

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: CROWE, REBECCA

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

Occupation: POLICE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 2 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: REBECCA CROWE

Date: 04/10/2017

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

This statement refers to Tuesday 13th June 2017 when I attended the Grenfell Tower Fire incident.

I am a Trainee Detective Constable working at Notting Hill Police Station in Kensington and Chelsea CID unit. I have been in this position since November 2017.

On the 3th of June I was working night duty with my colleague Trainee Detective constable Peter O'BRIAN. We were made aware of a large fire at the Grenfell Tower and made our way to the location by car. I cannot remember what time this was, but believe it was late Tuesday evening, around 1130PM. I cannot remember any time frames exactly from that evening. I can only be certain that we arrived on Tuesday evening and left around 0530 Wednesday Morning. When we arrived, there was no real cordons in place. We tried to find the duty officer to ask if he wanted us to do anything. Whilst looking for him, I was approached by a lady who had just come out of the building. She was frantic, coughing and crying, talking about her cats. I spoke to her and began escorting her to the ambulance RVP which was a short walk away. On the way I met a firefighter, who took her off me and I believe took her to the ambulance RVP.

I then ran back to find my colleague TDC BRIAN, who I believe had spoken to the Duty Officer Inspector THATCHER. We were asked to call the duty DI to inform him about what was going on, and

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2018

Signature witnessed by:

get direction.

I cannot remember the name of the duty D.I. I spoke to him on the phone, and informed him about what was going on. He said he would attend with a couple of DC's. During the next hour or so, my colleague and I stood on a cordon right next to the leisure centre on Bonmore Road. This was moved back, extending the cordon several times. We spoke to people coming out of the building. One of these people said to my colleague and "I know where it started, it was on the second floor, a fridge caught fire". The male did not stick around long enough for us to question him more, but TDC O'BRIAN took his name I believe. When we were relieved from the cordon, we were asked to go and speak to members of the management company of the building, who had arrived. We spoke to them, getting details of the number of people living in the building, how many flats there were, what building work it had received and what fire protection there was. I remember him stating that there were no sprinklers and that if the doors to each flat were shut, the fire should not spread. I don't remember this males name, I believe my colleague TDC O'BRIAN wrote this down. We passed this information to Detective Super intendant Paul WARNETT. Sometime later (again, I am not sure of the time frame) the Duty Detective Inspector arrived along with the MITT team. They stayed for around 30 minutes then left the incident.

I would estimate after around another 30 minutes, I began speaking to people, taking down names and numbers. I spoke to anyone I could. There were a lot of people hanging around, waiting for people they know to leave the tower. I thought that if I could take their details and take down details of anyone coming out of the tower, I might eventually match two people up and be able to point them in the right direction.

My colleague and I both did this for another couple of hours, then after speaking to the Duty Officer, we left around 0530.

We arrive back at Notting Hill Police station at around 0540 and almost immediately received a call from the Duty Officer Inspector thatcher. He asked us to return to Grenfell, as a family had spoken to an officer and informed them that they knew how the fire started.

We drove to their address, they were staying at a neighbouring family address. Again, I do not know this address as it was taken down by TDC O'BRIAN. We spoke to Jamie MURRAY and her husband Mahad

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EGAL. They stated that they were in their flat around 0100 on Tuesday 13th June 2017, when they heard banging on their door and someone shouting "Fire Fire". They opened their door and saw one of their neighbours. They could not recall his flat number, but he told them that there was a fire that started in his fridge. The family said that they then made their way out of the building as quick as they could, but there was already thick black smoke in the corridor.

After speaking to this family, we made our way back to Notting Hill Police Station. We relayed all the information back to the day time CID, specifically DS Chris TAYLOR. We were then, after doing all of our notes, allowed to leave at around 1130 on Wednesday 14th June 2017.

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