

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: ARCHER, WAYNE

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 10 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: W ARCHER

Date: 13/12/2017

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

This statement is in relation to my experience whilst being deployed to the Grenfell Tower on 14th June 2017. At the time I was based at Hammersmith Fire Station, attached to the Red Watch.

During this statement I will refer to my original notes I made at Paddington Fire Station on the 14th June, I exhibit these at WSA/4.

I have been a Fire-fighter for 13yrs in March 2018. I am originally from Nottingham and moved to London when I joined the London Fire Brigade. I was originally posted to Fulham on the Red watch and was there for about 5 years. I was then posted to Clapham on the Red watch for 18 months, then to Hammersmith Red watch where I am now. I have been here for about 6 years. I have always been on the transfer list to this place because I know it quite well.

Within this statement I will refer to various people that are known to me. I will refer to Crew Manager David DAVIES, Fire-fighter John O'HANLON, and Fire-fighter Nick BARTON who travelled in G362 with me on the way to Grenfell Tower, and back to Paddington Fire Station once we were relieved, and that I worked with at times throughout the incident. I will also refer to Watch Manager O'KEITH who is from Kensington, he gave me direction in the beginning states of the fire in that he asked for me to go up to the 5th/6th floor. I will talk about Tom ABELL from Kensington, I am unsure of his last name but I went up to the 5th/6th floor with Tom and went into one of the flats believed to be on fire. I will refer to Fire-fighter Billy BRODRICK, Fire-Fighter Matt SEPHTON and Fire-Fighter Ben BRODRICK who I came across on the 5th/6th floor inside the Tower. I mention Watch Manager Mike DOWDEN who was in

Signature: W ARCHER
2018

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charge at one point, and Watch Manager Glynn WILLIAMS from Fulham Fire Station who was in charge of fire survival calls at the main door.

On the 13th June 2017 I started my shift at 2000hours as normal which was scheduled to finish at 0930hours the following morning on the 14th June. I remember getting the call to Grenfell Tower at about 0100hours, when I was detailed to drive G362. This is Hammersmith's pump appliance. I don't remember getting any calls before this in the shift. I went down stairs to look at the call slip which showed the call details, and that it was on the 4th floor, it didn't detail the flat number. I remember being called to the area of Grenfell Tower before, it was to an 'AFA' 'Automated Fire Alarm activation. I remember the area being a bit like a rabbit warren. I hadn't been inside the Grenfell Tower itself though, I have knowledge about high rises and what to expect inside, eg there would usually be a lobby, a stairwell, lift, flats, but I had no specific knowledge.

I was checking the map before leaving but luckily Crew Manager DAVIES was in charge that night, he does a lot of standby in the area, and has stood by in North Kensington quite a lot so knows the area quite well. I relied on him navigate me through the route to the Tower, there were quite a few road closures but managed to avoid them all. I parked the appliance just behind North Kensington's pump/or pump ladder, I can't remember which one it was, nor can I remember the specific road name I parked in. I think we got there quite quickly, I don't know exactly, but the distance, and at that time of night it would take about 3-4 minutes.

I travelled to the fire location in pump G362 which I was driving, also in the appliance was Crew Manager David DAVIES who was in charge, Fire-fighter John O'HANLON, and Fire-fighter Nick BARTON who both sat at the back. When we first arrived I remember seeing the main doors to Grenfell Tower to the right hand side of where we parked. As I was parking I was conscious to leave a pathway through for anyone else who may have turned up. I was an arial driver in Clapham so I had the awareness that any ariel needed to be able to get through and get as close as possible to the Tower so the water can get to the fire, so with that in mind I parked to the side of the road. I think we got there early doors compared to others, we were quite close, but also when we got there the Fire-fighters from North Kensington were just finishing putting in the dry riser, so we weren't far behind as they are based just round the corner. I remember it being quite calm when we got there, there were a few people walking out the building. I was in tracksuit bottoms and a T —Shirt when I got off the appliance. I recall a lot of cars parked everywhere, as there always is around that area of town. I went back to the appliance and got rigged, so put on a fire tunic, boots, leggings and a helmet.

