

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: JACKDEO, TYRONE

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

Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

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: T JACKDEO

Date: 26/03/2018

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

My name is Fire Fighter Tyrone JACKDEO and my pay number is [REDACTED] 6A. I'm based at Kentish Town and I'm with the Alpha 43 Red watch, Alpha 43 refers to the station (Kentish Town).

On Sunday 21st January 2018, I was interviewed on audio disc at Wembley Fire Station. The interview started at 11:44 hrs and ended at 15:40 hrs and it was conducted by DC HOBBS and PC AFRAM from Operation Northleigh based at the Metropolitan Police Service. I gave this statement voluntarily and it is an account of my involvement as a driver and rescuer at Grenfell Tower fire on Wednesday 14th June 2017.

The people I shall mention within this statement are my crew members, Watch Manager (WM) GREGORY, Fire Fighter (FF) PATEL, Fire Fighter (FF) DOE and Fire Fighter (FF) PORTUPHY. In addition to these firefighters, I will mention other fire fighters I met on the night of the incidence at Grenfell Tower: I believe he was called Fire Fighter BERRY from Richmond, and Station Manager (SM) Sean COLTRESS from Shadwell station.

In this statement, I shall mention Kentish Town Fire Station where I am stationed, and the Grenfell tower where the incident occurred. I shall also mention BRAMLEY Road where we initially stationed our vehicle upon arrival at the scene. I will then mention LANCASTER WEST Road where we were asked to move to from Bramley Road and where we were parked throughout the time we were at the incident. I will also mention the area of victim triage, which was set up near to my truck by London Ambulance Service (LAS). I will also mention the Richmond Appliance.

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On Tuesday the 13th June, 2017, I started my shift at 8pm. That evening I was at my usual base at Kentish Town where I was the appointed driver of A431 for that shift. At some point in time I went to bed, then, later at about 1am on the 14th June I heard the alarm sound. I immediately got up and attended the tip machine, along with the rest of the crew.

One officer was responsible for taking the tip sheet from the telex machine which gives details of ongoing incidents. The information obtained from the tip sheet informed us that this job was going to be a big job. I knew it was a big job because the tip sheet was extensive and had a long list of appliances that had been mobilised to the same incident along with what their roles were. Within a minute at about 1:05 hrs we were mobilised and ready to go and I drove out of the station with my team.

With me in the truck were Watch manager GREGORY in the near side front, behind me was fire fighter PATEL, behind GREGORY was fire fighter PORTUPHY and in the middle was fire fighter DOE. As the driver, I went to the shout in my 'blues' which are blue cargo pants, blue sweat shirt over blue 'T' shirt and my boots. We all had our PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) in the appliance, including our boots and BA (Breathing Apparatus) sets. We also had our first Aid kit in the appliance, it was quite big and full because it contained neck collars, air cylinder, batteries, bandages, burns gel and water.

According to the Tip sheet our crew were called for fire survival guidance (FSG) and our job was to attend to help by rescuing any survivors in the tower whilst other fire fighters tried to put the blaze out. As we travelled from Kentish Town we thought it was a big job as it required about 20 pumps. Watch manager GREGORY who was in charge instructed us on route. He told us to be calm and do what we needed to do and make sure we stuck together.

From Kentish Fire station we came out North bound. Fire Fighter DOE who was behind me in the cab directed me with the best route to our RVP at the Grenfell Tower. I believe the RVP was at Brambly Road W11. I wasn't sure of the route we took, but we got there very quickly.

I believe as we arrived from a distance on my left I could see the Tower which was on fire. As we carried on driving and got closer, the Tower was on our left at some point. It looked like it was alight from the 4th to the 10th floor. I was looking and I was driving at the same time. The fire was spreading with blue and green flames, and there was lot of smoke. There were people in the windows and it was quite a windy night with smoke being blown everywhere. I thought the building to be about 24 floors tall and it was a block of flats. This was the biggest ever fire I have attended.

