

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: GREEN, NEIL

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

Occupation: FIRE FIGHTER

This statement (consisting of 18 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: NEIL GREEN

Date: 02/11/2017

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

My name is Fire Fighter Neil GREEN. My date of birth is the [REDACTED]. I am a Fire Fighter in the London Fire Brigade. I started work in June 2008. It's been 9 and a half years now. I got posted to Ealing. It's my first station. I've been here since. That's about that.

As a Fire Fighter my day to day roles are that we get tasked at role call as to what we are doing. I am a Driver, so if I am detailed as a Driver I drive and do the roles that that entails. If I am tasked as a Fire Fighter for the day you 'sit on the back'. You wear BA — Breathing Apparatus and do more of that. As a Driver I can only drive the Fire Engines. I cannot drive any other machine. On our watch (at Ealing) we have a Watch of 8. We have two appliances. I can't drive one of those appliances but I can drive the Fire Engine. We have four drivers so you take it in turns. If it's my turn to drive, I drive. If not I sit on the back. That's all there is to it.

'Sitting on the back' of the Fire Engine means slightly different roles, both when you report for duty on the day and at incidents when you arrive at them. This is especially on smaller jobs. On bigger jobs it does not matter so much, you are just a Fire Fighter. There you are just the Fire Fighters role. You leave the machine in situ and go off and do various things.

On a day-to day basis, every morning we have a role-call and get detailed our riding positions and our

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

duties for the day. From being here for a while and knowing what the role of a Driver is and what the role of a Fire Fighter is, it becomes a given. If you are a Driver you have to test the machine, you test the pump, test the hoses and make sure everything is working for that. If you are a Fire Fighter sitting on the back you test your set. Everyone, or most people, have a Breathing Apparatus set so you always test your set. That is normally the first thing that we do. Then we do inventories on the machine and things like that.

We are detailed by the Officer in Charge. To explain, although I am a Fire Fighter rank I am temporarily acting-up at the minute. I am a temporary Crew Manager at the moment, the next rank up. On our Watch we should have a Watch Manager, a Crew Manager and then however many Fire Fighters required for one Fire Engine and one Operational Support Unit (OSU), the other vehicle at Ealing. But we don't have a Watch Manager at the moment. So we have 7 Fire Fighters here at Ealing and no Watch Manager. To help out the Crew Manager I have been acting-up to Crew Manager and he has been acting-up to Watch Manager. As a result of that I have slightly more computer access and I can get sent out to other stations, to be in charge of pumps. We have a Pump ladder here. I cannot be in charge of that. But I can on a two-appliance station be in charge of a Pump. But I wasn't doing that at Grenfell, acting-up in any way, shape or form. I was a Fire Fighter.

The London Fire Brigade is split in to Watches. I am on the Red Watch here. When you finish training school you are given a posting. I got Ealing Red Watch. That's where you come, that where you start. That's where you learn things. When I arrived we had two machines, two appliances, Fire Engines. It was brilliant, really good. At that time I think there were 12 or 13 people on the Watch. We also had the OSU as long as I have been here. It was really good for four or five years. Then they took a Pump away in a round of cuts. So we had to lose four people I think. We are the remainder that stayed. It's everyone's first station here. Everyone here, apart from Mark in charge, for everyone here they finished training school and came straight here. I'm the new boy at 9 years. We've got proper oldies here. We've got three 25 year men. They've been here from day dot. Our Watch is one of the last ones like that, where people tend to stay. It's good, it's really good. People tend to be happy, if not all the time!

When we are on Duty I am always on the Red Watch. If we have too many riders and I get detailed to ride at a Fire Station that doesn't have enough, that is still Red Watch. So when I am on duty it is Red

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

Watch across the whole of London, no matter where you are. I think Control is slightly different, but short of talking to them on the phone, we don't have much contact. We can't do their job and they can't do our job so their Watch system is slightly different. On an operational Fire Brigade point-of-view everyone on duty today is on Red Watch.

Based here at Ealing, historically we have an area that we cover. I believe that has now changed to the Vision system. So each station has a Map of the Station ground. At Ealing we are in the middle of the Station ground. Historically that meant if there was a shout anywhere on the Station ground, we go. If we need another appliance, any of the surrounding stations such as Southall or Acton in the south will come. Now, if we have a Shout or a smoke alarm at the bottom of the ground, and there is a shout just over the border on another Station's ground, we will go on it now because we are the closest. But it's still quite a new system and there are teething problems with it. But historically that is our ground that we do all our community fire safety work with. But operationally now we don't have grounds, so we go where we are needed. As well as that though we have always been able to leave the ground and go and help where we are needed.

The Vision system is new. Quite honestly it's had some problems, with it. You are supposed to be mobilised to an incident based on the closest machine to that incident. It doesn't always happen; I don't want to say anything that I can't corroborate. I can't give you stats to say it doesn't work. In my experience as a Fire Fighter on the ground the nearest appliance to the shout does not always go. In my experience, when we get mobilised to places you cannot just guarantee that you are the closest machine. We've been called to all sorts of places. But it is hard to know if we are the closest machine. It does not work all the time, but it is hard to say how you can manipulate figures as to whether it works or not. Saying that, I might be shot down statistics involved. There have been incidents that you get called to miles away or you miss ones that are really close. That has happened when I've been around. To explain how it works, a call comes in to our Control. Our Control mobilise us. They must look at a map with us on it, we have GPS. It goes from there. That is my basic understanding. But as far as who does what and who sends who where, I don't know I am afraid. If we are out it comes up on a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT). You acknowledge that you have seen it. It details where you are going. We find it on a Map. We still work with Maps and things like that. The MDT gives all sorts of information; time of call, time of mobilisation, where the incident is, what it is, it gives you a route card to find on a Map. It tells you who

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

is going, which machines are on it. It tells you any known risks. That's about it. They have just changed from nice ones that you could read to new ones that you can't! It's harder to read that information. That's what it is. You used to get a Tip sheet where you could plainly see it, now it's the same information presented slightly differently. It's a bit tougher to pick-up but that might be just me. I guess Control allocates us to each job.