Signature: W ARCHER
2018

Signature witnessed by:

I looked up at the Tower and saw a bit of a flame coming out of one of the windows. The dry riser was already being set in, I got a 45m jet off North Kensington's ladder, rolled it out and got it to work, I was spraying it just above the window where the flame was coming out, which seemed to be helping with the fire. At that point I remember Crew Manager DAVIES came up to me and said that the crew was about to go into the building. I passed the jet I was holding to two other Fire-fighters from Kensington. I think Crew Manager DAVIES told me to get rigged into breathing apparatus (BA), so I went over to our appliance and put a BA set on. At that point I was on my own and when we go into buildings we go in two's, I saw someone called 'Tom' from North Kensington that I know and told him to get set up in BA to go into the Tower with me. It seemed to take ages for him to find a set and get the BA on, although it may actually have been just a few minutes.

While I was waiting I was putting a hose into the lobby area and working it up into the mezzanine level. I carried hose and equipment up three times. This was heavy work so I was tired before I started really. Tom then came over with a BA set, and we got more equipment ready to go in. Watch Manager O'KEITH from North Kensington told us there was a fire on the fourth floor and it seemed to be spreading, he asked if we can go up to the fifth floor. I've written the fifth floor in my original notes (WSA/4) when I finished my shift but since I have been told by Tom we went to the 6th floor, not the fifth. Tom and I travelled to the 6th floor together. The stairs to the sixth floor were calm. I think I might have seen 1 or 2 people walking down the stairs, and a few Fire-fighters. Those Fire-fighters said it had gone to the 6th floor which made us go a bit quicker to the 6th although it was still calm. At this point I was thinking it was a bread and butter job really, there was no fire alarm going off, communal or flat alarm that I could hear, so quite calm. Usually when alarms are going off it makes people shout at each other. We continued up to the 6th floor and there were a couple of Fire-fighters from North Kensington there in the lobby area, I'm not sure who these Fire-fighters were. There was no smoke in the lobby, or in the stairwell area when we first arrived.

They told us there was a fire was in the corner flat, they must have looked through the key hole, or letter box because I could see the door was still shut. I have no idea what number the flat was, but it must have been the flat directly above the one that was on fire below. Before we could put the door in to the fire flat we were aware there was a family in the flat to the left of it, we needed to get them out first. Myself, Tom and two other officers from North Kensington led them out, I think there was an old person in the group as he needed a bit of help getting out of the lobby area and navigating the hose that was piled up on the floor. It seemed to take ages for them to get out, there seemed to be loads of them coming out at the time,

Signature: W ARCHER
2018

Signature witnessed by:

although, there was probably only about five or something like that. From memory if I had to guess I'd say they were probably Somalian, I couldn't say whether they were adults or children, I don't remember. They all went down the stairs with the Fire-fighters from North Kensington and exited safely as far as I am aware.

Tom and myself were left in the lobby on the 6th floor, we were the only Fire-fighters there at that point. The previous Fire-fighters handed Tom and me their hose, it was a 45 jet and already plugged in from the fifth floor. I didn't plug in any hoses at all on the shift. I tried to force the door with a halogen tool, the door opened but bounced straight back and closed again, I forced it again, and again it was forced back to closed position. Myself and Tom then forced it open and wedged our bodies into the entrance so it wouldn't close back again. The windows must have been open to have made this happen. As soon as we wedged the door open thick black smoke came out, and filled the lobby area, the visibility was bad, I couldn't see the stairwell door.

The hose on the 6th floor came from the outlet on the fifth floor, not the sixth. This was a problem because the stairwell filled with smoke from the sixth floor because the hose prevented the door to the stairwell closing. When I was in the lobby I could see lighting on the stairwell and the lights on the lift buttons. We went into the entrance of the fire flat and I started looking through the thermal imaging camera (TIC), I said to Tom I couldn't see a thing through it. Tom had a look himself and said he couldn't see anything either. I don't think we got that far into the flat really because we expended a lot of energy. Tom was holding the hose at the front, and I was at the back feeding the hose into him.

