

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: MATTHEWS, STUART

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

Occupation: LAS PARAMEDIC CLINICAL TEAM

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: S MATTHEWS

Date: 01/02/2018

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

This statement relates to my attendance at the Grenfell Tower Fire on 14th June 2017

This statement is a summary of the recorded interview that took place on Thursday 1st February 2018 at Oval Ambulance Station where I was interviewed by DC Ishmail MATTAR and DC Paul PHILLIPS. During the interview I referred to my Incident Log book LA434, three (3) Patient report forms (PRF) and the corresponding LA3 forms containing Verification of the Fact of Death. I also marked on a map of the scene various letters showing my location at various stages of the incident. I exhibit this as SJM/1.

On 14th June 2017 I attended the Grenfell Tower fire as part of the response of the London Ambulance Service (LAS). At the time of the fire my role within the LAS was as a Paramedic training to become an operational clinical team leader. I am now a fully qualified clinical Team Leader which is the first rank of management within the LAS.

I have been in the LAS since November 2008. I started as a student paramedic and undertook a 3 year in house training programme. After the 3 years I qualified and registered as a paramedic. I was first based at Deptford Ambulance station until 2015 when I left to do a mentoring secondment at Bromley Ambulance station. In April 2017 I was promoted to a clinical team leader position which resulted in me doing a 4 month secondment in the clinical hub at Waterloo and then Bow. The clinical hub is telephone based

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where I conduct patient Triage over the phone and offer clinical support to the LAS crews. I then came to Oval Ambulance station as a clinical team leader in November 2017.

On 13th June 2017 I started my shift at 1900hrs in the control room at Waterloo Ambulance Station. I was working on the clinical support desk. I was working with Ben FLAVELL, Johnathan MERRIFELD and Jack BROMLEY who are also clinical team leaders. Johnny and Ben were mentoring Jack and I. During the night shift I would work on the clinical support desk answering calls from crews and then accessing medical records or records relating to end of life care. Doctors would also call in about patients that needed to go to hospital. I would also review calls that were being held to make sure they weren't urgent. The calls come in direct via telephone. I can also look at any of the jobs that are coming in on the computer system. This shows location of the event and a description of it. It is a live feed as the call is being typed up. I can also add details to the call if needed. In the clinical hub there are also television screens although I did not see anything about the Grenfell Tower on television at that time.

In the early hours of the morning, around 0130hrs, on 14th June 2017 I was in the Hub at Waterloo ambulance Station and remember Eva, who is a Watch Manager, and Johnny noticing the CAD for the Grenfell Tower fire. Initially, it was given as Clapham and then that changed to the W11 area. When the call came in I was informed that I might be attending the scene so decided to get my kit together. It appeared to be a large incident and I was aware that numerous crews had been despatched to the incident. A person working in the clinical Hub is not usually expected to attend such an incident as I was there to deal with the clinical calls. Jack and Ben then left and took the Command Support vehicle to the scene. None of us really had any kit as we were in the control room. I then went down to the stores in Waterloo and got some paramedic bags and some helmets. Johnny and I then took a fast response ambulance car to the scene. The cars contain a life pack 15 which is used to monitor patients. They also contain a deliberator and oxygen bag as well as dressings and burns kit. There is a main set radio and one handheld in the vehicles. Johnny drove to the scene on blue lights and I was the passenger. My call sign was N997 although I have written on the PRF's Y997. The route we took was to head towards Waterloo train station and then down towards Westminster Bridge. I cannot remember the rest of the route although we got there within fifteen minutes. I remember getting close to the scene and seeing the building for the first time. I was reasonably close to the building when this happened probably under a mile. When I saw Grenfell Tower the fire was on the outside and I could see flames coming out from inside the tower and then going up one side of the tower.

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As I got closer it became more evident of the scale of the fire. We parked on up on DULFORD STREET W11 with Barlow House on my left. There were a lot of people on the street. The road was blocked with fire engines and there was another ambulance car which we parked behind I have marked 'A' as where we parked our vehicle. As we got out of the vehicle Johnny took the handheld radio. I had no radio. We took the life pack 15, the oxygen bag and the paramedic bag that was in the car. I was wearing a green uniform with Hi viz LAS tabard and an old white helmet.

