

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: DWYER, ROBERT

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: R DWYER

Date: 02/03/2018

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

In this statement I will talk about my role on the night of the fire, the actions I took and conclude with some post-incident information. I will also mention the many members of the Fire Brigade I worked alongside that night. I am a Fire Fighter with three years' experience. My first posting was Old Kent Road on White Watch where I was for two years and I have been at Richmond for just over a year now. I am currently with Red Watch at Richmond and was at the time of the fire.

I had never been to Grenfell tower before to do a familiarisation visit there, been to the tower at any other time or had any previous knowledge of it. I have never been posted to a fire safety department. I did not go to the major fire in flat sixteen, as I did not attend Grenfell until later that night. With my training, I am considered competent.

I cannot remember the last time I had high-rise training but we train on the tower out the back of the fire station regularly and have lectures at night. Jim BERRY is good as a Watch Manager keeping us on the ball with training so if it wasn't a lecture it would have been a drill. We would do some form of practice drill once a tour. I previously went to a high- rise fire at Old Kent Road but that was probably a year and a half ago or maybe a bit longer than that. That was a fire in a bedroom, I think on the sixth floor. The stairwell was clear apart from the top floor and I went in with one other guy. It was a flat all on one floor and it was a fire in the far bedroom. The door was closed and I think the window had burst and the door had just started to burn through when we got to it. However, it was all contained within that flat on that floor. This is what you would expect as opposed to what we experienced at Grenfell.

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In this statement I will refer to my notes that I made shortly after the incident that I exhibit as RD/I and will make reference to a map of the Grenfell Tower area which I exhibit as RD/2. My colleagues I will mention in this statement will be Commissioner Danny COTTON, Group Manager Tim WEST, Watch Manager Jim BERRY, Crew Manager Andy FAULKER and Fire Fighters Simon FAIRBROTHER, Simon WIGLEY and Chris PEREZ. I will also mention numerous other people who I do not know. On the night of the Grenfell fire, I started my shift at 2000hrs with role-call at Richmond Fire station H42 where I was based at the time and still am on Red Watch. We have a Command Unit here as well but it differentiates between the two. The call sign for our machine we were riding on that night is H421. Officially, our shift starts at 2000 hrs and finishes at 0930hrs the following morning. My Watch Manager would have detailed the riders for that day. I was down as Duty Person and following role-call we went to do our station routines for the evening. We tested the BA sets, checked the machines and checked the inventories. Normally in the evening there would be a lecture but I do not recall if we had one that evening or if there were any calls prior to Grenfell. I would have locked the station up at midnight as being duty person that is one of your responsibilities. I got my head down after that. I think we were mobilised to Grenfell at about half-past one. On our machine with me was Watch Manager Jim BERRY who was in charge, firefighter Simon FAIRBROTHER was driving, Crew Manager Andy FAULKER with firefighter Simon WIGLEY and firefighter Chris PEREZ sat in the middle. I was on as Duty Person, which is rotated each time with the other roles. Duty Person is front of house answering phone calls, booking in visitors, making bookings, answering bells, collecting the call-slip when mobilised, getting a route card and looking on the map to assist the driver in finding where it is. However, we all sleep in a dorm together. I cannot recall what we did that night, as the beginning of the shift is more of a blur. When the lights and bells went off and the call-sign was read out over the automated loudspeaker at about one thirty-five in the morning I went down the pole house and joined Simon FAIRBROTHER who was our driver for the night getting the call slip and getting a route card. I acknowledged the receipt of the call on the screen. I tore off the call slip and obviously read what it was and where it was. I think it said twenty-five pump fire for our one. However, I reckon we got there before there was twenty-five machines. I do not think there was that many when we arrived but I think we were quite close so maybe that is just how it seemed to me on the arrival. Obviously, the call slip states what it is and where it is, the address, time of call and a normal one should have a list of all the machines that are on it, all their call-signs and then it has a grid map reference for us to be able to find it on the big maps up on the wall. While we were doing this the rest of the crew were getting rigged in their fire gear.