While in there we couldn't see any fire while we were in there, either through the TIC or through normal vision. Tom opened the branch a few times, to cool the gases on the ceiling, which is normal procedure. It was pitch black in there, the visibility was horrendous. At one point Tom said "I CANT GO IN ANY FURTHER", meaning the hose was taugt. I retraced a few steps, sometimes the hoses get caught on the corner of the door, I got to the corner of the door and there was a big bunch of hose wrapped, up. I unravelled it which seemed to take ages but probably only a couple of minutes, Tom probably only go to the end of the hallway before we both left the flat. I would say I was in the fire flat for about 3-4 minutes. I thought there would be a bit of smoke in the flat, but I wasn't expecting what I got, usually you have a bit of time to landmark before the smoke gets too bad.

We take the TIC with us all the time on shouts, I've used it many times, and it's assigned to our vehicle. I think it records information electronically but I don't know if this has been downloaded or not. The heat in the flat must have been on a far wall, I think I saw a bit of it but not sure. For me it wasn't that hot in

Signature: W ARCHER
2018

Signature witnessed by:

there, just extremely smoked logged. I felt disorientated when I came out the flat. I had to put my foot on the wall to gather where I was. I went back into the lobby area.

I can recall now how many flats there were on that floor because I have seen a plan since the fire, but at the time I didn't have a clue. When I spoke to Tom afterwards we disagreed where the lifts was, I wasn't sure where things were at all, I had them the wrong way round in my head. I think this was because I was quite fatigued even before we went in and this must have had an effect on me.

Me and Tom made our way back down the stairs and saw Fire-fighter Billy BRODRICK and Crew Manager Matt SEPHTON who are from the pump ladder from Hammersmith, there was a third Firefighter there as well, I think that was Fire-fighter Ben BRODRICK. I said to Billy BRODRICK "YOU CANT SEE A THING IN THERE" He said "YOU NEED TO CLOSE THE DOOR BECAUSE ALL THE SMOKE IS COMING OUT" I said "I CANT AS THE HOSE IS BLOCKING IT". We gave them our hose, and I think I gave them my TIC as well, I saw them go into the lobby, and I saw them come out after 30-40 seconds. I think they went down to the floor below to look at the layout as it wasn't as smoke filled for some reason.

I remember the night being a warm evening, if people had their windows open then the smoke would have travelled up and in to the flats above. I think that is how the smoke travelled because I don't think it was that hot inside the flat we went into. I know it got hot towards the end. Me and Tom made our way back down the stairwell. I don't know how long I was in there for, the BA board would probably tell you that information, but I don't know myself. At this point residents were coming down the stairwell, and at this time the stairwell was filling up with smoke.

We went downstairs to the BA board, which I think was on the ground floor, I gave them my tallie. The BA board is an area where we report to the Entry Control Officer, they brief the Fire-fighters, tell you where to go, help you to put the BA sets on and check the air in the cylinders. I remember when I went to the BA board Alex DE-SAINT AUBIN was in charge, but not sure if he was there for the whole night. He was managing the distribution of the tallies. The tallie basically monitors how much air we might have left in the cylinders, amongst other things.

Initially Watch Manager Mike DOWDEN from North Kensington was one of the people in charge. He went to the bridge head, I don't know where that was though, initially it would have been on the 2nd floor but it would have moved as the fire progressed. From there I continued out of the building with Tom. At this point I looked up at the Tower and maybe a quarter of one side of the building was on fire, it was the

Signature: W ARCHER
2018

Signature witnessed by:

side to the left as we walked out the main entrance where the signage was. I remember thinking “HANG ON WHATS HAPPENED THERE” I thought “THAT’S NOT RIGHT”