Regards actually sitting in the Fire Engine, the officer in charge is in the near side front seat. The Driver is in the driver's seat, obviously. Two in the front. As we have just one machine now we have three people in the back. The Watch room officer has the near side back seat and rides initial BA. When we arrive to a Fire the first two people in BA are the Watch room officer and the person who sits behind the Driver. Someone in the middle will also have a BA set but they do the other jobs. That's quite a prescribed thing over the whole of the Fire Brigade I'd say. For the reasons that throughout the Fire Brigade you know what you are doing & we can ride on other Fire Engines. You don't need to have a conversation about things, but that goes back to what we are told at role-call. When you are detailed where you are riding and what your role is. That's about it.

The rank above me is Crew Manager. Above them is a Watch Manager. On a one appliance station there is a Watch Manager A. On a two appliance station a Watch Manager B. Here at Ealing although we have two appliances one is the OSU so a Watch Manger A is needed. As I said, we just have Fire Fighters and Crew Managers at the minute so we are acting-up.

Our shift pattern is that the first day is 0930 to 2000. It is day, day, night, night. Nights are from 2000 to 0930. Then we are off for the remainder of the fourth day, then three more. We work on an 8 day shift. So we roll on a day every week. Day, Day, Night, Night, Off, Off, Off.

Because we all work the same Red Watch shift all over London you do get to know a lot of people. Because we are all on duty at the same time, over a number of years on duty you get to know more or less everyone, certainly in our area. The Watches around us vary. Last night it was Green Watch. They have finished now, this morning. Tonight the White Watch will come on duty. Then us again, then Blue Watch. It's complicated. We don't just see one watch, we see all the other Watches at various points. We only see the Green Watch twice, at the start and the end. We see the White Watch and the Blue Watch

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

three times, at the end of shifts. It's easy with a Calendar in front of you and it's nowhere near as complicated as Police Shifts! I've had that conversation many times.

I've been asked to give a chronology of my role in the Grenfell Fire. So we would have come on duty at 2000 hours of the 13th June, the night before it happened. It was just like any other shift. Had role-call, found out what we were doing. I can't remember what we were doing; I was on the Back definitely. I think I was initial BA. I could check but I don't remember where I was sitting on the back. It was like any other nightshift. It was late. The mobilisation system went down, the bells. The call was for the OSU originally. It doesn't go out too often so we were quite happy they had a shout. They don't move much. The lights came on. It wasn't our machine. Then the lights went off again. I think 5 minutes later we got called again. We got a shout. We knew it was probably a big job as the OSU normally only goes on big jobs really. For us to go straight after it's been made-up. To explain, as Fires get bigger you get more machines. With those machines you need different resources. The OSU tends to go on bigger jobs because of the things they carry. It's quite well established, and it has happened before, that when the OSU goes and then we are called afterwards, it's because a job has been made-up. More Fire Engines are needed, more personnel are needed. We got the shout and came down. We could tell from the Tip sheet that it's gone from an 8 Pump Fire to a 20 Pump Fire quite quickly, which in my experience is pretty unprecedented. Normally they go 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15 to 20. This went to 20 very quickly. I have been on 20 Pump Fires before. I did not think much of it but I did think the speed to 20 was very unusual.

The Driver works out where we are going. It wasn't on our ground so we've got to plot the way there. I wasn't driving. We keep our main scheme radios off as soon as we get to the station because it costs money to keep them open. So as soon as the main scheme radio was put on you could hear it was a serious incident. You heard Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) calls being talked about and, not that it was chaos, but there was a lot of radio traffic. A lot of radio traffic between the crews that were there and Control giving details of FSG calls. This is happening as we are going out the doors and on our way there.

We made our way there. We thought the best way was up by the A40. I think we went up Hanger Lane. Did a right and on to the A40 that way. You could see from quite a way off it was going and you could see from a long way off you thought this was unusual. Straight away you could tell that this was a really big job and we would be working hard. It was a struggle to get off the A40 to get to Grenfell. It was really

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

close to the A40. But to get there you have to come down and around and there were road closures that night, so it was a battle to get from really close to the Tower to park-up. When we managed to park-up we were quite a distance away I'd say because of the volume of people, the volume of traffic in the area, all the agencies there, everything. It's quite hard to get close. I think I wrote it down at the time but I can't remember where we parked. I couldn't tell you on a map. I could walk through where we parked but I don't know the name of the roads. It wasn't that close to the Tower.

We got off. Normally you sit tight while the officer in charge books you in to Command units with your role board. They get a brief from a senior officer and then he gets us to do whatever is needed. Normally that's what happens, that's the done thing, in my experience. We knew there was no point just sitting tight there. It was a big fire. We thought there is no point us sitting there waiting. So we all got off and made our way to the incident. Mark went to check in with the Command unit. We just found quite a lot of jobs that needed doing. We had to walk through loads of people who were on-lookers but concerned people who have either come out of the Tower or were just local residents. It was a battle to get to the scene of operations. We managed to get there. Initially we had to go and try and help find a water supply for an Ariel, I think. It was the Ariel that was parked at the site itself where the leisure centre was. I will draw a map to explain. I have not been back so this is just from the night:

One (1) x sketch Map of Grenfell Tower site

EXHIBIT NG/1 refers.

Between the Tower and the Leisure centre, the appliance was parked. So we parked away (off the map) and approached. You could tell straight away they were trying to get water here. We knew these people as we are all on Red Watch. We knew who was in charge and wanting things done. There was a hydrant a little way away so we had to get water to that and get a fire engine in the middle to supply water to the Pump between the Hydrant and the Ariel to get water to it. So I started helping with that. Someone else on our machine found a fire engine. I don't know which one he got. I think it was Soho's but he found one. We got that put in place. Our time of call I think was about 0130. I don't know what time we got there but this is still in the relatively early stages of that. But in the process of me doing that, helping to try to sort all that out with the Hydrant, I got called on the radio to help with the Command unit aspect of

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

that job.