We then walked towards the tower alongside BOMORE ROAD. I then approached a member of LAS in a tabard who I believe is an advance paramedic called Peter APPLEBY. I have marked this as 'B' on the map. I then asked him what he would like us to do. He asked us to sort out the parking for the ambulances and also set up Casualty clearing. Johnny then walked back towards BARLOW HOUSE and dealt with the parking. I then helped assist with setting up the casualty clearing area with other LAS crews. There were several coloured LAS mats in the area. These mats are for triaging patients at a major incident and are called P1, P2 and P3 patients. A P1 mat is a red mat for critically injured patients. P2 is a yellow mat for injured not walking patients or people with serious injuries and walking. P3 are green mats and are for walking wounded. The idea is you place those on the ground in the casualty clearing area. People will attend from the triage area with a tag on designating which mat to be placed on in the casualty clearing area. There is also a black mat for deceased patients. I have marked where these mats were placed on the map as area 'C'. This was right next to the Casualty Clearing area.

I then walked back to point 'B' and met up with the Advanced paramedic. Point 'B' would later become Casualty Clearing Sector 1. I will now refer to it as Sector 1.

The fire brigade then started bringing people out of the building and at 0230hrs I remember them bringing two people over to Casualty Clearing Sector 1 who were in cardiac arrest. There was one (1) male and one (1) female. The fire brigade then placed them on the red mat in the P1 area. I started basic life support on the male who didn't appear to have any visible injuries. He was around 40 years old, clothed and smelt heavily of fire smoke. He appeared of South American origin with a full head of hair and was proportionate build around F510. He had no pulse and was not breathing. I then cut his top off and placed the defibrillator pads on his chest. There was no electrical activity in the heart and he was asystole on the monitor. I then started basic life support on this male which consisted of oxygen via a bag valve mask and chest compressions. I noticed that the female also didn't appear to be injured. She had black shoulder length hair and was proportionate build. I then told the ambulance crew who were stood next to me to start

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basic life support on the female. I instructed them to complete ten (10) minutes of basic life support. After roughly ten (10) minutes of thirty (30) compressions to two (2) ventilations I decided it was futile to carry on treating the male and female.

At 0237hrs Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) was stopped on the male and Record of Life Extinct (ROLE) recorded by myself.

At 0241hrs I then told the ambulance personnel to stop CPR on the female and Recorded of Life Extinct (ROLE) recorded by Myself and D. MOSS.

I then completed PRF 236906740 for the male.

Another Clinical Team Leader D. MOSS completed PRF 236906742 for the female.

After we had stopped doing CPR I had to think what to do with the bodies as there were people milling around and it was difficult to manage. I remember a woman coming up to me and grabbing me stating she had left her children in the tower. She was very emotional. At 0250hrs I then set up a make shift mortuary which I have marked as point 'D' on the map. This consisted of a black sheet on the floor. I gathered some blankets and a trolley bed from the back of the ambulance. We then lifted the bodies onto the trolleys and took them to the mortuary area. In hind sight it may have been too close to the Casualty Clearing area but it was the best I could do.

I then asked someone from either the police or the fire brigade if I could gain access to the leisure centre to set up a casualty receiving area/survival reception area. Someone then gained access to the leisure centre.

Due to where the bodies were there were people trying to break through the cordon to see them. I was then asked to move the bodies. I cannot remember who by. I then got an LAS crew with a trolley bed and at 0315hrs the two bodies were moved to inside the leisure centre. The area of the leisure centre was on the ground floor. I have marked the location as 'E' on the map. After placing them there I then left the leisure centre.

