

Legal and management

SF-GA-20

Statement of witness



APP 15

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|-----------------|------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Name of witness | Andy James | | |
| Address | Enter Witness Address. | | |
| Company | CORMAC Solutions Ltd | Occupation | Head of Highways and Environment |

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On 16th December at approximately 2:45pm I received a telephone call from Pete Tatlow, network manager for CORMAC. He was on leave and attending a pre-Christmas lunch. Also at the lunch were two more CORMAC employees Tom Coombs and Will Buse. Both Tom and Will worked in the area covered by Andrew Richards and had a close working relationship with him. Pete had called to tell me that whilst at the lunch Tom Coombs had received a telephone call advising him that Andrew Richards had been found slumped in a chair in the crib hut at Grampound Road depot with a significant head injury. He had been found by two operatives, Mike Cloke and Richard Cochrane. Tom and Will were on the way to Grampound Road to investigate.

I immediately left my Scorrier office and drove to Grampound Road where I arrived at about 3:15pm. Tom Coombs and Will Buse were already at the depot as were Mike Cloke and Richard Cochrane. A paramedic was in attendance and was treating Andrew who was still seated in the crib hut slumped over a table with his head in his hands. I could see that he had a nasty wound on the back of his head which the paramedic was dealing with. He was talking but obviously dazed and not really making a lot of sense. He certainly had no knowledge of what had happened to him. Knowing that Andrew was receiving the appropriate treatment I went into the yard where Tom and Will showed me the area where it was assumed Andrew had fallen or collapsed. There was a pool of blood on the floor and a shovel lying on the floor a few yards away. I was advised that gloves and a pair of glasses (Andrew's) were also found in the immediate vicinity.

Around this time an ambulance arrived and two further paramedics continued to assess and treat Andrew. Andrew's wife arrived shortly after and she accompanied Andrew to hospital in the ambulance.

I returned to the area of the yard where Andrew had collapsed to see if there was any indication of what had happened. I could see no evidence which explained the reason for Andrew's injury other than him dropping suddenly to the floor and landing on the back of his head. The depot was undisturbed and all items of value were present including personal belongings, cash etc.

At this point I took some brief statements from Mike Cloke and Richard Cochrane. These just captured the exact events surrounding their return to the depot and how they found Andrew. A further operative, Ray Toy, also turned up at this point. He had heard about the incident and wanted to check how Andrew was. He advised me that Andrew had dropped him home at lunchtime as he had a half day.

Talking with Mike, Richard and Ray it seemed that the yard skip had been changed over that day having been full when they left the yard in the morning. It was now empty. The pool of blood, shovel etc were found near the skip, about 5 yards away. I also subsequently found in the office a delivery note from Ferris Skip Hire confirming the delivery for which Andrew had signed.

At the time of the incident the staff operating from Grampound Road depot were in the process of being transferred to Scorrier Depot.

This statement (consisting of 2 pages, each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------|--------|-------------|
| Signed | Signature. | Date | Enter Date. |
| Signature witnessed by | Signature. | Signed | |

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This was in the interest of efficiency and centralising resource. The depot was to close and be handed back to Cornwall Council. CCTV cameras were installed at the depot however were not in operation. One of the temporary buildings on the site had been condemned and in the interest of safety the power had been disconnected. This building had housed the CCTV Controller and as the power had been cut off the cameras were not operating. After the Christmas break the depot was closed, as planned, and all operations and staff transferred to Scorrier.

THE ABOVE NOTES WERE GIVEN TO ME BY ANDY JAMES, FOR INCLUSION WITHIN THIS REPORT, AS AN ACCOUNT OF HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVENTS.

Paul Hooper 23/08/2017

This statement (consisting of 2 pages, each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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|-------------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
| Signed | Signature. | Date | Enter Date. |
| Signature witnessed by | Signature. | Signed | |