As I was exiting I saw an older women stood in the entrance, I approached her, she was having difficulty breathing. She was probably my first casualty of the night. I thought that because I was walking back to my appliance anyway I would take her with me, and try and find medical assistance for her, on the way. I lead the lady away from the Tower and got to an appliance. I put her on oxygen on her. She was a lady about 60 years old, white skin, I remember her talking about her cat, or dog being in the flat. I don’t know if she said what flat she was from, or on what floor. I was concentrating more on getting the job done. I remember saying to someone “IS THE LAS HERE” I think one paramedic turned up in a car very shortly after that. I said I have this lady, she can’t breathe very well. I left her there in the paramedic’s hands. I got rid of my BA and walked back into the lobby area of Grenfell Tower to see what needed doing, from this point I was getting casualties and taking them to the LAS Triage area for probably what seemed like the next two hours. The Fire-fighters that were in the lobby, and mezzanine areas were handing me casualties to take out to the LAS Triage area. While I was doing this I remember Fire-Fighter O’HANLON and FireFighter Ben BRODRICK were doing the same thing. From there on it was a bit blurry really. I recall the three of us carried about 2-3 people out the building, who seemed to be unconscious. We took them to the triage area, if you came out the front door of Grenfell Tower and turned left, there was an area a short walk in that direction where there were lots of paramedics with stretchers. Again, I remember looking up at the building and the whole thing seemed to be alright. After taking probably, 2-3 people out of the Tower, debris was starting to fall down on us, it was getting dangerous for us to enter and exit the Tower. I re-call the Watch Manager from Chiswick was spotting for us going in and coming out. When he thought it was safe to enter/exit he would shout “RIGHT GO”. I would run in, same on the way out, the take the casualty to the triage area. I think this watch manager was called Alan. I wasn’t asking the casualties questions, I know that Watch Manager Glynn WILLIAMS from Fulham was doing this, I think he was asking questions like who they were, what flat they had come from, but I wasn’t really listening, I was concentrating more on getting the casualties out as safely as I could, and paying attention to the spotter.

Taking the casualties out was a little bit like a conveyor system, from the mezzanine level, to the entrance, to the triage area. At this point the stairwell was smoke logged so everyone coming out was either coughing or unconscious, only a few came out walking. The mezzanine level wasn’t smoke logged, there was a little bit of a haze though, but it was fine to be in there. After the first 2-3 I carried out that

Signature: W ARCHER
2018

Signature witnessed by:

were unconscious, I remember there being a man that I walked out, there was a young man shortly before him, and I assumed that they were father and son because the boy was hesitant to leave the lobby area, I told the man that his son was just ahead of us. I don't know which flat they had come from. I don't remember exactly how many people I took out the front of the building. It wasn't that many, most of the casualties I assisted were from the back of the Tower. We were probably at the back of the Tower for about 2 hours trying to rescue people.

There were lots of people getting BA sets on so I knew I wasn't needed to go back into the Tower. There was a lot of LFB there, but it wasn't surprising, if we have the staff then we are going to send them. I was aware that someone had jumped earlier on at the front of the building. The turntable ladder was there from Paddington. This is an arial ladder that expands 30 metres, as I was taking someone out the building someone told me that Chris from Paddington has been hit on the arm by someone falling. One of the residents apparently fell onto the grates above the 'Grenfell Tower' lettering and sliced their legs off. I remember there being a set of legs at the front of the lobby for ages, I am not sure who, and when the leg got moved, but it must have done as some point. I saw a few Firefighters take the body of the faller/jumper and put him under a sheet round the corner in the bin area. I didn't see the person fall/jump. When I was at the front of the building I remember people screaming from the building, I couldn't see faces, just shadows of people, probably on the 6th or 7th floor. The turntable ladder didn't reach the 6th 7th floor. I saw sheets tied together come out one of the windows, I think maybe the shadow I heard screaming was thinking to use the sheets to get out. At a similar time, another crew used a detachable 135 ladder to put on the tower, this was way too short to help anyone from what I saw.

I saw lights flashing, from the upper floors especially, there was screaming all the time, no specific words stick in my mind. I can recall kids being hung out of the window and again a lot of screaming, but after a while I blocked it out because I was focussed on doing my job.

At one point they reversed the turntable ladder out of the way because stuff was coming down on it. The debris seemed to be plastics, burning curtains and pieces of glass. There was a lot of debris coming down at the front, which was getting worse, there were window frames coming down which were red hot.