To explain, we have Fire Survival Police Guidance Policies now that if someone is in a Tower and they are on the phone to Control, talking to Control, these are called Fire Survival Guidance calls (FSG). Now with Policy changes, when that occurs our mobilisation is slightly different. You get a designated machine to assist Command units, with that FSG. Obviously no one has ever dealt with that many FSG's. So the whole policy of your machine just doing that, I don't know what happened to that policy. Normally it would say on your Tip Sheet FSG and that's all you would deal with, nothing else. But that wasn't the case with us. I think it was quickly apparent that even though we weren't called on it you would do whatever you can. All those policies are brilliant but they don't really matter too much if you need to get on with stuff.

I went to the Command unit. It seemed like miles away but I'm sure they weren't. I reported, that I was here to help out. For me that part of the job, finding the Hydrant, was over & done. There were enough people there to do that. En route we knew there would be FSG's coming in. It doesn't take much to know that it was night time, there were going to be people in there. It's going to be tough getting people out. I knew there were FSGC's coming out and I thought I would help out and do my bit.

So I reported to the Command Unit and waited around. There was a lot of information being processed, coming-out over the radio. Phone calls coming in, a lot of crowds around, a lot of concerned on-lookers. Things like the utilities arriving to sort the water out. Everyone is reporting to the Command unit and waiting to be sorted-out. At that stage it is still relatively early to be allocated although half an hour in. Our FSGC's were being passed up to the Bridgehead so that they could be allocated and trying to get the information to BA crews so we could try and get people out. All that is happening at the same time as loads of other things. I reported there. I got given a note or whatever it was and told to find a senior officer with a flat number, I can't remember, with how many people were in there, I can't remember, pass that to him for him to relay the message to whoever is in charge of the Bridgehead. So they can then detail BA crews accordingly.

So, I got my first message and ran it down, found the person in charge of getting information to the Bridgehead. I don't remember who it was. On my way back I twisted my ankle running on a hose. There

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

were hose everywhere. It's a minor point but I had a sore ankle from about 10 minutes into that job. I was waiting for my next message when someone came over and told me to go and put a BA set on. Again I don't remember who that was. There was a burning Tower so you don't have to be asked twice to put a set on. I went to find our machine. I later found out that I walked a round about way to go and get my BA set from our Fire Engine. I put it on. Timings wise I am off, I don't know much about the timings of the whole job. I am off.

I got the BA set and came back down to where the Command Units were stationed, again going a round about route but I did not realise. I waited at a holding area. This is where you put resources that you are not using, you try and keep them in one spot, such as at a car crash, all be on one spot so if you are needed you are all there. It seemed to be a congregation of people who had BA sets on so I thought I'd go and join that. It didn't matter who I was with, I could make a crew-up with a minimum of two. I thought I'd find someone and as it goes, back to Red Watch thing, I knew most of the people in there, so I thought 'Brilliant'. We stood around there for some time, I don't know how long, as someone was deciding we need 5 more wearers, 10 more wearers, until it was my turn. Then I went in with a group of 10 wearers to underneath a canopy there. I cannot remember where the canopy was.

So, I went from the big holding area with large numbers of BA wearers to the canopy with a group of 10 BA wearers. There I met Mark Aston O'Donovan, our Crew Manger acting-up to Watch Manager, so he is to all purposes Watch Manager Aston O'Donovan, and again I thought 'Brilliant'. It would be natural for us to wear BA together. You tend to wear BA with people you work with even though I knew he had not worn a set for a while. We were part of the ten, we were moved forwards. By this time debris is falling quite a lot now. We were becoming more and more aware of this as a hazard. There were loads of things falling, falling. I don't know if they had to re-position Arial's etc. There was a big queue of people in BA waiting to get in. There was an exposed section between the Tower and the Canopy where people were waiting. It was one of those 'give it a look and if you think you can run through, run through' jobs. This was before the Riot Shields came out. We got called however many go forward, gave it a look and ran through to get into the Tower.

Once we were in the Tower I can't remember there being a staging area there. I think we went straight to the Bridgehead. At that point I think it was on the third floor. The Bridgehead is something that we set-up

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

to manage our resources. So in high rise fires we set the Bridgehead up two floors below the fire floor. It is set-up with a long list of equipment - BA sets, Breaking-in gear, Thermal Imaging Camera's (TIC), two lines of hose to link up, one from below the first crew coming-up and the second hose to link to the Dry Riser, an entry control board, people trained as entry control. There are a whole raft of things needed on this Bridgehead. We made our way to that Bridgehead, that scene of operations, set-up to commit people in BA to that fire.

You know people are involved. It night time, it's a big Tower. You can hear FSG on the Radio. I've taken messages to Control so I know there are people in there. So you are in a queue basically to go and do your bit. So Mark and I are edging forward slowly until it's our turn. I did talk to other people but it is hard to remember. We got called forward to a point. We were told to go under air. At this point we had BA on and mask on, on a neck loop, it's not on but ready to go. Normally you get briefed by whoever is in charge, you get told to go to a point and get told exactly what you should do, and everything like that. On that particular job you didn't have to be asked to put a set on at any time, you knew there was the Fire, people inside, you put a set on and got involved. We were getting under air and someone said, infact they wrote on a tunic which I thought was a good idea at the time until I realised that you couldn't see a thing, go to a floor and a Flat number. They have an FSG going on. I think it was the seventh floor, I can't remember the flat number. I thought 'seventh floor, that's doable'. Getting under air requires that you put your mask on and put your flash hood on, make sure there is no skin showing, put your helmet on, put your gloves on. This all takes maybe a minute. In that time it took to do all this someone said 'change of plan'. You are going to the 12th Floor. There is a Fire Fighter Emergency going on. Someone was unaccounted for. Ok, no problem. We will do that instead, one of our mates potentially. So we got committed in BA from there.

