

EXHIBIT F | R v BRIGGS (76395)

Witness statement of S Jones



NEW MALDEN
POLICE STATION

WITNESS STATEMENT

Typed from the handwritten notes of S Jones.

“Approximately five minutes after we were alerted to the fire, we see a man leaving the building. He was bleeding from the left side of his face and coughing. As is protocol, our first question was whether there was anyone in the building. The man said that he assumed ‘he left already’, apparently meaning someone other than himself, had left. Due to this, we didn’t enter the building, instead fighting the blaze from the street and controlling it to the single building.

Any loss of life is highly regrettable, especially when there is a chance to save. It is this chance that means I will never forget this fire; if we were given the knowledge that there was another in there, we could have saved a life.

We did find a desk in front of the doorway to the room in which the dead cleaner was found. Given the fire damage I could not say how it got there. In the same way, it is not my place to decide if Mr Briggs is guilty of this or that, but I don’t wish to see that man on the streets. I fully blame him for us not being able to do our job to the best of our abilities.”

Samuel Jones, Firefighter with the London Fire Brigade



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