We got to RVP at Brambly road at about 1:15-20 am. It took us about 15minutes from Kentish station.

We drove over 30 MPH and did not stop anywhere because we knew it was a major fire. Before we

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pulled to the RVP at Brambly Road, there were several other fire engines and other vehicles double parked on the narrow roads. I believe there was ongoing gas works on the street, as the road were dug up and the road had bollards too.

There were hundreds of people in the street, I could see people crying. It was a hectic situation to drive into. It was chaotic and dangerous in terms of people running in the road in front of the truck. They were screaming and they were shouting about people losing some of their family members.

It had been a warm calm day which led to a quiet night. It was also mid-week, and a lot of Asians were having some sort of festival which was the reason there was a lot more people than there usually would probably be.

Residents from the neighbouring flats were unsure what was happening. There seemed to be a lot of fear from the members of public which made it extremely difficult to drive through. This surely impacted on our sense of anticipation. I felt nervous; We were all very nervous. We were not scared but felt we had an arduous task ahead.

As I drove into Brambly road I could see about three appliances ahead of me. I believe about eight appliances had already reached Bramley Road before us. I believe they were placed on either side of the building but from my side and on top of my head, I could only see three. Once parked in Bramley Road, we could see the fire was spreading at an alarming rate. I could see blue, green and grey flames moving round the building. This told us that many different things were burning. I was thinking of residents sleeping at night with the danger of freezers, washing machines, canisters like air fresheners and other chemicals under the sink in such an inferno.

Once our Governor got out and made enquiries we were asked to move to Lancaster West. Lancaster West was two hundred meters away from Bramley Road. Watch manager Gregory got instructions from the commander on what to do and where to be sited. It was at this stage it became apparent that our role had changed from the Fire Survival Guidance to Search and Rescue. I believe the change occurred because we got there very early. I had to reverse the fire engine through the tight gaps on Brambly Road and I turned it around. At this time, I was really nervous but not scared. I was directed by a colleague when reversing in order to avoid any accident with the members of the public who were screaming, wailing, running and crossing my truck's path. There was utter confusion around us: it was chaotic. We parked at Lancaster Gate and there was a London Fire Brigade (LFB) vehicle in front of us further down the road. It was the Richmond Pump high ladder call sign HA421. They were nearer to the Tower

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and were directly at the bottom of the building feeding water to the crews at the building. There were no vehicles in front of H421.

I got some information from the radio that HA421 (Richmond appliance) was running out of water so we knew we had to feed the pump which we did that instinctively. Our crew knew where the fire hydrant was as we had parked up next to it in Lancaster Gate. Still in our blues, we unloaded the 70ml hose pipes, connected them to the hydrant and charged our vehicle of 70ml hose pipe and dragged it down to H421 so they could pump it to the building. I realised that the water pressure had gone down because I could see that the water pressure was dropping as Richmond was using more water than what was coming in from the mains so I asked them to reduce their flow. At a point I was pumping more water from my reservoir to Richmond than the main supplied to my appliance. The supply went really low because there were other pumps also using the mains and Thames water was contacted and they came and increased the water pressure.

I would like to explain further how the water “mains” system works and the importance of us feeding water to Richmond Pump:

The water mains is two or three feet underneath the ground and it comes out onto a hydrant on the street level. We had plugged in our 70 mm hose and chucked it at the back of our vehicle, which is basically a big reservoir and a pump. We then pump out from our vehicle’s reservoir to the Richmond’s pump as we replenish with the mains from the street. The fire fighters then plug the 70mm hose to Richmond’s pump at the bottom of the building into the inlet of the dry riser, it then fills the dry riser in the building and then other fire fighters then plug in their 45mm hose pipes on the dry riser. These 45mm hoses then go into the branch to spray the water everywhere.