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When I am Duty Person, I always leave my boots and leggings by the tele-printer on a night shift so I got those on before I got on the machine. My knowledge of the area isn't that great up that way so we roughly found out where it was and someone went on their phone and got it up on google maps, plus our Watch Manager Jim BERRY is a cab driver so he's got quite good knowledge of the route. I think Simon FAIRBROTHER the driver also had an idea of where it was and what route to take. It was on another stations ground, which would of also been said on the call slip, someone had looked it up on their phone after having the postcode shouted across to them. We drove out the door on a Status Two and I believe we went over Kew Bridge once we went out of the doors on the machine but I could not tell you what route we took from there but it took maybe ten minutes to get there although I wasn't really paying attention to time. There was only really blue lights that night. Every side road you looked down there was blue lights coming from every direction.

On the journey when we got nearer to it we still couldn't see it but I remember coming onto a roundabout not far from the tower and joining the roundabout with about three other fire-engines from different directions at the same time. They went off in one direction but Jim BERRY knew the area so we went another route, which brought us in on another road, which I think, got us there quicker than those other machines. As we drove down this side- road there was probably four machines backed up on this road, which is where we dismounted. There were no access issues until this point when we could not go any further due to the amount of fire service and other emergency services vehicles. Due to the size of the call, there was no RVP on the call slip from what I can remember. I know on route Jim had tried radioing through to control for more information on an RVP or entry road but control came back that they were unable to talk at that time due to the volume of FSG calls they were receiving. Even once we had arrived, we did not know what we were going to. I do not remember what road we parked on but I asked my Watch Manager Jim BERRY and the driver Simon FAIRBROTHER so referring to my notes STONELEIGH PLACE sounds familiar.

I rigged in my BA set and we all got off. I had with me my PPE and BA set. Jim BERRY just said right come with us and go to the Command Unit to try to find out what is going on but obviously, we knew we were going to have to be in BA. We went round the corner, which is where there was a Command Unit, a few other machines and obviously many members of the public. Then we could see where everyone was mustering in the BA holding area underneath the walkway, which I have marked on the map as 'BA HOLDING AREA'. There was a Command Unit there but the one we went to when we arrived was on a side road. Jim BERRY ran to it while we carried on walking. That was the last I saw Jim BERRY and

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Simon FAIRBROTHER until I came out of my BA wear. I went with Andy FAULKER, Chris PEREZ and Simon WIGLEY to the BA holding area and at this point this was the last time I saw Andy FAULKER and Simon WIGLEY until daylight hours and even then it was only a quick sight of them. This was the first point that I was able to see the building of Grenfell on fire as we walked past some of the other machines that were already in attendance. Even if we had been able to see Grenfell before we got round the corner I do not think we would have been able to see the side of the building that was on fire. I cannot tell you what side it was but there was a flame that was pretty much floor to ceiling on one corner like a lightning bolt. As we walked towards it, we could see the front-face of the entrance to Grenfell and the side that had an Ariel Appliance parked right up against it. However, when we arrived that Ariel Appliance was being brought down as so much of the building was falling against the guy in the cage. Referring to the map that I exhibit as RD/2 I have marked on the map the direction we walked to the tower as 'Arrived on foot'. As we walked down this road there was a lot of trees but I have marked on the map '1st SIGHT OF FIRE'. From memory on that side of the building, the fire was from floor to ceiling but the other sides were not on fire. It was two o'clock in the morning so it was dark so I do not remember smoke I just remember a very strong roaring flame. It was a very intense flame from where it started to where it finished. The fire appeared well fed with everything it needed to get going. I went with Chris PEREZ to the BA holding area, which was at the front of the building. There was some sort of Ariel Appliance to the side, I think it was an ALP but I cannot quite remember and some machine at the front pumping.

We were told to hold in the holding area. There was not any order to it as such; there were just people in a cluster with no queue or anything like that. I was crewed up with Chris PEREZ and we went to the side and then came up the front of it. We did not wait to be told where to go as it was clear where it was and from experience of previous incidents. I have marked on the map 'AP' for where the Ariel Platform was positioned. They sent some more wearers in through to the mezzanine, through the front entrance and we wanted to get to the front. I remember grabbing off the machine that was pumping; I think it was a large axe, because we were told to grab breaking in gear. I have marked on the map 'P' for where the machine was pumping. At that point, between the two of us we had thermal imaging camera and an axe. As you went in through the front door on the left hand side you had, I think it was a Watch Manager but I do not know his name, writing on the wall all the FSG calls that were being relayed to him. Then we went up the staircase and joined a queue of BA wearers. There was a drawing on the wall of the floorplan of each floor and they told us this floorplan is the same on each floor so you have to memorise it. That was a