At entry control you say who you are, how much air you have in your cylinder, and then off you go. I can't remember saying our brief to anyone, I guess we did but I cannot remember it. We knew there wasn't going to be a traditional Bridgehead where water goes from; it is a big thing in the Fire Brigade that you never go in to a Fire without Water. It's a big thing. We knew there wasn't going to be water going, we knew because from about half an hour earlier we could see that the Fire had pretty much taken one whole side of the building. So there was just no way we could all have water in there. We went in without any water. I had a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC). We use them to find where the Fire is, to find

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

people, it's really good because in smoke you can't see a thing. So we got committed. There were two people just ahead of us who I think got the same brief as us. I'm not sure but I think so. So we had four people going to the 12th floor for the Fire Fighter Emergency. We thought we'd do our best but we didn't have any water so that was potentially..., well at that stage it doesn't matter. You knew you just had to get the Fire Fighter down.

We made our way up. I knew from what the conditions were like outside, I've been at high-rise Fires before, I've had to climb up to 11 stories before because a Lift wasn't working. I knew that once we got there we were going to be working hard. So I took my Demand valve out. It's a part of the BA set which you can stop the amount of air that you consume. I thought the air was fresh enough, so I took it out. I checked in, and took it out to save myself some air. I knew I would need every bit of air for the work. We started on the third. I put it in on the 6th floor I'd say, the Demand valve. It was that Smokey I couldn't breathe. I put the Demand Valve back in. That isn't policy but I knew it was going to be a tough night and a tough job. I wanted to get there and do everything I wanted to do and get back with enough air, so.

We kept making our way-up. By this time it was just Mark and I. I don't know where the other two man crew were. You could see people had used china graph pencils to mark what floors we were on. Visibility was really bad after about floor 6. Maybe 7, I don't know. We were trying to remember what floor we were on. Luckily we set-off at a pace that we didn't go running-up otherwise we would have been knackered. We set-off at a steady pace to get up there. It was just chaos on the stairway. There was hose all over the place, everywhere. It got to the stage where you couldn't see. There was hose everywhere, there were crews everywhere, and you were pulling people out. Obviously you give priority to the people coming out. You tuck in and wait for them to get out. It was a battle getting-up to the 12th floor.

I think on the 9th floor we saw some crews with someone on the floor that made that obstacle particularly difficult, to get round that. Because the crews were with them we carried-on to the 12th floor. Once we got to the 12th floor we saw a helmet outside on the floor. Someone's gone down here in a bad way and we've got to find them. Somehow the Comms worked between us and the Entry Control Board, they are not the best, but the message got through to us that the Fire Fighter was accounted for. That was a massive relief to us. As we didn't have any water we could now be used for Search & Rescue. If we hadn't got the nod to do it we would have done it anyway, to be honest. We were on the 12th floor we

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

were going to look for someone, not just go back down again and ask what do you want us to do now.

I was talking to Mark, in communication with Mark all the time. We turned in to the Lobby where the flats are from the stairs. Conditions were worse, certainly worse. We took a right- hand wall. When you can't see anything you've got to orientate yourself by sticking to walls. So if you are on a right hand wall coming in to a room you will be on a left hand wall going out. You need to know where you are so you can get out. So we went right hand wall, got to the first door. Normally you would do something with water but we didn't have any so we opened it. It was 100 % alight. So with my TIC I looked in the doorway to see to do a quick snatch rescue but I couldn't see anyone. All that time the door was open the heat and smoke was coming out and into the Lobby were making conditions that much worse so we shut the door. We went on to the next door and it was locked. We didn't have any breaking-in gear or anything like that. So we carried on. I would liked to have, my one regret is what was behind that door, but we didn't break it in. I have tried to break in composite doors before. Composite doors are tough. So we went on.

I will draw another Map to explain.

One (1) x Map of the Grenfell Tower 12th Floor Flat Lobby

EXHIBIT NG/2 refers.

We got to the third Door. Two woman opened the Door, or two women were there as we opened the Door. I thought 'Bloody Hell, they've done well to stay alive'. We could hear them. Mark went in and found them in the bathroom I beleive. I went in after him. It was tight in there. You couldn't see a thing. He made contact with them. They said there was no one else in there. So we thought that the way the conditions were, we weren't going to search the Flat. They were conscious and should know who was in their flat. They told us no one else was in their flat and we would be wasting time to search their flat when they said no one else was in there. We got them out. Mark went first with one casualty. We manoeuvred so we got the second casualty next to the first casualty. I stood at the back, we didn't want to lose anyone that way. We took the left hand wall out and back down the Lobby. They had wrapped themselves up with all sorts and you couldn't see their faces, even when we got back down to the bottom. But I think the one Mark helped was a bit younger and fitter than mine. My one was older and bigger and it was a

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

struggle to negotiate our way out because we couldn't see a thing. Obviously they were quite distressed but we got them out into the stairwell. Then we negotiated them down from the twelfth floor through everything. They stayed conscious and breathing the whole time. I had to assist my one in places but no more than you would anyone else, I suppose. That was there.

All the way down we were coaching them, trying to keep them going. It was tough for us and we had clean air to breath, never mind them trying to keep some of the smoke out. They had wrapped themselves up. We eventually got them down to the bottom. On the way down I was trying to get hold of what Flat they were from, to try and pass a little Information back to take the Flat off the list, but I do not remember the Flat number now. I simply don't remember if we told anyone the number. I know they were on the 12th floor and I could show you exactly where the Flat was but I don't know the number.

When we got down I handed them over to someone. I don't know who. Then we checked in to the Entry Control Point. I think it had moved from the third floor by then. When we wear BA, every time you put it on in any fire, apart from a Car Fire, someone has a Board and they are in charge of that Board and they have a tally that comes out of your BA set with your name and how much air you have. You plug it in to the Board. So those Boards and your BA set talk to each other now. So you can tell on the Board how much air your BA has got. It also gives you an idea of consumption rates of air and things like that. It starts beeping if it shows that someone is working particularly hard. The duration of your BA set is related to how hard you are working. You could sit with it on your back for probably two hours but if you are working hard you could be down to 10 minutes. It tells you and communicates that information. So you still write your name and how much air you start with and you still do manual calculations in case your telemetry between the two things fail, so you still have a manual time when you should be out of that Fire. So at the Bridgehead you check in to the Entry Control Point and you check out of there as well so everyone knows you are accounted for. If your tally is left in there, and there is suddenly one Tally and it's empty, you need to be wondering where that person is.