Someone made a decision to move to the back of the building to help take the casualties out, because it just became too dangerous at the front. I put my flash hood on, which protects things falling down the back of my neck and burning. Motorbikes and cars parked near the tower were becoming involved and little fires were everywhere.

Signature: W ARCHER
2018

Signature witnessed by:

The entrance /exit was very small at the back and we were having to manipulate people to get them out of the gap. It wasn't a door but more like three small windows next to each other. I remember that at one point a specialist cutting team came to try and make this gap bigger, they were using cutters, or something that was making noise. It seemed like they were struggling, I'm not sure why they couldn't open the gap. The space didn't seem like a fire exit, but it must have been.

After a short while [while] riot police came round the back, with riot shields. I first thought that there was something else going on but I quickly realised they were there to help us. I thought it was quite a good idea really, saved us quite a lot. We were going in, picking people off the floor in the lobby area, taking them out, and to the triage area, as before. I think I was doing that at the back for another half an hour. The police were queued up with us, with their shields and holding the shields over them and me, and the person we took out to protect us from any falling debris. Some of the debris was heavy, which got worse throughout the morning. I don't re-call the cladding being heavy. Some of the debris felt quite heavy though.

One of the times I was about to go into the building and something made me look up, I saw a man falling to the ground. I'm not sure if it was his presence that made me look up, or a whistling noise, but the man landed about 3-4 feet away from me in the playground. His body seemed to bounce a bit, I think this is because of the material in the playground is quite soft. There was an A/DO there at the time I said "IM GOING TO GET HIM CAN YOU WATCH OUT FOR ME". At this point there was quite a lot of debris falling down on us. The ADO was on board and was looking out. I went over into the playground area and tried to pick him up but he was like Jelly, I couldn't pick him up. One of the Fire-fighters I was with, John O'HANLON was within ear shot, I said "CAN YOU HELP ME MOVE HIM" He came over but we couldn't move him together. Two police officers came over and we got a limb each and dragged him out of the playground area and to the left hand side area where paramedics were waiting. There was a temporary morgue there as well but they took him on a stretcher so he must have shown some kind of life. The medical staff put him on a stretcher and took him away. I remember him being Mediterranean looking, around 60 years old, when I first looked at him I thought he was dead. I couldn't see any visible injuries on him, nor any blood. He was fully clothed.

When I was at the back I remember Fire-fighter BRODRICK and Fire-fighter O'HANLON being there and doing the same thing as me. I recognised most of the LFB staff I came across. There were some Fire-fighters from Battersea there as well. I remember asking some of the people in BA waiting to go into the

Signature: W ARCHER
2018

Signature witnessed by:

Tower to help us take people out. I said to the group manager that I could only carry a couple more people and I might collapse with heat exhaustion. After that it seemed like he got more staff.

Whilst at the back entrance it felt like I carried loads of people out of the building, we were never waiting to take someone out, there was always someone waiting for us to help them out. There were people coming all the time. I don't remember much of the people I carried out, but I do remember two females that were both around 18yrs, who were unconscious, I held one of them for a while because I was waiting for it to be safe to exit the building. The one I held was a brunette, long hair, probably about 18-20 years, slim, and white skin.

I led a young girl out who was probably about 8 years old, she was probably Somalian, and had some burns round her mouth. I remember another 8yr old who was unconscious. It's hard to remember, they all seemed to have blurred into one another. I put in my original notes that I carried about 15 casualties, on speaking with O'HANLON and BRODRICK I think we carried about 8-12 each. Some we carried together, some by ourselves, depending on the size of the people.

The ones who were conscious, probably were talking me to and vice-versa but I don't remember having any conversations with them. I think I gave a little girl my helmet at one point to walk her across to the triage area. I remember a big naked man, Fire-fighter O'HANLON and myself carried him out. He was unconscious and completely naked, and had burns on his body, he was bald. We got handed him on the mezzanine, which we accessed from the back entrance. We went in once more, and I saw my Watch Manager who said go and have a rest now, you are done.

