

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: BURROWS-SMITH, JOHN

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

Occupation: POLICE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 2 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: J. BURROWS-SMITH

Date: 09/09/2017

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

Statement started at 2103 hours in LARKHALL LANE writing room in the presence of APS GRIFFITHS, PC SIMPSON and PC HANNANT. There has been a delay in writing this statement due to other operational commitments but events are still fresh in my memory. I have recorded boso own video camera footage of events which I have not viewed at this time and exhibit as JBS/01.

On Wednesday 14th June 2017 I was on duty in full beat duty uniform posted to marked police carrier call-sign U534 in the company of INSP CRICK, APS GRIFFITHS 5321U, PC SPITERI 5428U, PC LARDER 5854U, PC CHAUDHRY 5411U, PC MILLS 5296U and PC ROBERTS 5320U. At 0238 hours we were deployed to CAD 482 14JUN17 in response to a major fire in GLENFELL (GRENFELL) TOWER, W11. We made our way on blue lights arriving at the RVP on CLARENDON ROAD at about 0255 hours. The tower had been visible on our approach and was clearly heavily ablaze with serious risk to life and we were made aware there were likely to be numerous casualties. Supervisors met with BRONZE at scene and we then changed into fireproof overalls and NATO helmets and made our way through large crowds to outside LATIMER ROAD tube station where we assisted with moving back large crowds to allow access for the LAS and LFB. We then held a cordon at the junction of SHALFLEET DRIVE and BRAMLEY ROAD to allow access for LAS and also to prevent harm by keeping members of the public away from the building as there were concerns it might fall down and debris was falling from it. We were instructed to give advice to anyone in contact with persons in the building that they should seek to escape from the building themselves as there was no guarantee that the LFB would be able to reach them. I passed this information on to several members of the public. Around 0400 hrs we were

Signature: J. BURROWS-SMITH
2017

Signature witnessed by:

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redeployed to STATION WALK near to the tower and then assisted LFB on rotation to safely enter the tower by escorting them with shields held above our heads to provide them protection from falling debris. We continued in this role until around 0800 hours when we returned to our carriers and drove to KENSINGTON police station for a briefing at 0840 hours. During the course of the incident I used minimal force using open palms to guide persons away from the danger area and then maintain the cordon.

Original statement written on 15/06/17 in LARKHALL LANE writing Room. Copy printed 0345 hrs, Saturday 9th September 2017

Signature: J. BURROWS-SMITH
2017

Signature witnessed by:

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