So we got the two women, the two casualties out. We handed them over to someone. By that time we were in the bottom floor Lobby of the Tower. By that time the air was fresh and there were loads of people around. There were more people in BA queuing up and people giving orders who weren't. As soon as we knew they were alright we went to the Entry

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

Control Point to check in again and get our Tallies back. You take everything off and I think I handed my TIC to someone else who was just going up. Obviously as you take all your kit off and you de-brief it was quite hard work, we were just relaying that we got the two ladies out from the 12th floor, I can't remember if we gave the Flat number. We relayed this information to the Entry Control Officer. I cannot remember who that was. We would not just have told the Entry Control Officer, he has enough to worry out seeing who people are and booking them in, we would have tried to find an officer and told them we got two ladies down from the twelfth floor. Again I cannot remember who that was. Maybe Mark could remember the Flat number. After that we couldn't go out the way we came in now because of all the debris falling, too much. So we had to queue up to get out through the back. At this point we had taken the BA off but Helmet was back on. Gloves in your pocket, grab Some water. Genuinely I can't remember how we got out. But we got out and I didn't get hit with anything so.

We went out the Tower and to an area in front of the leisure centre. It became a congregation of people who had been in to the Tower, who had worked pretty hard, and were trying to cool off. There was water there so we got hold of some water and kept drinking, it was hard work. We did a Fire Ground A test on our BA sets. We test our sets at any time you take on a BA set, such as change of Watch, but you also do another one called a Fire Ground A Test if you've been into a Fire. You come out and do another one so you know it's good to go back in. So we came out but by this stage the Fire had developed quite a lot from being one and a half sides to nearly everything. I remember standing on a bank looking-up at it and thinking 'Blimey'. I felt terrified. You know people were still going-in. I thought it was going to collapse. I really in my heart thought it was going to collapse. There were many thoughts, relieved to get out, quite relieved to have done a bit, getting those women out. But we just knew there were so many more people in there. That was quite tough; doing that A Test. We were pretty tired from having been up there, exerting yourself. That why we joined the job. Without a doubt that's why we joined the job. But it is tough seeing a Tower like that and knowing that people are dying in there. On the flip side we were doing the A Test so we could go back in. We knew there were people in there and we and to go back. It was tough.

I did an A Test which takes a few minutes and you are just trying to rest. Strip off the tunic. I was sodden so I just tried to rest and get water on board. I'm not sure how long but it wasn't long before we were up

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

and offering our services. The radio was crazy, people were requesting all sorts of things. No one had to wait to be told. We were all volunteering all the time. For every job that needed two people, ten would volunteer. It wasn't one of those where you need a senior officer to direct people. There was only a little bit of that.

Before long I had done the A Test so my set was ready to go again. I tried to get involved in other jobs. I couldn't get to help with the casualties, those spots had been done. I was trying to dry-out my tunic. We were worried about boiling in the bag. If you go in to a fire when you are soaking it turns to steam and you get burnt. I was a bit worried about that. I missed a call because by the time I went to get my tunic and rig-up it was too late. I can't tell you how long it was. We were all just milling around. People were in a very similar situation to me, if not worse. People who had gone higher and had had tougher tasks. We were all congregating in an unofficial holding area. No one told us to go there but as we were waiting there through the night and the fire was getting to its height we thought it was the type of Job that we just don't get committed to anymore. We knew we were putting ourselves at risk but more, it was becoming harder and harder to be committed. We just didn't have the Water to protect us. We didn't know what was going on.

A senior officer, I'm not sure who it was, came and called everyone round. He told us how it was. He was brilliant, absolutely brilliant. He called us round and said we had done a bit, we had done well, but there was a lot more to do.

There are two types of BA. There are Standard duration which everyone has and there is extended duration, two Tanks on your back. That's the EBDA rather than the SBDA. The EBDA gives you more time. They are at Fire Rescue Unit Stations. I don't know too much about them, I'm not EBDA trained, but they work pretty similarly. We all looked at that and thought this is an EBDA job all day long. To ask people to get that high, work hard and get back down. The SBDA sets we didn't think had enough air in them. So we were all thinking they'd do well to send in any more SBDA crews because they'd struggle with that.

The senior officer called us around and said look this is an EBDA job all day long. But there are just not enough sets in London and there are not enough wearers either. So they weren't not going to send anyone

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

in, because there was a chance that we could do something, we could help people, so you are putting yourselves at risk. But we are going to ask you to that. It was nice to be told that policy was out the window. We all knew but it was good to hear. Just get on with it. We made decisions that normally if they were picked-up people would go to Town on you. But it just wasn't that sort of culture that night. Which hasn't always been the case.

He gave his talk. We were wondering if people were going to be sent in again. It was getting to the height, or towards the height, of the fire and we were wondering. Then he said we were going to be sent in again. OK, that was the way it is. We went from having the talk, to picking-up our sets, to joining the queue to go in again. Timings wise, I don't know what time that was.

I spent most of the night with Mark. We did the A Test together. We both tried to recover a bit together. I picked-up a set with him and we both went to another holding area. I can't really remember how I got there but I found myself in a queue again in BA. They had shut the main entrance in to the Tower because there was too much debris falling. So we had to go right round the back by the playground. We jumped the queue actually to try and get in. There was a massive amount of people, maybe 50 or 60 in BA, waiting to get sent in. We didn't realise at the time but we just jumped the queue and stood against the wall with the Riot Police. That was the stage that we could only get in under a Riot Shield because of the stuff that was falling. I don't know how long that took but it was a while. It wasn't just a walk from there to there. It was one of those jobs. I don't know how long I was waiting against this wall, inching forward, inching forward. In that time I saw a family, a man carrying his child with his wife behind coming out. I thought they've done well to get out at this time. I don't think it was light but it was starting to get towards becoming light. By the time it was our turn we went under the Riot Shield in.

