the bridgehead with FF ATKINS. I took back my BA tally and purged my BA set. I then went back into the room where we had received the initial briefing and spoke to the same Station Manager as before. He had a map on the table so we showed him where we had been and described what we had done to him and where we had left the fire-fighting media so he can pass that on to other Crews. We then went back downstairs and left the building by the front entrance. I can't remember if we went under shields this time. There was considerably less debris falling than there had been either of the other times I had gone in as we had been waiting inside the tower for several hours at least. There was an enormous amount of debris all over the floor outside the tower.

I went back over to the grassy area by the leisure centre and took my set off and sat down to recuperate. A firefighter who had been out for a while helped deal with my kit, I don't remember who it was. I had some water and a burger from one of the vans that were there and sat and looked back at the tower. There was lots and lots of smoke at this point and a few little spots of fire here and there but for the most part it seemed to be out. I was only there for a short while before my unit got dismissed and told to go to Paddington for a further debrief and welfare check. I don't remember who gave us the dismissal as I was quite exhausted at that point and just focused on getting rehydrated. Most of my team were all already ready to go so I got my kit and went with them back to our FRU and we drove to Paddington.

At Paddington I was asked to write my initial statement and was offered a fresh t shirt and counselling. I wrote a brief account but was honestly more concerned with getting back to Croydon so I could get ready for my next shift. We left and were back at Croydon for about 18:30. I had a quick shower, went into town for some dinner and then came back for the next night duty shift starting at 20:00. At the time I just wanted to put the whole thing behind me and not think about it for a while so I could focus on doing my job the next night. I think it was too much to be able to deal with there and then so I just put a pause on it until I had more time and space to think about it. It was like no other job I've ever been to in terms of size and the scale of the response and in terms of having so many departures from normal procedure. I've never been given a briefing of 'just do what you can' before and I think that was the moment I knew this was an unprecedented incident.

The main issues I noted were with communications and water. I didn't have a radio in my BA but CM FEARNLEY had issues with his and I don't remember anyone getting a single message through via radio through the whole incident when I was with them. In terms of water, as I have described in my statement,

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there were times when the water pressure seemed to have completely gone. Without water there is basically no way to impact a fire of that nature, no way to fight the fire and no way to safely search and rescue. I have attended numerous other high rise fires over the last 19 years but never anything on this scale. I did not suffer any injuries on the 14th June 2017 and have not sought any medical help since. However, I believe I suffered many near misses on the night, especially from falling debris as I worked in and near the tower.

I now exhibit the following items which have been mentioned in my statement:

MHO/1 — notes made at Paddington Fire Station on 14/06/2017.

MHO/2 — a sketch showing the layout of the ground floor of Grenfell Tower.

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