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holding area initially to be sent up to the bridgehead on the third floor and we were probably there for what felt like 10 minutes. During this time, waves and waves of casualties were being brought down in various conditions. Quite a few were being treated there and then and then being brought further down. Most were being helped by firefighters with many who looked unconscious and some walking out on their own. In addition, firefighters were coming back down after booking out of entry control. As we moved up the line, we were sent up to the bridgehead, which was on the third floor. From memory on the layout, a separate room did not mirror the rest of the stairwell further up. There were many firefighters in there at the time. We were tasked with an FSG call to the tenth floor flat seventy-four by a white lid who was running the bridgehead at the time but I do not know their rank or their name. I had my BA set on as I was under air by then, all the usual stuff on my tunic and I had been given a rolled line of 45 and a RB101 jet. Chris PEREZ was given an enforcer, and he had the TIC as well. We booked into entry control with the usual routine and then made our way into the stairwell. I do not recall hearing any alarms going off. That was the third floor and by about the fifth floor it was quite thick smoke; a lighter grey colour. I was struggling to see Chris PEREZ but in waves of it I could. It got noticeably thicker and darker, the smoke was a thick dark grey acrid colour by the eighth and by the tenth, it was grey black colour. I do not remember there being any water on the stairwell during my wear but if there was it was not to the same extent as later on. There were many objects, a lot of stuff on the stairwell. I remember having to climb over something at one point, clothes I think it was and all sorts. In addition, I was trying to keep in contact with Chris PEREZ and him trying to keep in contact with me plus carry all the gear up as well and count the floors. This was difficult as there was no indication as to what floor they were. It was literally counting each stairwell and each doorway. By about the eighth floor, maybe even less than that, I could not see Chris PEREZ between the two of us. I was just trying to navigate the conditions without falling down the stairs.

There was a lot of noise, lots of screams, lots of loud bangs and crashes and it was getting noticeably hotter. We got to the tenth floor and by that point it was pitch black. I could not see a thing; I could not even see the doorway until I was right on top of it it was that thick by that point. As we got to that doorway, we went into the lobby area and I had the floorplan we had been shown down in the mezzanine in my head. As we walked into the lobby, area there was a distinct loud scream from the staircase directly above. Therefore, we came back out and went up the staircase and literally, a woman was right in front of our faces before we could see her. You could sense her but it was pitch black so I could not see anything until Chris PEREZ held up the TIC. She was in quite a bad way so me and Chris grabbed her. We made

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the decision to take her back down. So we took her down arm in arm taking an arm each as she was struggling to walk. We walked past the bridgehead and took her right down to the mezzanine floor where we handed her over at the doorway to some form of officer but I could not tell you what rank he was or his name. She was coughing, struggling to breath with a cloth over her mouth but she had been able to tell us that she had come from the fiftteenth floor, flat one hundred and twenty-two and her dad was still trapped inside. I relayed that to the Station Manager or whatever rank he was, the officer at the mezzanine who said it would be tasked with all the FSG calls . I handed her over to the officer and some other firefighters I did not know who had IEC packs. I do not think I ever saw her again. All I can say is she had brown hair, about five feet ten, mid-thirties and white skin. When we left her, she was still conscious but just coughing not talking. We then made our way back up intending to go to the original call on the tenth floor and I think we got past the bridgehead, probably fourth, fifth or sixth floor but again I can't remember what number that was by then. I think I put on my notes the fourth but I think it may have been a bit further up than that. It was not thick smoke so it must have been a lower floor fifth or sixth. As we came round the dogleg of a stairwell another family appeared stumbling down the stairs, which consisted of a mum, a dad, and the dad was in a really bad way with black soot all round his face and just in his pants. He had tied round his waist his daughter using a jumper. Obviously all three of them were in a pretty bad way but the daughter noticeably was very limp. We grabbed them and brought them back down. By that point, we were at the bridgehead so we were calling for help, as I could not get anything on the radio. I was trying to undo the knot that he had tied on his hoodie to get the daughter off but he had done it so tight and with my gloves, it was quite difficult. I managed to sort of pull it down, get her off and hand her over to a firefighter that had come out the bridgehead as the father was at the point of collapsing. It was dark here but there was only wispy smoke so I was now able to see them clearly. I then assisted with Chris PEREZ and the other firefighter who I do not know to take them all down to the mezzanine. By that point, we handed them over again and I know they survived O.K. as I have since seen them on the television. All three of them were black skinned, he had short hair and the mum had shoulder length hair and was clothed. I could not give much more description of the mum as the dad was in a worse condition and carrying the daughter so my focus was much more on him. I could only say that the daughter had quite long hair, about six or seven years old and wearing some sort of clothing. I would say the parents were between thirty and forty years old. I do not recall what their names were from seeing them on the news.