From the moment we first parked at Lancaster Gate, the whole situation (members of the public, senior officers, cars double parked, a big building on fire next to us, and why it was burning so quick, the Police and LAS kept on bringing casualties towards us) made it seem like an eternity. In my nine years of experience as a Fire Fighter, Grenfell Tower fire is the biggest domestic fire I’ve seen. I was that wondering what went wrong, I was wondering how much of the building was alight, whether it was an internal or external fire and what floors were affected.

The fire had grown since we were at Bramley Road to Lancaster Road, from floor 4 to floor 10. From Bramley, it looked like the middle section of the building was burning but when we came to Lancaster West, we could see the fire had jumped. I could see that there were gaps in the jump.

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When we were bringing out the hoses, there was a family screaming out from the burning flats. I believe there were lot of Asian Muslim families in these flats. While we tried pulling out the hoses, there were people arguing, people were hysterical, nervous and scared trying to find their family members.

I was running with 2 hoses under my arms and my crew and I were all knackered within the first 20 minutes. In between, we were helping bring casualties out. The London Ambulance Services (LAS) were also bringing casualties out and we were at the same time helping them so we were multitasking. We were about 200 metres away from the Grenfell Tower and Richmond Pump (H421) was about 20 metres away from it. It was parked adjacent to the kid's playground. I could see the left corner of the Tower alight, with various apartments alight as well. I did not enter the building at any stage of the incident. I went up to about 30 feet from the front door.

As a driver, I was tasked with the hydrant and bowling out. I did not lock the vehicle and the motor was running so the engine could work to pump the water. I liaised with the driver of Richmond (H421) to let him know what was happening from time to time. I tried to radio him but failed due to heavy traffic on every single channel. I ended up running the length quite a number of times to speak to him and let him know in case there was a problem. It was very hard to talk on the radio so it was easier to run down to Richmond (H421) and introduce myself and correspond directly.

I believe there are six radio channels and they were all being use by the LFB. The senior officers took precedence. It was easier to run the length of the hoses to pass messages on than use the radio.

The fire was spreading drastically and quick. This sort of fire is what you would probably see in a third world country but you wouldn't expect here in the UK. I was mortified, shocked and surprised. My colleagues and I swore. We said this is carnage, let's get the people out!!

There was lot of smoke coming from the individual flats and the sides of the building. There were winds of smoke being blown from all directions, and because people had opened their windows this helped the fire to spread. I believe the smoke was getting into the flats as well as they were trying to breathe. I saw a lot of people in the windows, including children.

When I left the machine to bowl out, towards Richmond's pipe ladder, I could see people from the windows being engulfed by the smoke and a flat inside alight too. I could hear people screaming and shouting, I could see people with torches trying to get attention and people were being hysterical around us. But in the mix of all these the Police, London Ambulance Services (LAS), members of the public and we (fire Fighters) were getting people out from the fire.

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There were people standing around me who were talking on the phone to their relatives in the block.

Some were saying their relatives were stuck and could not get out.

My Crew were rolling out the 20meter-70mm hoses and at the same time doing other tasks such as going to Richmond Pump and bringing hosepipes back to our vehicle. My crew left my line of sight at some point and were doing other things together with the WM GREGORY. They were bowling out and at the same time helping the police to bring casualties out. They helped a lot of people both adults and children and all colours blacks, whites, Asians... they helped everyone. Though I cannot describe individuals they helped, every time I looked around, they were helping someone out. It was a continuous chain. Once they brought someone out, they were back to bring more out and it went on for hours.

The street lights were on and there were a lot of blue lights flashing. The vehicles' head lights were on. It was about 1:30 in the morning and you could tell it was black because I could see it. There was no obstruction. It took under a minute to move someone from Richmond's to my truck. There was no time to waste. We had to act fast to save as many as possible.

My team brought out many people. They were children, adults and elderly people, some of whom were either suffering from smoke inhalation or being semi-conscious. We couldn't tell for all of them if they were black, white blonde, brunette as some were covered in smoke.

