

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: DANIEL, ADRIAN

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

Occupation: POLICE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 4 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: A DANIEL

Date: 18/06/2017

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

This statement refers to TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2017 and WEDNESDAY 14th JUNE 2017, concerning the fire at GRENFELL TOWERS W10. Times and order of events may not be exact due to the intensity and high emotion of the event.

On TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2017 I was on duty with constable MCLELLAND PC 151BS in marked police vehicle BS 84 NIGHTS. We were called to assist a LATE turn unit with a stop that was made on WARWICK ROAD outside TESCO SUPERMARKET. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We returned to BELGRAVIA POLICE STATION to complete the necessary paperwork regarding the arrest. Whilst in BELGRAVIA CPU I heard PC SANGHA declare that the call he was at was to be declared a CRITICAL INCIDENT, I do not recall at what time this occurred. As I continued to write up my arrest notes I heard PC REES call for more units to come to the scene and that LAS were needed because there were victims with smoke inhalation and that his location was GRENFELL TOWER. I recall control saying that LAS had not yet been assigned and that they were now assigning units. The next thing that I remember was that INSPECTOR THATCHER was asked whether the incident at GRENFELL TOWER was a MAJOR INCIDENT or not,

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his reply that he was en route to the location and he would advise once closer to the scene. Shortly afterwards INSPECTOR THATCHER declared a MAJOR INCIDENT. I could hear that all available units were being called to the areas around GRENFELL TOWER to put in cordons and to assist with victims that were coming out of the building. At some point a roll call was being done by PS 4BS VALENTE, who was establishing where units were located, two colleagues PC 425BS DIXON and PC 471BS STENNING were being called on the radio. I was aware that they too were in BELGRAVIA custody on a constant watch and believing that they were to be pulled from the constant watch in order to attend the scene. I went down to the custody suite to inform them that they were being called as radio coverage is poor in that area and relieved PC STENNING from her watch so that she could speak to SERGEANT VALENTE. On her return a few minutes later I returned to CPU to finish the arrest paperwork so that we could get to the scene to assist. I spoke to the CUSTODY SERGEANTS who had become aware of the MAJOR INCIDENT declaration and they informed me that before we were to return to borough we needed to have a named CID officer who would be dealing with the detainee [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I spoke briefly to CID officer CROWE, who informed me that she was now going to be gathering what she needed to attend the MAJOR INCIDENT and would attend to the detainee when she could allocate a resource. This was relayed back to custody and to NIGHT DUTY CPU who eventually were assigned the detainee. PC MCLELLAND and I left BELGRAVIA at around 0200hrs and travelled towards LADBROKE GROVE via HOLLAND ROAD. We heard that PS 15BS PAAJARVI was in need of a unit at his location on CLARENDON ROAD junction with CORNWALL CRESCENT where there was a problem in holding the cordon that had been set up. As we approached the SHEPHERD'S BUSH ROUNDABOUT it was GRENFELL TOWER could clearly be seen ablaze with fire licking up the outside of the building and many in many windows orange flames could be seen a pillar of black smoke plumed from the fire. I parked our vehicle on PORTLAND ROAD and we then made our way to PS PAAJARVI's position at the cordon which was just beyond the right turn onto CORNWALL CRESCENT. At this point there were around 50 - 100 people in the street, in a great deal of distress and there was an air of confusion about the scenario. There were two or three LAS units in front of the cordon and I could see many LFB units and more LAS units beyond it. There was a small cut through towards GRENFELL TOWER to the left in front of the cordon which initially only people exiting the area and emergency services were being permitted to walk through. PC MCLELLAND was asked to man the cordon and I was asked to try and get people moving out of the street and away from the cordon towards the area where it was said that evacuation buses would be

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positioned. Tact had be used as many people there had relatives and friends in GRENFELL TOWER, most were receptive once they understood that this request was being made as LAS and LFB still had important work to do and that this junction was a major access point to the TOWERS. When the area was cleared of around half of the people that were blocking the street I was heading back to the cordon when a young man grabbed me and began shouting that his mother was not able to breath. I asked him to show me where she was, she was sitting on a chair with her family around her, all were very agitated and worried for her, I asked them if she was suffering from smoke inhalation problems, but due to the high emotions I could not get an answer from them. I managed to get LAS to attend to the woman whilst calming her son who was trying to get into the back of an ambulance to get an oxygen tank for her. I pushed the crowd around her back so that she could be treated, once the situation was under control I went back to the cordon on CLARENDON ROAD where I met SERGEANT PAAJARVI. SERGEANT PAAJARVI asked me to hold a position around 50 metres in advance of the cordon in order to make sure that only emergency service vehicles approached the cordon and to keep the road clear for emergency service vehicle access. I took up a position around 5 metres back form the BLENHEIM ROAD / CLARENDON ROAD junction, where I remained until I was relieved. I encountered numerous people over the next hours, some handing me their telephones to speak to people in the building, to which I was only able to give the latest LFB advice which at this point in the night was for anyone trapped to self-evacuate and to call 999 in order to let LFB know where they were. In particular I was asked to assist a woman who had lost her 5 year old child, she said that her surname was PAULUS, she handed me her mobile phone and she had been talking to a MET CALL operator. He confirmed that he had all of the details for her child and that LFB had been made aware. I directed her to the evacuation points which had been set up at this stage, namely the LEISURE CENTRE and the RUGBY PORTOBELLO TRUST. Many hours later I heard on the radio that she had still not found her child and that hospitals were being checked for the child, I do not know whether the child was found. During this time period people approached with offers of assistance to those displaced saying that they were willing to open up their house to anyone needing shelter. Three or four cars drove up filled with crates of water for the displaced and for emergency services. Many people were stopping to take photographs and videos of the building which was burning fiercely behind me. From where I was only the top 8 or 9 floors could be seen, one particular set of windows on the left corner of the aspect that I could see from CLARENDON ROAD appeared to be continually on fire whilst the rest were just pluming black smoke. This flat would have been on 15 – 18th floor, I do not recall exactly which. As the sun came up and dawn broke the atmosphere

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became more sombre and people began to drift away to evacuation points or home. The young man whose mother had trouble breathing returned to my position, he reassured me that his mother was doing well and had just had a panic attack, he then went off to help guide people to the RUGBY TRUST and I did not see him again.

I held that position on CLARENDON ROAD until IPC MCLELLAND and myself were relieved by an AID serial at around 0900hrs. I drove us back to KENSINGTON POLICE STATION where we were debriefed in the staff canteen by PS WALKER.

This is a true and accurate account of events as I recollect them.

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