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We then walked back up the staircase to the bridgehead and checked our gauge readings, which showed we were low on oxygen to even make it up to the tenth floor let alone get to the flat. I am a Standard duration breathing apparatus wearer. During my whole wear, I did not come across any fire. We had to go back in and book out of entry control. We relayed the information about what we had done and that we had not achieved our original task. As we came down the mezzanine they had closed off the initial entrance due to stuff continuously falling off the tower so you could not gain access through there; it was now diverted out of a side-door. This was really narrow and there was a lot of firefighters in there. As I went to walk out that door, a large number of officers who I do not know walked in as well as Danny COTTON. So I had to back-up, let her and the others in. I remember the doorway being really narrow because it was a struggle to get through with my BA set. I believe latter they cut the door-locks to be able to get it open fully. The whole time I was in the building, I did not open any doors or windows. The only doors I opened were already open. Chris PEREZ may have opened a communal door somewhere but I do not think he did. I do not know if the building was fitted with self-closing doors, as the visibility was not good enough to see. There was nothing in the building that stuck out for me that would have promoted the spread of the fire in the building other than that some of the doors seemed like they were open. I did not see anyone using a lift or hear anything about it. I did not use the dry riser on the night or hear anything about it. I do not know if the building had a smoke management system or not but I did not see one. I do not have any knowledge of the gas supply in the building. I did overhear somebody say that they were struggling to get the gas supply turned off but I do not know who said it. I assume whoever is in charge of the incident would make decisions about getting the gas supply shut off. However, I do not know who was in charge of the incident.

Myself and Chris PEREZ came out of the side door, which led you to where the playground area was. I have marked on the map where we came out as 'exit' and marked 'playground' on the map too. There was a 135 ladder pitched up against the side. I am a bit vague on what happened at that point but I think we literally just walked straight out there. We went down the pathway which was all fenced round by the playground and that's when I noticed our fire engine had been moved to the back of the playground. I've marked on the map where our fire engine had been moved to as 'H421'. I have since found out that Simon FAIRBROTHER had moved it back round. He'd set up a tarpaulin, IEC packs and cylinders as there were people coming out wanting to do their A tests and get back in and he was pumping. So I went back down, took my set off, put it down to go and start my A test. I went and got a cylinder off the machine and checked it was alright. I came back to my set and put the cylinder down. Another fire engine

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was feeding water to Simon FAIRBROTHER. There was a huge wave of casualties coming out at this point. I was on my knees about to start my test and someone came running and put down in front of me a little girl. I am guessing she was six years old, as she looked the same size and weight as my son. I was near the IEC pack so I grabbed the defibrillator and another firefighter got out an oxygen cylinder and put that on her. I was just getting the pads out and had pulled her shirt open when I was grabbed by an officer of some rank who I do not know. We were at the playground and behind was a walkway that went up to a road probably two hundred meters away. The officer said could you get her up there, as there is a triage area. The triage area is slightly off the map so I have marked this with an arrow next to the words 'triage area'. So I grabbed her and ran her up there in my arms with the other firefighter running with me trying to hold the oxygen on her, which was quite tough. I've no idea who the other firefighter was and I do not even think I looked at him. As I came running up to the triage area with the other firefighter trying to hold an oxygen mask on her a paramedic saw me as he was weighing down a ground sheet with bags and told us to come over. I put her down on the ground sheet and assisted the paramedic who assessed her straight away, presumably with his own equipment and said she was in cardiac arrest. He did all the checks but I assisted him the best I could along with some other firefighters and paramedics who were already up there. I remember trying to catch my breath so I said I would swap with the guy who was holding the salvage sheet up to try to shield it from the public eye a little bit. Once oxygen had been put on the little girl someone checked for a pulse but I do not know if they found one. An ambulance turned up and the paramedic wanted to get this girl onto the ambulance straight away so again we grabbed her and picked her up and ran her to the ambulance. I do not remember what the little girl looked except having long brown hair and similar age to my six year old son. I would be guessing if I said a skin colour. I remember her having soot round her face but I do not recall her having any visible injuries. I know she had clothing though as when she was lying down her top was cut to potentially get pads on for the defib. I think she also was wearing trousers and shoes. She was very limp, about the weight of my six year old son, unconscious and I do not even know if she was breathing. I found my lid as I had taken that off. Then me and Chris made our way back down the walkway towards the playground where the fire engine was where we'd exited.