From the beginning my role was to operate the pump, but this role changed throughout the entire night because I was going up and down to Richmond's Pump and also helped bringing casualties out. I was running as far as I could together with London Ambulance Crew and other Fire Fighters to get casualties out. I was also pumping the machine which I could do, because it was on the same route where I was running with the hoses.

I would not normally disregard instructions from my seniors in my line of duty, but I did in this incident. I was supposed to be constant at my machine but I disobeyed and took on multitasking in order to help save many casualties. Any time I left my machine, I always checked if there was enough water pressure and made sure it was running. I also checked my fuel so all my checks were done.

There were other senior officers in attendance: GREGORY our watch manager; FF BERRY from Richmond, and Station Manager Sean COLTRESS from Shadwell Station Manager Sean COLTRESS said the Brigade was really looking into getting fuel for the trucks and asked me if I needed fuel, water or anything in my appliance. I told him that at some point I would need fuel. From time to time, they came with fuel in jerry cans to fill up my tank.

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During the time I was running back and forth with the hose and equipment, I could smell the fire, fumes and sweat. I could also smell normal burnt plastic, burnt wood and rubber but it was a lot more pungent. It was smoky, windy and debris were falling from the Tower. I heard a couple of explosions in the flats and windows were exploding out. Once the wind changed its direction, it blew the heat in our faces. At that point, we felt it in our lungs and in our nose. Our lungs and noses were burning, our eyes were watery. We were running back and breathing heavily. I was then in full fire gear because I had put on my protective equipment. I had my boots, my tunic, my leggings and my helmet on. It would have been more tiring running forth and back with the BA kit on.

The first people I helped was black family. I spent about 5 minutes with them and I was back to Richmond's Pump. I can't recall who I brought back next. It was just people and casualties and I just did what I could. The casualties were mixed with all ages, colours and nationalities. I remember helping a few families. As I was bringing people back, I was at the same time trying to have conversation with them asking their names, where they were from, what flat they were in, and if their people were out. I tried to reassure them their loved ones could be on the other side of the building as there were 2 exits. I later realised some of people we helped were those seen on TV talking to the MPS.

At Lancaster Gate where I parked my machine and set into the hydrant, a Triage was set up right by my machine by London Ambulance Services (LAS). They were about 10-15 feet away from my machine. There were about thirty Staff and about six ambulances. I spoke to few of them and asked them not to be there because by setting a triage next to my machine, it could make my work more complicated. But the London Ambulance Services (LAS) staff told me that they would try and move somewhere else yet that did not happen.

I wanted to be able to move around easily but they just ended up being there and sat casualties anywhere. My consideration at that point was for other appliances. I wondered what would happen if we needed more ambulances, where would Police cars park? What if the operational support unit was bringing in water and other equipment needed? What would happen if I had to move my vehicle, how would people get through? Would I have to move the machine again? It was different scenarios that could happen. There were families looking for other family members who were congregating there as well. They just sat people where they could which was understandable. All the people in the triage were working, so I wasn't always getting to Richmond's pump. I helped carry people when I saw someone struggling to carry bags or casualties. Some couldn't walk properly and I helped bring them back to the Triage which was about 15ft from my pump. Some of the casualties were unconscious and needed oxygen.

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I was going back to Richmond's pump when a Police Officer passed on a little girl to me. She was about 5-8 years old and she was unresponsive. I got her on the floor and started CPR, when I was doing the CPR a doctor an (Asian male) from the London Ambulance Service (LAS), whose name I can't remember came and helped.

He cut her clothes off while I was doing the compressions. There were no signs of life, but I did the compressions for about 10-20 minutes at the back of my fire engine and put a defibrillator on her. While I did that, I was also looking at my pump. I was looking around for what was happening and there were other casualties around. The Doctor asked me to get her into an ambulance at the Triage. I lifted her up to the ambulance which was a couple of meters away from my truck. I carried her while looking at my truck. As I walked into the ambulance, I still gave her CPR. I was holding her hand and being a new father, it was pretty hard so I started talking to her and there were still no signs of life but I carried on. I think the London Ambulance Service (LAS) used a different machine for defibrillator. The doctor then turned around and asked me if I could drive the ambulance. I said "I think I could". He asked me if I could take him to the hospital immediately. I said "I couldn't because I was supplying the Tower with water". At that moment another Fire Officer came over, I don't know who he was or what station he was from but he said he could drive.