We got to the Salvation Army at about 0600hours in the morning. Fire-fighter John O'HANLON, Firefighter Ben BRODRICK, and myself walked round the corner, sat down and had a bottle of water, some chocolate and something to eat. Then walked to the paramedic's and they checked on my welfare. I was exhausted but I had no other injuries. I saw no other injuries that night apart from Firefighter O'HANLON, he didn't have his flash hood on, and something went down his back and burnt him. I took him into the community room and put his head under the tap for 10 minutes, then got back to work.

I wasn't wearing my BA whilst getting casualties from within the Tower, after I came down from the 6th floor I took my BA set off and didn't put it on again for the rest of the incident. I was wearing my set all the time. I didn't give any medical treatment to anyone, just the lady at the very beginning who I helped with the oxygen mask.

At no point was I instructed to do a certain task throughout the incident apart from the initial brief to go to the 6th floor, I just did what I thought needed to be done. While I was assisting people in getting out of

Signature: W ARCHER
2018

Signature witnessed by:

the building one of the watch managers just said to carry on what I was doing. I feel like everyone knew what needed to be done and just got on with it.

The radios were going mad. I blanked it out a lot of the time, I think a lot of it was “have you seen this Fire-fighter” “have you seen that Fire-fighter”

I have drawn a bird eye view map from memory of the 6th floor area I went to with Tom. I have shown on the map the position of the flat where the residents came out, that I described as Somalian residents. In relation to that I have marked where the ‘fire flat’ was where the hose was on and where the lifts were. I have exhibited this map as WSA/1.

I have drawn a birds eye view map of the outside area of Grenfell Tower that I remember from the night. I have exhibited this map as WSA/2, on this map I have shown Grenfell Tower itself, and that the dry riser was on the left hand side as you are looking at the front of the building where the ‘Grenfell Tower’ lettering is. I have marked the turntable ladder which was parked again at the front of the building, slightly to the left hand side. I have marked where the hydrant was again to the front of the main entrance to the building. I have marked that G272 and G362 were parked on the road that was approaching the front of the Tower, where the school was where the LAS were based on the corner of the grass area on the approached road to Grenfell Tower.

I have drawn a second birds eye view map of the outside of Grenfell Tower but this one shows to the left hand side of the main entrance, as you are looking at it. I have exhibited this as WSA/3. I have marked on this map where the playground area was, to the left of the left hand side of the building, and where the jumper landed in that area. I have marked again where the LAS were, on the approach road, and where the riot police were lined up waiting to help the Fire-fighters go into, and out of the building. I have shown where the side exit was on the building, where Fire-fighter ARCHER was and the route from exit to the LAS area.

I haven’t been back to the Tower since the fire so WSA/1, WSA/2, and WSA/3 are drawn from memory from the 14th June 2017.

We stayed at the Salvation Army base until we got relieved at around 1030 hours. It took ages to get out. We left the keys in the engines and some peoples engines were moved so caused a bit of a delay getting out. Also, they shut the A40 but this was apparently accessible for Fire engines, but I didn’t know that. It took about an hour for us to get back in the end. We went to Paddington Fire Station, wrote our statements, got a bit of counselling, then went back to Hammersmith Fire Station, we got permission to stay at the Fire Station to sleep and shower and started our shift again at 2000hours. We went to Grenfell

Signature: W ARCHER
2018

Signature witnessed by:

Tower for a few hours, we got there about 2100hrs, we helped with the gas board as the gas was still burning off inside. We left there at around 0000hrs – 0100hrs.