There was a lot of residents or locals of some kind being quite aggressive with police officers, just obviously trying to get in, and the police officers trying to keep them back. I remember having to try to weave through that a little bit and then assisting with quite a lot of more casualties coming out. Some of the casualties were not as severe as the little girl so they were still walking as such but we were just

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helping them to sit down in a seating area set up against the wall just round the corner underneath the walkway. I helped between about five and ten casualties but I do not recall their injuries. I do not think any of the ones I dealt with were unconscious. I think most of the ones I helped had either walked or been assisted. Then I was going back to get my set again and I was collared by an officer I do not know. I was told to go and assist someone on one of the project branches that had been set up at the entry and egress of the firefighters going in from where I'd excited because there was a large amount of falling debris coming down. I have marked this as 'PROJET' on the map. Therefore, I went on there with them. The biggest stuff coming down off the building was sandwich panel sheets, also buckled and twisted what looked like steel channels; metal balls that I think were internal parts of the sandwich panels. I lost Chris PEREZ at this point. I think he ended up getting his set and going back in the building.

I was put on the jet with another firefighter I do not know from Shoreditch and a Crew Manager I do not know. Later the Shoreditch firefighter was swapped with another firefighter I do not know at one point. We kept being told to withdraw because all the sheets were coming down and there were times when it was hitting you or landing near to you. This went on for some time, as we kept having to withdraw, move back, move forward. We were rotating with three of us on it as it runs at quite high water pressure and we were struggling to sometimes get a right angle on it. Eventually we got a three-piece ladder, split it up and set it up on the fencing round the play-park using the protection of a metal kids slide. Whoever was on the hose-reel was spotting stuff falling down for the person on the jet. We set the branch up underneath that and were able to protect it from anything falling down with a riot shield we had tied on. The play-area looked brand new but by the end, it looked like a war-zone. Stuff was falling down on the area where fire fighters were going in and out the tower. However, by this point casualty numbers coming out of the building had dropped significantly. I think the last person I recall being brought out was an Asian man from the south face of the building. There were four guys carrying him and I think he looked conscious. There had been firefighters above the BA holding area calling out on a loudhailer to give him instructions. However, I could not hear what these instructions were.

By this point, it was early morning and was daylight. It had been pitch black when I started on the branch but I do not know times. I heard he had come from the south face, which I believe from word of mouth and from watching the movement of the fire was the last side to fully ignite. From where I was, the fire travelled from the north-west corner to the south-west corner in that direction. However, the fire may have travelled in the opposite direction as well. With the power and reach of the branch, we could get to some of the windows. The fire had now gone round three sides having initially only been on the east side

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it had come round to the north and then the west from the fourth floor upwards. By the time, we had finished dealing with casualties the third side was fully going. While I was on the branch you could not see the top floor whereas when I had initially arrived you could see the top floor; you could see lights being flashed; you could see people waving. When we were on the branch quite a few times there was one window in particular where there was three people waving and that must have been for a good half an hour or so. At that point it was dark because I remember shining my lamp up onto the floor that they were on. They looked like adults but maybe one of them could have been a teenager. Someone on the loud hailer shouted up to them that they were trying to get people up to them just to reassure them. As you look at the west front, they were on the right hand side. They were leaning out the window but I could not see their faces or hear what they were saying from what I recall. That was probably on the seventh floor or something like that. I do not know if anyone could get to them; I do not know what happened on that part but they were there a long time and then flame appeared behind them and smoke started punching out the window and that was it but I remember that being quite vivid.