After 25 maximum compressions, I said I had to go because there were other people by the machine I shut the door of the Ambulance and left her to the driver. I don't know if the driver drove her to the hospital and I don't know if she made it either. I chose not to find out.

I gave CPR to about three other people. At one point it was just me, with 10-12 children and an oxygen cylinder because it took a lot of time for the London Ambulance Services (LAS) to arrive. This was 10-12 kids, not including the other 40 or so people I had in the triage. They were stranded so they sat down. I was giving them oxygen and talking to them. I was giving them water as well and I was running to ambulances to get blankets to cover them up.

There were 2 Chinese girls from the 8th floor who were students. I covered them up as well. I did cover some adults as well. It was proper multitasking. Once I put a blanket on someone, I went back to the IEC bag, that is the First Aid bag which had oxygen, defibrillator and burns kit. Cylinders were set up around me. I probably went through 20-30 cylinders of oxygen throughout the evening.

Another fire fighter from Ealing, who was an older gentleman joined me. I can't remember his name. We were both grafting from person to person. He became very attached to one of the kids we took to the

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ambulance. He refused to let the child go and opted to take him to the ambulance himself. There were lots of people, some Asian families running past us trying to get their families to the triage.

There was one kid with about 15 people around him. I told them to leave two people with the kid and asked the rest to leave as they were crowding the triage area and scaring people. They looked at me and said "sorry we were scared". I said it was ok and understandable.

When the Riot Police arrived, they were used as a crowd control to help the emergency services carry out their tasks. Upon seeing the riot police holding people back, the people became more agitated.

There were bits of the building falling, fire fighters covered in smoke. The Police with riots shield helped people out of the building as debris were falling. The Police used their shields to prevent the debris from hitting the head of those around and they moved fire fighters and ambulance Crews in and out of the building. There were scores of people jumping out of the building and bits of bodies on the floor.

I saw windows popping due to the heat in the flats or something exploding in the flats. Anyone in that vicinity could be showered with pieces of debris. I couldn't tell if there was any gas-like explosion or flame because there was so much smoke and flame and I couldn't differentiate what was what. Besides, I cannot describe any activity inside the building because I did not enter in the building at any point. I cannot remember a moment when a fire fighting activity stopped

There was no collective instruction from Watch Manager GREGORY about what we had to do or were doing at the time. Manager GREGORY came in when he could, but gave no other instructions

When I had a chance and went back to the Richmond's pump, I could see a lot of smoke. A large part of the building was still alight. People were still screaming and crying. The riots Police, LAS, a couple of Fire fighter crews and other crews were sitting on the floor discussing what was happening and their next plans. Everyone looked very tired, hot, sweaty. Some were bleeding a bit. They were resting because they were exhausted from running in and out.

I had a bit of water which London ambulance Service(LAS) left by and this was about 6-7 hours into the job and someone passed me a piece of chocolate which was nice.

By that time, it was daylight, about 5-6am in the morning. We could see every floor from the fourth floor up had been touched. There was still the same toxic smell. The flames were not as much as before. Watch manager COLTRESS brought a jerry can to top up the machine in the morning when all of our trucks were running low on fuel.

We had turned up as Fire Safety Guidance (FSG), but our role changed to fire fighter and we stayed as fire fighters till the end of our shift. The Crews that turned up later also became Fire Safety Guidance

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(FSG). I was a fire fighter but I didn't do much firefighting. I rather helped bring out people away from the building but the rest of my crew went into the building. I can't tell when they stopped the Fire Safety Guidance (FSG) and went fire-fighting or vice versa. I'm not entirely sure because at one point, I didn't see them for a long time.

