

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: OGDEN, RICK

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

Occupation: FIRE 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: R OGDEN

Date: 09/02/2018

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

I have been asked to make this additional statement to cover some points which have been raised since I completed my main statement on 5th July 2017.

On the night of the fire at Grenfell Tower I believe my call sign was E5. I had never been to Grenfell Tower before this incident and I had no knowledge of it either. I have not been on any familiarisation visits there but have done these over the years on other buildings.

I was a Team Leader in Fire Safety in 2008 but left this in 2010.

I approached the incident via North Kensington and parked in Ladbroke Grove where the RVP was. From there I walked to the main scene but this was through back streets I cannot recall the names. I entered the Tower via the entrance on the West side. The building was heavily smoke logged on all floors above the fourth floor. There was substantial flooding and multiple fatalities also on the floors.

In relation to the gas, all I can say is that the gas supply was not isolated in the whole time I was there. They were trying to isolate this whilst I was there by digging up the road in several points but this was not achieved by the time I left.

The only fire precautions I noticed were the fire doors, which were burnt off leading from the stairwell into the lobby area. I did not notice anything about the windows or their construction.

Signature: R OGDEN
2018

Signature witnessed by:

In relation to my training I have completed Incident Command assessments which have involved high rise fires. I have read policy notes about high rise fires/incidents. I conduct these regularly and would estimate this to be about every six months. I have attended incidents involving high rise fires; I dealt with the Holcroft House fire on 22nd September 2014 and I was in charge of the Shepherds Bush fire on 19th August 2016. I would say this was the last high rise incident I physically attended.

The only information with regards to any pre-prepared plan for Grenfell Tower would have been what was on the mobile data terminal (MDT) but I did not have one in my vehicle.

I am aware that there was a fire fighting lift but I do not know whether this was used. The stairwell was the only means of escape. Radio communications were difficult inside the Tower. There was a Dry Rising Main which was charged with water and had been prior to my attendance. I cannot comment on whether there were difficulties gaining access to the Tower but when I arrived I personally did not experience any. Conditions were very poor in the stairwell which I have covered. It was very smoky, water logged and lots of tangled hose.

When I arrived the Incident Commander, AC Andy ROE was on the Command Unit. When AC ROE was relieved AC Dom ELLIS took over as the Incident Commander. There were three CU's at that time. One was dealing with Operations, another was covering Functional Command Decisions and the third was dealing with the Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) calls. I was the Operations Commander in charge of the Tactical Operational Decision making on the fire ground and would report to the Incident Commander. By the time I arrived there was a Safety Officer in each of the Sectors with a brief to watch for fire spread, falling debris, changes to fire conditions, any changes relevant to the Incident Ground and persons trapped. I have never encountered fire spread like Grenfell Tower before.

Stay Put policy - my understanding is that in a building of concrete construction, under normal circumstances, there is sufficient separation from each compartment from a fire in an adjoining flat, horizontal or vertical, to offer protection. Therefore, there would be greater risk to make your way through fire and smoke to get out than remain inside your property. I do not know what could have been in place on that night to have assisted. I was not there for the whole time so I do not have an answer.

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OFFICIAL

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Form MG11(T)

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The gravity and extent of this incident is nothing I have ever experienced previously.

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