There was a lot of problems with where the fire-fighters were going in with their sets there was lengths of hose running across there with all the debris falling down so that was quite a problem trying to stop that burning through some of the hoses and on one length it had done. I actually had to use the water from the project branch to shoot the panels coming down almost like an arcade game to stop them hitting yourself or the firefighters going in and out. The sheets were twisting as were coming down and they were still on fire. The 135 ladder, which was totally mangled and set up against an overhang and it kept being set on fire so we were trying to put that out as well and whenever we could get water up into the windows. I had been instructed to cover the entry, exit point by extinguishing any falling debris, and do what I could with any water on the building. It seemed like all the fire was on the outside. So after I was on that branch for a long time but we eventually got relieved. I think by then it was not daylight but the sun was starting to rise. Then as I climbed back over the ladder to go and do my BA set again I got collared again as there was a cluster of officers that were trying to assist in getting the fire-crews across. I think by that point that is when police with the riot shields had arrived. They were using that as cover, escorts to get the fire fighters across. So me and Chris PEREZ got collared again to change the burst branch length as Chris was back with me. We were told that as everyone was in BA, there was no spare fire fighters to get tasks done. So we stayed there with them and we changed at least one burst branch length but that was quite complicated in the sense that we were trying to time it right with Simon still pumping. I remember we walked out a few times just trying to just cover up the burst length of hose because the water was coming

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out covering crews going in and out the building. There was so much stuff on the floor you were walking on bits of the building rather than the ground. We were just to trying to stop the fire fighters getting soaked when they were going through. I think by that time pretty much everyone had got soaked at one point. I got hit by deflected water off the ground monitor, well all three of us on the branch were wet through. So we changed a few branch lengths of hose and then it came through via radio messages that they needed additional fuel for the lightweight portable pump, which was set-up in the lobby area. So I went off, got a fuel can, got a funnel and then refilled the pump that was in the lobby area in the doorway. We carry cans of fuel on the machine. I made a funnel with my knife using a two little plastic bottle. Police with a riot-shield assisted me with cover. The comms were alright outside just the barry-set inside were poor. I do not know where the fresh hose came from but it was brought down and we laid it out ready. There were delays as they had to make sure there was as little break in the water as possible for the safety of the fire fighters and to try to control the fire. We just left the burst ones in SITU. I came back out and remember it being daylight by then. Again, I was told to stay there rather than go and do set because they needed additional tasks to be done, ferrying backwards and forwards. Then it came through on the radio message that they were not getting comms between the bridgehead and the ground floor so they needed a runner and lucky me was there at that time. I was sent to go and meet a Group Manager downstairs. There was a Group Manager upstairs and a Group Manager downstairs but I cannot remember what their names were but one was Tim WEST but I am not sure if he was upstairs or downstairs. Basically I was told to go up to the fifth floor where the bridgehead was and meet the Group Manager which I did and he told me that they weren't getting comms down to the ground floor and he needed a runner to relay messages and get either EDDBA or SDBA brought up. I was told that I would be run until I could not run anymore. I did that for well over an hour, hour and a half maybe. So maybe just saying he needed such and such number of wearers to come up at this time. Also, I was carrying equipment and reporting on the situation.

The fifth floor was hectic but not as smoky as previously. On the stairs there was lots of water coming down by this point so it was pretty deep coming through it. Where that was coming from, I do not know whether it was internal or externally being pushed into the building. I remember at that point there being a lot of external noise with stuff falling from the building that you could hear inside the building. It was really noticeable how much was coming down. Then eventually a Crew Manager came up, so there was a lot of people on the bridgehead on the fifth floor. There was at least two BA boards running at that time and writing on the wall. A lot of officers, white lids, were running that. By this time, no more casualties

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were being brought down. I overheard firefighters going in being told to firefight but I am sure they were attempting to rescue as well. I was sent down to get five forward information boards, which was just impossible but I got as many as I could. They are hard plastic boards that information can be transferred on to. So I got probably two, which was as many as I could find at that time. I even asked around for other people to go and have a look for them but obviously, everyone was busy with their own tasks throughout the whole night really. So I went back up with them and at some point a Crew Manager came up and he asked me if I was from Richmond. When I said I was he told me that my guvnor, my Watch Manager Jim BERRY was looking for me as it looked like I was going to be getting away. This was well towards mid-morning by then, maybe towards lunchtime. Therefore, I finished running the last message and then came back. Then I spoke to the Group Manager and said that I was happy to stay on and do it until I can get someone to replace myself doing the running but the Crew Manager, I do not know his name, said not to worry, as he would do it. He radioed through to Jim BERRY as I think my battery had run out by then. I eventually found the rest of the crew that I was with that night. Our machine was pumping the whole time so we had to leave it in SITU. So it was literally just a case of grabbing your shoes and your BA set, well we were told to grab any BA set. I did not know where mine had gone by that point. Therefore, I just grabbed a BA set and took it round to the area we had been told to go as a RVP. I do not know what happened to the TIC recordings but they were all taken away. I was not wearing a bodyworn camera. We did that and obviously I'd spent the whole evening and the morning in that one area so when I got round the corner I wasn't even aware of the development of PEGS setting up all the BA sets. I did not even know that stuff was there until about half-eleven or twelve o'clock or something. So we dropped our sets off and sat down.