We had the thermal imaging camera, but I do not know who took it into the building. We did not wear body cameras and we were one of the only stations that stayed on duty. My crew started on from 8pm on the 13th, arrived at Grenfell Tower at 1:20 am on the 14th and stayed on till 5 pm on 14th until we got relieved by another crew. We were asked to leave at about 3pm, but we didn't leave immediately because there were many things going on, until 5pm when Watch Manager GREGORY came.

After we had been relieved, we couldn't get the fire engine so we got a minivan to Paddington where we got debriefed, changed our clothes, got some food and wrote up what we did, which I exhibit as TYJ/1. We spoke to Occupational Health Counsellors and it was about a 5-minute chat for each Officer. At that point, I was so knackered working for a long time and found the Counsellor's chat pointless, but another side was refreshing my mind. I believe watch manager GREGORY also had a chat with his bosses including Commander Pat GOLDBOURNE, who was a white helmet. and I was told he was in the building helping people out as well. He congratulated us and said we had done a good job.

I think Paddington was chosen as a focus point because it is close to the Grenfell and also has a bigger space to accommodate all the officers.

From Paddington, we got into the little minivan and drove to our Station (Kentish Town), where we had a chat with the Chief. The Governor asked if we would remain on duty and everybody said yes and we stayed on duty. We were one of the only crews to do that I believe.

The Governor started the conversation and it was just about what we had done and achieved, what we could do and couldn't do. It wasn't blaming and it was about the good job we had done. We couldn't have done anything better than we did, because I saw all my crew working really hard and we did our best. Our crew is based in a very busy Station and we had done a lot of work together and knew each other's strength. I got a well done from the Governor, a Crew Manager / Borough Commander and some Senior Officers who saw me working hard and later passed a comment to my manager that I was doing a great job.

Back at Kentish Station, I sat by my locker and thought about everything. I phoned my family and told them about the situation. My partner was worried about me as she hadn't heard from me but she knew I was safe because she watched the news and friend and family were texting her too. She was more worried

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than everyone I suppose. I got a message after the incident to say that I had a relative named Zoe, a [REDACTED] lady who lived on the fourth floor of the Tower, but I found out later that she actually got out. I will describe the casualties and people I helped as follows: I think the first people I helped was a black family, a dad, mum and daughter. Mum was in a dressing gown. The girl was hysterical and wouldn't calm down. Dad was in a bad state with a lot of smoke in his lungs and his face. I know they were black because I was close and could see they were black, they were still covered in smoke and the mum had an African accent.

The child was about 12 years old and mum was carrying her. She was hysterical and scared like many others. They sat down and I got them a blanket and bottles of water. I was getting people to share up and lay next to each other. London Ambulance Service (LAS) were also helping. I remember washing both Mum and the Dad's faces down and I asked them to breathe. The little girl wouldn't drink or do anything but I said she had to so the smoke could get out and I remember this vividly.

The girl I gave CPR to into the ambulance was a white girl. She looked like of Mediterranean descent and had black hair. I'm not too sure if she's related to the two girls I later saw on TV. She was wearing a little tracksuit but the LAS had to cut her clothing off. She had soot in her mouth, eyes and everywhere.

I also gave CPR to a black girl, probably aged 8-12 years old. She was smaller, slim and had her mouth covered in soots. She was wearing a pyjama, which was later cut off by the London ambulance Service. I just did the CPR and when they moved her off someone else took over.

I did this in the Triage area.

There was another girl I started CPR on her, but she was taken away when more LAS came in. She was a young one, 8-12 years I believe and of Mediterranean descent. She was a little bit darker. With the darkness and the flashing lights, it was difficult to tell if someone was black, white or brunette.

I helped another boy. They were two brothers, one was eight and the other was twelve. They had come out and their mother was pacing about looking for a friend. She asked me to look after her children. The boy said his lungs hurt. I asked him if he was alright and he said yes. I gave him some water and some oxygen. The 12-year-old was being brave for his brother as their mum kept walking off.