In terms of my experience, I have been to high rise fires before, I was one of the first officers on the Shepherd Bush fire. It was the same kind of fire but happened at a different time of the day. We got to that fire at about 1400hrs in the afternoon. It was a fire on the 8th-9th floor, which was a tumble dryer fire. It was exactly the same thing, there was a bit of smoke coming out of a window, we got all the kit off the engine. I went up with the initial crew, and the Crew Manager, seeing how the fire was going I ran back downstairs grabbed someone else from the machine, a Fire-fighter called Emma from Kensington and went back up to the fire floor. I'd say that the Shepherds Bush Fire, at the times I went in was even hotter than the one at Grenfell because the flat I went into there was actually on fire, we were laying on the floor and couldn't get up because the heat was that bad. More crew went in tried to put the fire out, they came out, me and Emma went back in, we thought we had put it out. With this one we could actually see the fire. At Grenfell we couldn't see the fire when we were inside. When we came out the Shepherds Bush Tower, we looked up at the building and it was on fire, just like Grenfell. The time of the day was different, it was in the afternoon, and people were out.

I have been to other high rises, but nothing to that scale. They are normally contained though, they don't usually spread. The fire safety features in a block usually work. Sometimes the fire will go to the flat around via the curtains but that usually burns out quickly.

Before I went to Grenfell Tower on the night of the fire I didn't know anything about the actual block, or any specific procedures for that block. I have knowledge about high rises generally, in that they usually have a lobby, stair well lifts, flats, the normal set up. The set up when attending a fire is one of the most important things. When going up into a fire you should always start from the floor below. There is no point opening the door and the fire being on the same level, this is dangerous. Fighting fire in high rises is quite hard work really. That's why there was a lot of people there.

On the night the Fire-fighters who set up the dry riser had the keys, sometimes we arrive and don't have the key. I think North Kensington got in there quite quickly. Sometimes the dry riser outlets are broken, I don't think this was the case at Grenfell. Everything seemed to go as it should.

As a Fire-fighter we have lots of BA course, probably one a year. We do drills with the BA on. We get blind folded and we go into Towers to practise. Some Stations probably do this more than others but I feel like we do this a lot compared to other station. We go to Park Royal Training centre to do this training. I am trained as Standard Duration Breathing Apparatus. This gives us about 33 minutes time, this

Signature: W ARCHER
2018

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obviously depend on how hard you are working. I think my supply when I went to the 6th floor went quite quickly.

In terms of thinking about anything I found unusual, I thought there would be more than one stairwell, and one exit. We had to make second exit at the back, I was surprised by this. I assumed there would be another entrance. I am also shocked that there was only one stairwell for the size of the block. The London Fire Brigade have priority over the lifts in the event of a fire. It would usually be the case that you would take the lift to a few floors below. But to my knowledge the lifts weren't working, or they couldn't get the fire key to work, either way the lifts weren't being used. I've used a fire lift before. It's a lot easier when they work because you don't have to carry all the heavy equipment. In terms of the footage from Thermal Imaging Camera, I think it gets downloaded, but I am not sure. I haven't had any involvement in that.

When thinking about what would have made my job easier, I think more than one stairwell would have helped a lot. If one of the stairwells could have been a compression stairwell as well so smoke doesn't penetrate. When smoke penetrates you can't do anything without BA on. More fire exits would also have helped. The lift being out of use didn't change things much because protocol is that if you don't know where the fire is you don't use the lift. Sprinklers would have been good in the communal areas. The access for us to the Tower was fine because we arrived early. I know others had a problem parking in close proximity. A few more Aerials would have been good, and with bigger ladders, but to have bigger ladders you need to have a bigger base, and manoeuvring bigger bases around small London streets would be difficult. Nothing struck me about how the windows and doors could have been better. I remember the flames going straight up the cladding of the building on the outside, the speed at which it travelled up the building was very quick. There is something about the material that could have helped to prevent the spread. Fire should normally be contained to a flat, I had never seen anything like it.

A policy that we use is the "Stay Put Policy". This is in place because usually the fire is contained, we can go up and fight it, and that is the job. We would be hindered fighting the fire if there were lots of people running down the stairwell when we were trying to carry the equipment up it. Fires are normally out within an hour. In comparison to Shepherd Bush the fire was out and I was packed up not long after being deployed there. I knocked on the door of a flat at the top and the man at the top didn't even know there had been a fire.

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Page 13 of 13

The collective impression of what happened is the speed of how the fire spread, I personally think everyone did what they should do and worked hard. I take my hat off to some of the EDBA wearers that went upto the 15th floor.

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