

Manchester Arena Inquests - Statement to the Inquest, James Allen

1. I, Peter James Allen (known as James), make this statement pursuant to a request made on behalf of the Coroner for the Manchester Arena Inquests, Sir John Saunders.

Background

2. I am currently employed by SMG Europe Holdings Limited ("SMG") as General Manager at the Manchester Arena ("the Arena"). I have held this role since January 2013. Prior to becoming General Manager, I worked as the Assistant General Manager from 2010 to 2013 and Event Director from 2003 to 2010.
3. Immediately prior to working at the Arena, I also worked as Operations Director at Glasgow Braehead Arena (2000 - 2003) and before that as Event Manager at the London Docklands Arena (1998 - 2000). Prior to working in the arena industry I staged events, conferences & expos for City University London.
4. In total, I have worked in the events industry continuously since 1995.

SMG Group

5. SMG's parent company, a Pennsylvania General Partnership ("SMG US"), started its operations in 1977 in the United States at the Louisiana Superdome (now the Mercedes Benz Superdome). The SMG Group now has in excess of 220 venues throughout the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, United Kingdom and Germany as well as a presence in Hong Kong and China.
6. SMG (which is the European entity) is a wholly owned subsidiary of SMG US. Based at the Manchester Arena in the UK, we work on projects throughout Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Australasia. Our core business is to support an international network of entertainment, sport and meeting facilities.
7. SMG employs in excess of two thousand eight hundred people in Europe. We welcome in excess of four million guests to our eleven facilities in Europe. SMG provides a number of services in the sector but we are essentially a venue management company.
8. As General Manager of the Arena my responsibilities are to manage all aspects of the venue with the help of my experienced and skilled team. I am the Designated Premise Licence holder for the venue and oversee the day to day running of arena, liaising with all stakeholders to deliver world class events to the people of Manchester & further afield.

Signature