There was another girl called [REDACTED] she was about [REDACTED]. When we got to the bottom of the building, London Ambulance Service (LAS) and the Police passed her to me. I took her further away and I was talking to her and she was looking for her dad, Mum and Sister. It was a family of four and I got her water and oxygen and sat her down.

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A man came around and was screaming, calling out for his little girl. He said to me that he was looking for his daughter and I asked if her name was [REDACTED]. He said yes and I took him to where [REDACTED] was. When [REDACTED] saw her father, she started screaming asking for her Mum. The father also screamed back to [REDACTED] and asked where her mum and sister were. I put my arms to his shoulder just to say your daughter is here so calm down a bit. Later on, by pure chance, I met another fire fighter who had found [REDACTED]'s mum and other sister and they were also looking for Dad and [REDACTED]. I asked if the girl was called [REDACTED] and he said yes. I said "Dad and [REDACTED] are over there" pointing to their direction. There was another girl on 15th floor that we had managed to get her out. She approached me and said that her father was at the 15th floor and he had a breathing problem. I looked at the 15th floor, and it was not looking good as the fire had engulfed the whole block. We looked at each other and she started crying. I was consoling her before her friend came over.

I have had various BA (Breathing Apparatus) courses for SDBA, Emergency Care course, First Aid including defibrillator and various other courses on Health and Safety. I am a trained first aider and I've done a refreshing course few months before my Intensive emergency care. It was a 5-day intensive care course. The course was a few months before the Grenfell tower disaster, certainly it was in 2017. We use IEC quite a lot at my station because Kentish town is a busy station.

I received fire fighter training few months before the Grenfell incident and it was about a new fire bag kit. It was specifically designed for high rise buildings. We always do drills that correlate to high rise.

I haven't done 72D familiarisation visit to Grenfell Tower before June the 13th, but I had done so in Kentish Town where we have a lot of estates with high rises buildings and I have attended numerous calls to these high-rise flats.

But I had no previous knowledge about Grenfell tower either by a visit or any previous attendance as Grenfell Tower is not on my station grounds.

I have also never worked nor been posted to the Fire Safety Department.

I have been asked about the various conditions in the building and my response is as follows:

I do not know if there were lifts that the fire fighters used in the block. I believe there were more than one escape route from the block but this is a hearsay. I do not know if there were sprinkles in the building.

Traffic on the radio was far too busy. There were not enough channels and the range were cutting out as some Fire fighters and rescuers were at distance away in the flats.

I did not know if the dry riser was charged with water when we arrived. I believed it would have been charged but I cannot tell you when it was charged because we wouldn't have gone past the tenth floor.

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I don't know of any measures regarding fire measures such as sprinkles, alarms and others going off. I did not hear any alarm go off at any time. I don't know if I could have heard it if it happened. There were a lot of noise and flashing lights. Normally you would hear if you were inside the building but it is all about who designed what block and how I heard that the condition of the stairways was very bad and people couldn't even see ahead.

I knew and I have heard about risks of cladding panels but I have never come to situations like Grenfell. However, having witnessed the fire at Grenfell helps to explain more about it.

I was at about 15 meters to the building, next to Richmond's pump. I could see a bit of the building falling. It seemed like a bit of everything: windows, glasses, rubber falling off. They were definitely cladding but there were numerous things as well. I heard people were jumping out of from the windows as well. There were bits of concrete chipping off because of the heat and falling down. Things were just crumbling and falling off.

The Police riot shields were used as cover above their head. As we were trying to go in and rescue more people out, their shields were used as protection from bits of debris coming down.

At some point, I saw the incident commander. I believe where I was, the sector commanders changed a couple of times. I can't remember who he was but I think there were a couple who were on my side. I was a bit remote from the actual incident sector itself. I was 200 meters away and the rest of my crew were at about 20 meters away. I believe my Governor was our sector commander for a while, and then he got redeployed. I think I heard on the radio, when the traffic names were mentioned and changes of sector commanders were made but I cannot really recall who he was.