At 0330hrs A deceased male was then brought over to the leisure centre by LAS crew on a trolley bed and placed with the two other bodies. I was informed that this male had jumped from the tower and his injuries suggested he had jumped. When I saw him he was laying with his hands to his chest and was

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holding some money in his hands. From what I remember his legs appeared broken but I cannot remember any other injuries. He was around 40 to 50 years old and was of a light brown appearance. I completed the PRF 236907433 in the leisure centre but have logged the time of Record of Life Extinct (ROLE) as 0250hrs. I can't remember if I was informed of the time by the ambulance staff who were with him or he had a dead tag on with the time recorded on it. This male was recovered from outside of the building.

After completing the initial PRF in the leisure centre I then returned to Sector 1. When I returned there were a lot more people coming from inside the building. There was also more police and ambulance staff around. There continued to be people rushing towards the building as you could still see people in the windows on the east side of the tower. I was stood around fifty (50) yards away. I could see people on multiple floors around half way up. The tower was engulfed in flames going up the side of the building with fireman coming and going from the building. I also noticed the police using shields to protect the firemen as they entered the building. Some of the firemen were also without their helmets which resulted in one fireman burning his neck.

On returning to Sector 1 I then got crews to place carry sheets on the floor in order to assist with lifting people. I did this so we could lift people easier. I then got people to gather more equipment in preparation for more casualties.

I cannot remember what time this was but another sector was set up which was designated as sector 2. More casualties appeared to be going to Sector 2 now.

At some point the police set up a tent which was just outside along a grassed area by the electrical substation which I have marked as 'F' on the map. I was then asked to move all three (3) bodies from the leisure centre to inside that tent. I do not know why I was asked to do this. The tent was quite small. I then got the crews with the trolley beds and moved the bodies into the tent. At around 0430hrs I formally recorded Record of Life Extinct (ROLE) which involved completing a LA3 form with an asystole rhythm strip attached. I then got a life pack 15 and sat in the tent with the LA3 forms and printed out the asystole rhythm strips which all showed there was no electrical activity within the bodies. I then attached the print outs to the LA3 forms and left them on the torso of each body. I believe each body had a sheet covering them.

I then left the tent I returned to Sector 1. It started to get light shortly after leaving the tent, and I noticed there were very few casualties coming out of the building. I did not treat anyone after that point. I further

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remember the police arriving with a drone. I believe most of the other patients were now going to Sector 2.

I was then approached by a group of police officers who said there was a body around the other side of the tower that was reported to them. I was informed that the body was on the south side of the building. So I walked around with these officers to that area along BOMORE ROAD onto GRENFELL ROAD. There was a lot of debris falling from the south side of the building. I informed them that there was too much debris falling for me to continue. They carried on towards the body. They then returned and told me that the body had already been tagged. We all then walked back to Sector 1. I then saw an Asian male in the window of the south side of the tower.

I was informed that there would be more patients coming to Sector 1. I had a lot of kit ready to receive them.

I then walked over to the Triage area, which I have marked as 'G' in order to see if any patients has come out. There were no patients in the Triage area at that time.

I then waited in Sector 1 for casualties to arrive. I waited for some time but had no further patient contact. I remained on scene for some time and at around 0900 approached an LAS male in a tabard and asked him if I could be relieved.

I gathered my equipment from Sector 1 and left the scene shortly at 0900hrs along with Johnny and Ben. We then drove to Waterloo Ambulance Station which took quite some time due to the volume of traffic on the roads.

We arrived at Waterloo gone 1000hrs and we were taken aside by clinical hub manager Tracey PIGEON to make sure we were ok. I would consider this a welfare check. I left Waterloo around 1100hrs. My following shift was changed and I arrived later for work on the night of 14th June 2017 into 15th June 2017.

I was then asked to write up my Incident Log Book for what happened at the scene of the Grenfell Tower fire.

I thought that the speed of the fire spread was unbelievable and there were lots of cladding and debris falling from the building. I did not enter the building at any point. My only significant contact with LFB

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Form MG11(T)

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was that One fireman came up to me and asked if he had any insulin as he was diabetic and thought his blood sugar was high.

I received no injuries and have not received any treatment from my GP.

I had a debrief several weeks after the incident near London bridge.

I have not provided any interviews to the media.

The CAD for the incident was 247.

I have signed this statement electronically.

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