

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: GALKA, SARAH

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

Occupation: BAND 6 PARAMEDIC

This statement (consisting of 5 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: SARAH MORLINA GALKA

Date: 24/07/2018

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

This statement is my account of my involvement in the fire at Grenfell Tower, which happened on Wednesday 14th June 2017.

I will mention the following people.

Kevin ROCHE - Paramedic

Dave MOSS — Bronze Clearing

Malek BELKADI — a patient that I dealt with.

I am an [REDACTED] and worked there in the dental industry for 13 years and have a degree in Bachelor of medical science.

In December 2016, I completed a course at Western Sydney University, successfully obtaining a degree in Bachelor of Paramedicine.

That degree enabled me to apply to the London Ambulance Service (LAS). I joined the LAS on 23rd January 2017.

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Having joined, I spent a month on an induction course and then completed 300 hours mentored training at Kenton Ambulance Station.

I was now a band 6 paramedic and was posted to Brent Ambulance Station.

On Tuesday 13th June 2017, I was covering a relief night shift at [REDACTED] Ambulance Station. So I was working from [REDACTED] instead of [REDACTED] as staff cover. I started the shift at 19.00.

I was posted with a [REDACTED] paramedic called Kevin Roche and during the first part of the shift, we had a number of calls that we dealt with. We had a call sign of B685 and Kevin was driving.

I remember hearing of a major incident and being asked to attend. By now, it was the early hours of 14th June and the reference was CAD 247.

I don't know what time we were deployed but we arrived at 3.17am. It took around 10-15 minutes to get there from where we were at Northwick Park Hospital.

We arrived from the north of the tower with Grenfell Tower to the left of me. I remember winding the window down and felt the heat coming from the tower. The building, mainly the top, was smoking and on fire with police around. I don't recall other ambulances. There were a few people watching.

We couldn't find the RVP but was told that there was a cardiac arrest at Latimer Road tube station, which was to the other side of the building.

We drove round to the tube station where I saw a couple of people, including an LAS Incident Response Officer (IRO). We parked under the bridge by the tube station at 3.13am.

At first, we couldn't find the patient but then a fire fighter, came carrying a girl to our truck. His name was Marcus, a tall fire fighter who really helped us.

The girl had short shoulder length dark brown hair, a grey tracksuit, was Asian and was around 6 years

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old.

She wasn't breathing, did not have a pulse and had soot around her mouth and nose. She wasn't breathing and so Kev looked after her airway and the Fire Fighter began compressions on her chest.

I was obtaining intraosseous access to her leg, which is first line access for critically ill paediatric patients.

Whilst still parked at the scene I remember a few people coming into the ambulance and it became quite chaotic. I told people to get out, leaving only the people in the ambulance that needed to be there, which was Marcus, Kevin and myself.

The girl needed definitive care at hospital so we left for St Mary's hospital at 3.24am, continuing life support throughout the journey. Marcus did good quality compressions, and I took over the airway. She had no heart rhythm during it. When we arrived, at 3.32am, because of the incident, there were staff waiting outside for us. We took her straight into resuscitation where we handed her over to maybe 8 staff waiting for her.

The patient was my first paediatric arrest and so I took a bit of time, as I felt very traumatised. I did some paper work and provided the information I could, and was asked to return to Grenfell, leaving the hospital at 3.55am. I completed a Patient Report Form (PRF). I produce the PRF as exhibit SMG/1.

A few days later, I recognised the girl who had her picture in the news. Her name is Malek BELKADI. Sadly she died in hospital.

We drove back to Latimer Road, arriving at 4.05am and by now, the scene seemed a bit more organised with police cordons. We parked in a row of ambulances a bit back from Latimer Road tube station. We waited there for an hour or so and whilst there, I helped get some oxygen from the ambulances parked along Latimer Road. I took some to Casualty Clearing Point (CCP) 2 which was to the west of the tower, near to where we were parked.

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At around 5.30am, we were asked to go to the CCP1 which was on the other side of the tower near to the leisure centre. We drove, parked close by and walked through to the CCP which was outside the leisure centre.

Numerous people were walking about with some waiting to go to hospital.

We took some equipment from our truck and spoke to Dave MOSS, LAS bronze loading. He showed me two people who needed to go to hospital who had green triage tags which means that they were triaged as P3.

There are 4 categories of triage;

- P1 — Most serious, unconscious.
- P2 — Conscious, breathing, not mobile.
- P3 — Walking wounded.
- Dead

The first was a female, called Ethiopia ASSEFA born [REDACTED] was by herself and had sore eyes and a headache and was very anxious. I can recall that Ethiopia suffers from [REDACTED] She was [REDACTED] had dark hair and had a strong accent. She had been in the tower for 2-3 hours and had been on the 12th floor. She didn't live in the tower, she was visiting from Isleworth.

I gave her some paracetamol. I wrote the Patient Report Form (PRF). I produce a copy of the PRF as exhibit SMG/3.

Kev dealt with the other patient who was called Ann CHANCE who lived at flat 73. She had smoke inhalation and a superficial burn on her wrist caused by falling debris. He completed the PRF but I produce a copy of it as exhibit SMG/2

We took to both to the Royal Free, as advised by David MOSS (Bronze Loading) arriving at 6.10am. Once there they were expecting us and we took both to A+E. There was an LAS hospital liaison officer there.

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We left at 6.44am, we travelled to Hammersmith hospital and handed in our paper work. From there, I returned to Pinner, arriving at 10.10am

We unpacked the vehicle and I took a taxi home.

I was shocked at what I had experienced. I've never seen a fire on that scale with such chaos.

[REDACTED]

I produce the PRF for the 6 year old girl as exhibit SMG/1

I produce the PRF for Ann CHANCE as exhibit SMG/2

I produce the PRF for Ethiopia ASSEFA as exhibit SMG/3.

I am willing for this statement to be disclosed to the Grenfell Public Inquiry and for it to be disclosed to my employer.

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2018

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