At the end I did see the incident commander. That was when we were relieved. I believe he was Commander Pat GOLDOURNE. I did see commander Danny COTTON later on. I had never met Commander Danny COTTON at any incidence. Only an incidence that requires 20 pumps and above will call for her presence. A normal house fire requires two pumps. If it is over three floors, it needs over four pumps. A big fire requires up to ten pumps, and a very big fire twenty pumps. At the end of my shift, I believe there were about 40 -60 pumps, as well as relief pumps. There were machines from other brigades. It was a big job and there were lots of pumps.

There was a turn table ladder and it was brought from Surrey, but I saw it only when we were relieved and were walking around at the back of the Tower. I believe the Surrey table ladder was there because that goes higher than any pumps in London. I think it goes up to 14 floors I believe. To the best of my knowledge, London hasn't got this type of pump.

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I was asked about our Stay-put policy and who makes decisions on it: the policy says that if there is a fire and if you can get out and it is safe, do so. But where you will be trapped by smoke or fire, stay put and let us know what floor you are on, what part of the building you are and how many people are there. You also need to give as much information as possible and we will come and get you.

As part of Fire Safety Guardians (FSG), if we know where the people are, we will try and get to the people and get them out. I do not know who made the decision of the stay put policy at Grenfell Fire and I do not know the one who made the decision of stay put policy withdrawal.

The radio was busy and I was out there doing other things. I do not know who recorded the decision in the incident log either.

I have been asked about my awareness on the risk of cladding panel. I do not have training on that. From the start I wasn't so close to the building so I wasn't in the fire zone so to speak. So from that I cannot really say.

I have been asked about the decision-making process. It's the senior officers who make such decisions. I've been asked about operational tactics. When we got the call to Grenfell, it was machines attendance. When the call slip to the incident arrived, it showed us who was attending and where our rendezvous point was, and who to report to. It was at that point that we got ready and then we went to Grenfell to meet the command unit. He told us what to do from there and we then did whatever the commanders told us to do.

I have been asked about how the command chain changed. I heard on the radio that some senior officers had been moved to different roles and different people had taken over.

I have been asked about my observations: We had sectors at each side at the Tower to watch for things. I don't know what resources and training would have been needed, but if you are looking at the building, you are looking at signs and symptoms of fire, so you are looking at cracks, but this is not a specific training.

From my point I cannot comment on the state of fire precautions and the extent it encroached on the building. I have said windows were falling down and rubber seals were falling. There was a lot of heat. It was burning over 1200 degrees of heat and it was more than crematorium.

We had ground monitors. I believe the Surrey platform was where they were, because they did not get entry point to the building. This is just a guess.

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I observed the fire move on all directions quickly so it was jumping floors. It was moving about and it was moving swiftly around the building. It was quicker than anything I have seen in the other high-rise block jobs I have attended.

This fire was the most active, impressive, vigorous and busiest fire I have ever seen, I think this is the hottest place I have ever been to.

The behaviour of the fire did not prompt any decision making from my experience. I was just supplying and I wasn't very close.

From my evaluation, probably sprinkles in the building and a water tank on top of the building would have helped. A wet riser and a proper layout of the building could have helped but I wasn't in the building to know whether they had them or not.

Most tower blocks have PIPS but I don't know if Grenfell had them.

I've been asked if I had any injuries. I fell over on a hose whilst carrying a big lady who threw herself at me. I fell over and hurt my back. The injuries I suffered were bruises to my lower back and a pulled muscle. I later went to my Doctors and I had a bit of physiotherapy. It helped but I am still suffering a little bit.

I also witnessed a lot of fire fighters and the other emergency crews worked above and beyond normal, risking their lives to get people out.

The police took more of the aggression from the members of the public and that was when the riot police came in that the aggression intensified, but I think in that moment in time, people took it the wrong way when they saw the riot Police.

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