Again, there was a holding area there. By this point it had moved slightly. It was still in the Lobby on the ground floor. But nearer to the stairs. I think I spent the next hour and a half queuing-up to wear BA again in that Lobby. I can't say for sure an hour and a half but it was a long time. We got a false sense of security. It felt like a Lobby of anywhere, really. Apart from it was flooded. Despite horrendous things going on it felt quiet safe. There was a bit of smoke but not too much. People were standing around waiting to go back in. It was the opposite of before, where time went really quickly because you were so busy. I don't remember hearing anything but there were bodies about. I saw a Leg but I didn't see the rest

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

of the body. So you knew people had been jumping and that sort of thing. That was pretty bad. I don't remember seeing anything in the playground but people said there were bodies in the playground.

I can't remember what we did. We were just queuing up waiting to go in again. As was getting near the front of the queue and the last person I saw coming-out had goggles on. I thought that was a brilliant idea. That was the last casualty I saw coming out. I don't know if that was the last one. Shortly after that I got committed again to the sixth floor. That was just a Fire Fighting job. We had water then. We got committed to a crew of five I think. Which is odd. We are usually committed in 2's or 4's. We were the last batch to be committed I think. I think there was a spare person to make a crew of five but I don't know what the thought processes were. We went-up, looked at the sixth floor, we went left I think. We were told to go left, I can't remember. We started Firefighting in that first flat. We did a bit, swopped over, they do a bit. The time went quickly. That what I did. It seemed like we could have done a bit more. If I had gone in as a crew of two and then another crew of three, and try and put the fire out.

It was light by this stage. If I was surprised that the two women we found alive that we found hours ago you can imagine the situation by now. Normally I would be pleased to get to the sixth floor to fight a Fire but on this job it did not seem that much. People were going up to the top and things. It was just 'try & put the Fire out'. Which we did as best as we could and not before long the Fire was 100% out in that flat that we did. It was hot though, very very hot. That was with no windows, no nothing. A vented fire should be not as punishing. But it was hot. It was hard. The walls were so hot. Unrewarding. I don't know what I expected but by the time we finished there and went down as a crew of five, checked in to the Entry Control Point, got our tallies back, whoever was in charge didn't need to hear from all of us so one told him what we did, and that was that. We took our face masks off and kept the sets on our back, and got ready to leave.

Once we finished at the Entry Control Point we made our way out of the building. We were queuing again to get out. Had to go out under a Riot Shield again and out the way we came. That was me done. I was spent by then. It didn't hit me until I took the set off and took my Tunic off. I just didn't have much more left. If I was asked to go in again I'd have tried but I don't think I'd have managed much. I was pretty spent. I don't think I even did another A Test. I can't remember. I've done two high rise Fires before but not been that bad. It was just different for everyone. The whole thing was different. I knew at

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

the time this was a Fire that no one has seen before. There were old hands around and people I knew, especially early doors, and no one had ever seen a Fire like that. With a Fire of that scale all the measures that you normally do are not unworkable but can quickly become unworkable. We would have been paralysed by our policies if we stuck to them. No-one would do anything. You just had to get on with it and people did. I did think at the time, if I saw any of that in a film I would have been moaning at the person sitting next to me saying they had overdone it! It was hard to grasp it was real and there were real bits of buildings falling down and thing like that. Maybe that contributed to me being so spent but I was done.

After that we went to the Sally Army Van. On big jobs a Sally Army van turns up. Got a cup of Tea and probably a chocolate Bar or two. A cheese sandwich. Somehow our crew congregated back together at the Sally Army Van. We all sat around and didn't say much. I was pretty sure we wouldn't be sent back in. When we went it was a 20 Pump Fire. By the time I was trying to get the Hydrant in it was 40. By my second BA wear it was a 20 Pump relief and noone went anywhere so it was a 60 Pump Fire and that's not counting all the FIU's in London. All the appliances, all the Command units, all the senior officers. You knew it was a massive Fire and I guessed they could find fresher wearers than me. That's when I got to the Sally Army van and I was done. They had stacks of people lining-up who had just arrived. The Sally Army van was an unofficial holding area anyway. No one was shirking.

I don't know how long we were there for. I think that was my involvement. We got the nod to go home. But we didn't go home. We were told to go to Paddington. Everyone had to go to Paddington to talk to the Advisory & Counselling service straight away. It was a nightmare trying to get to Paddington, for obvious reasons. There were a few road closures. Got there. Got told it was on the top floor, as if we hadn't climbed enough steps that night. Everyone to a man went 'more steps!' I didn't know where my shoes were, and my sore ankle later ballooned-up. Got to the top floor, then got in to a queue to see the Councillor. We had 10 minutes in a room with a window, with 30 Fire Fighters outside waiting their turn.

'How do you feel?'

'I don't really know. I'm done. I want to go home and see my wife and kids'.

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

I don't know. I can see why they put that on. I can see their concern for our well-being. But I'm not sure if it helped. I can't remember things about the night now. I don't know. We had a chat, got to the front of the queues, got our machine and came back to Ealing. I don't know what time we got back. You could tell from the OT we got. It was over change of watch. It was a concern for me trying to get hold [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We got back to Ealing and that was the end of the shift. Maybe I left at 1230? That's a guess. I live 30 miles away. I could have stayed at Ealing and got some rest but I wanted to go home. I got an hour and a half sleep before coming back to work that night. That was our first nightshift. Back in at 2000 hours. Everyone was knackered. It was very sombre and we were asking after each other. Then it got busy and we went from shout to shout to shout. We were properly spent. We talked about it but where do you begin?