I remember there being many members of the public out in the street giving us cups of coffee and that when we were walking through. I did not speak directly to any members of the public or take any messages. I did not take any photos or videos. Then we were told that they were trying to get a minibus of some kind to take us to Paddington to do statements and have a bit of counselling. So we had to wait around quite a long time for that. We met the minibus outside a church where collections were being made, which was quite a walk and I went to toilet in there, as I had needed to go since I arrived. Firefighting was still going on after we left. Then we made our way to Paddington and did all that stuff there. All of us who I went in the machine with were on the minibus. The officer in charge who I do not know wanted to check we were all alright and we were given some food and a drink. We were taken upstairs to do our notes but this was a bit rushed. I did not make any logs or

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notes other than this but the incident is still really ingrained and clear in my head. We were then offered five minute counselling if we wanted it. I went in, I think that was just for them to get our name on a bit of paper, get a brief outlay of what we had done, and then they could chase it up again after that. I think they said they would give me a ring in a week, which they did. I think we got back to our station at Richmond about five o'clock in the afternoon. We were back on at ten o'clock but we did not have a fire engine so we did not know what was going to happen. We changed our fire gear and everyone wanted to come back on. We were allowed to stay at the station to get some rest and I got about two hours kip and then walked round Sainsbury's getting ready to come back on.

I remember the day being so hot, it was boiling hot. I think a message on the viddie printer said we could stay at the station. We delayed it until ten o'clock but we went back on with fresh gear but unsure whether we were going to go back. I know everyone was pretty wiped out but we would have quite happily gone back. However, I do not remember getting any form of contact that night at all. I have not followed up on any counselling yet but I may do as recent personal matters have made me reconsider this.

I do not know of any fall back policy for if the stay-put policy does not work, certainly not at my rank to make a decision on. There is not a plan B that I know of. The stay-put policy is that we advise people that in a normal high-rise situation, like the previous one I just described, that the fire should be contained within the fire apartment as such or the flat that is on fire. So people are safe to stay within their own compartments, which is the advice we give when we go and do home fire safety visits and community work and so on. The reason for this is that from our training and from the advice that we are given is that the fire should stay contained within the compartment that it is originally in and our arrival should be quick enough to tackle it while it is still in there to prevent it spreading. Or at least crews will be on site to carry out rescues on those flats that still have people within them if a decision is made to bring them out. With fire doors and the information that we give they should be O.K. in their flats until a decision has been made higher up. I have no idea if that policy got withdrawn on the night. I just knew what I was doing and that was it.

I should imagine supervising officers first became aware of the spread of the fire by looking at it but I do not know. I saw the spread as I have described but I would also say it was unnatural in the way it went so quickly. I did not notice anything particular about the windows but I know it was meant to of been the hottest day of the year the following day so probably a lot of people had their windows open. What I could see set up to tackle the external fire was a ground monitor, the project where I was and I know at one point there was some sort of branch on the south face because that's the one that hit the corner of the

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building and drenched me and the other two guys. I did not know what was going on at the east face until we came round to the leisure centre and that is when I saw that Surrey had an aerial appliance set up there, I assume Danny COTTON was in overall charge as she was there but I do not know. I was only aware of what was going on in my area. I do not really know much about the command structure as it is above my pay grade. I would have gone back into the building if I had got the opportunity to. I think we should have better comms on our BA sets and I think that is an ongoing comment that most people make, as they can be quite temperamental. However, in terms of other stuff it is not for me to say really. I think with what we had everyone did the best they could. I did not receive an injury during the incident and I did not see any other member of staff get injured. However, there was plenty of near misses with all the stuff falling off the building just missing peoples' heads and legs. I had plenty of incidents like that and the molten metal falling on your fire gear was pretty much continuous. I have not received any treatment from LAS or elsewhere since but as I said, I am considering more counselling. I cannot think of anything else that is important. I did not take on any of the FSG calls at all. I have not been back to Grenfell Tower since. I would be happy to answer any questions in the future if necessary.

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