

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: JACOBS, ALICE

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

Occupation: POLICE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 3 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 JACOBS

Date: 17/06/2017

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

This statement refers to the major incident that I attended on WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE 2017 at GRENFELL TOWER.

On TUESDAY 13TH JUNE 2017 I was on a night shift duty which started at 2200hrs. I was posted with PC ANTHONY NEAVE 620BS in marked Police vehicle BS82N. We were at BELGRAVIA police custody when a call came out over our personal radios about a fire at GRENFELL TOWER. I remember a colleague speaking over the radio stating that it was a critical incident and that they needed urgent assistance for more units to come to the scene to help with crowd control. I cannot remember what the time was but myself and PC 620BS put over the radio to show ourselves on route to GRENFELL TOWER. I then heard INSPECTOR THATCHER declare this as a major incident.

When we arrived on scene at BOMORE ROAD I saw GRENFELL TOWER and down one side of the tower block it was alight in flames from top to bottom. I couldn't believe my eyes what I was seeing and felt shock straight away. We pulled up and got straight out of the vehicle and went towards KENSINGTON LEISURE CENTRE which is next to GRENFELL TOWER. There was already a large crowd outside the leisure centre. This is when I saw my colleagues PC 106BS and PC 440BS trying to move the crowds back away from the tower. Myself and PC 620BS straight away helped to control the crowds by moving them back towards BOMORE ROAD and I put a cordon from one side of a tree to a lamppost.

I remember having to shout at members of the public to move back because it was very loud and because it was not safe to stay near the tower due to falling debris from GRENFELL TOWER. Another unit of

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police officers then arrived and took over helping to contain the public and move them down the street. At this point I felt extremely stressed due to the fact there were members of the public extremely distressed because their family and friends were trapped inside the tower block. I then made my way with PC 620BS towards a block of flats next to GRENFELL TOWER to start evacuating residents. I ran underneath GRENFELL TOWER where the fire-fighters were going up to enter the tower. There was debris falling from the tower, still alight and we were advised to cover our heads as some of the debris was still alight and very large pieces of the tower.

I then arrived at the entrance to TESTERTON WALK flats and saw PC 440BS inside where he was evacuating residents. I began to help and banged hard on as many doors possible to try and get residents to evacuate. Some residents answered and others didn't so I went back to the ones who didn't to bang on the doors again and shouted loudly for them to leave. There were also residents inside the communal area and I advised them to leave towards the back of the block of flats away from GRENFELL TOWER immediately. A young girl approached me in the communal area and asked me to go inside her flat to beg her granddad to leave, so I went inside the flat and explained to the male it is not safe to stay here and to evacuate immediately. At this point I genuinely felt scared because when I looked out of the window at GRENFELL TOWER the majority of the tower block was alight and there were loud noises from the debris falling off the tower. I remember thinking about 9/11 and wondering if tonight is the night I die by a collapsing tower block on fire. My main priority was getting as many residents out to a place of safety. SUPERINTENDENT WARNETT then shouted "one of you come with me" to which myself and PC 440BS left the block of flats and ran outside. We ran around the back towards GRENFELL TOWER and at the time I did not know why we were running, I then found out it was because someone had jumped from one of the floors in GRENFELL TOWER, We tried to gain access to try and find this person however there was a door which you could only access with a key fob. We then ran back around and underneath the block of flats, I remember it was like a tunnel and it was beginning to fill with smoke. I remember putting my hand over my mouth because it was quite strong and smelt very bad. I remember feeling very nervous about this.

PC 440BS and SUPERINTENDENT WARNETT then made their way around the back of GRENFELL TOWER and I made my way back towards GRENFELL ROAD to help with crowd control. When I arrived I remember there was a lady who was extremely distressed because a member of her family was still trapped inside GRENFELL TOWER, she tried to come pass the cordon and I desperately tried to stop

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her to avoid her getting hurt. The lady held on to me and cried. I felt helpless because I was trying to protect her but at the same time could understand If I were in her position I would want to do the same. I was then approached by INSPECTOR THATCHER who told me I was going to be the Police Liaison officer with the LONDON FIRE BRIGADE COMMAND UNIT on BOMORE ROAD. At first I did not know what this meant as I have never done this before however he explained clearly that I would need to receive the information in regards to where residents were trapped in GRENFELL TOWER and then relay this to the LFB COMMAND UNIT. As this was the first time I had done this I felt slightly worried because I did not want to get anything wrong due to the enormity of the situation we were in. I was then asked by a senior fire fighter to call up silver command to come and have a meeting with the LFB COMMAND UNIT. I was with APS LOGUE who did this on my behalf. I was then advised by another fire fighter to move to the LFB COMMAND UNIT on GRENFELL ROAD.

For the rest of my duty I relayed to the command unit numerous flat numbers, floors and the number of people trapped inside GRENFELL TOWER to the LFB COMMAND UNIT. I also had talk troughs' over the radio with the helicopter NPAS as they were able to identify residents at their windows still alive in GRENFELL TOWERS, I then also had to relay this to the LFB COMMAND UNIT so the fire-fighters knew where the residents were. I remember hearing over the radio that the COMMISSIONER OF THE LFB had taken the decision to remove all fire-fighters out of GRENFELL TOWER and that we would now need to start instructing residents they would need to self evacuate, this was because of the tower becoming unstable and unsafe to be in.

My colleague PC 620BS then joined me at the LFB COMMAND UNIT and together we continued to liaise with the command unit information that came through as NPAS had eyes on a male on the 11th floor waving a blue cloth material. We relayed this information to the command unit. After this I was then relieved by another Police Officer, I am unsure of the time or their name. I then returned back to KENSINGTON POLICE STATION for a debrief with other members of my team. I was then dismissed from duty.

I exhibit my body worn video from the incident as ARJ/01.

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