I described this Fire as unusual. By that I mean that we are used to compartment Fires, we are not used to attending Fires that are taking-over a whole block. We are used to turning-up at Fires where one flat or group of flats are on Fire or with smoke. You know roughly where it is. Again, going back to the Bridgehead, two floors below you set-up all the equipment and make your way up from there. Often Lifts work, you can use the Lift which helps things a bit. Straightaway, even from the A40 miles away you could tell if you could see a job from that far away that's going-up the outside of a building its not a usual job. You know that it's going to be particularly tough. What you've got to do isn't going to be the classic set-up and its all not going to be quite nicely prescribed from there. That's what I mean by unusual.

I agree that the LFB would have been paralysed if they stuck to Policy that night. I was not aware at any time through the night of any decision making processes & decisions being made by high ranking officers. That was beyond me. I was not part of any decision making process and I was not privy to it. My role in that fire was, early doors, we need you here and there to do that; go and get a set on, I went and got a set on.

It was when our briefing changed to the 12th floor that myself and Mark started to make our own decisions. We were sent to try and find someone. We didn't have to be told what to do or be given an

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

order, we knew what was needed. If we can get someone out we will get someone out. We don't need to be told that. That was the extent of my going outside of Policy. That probably was outside of Policy, strictly speaking. But everyone knew it by then. As far as from a senior management point of view I have no idea about that.

Initially re FSG I was taking notes from the Command Unit, flat numbers, and people, whatever and I was passing these notes on to a senior officer with the details — we've got a call and they are whoever and they are wherever. Regard the FSG and the 'Stay Put' policy, normally we come at it from a different viewpoint than the Control staff. We have knowledge that they are on the phone. When Information gets to us we know that people are on the phone to Control staff. It gives us an idea of where they are to try and get to them. I think 'Stay-Put' works in normal Fires. You don't want an entire Tower block clogging-up the stairs. I get that, I really get that. I do not know when the 'Stay Put' Policy changed, if it change. I do not have a clue. I wasn't involved in that aspect of it. I think I only did one message, before I went and did other aspects of that job.

I cannot remember any time when the job went from Rescuing Survivors to where we are now on Body Recovery. I was in the Lobby for a while. The last person I saw coming out, with the Goggles on, it was light then. I think it may have been 6'ish. That would be a guess. It was still too early to ring home. So while in the Lobby I don't know if that conversation was going on or not but if it was I was probably there. The whole issue with the SDBA and the EDBA kits were that we would not be able to get high enough. At one stage they were saying upto 10 floors was SDBA and over 10 floors was EDBA. I'm not sure if that was in place as a result of looking for survivors as opposed to looking for bodies. I'm not sure if that came in to it then. But I don't remember a stage when we were told we are just doing body retrieval, officially or unofficially.

The conditions inside the Tower varied, from my experience of it. The ground floor Lobby was quite clear to begin with. The Bridgehead was relatively clear, on the third floor originally. Then when we were committed, by the fact that I could take my command valve out, that it was clear enough to breathe upto floor 5, maybe 6. But it wasn't long before it was too much for me, breathing. I put my air in, it was hard to breath from then. It was pretty hard to see from 8 and above. You couldn't see a thing by 9.

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

On the ninth floor there was a crew with a casualty but you had to get very close to see their high-viz bit and I don't remember seeing the casualty. You could just feel things on your feet. I couldn't see the hose on the floor. There was hose most of the way-up but you couldn't see the hose equipment you were standing on. But it was hard to get up the stairs with the hose, that's how bad it was. On the 12th floor you couldn't really see much at all. I could see with the TIC, that helped. It was telling me how hot it was but I can't remember what it was registering, the temperature. I can't remember. It's difficult to describe the heat. I had just climbed 12 floors with equipment. That gear gets hot anyway. It was hotter than a really oppressively hot day. It's like being in an oven. Us opening doors to look for people made the conditions worse. But we weren't to know there was no one in there.

I have been asked who was managing the Bridgehead. I don't remember who was managing the Bridgehead. I'm afraid I really don't remember.

The stairwell was quite small. It was busy, very busy, people coming down. Early doors you could make out numbers by wiping soot off the walls. Soon it was very difficult to tell floors. People were putting floor numbers on walls in black china graph pencils. But it got the stage where you couldn't even see that. You had black china graph pencil & you had to wipe off soot to see the number but you couldn't see the walls at all. We were counting as we go. There were a lot of hose in the stairwell. That was quite tough on your feet. When you are constantly trudging up and up and up. There was a casualty on the 9th with people around; you can't see a group of people, you've just got to feel your way around them. I felt something under my feet. I found out later it was a body. But I didn't know that at the time. That was tough to deal with. We couldn't really help because we had to get to our job and they had people with her. Fire Fighters. I couldn't see much at all because of the visibility.

Fire Fighters are deployed from the Bridgehead, under the Command of whoever it was. The idea is that Fire Fighter go as high as possible. The 12th floor was the highest level I got to. Regards numbering of floors we were just muddling through. I have seen people write numbering on floors using china graphs before. Its a charcoal pencil. Obviously it's lovely if you write on a nice white wall. In conditions like that when you can't really see anything, anyway. That just what we've got to deal with. We haven't got any other way of telling what floor we were on. If we had something different we'd try something different. A can of Luminescent Spray paint would have been better to write down so you could see it easier. But that

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

wasn't to hand. This was our way of trying to help but it was tough. The conditions were not very conducive to a china graph pencil on a wall just because of the smoke damage and things like that.

Regards BA we have Stage 1, Stage 2 and BA Main Control. Stage 1 is a bog standard house job, traditionally two to four wearers. You can have upto ten wearers. A Fire Fighter is in charge of it, checking people in and checking people out. That is how it works. In Stage 2 a Crew Manager is in charge of that. That's if there is two Boards or EDBA's in use. There are various things that if they occur you have to have Stage 2 in place, in control. It's working with FSG, working with Foam, things like that. If these are hit you move to Stage 2. But my experience of BA Main Control, 20 Pump fires and the like but even 6 Pump Fires, if you are managing a lot of BA wearers you need a Main Control in place. That's what I assume happened at this job. You can be a Standard DBA wearer or a EDBA wearer. Extended DBA. Everyone is SDBA trained but only certain people are EDBA trained. They are predominantly on Fire Rescue units. That's what they ride with. If someone went from a Fire Investigation Unit Station to a normal station, like transferring from Wembley to Ealing, chances are they would be EDBA trained. They would keep their qualification even if we do not use EDBA's. If I was transferred to Wembley I would have to look to doing all the courses to become an EDBA wearer. It's an aspect of becoming FRU trained, there are various aspects. There are only a certain number of FRU stations in London so there are only a certain number of wearers. 10 or 12 FRU Stations I think. So there are not enough to go round a 60 Pump incident. There are way more SDBA wearers then EDBA wearers.

I had no experience of Grenfell before. Never been there, never heard of it. I am not sure when I knew it was a high-rise Fire. I guess it was on the Tip sheet. But I never saw that.

I have been asked if I was aware of the Fire Alarm system when I attended Grenfell. The answer is no. When we got that there were sounds going off everywhere. I was not aware of Fire Alarms. I think at that stage I was just focussed on getting to my destination and conserving energy and air.

I have been asked about Fire Doors. I didn't notice anything about the doors. It was Smokey in the Lobby. That doesn't normally happen. The idea of Fire Doors is to keep the stairwell clear. That didn't happen, certainly from 6 up. I didn't notice any propped open or anything like that. The nature of us using hose will prop open the Fire Doors anyway. Dry Rising mains are in every building over 6 floors. There is

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

a Pump at the bottom, you can plug in on every floor. They are quite often in the stairwells so to get from there to where the Fire is you've got to often prop open a Fire door. So that might be where the smoke comes from.

I don't know 100% that there was a dry riser in Grenfell but I would guess there would have been. It is like an empty drainpipe. So you plug water from a Fire Hydrant in to a Fire engine and from a Fire engine you plug in to the bottom of the riser. It's like a big down pipe with outlets that you can plug in to. It saves carrying a lot of hose up and its more efficient. In buildings over 60 metres, I think, there is a wet rise fitted. Its permanently has water in it and its own water supply for a period of time. I could have told you more when I was at training school. You plug in to it and you have a water supply for a period of time. You would plug in (a Fire engine) to augment it but you don't need to straight away. You plug in a floor below the Fire and work-up from there.

Regards the Policy of not going above the source of the Fire without a water supply, for nearly the whole time I was there I was above the source of the Fire, on the 4th floor. Certainly the first time, maybe not so the second time.

Regards the TIC, I believe it physically records data as soon as you turn it on. I do not know what has happened to that data now. It will still be in the TIC but I don't know whose TIC it was. On jobs, such as at Ealing, normally I could tell you whose TIC it belongs to because we only have a few. So you would say we used Acton's TIC or our TIC. But at Grenfell they were in a pile so you just picked one up and got on with it. I couldn't tell you whose TIC we used to get the data from that. I did not have a Body Worn Video Camera. I did not have my phone, it was at Ealing, and I did not film anything. It was under my pillow.

I have been asked to comment on the physical structure of the Tower when I attended, if I saw anything unusual. I have no comment to make, it seemed like a normal building to me. Regards the building, when we turned-up it looked like one side was alight and the fire made its way round. You certainly saw debris falling off, bits of the windows. A lot was dripping off, we thought it was plastic at the time, but I'm not entirely sure. We saw big bits of debris. Stuff falling-out of Fires. I didn't see anyone jump or anything like that.

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

In terms of training, we get refresher training. We have real fire training now, every year or two. There are other aspects of our training like First Aide that you do every three years. Those are the two main courses that you go on.

Regards any changes that have occurred since the Grenfell Tower, our pre-determined attendances have changed. Before the Fire, for High-rise Fires, before we would send two machines I think? We now send five machines and an Ariel appliance for everything with a High-rise. We have a High-rise bag now. So we've got a Bridgehead in a bag. It's easier to carry-up rather than trying to collate all the equipment required; and some hose carrying equipment.

When I twisted my ankle at the time I didn't think anything of it, until it swelled-up later. As a Fire Fighter the whole experience of Grenfell absolutely went over and beyond what I would normally expect to deal with. I think everyone who went into that building, and I know I was, was fearing for my life. I thought definitely the second time I was going to die. But everyone did it anyway so I can't imagine I was that different from anyone else. There was a very real threat to our safety and I think everyone felt that. The second time I went in to the block it felt pretty bad! You get on with it, you've just got to get on with it. You have a real sense that you have to do it. I was quite calm. It was tough, very tough. I've got two young kids. Obviously in the hour and a half I was milling around you think about things but there was never any part of me that didn't want to go in. I would do the same again. I think everyone who went into that building was willing to do the same. That's why I joined the job, to try and help people. I didn't want to let my mates down, I wanted to do my bit and help people, I'd like to think in our little part we played I helped a bit and I couldn't let my mates down. I'm lucky we got to come home.

It nearly five months later now. I would say we have been looked after. We know the counselling is there. I think different people deal with it differently. We know that service is there. I can see why the Service sent us to Paddington, I can see that. As it turns out it didn't work for me, but I can see why they did that and the resources are there should we need them. So, I would say yeah, we are being looked after. The deployment still creeps up a lot. I'd say I think about it every day. It creeps up when you are not thinking of things, at various times in the day. I'm at peace with a lot of things, I am not at peace with everything. Sometimes it's alright, sometimes it's not. But I think I'm doing alright with everything. Unfortunately

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

life moves on. Giving this statement is the first official thing since, we were left to get on with it seriously. I don't know what else we can do.

On my notes I made on the night, I wrote 'Amazing work carried out by crews in massively arduous conditions'. By that I meant all crews, the Ambulance crews would have had a tough night. The Police had a tough night, everyone who was there. I wrote that the morning after. It was going to be tough for a lot of people not just us. I stand by that.

I Exhibit below:

One (1) x Sketch Map of Grenfell Tower Fire site

Exhibit NG/1 refers

One (1) x Sketch Map of Grenfell Tower 12th Floor Flat Lobby

Exhibit NG/2 refers

Signature: Neil GREEN
2018

Signature witnessed by: