TABLE 7: TRANSCRIPT EXTRACTS

NAME	EXTRACT
Nick Burton	Day 68 6 th November 2018 Page 89-92
Hanan Wahabi	Day 70 8 th November 2018 Page 184-190
Marcio Gomes	Day 71 9 th November 2018 Page 150-152

1	this and people come from different parts of what was	1	again, you know, we have a fair system. We've got a lot
2	happening in London, mainly to do with the speciality of	2	to deal with, especially in this environment at the
3	the hospital. So if they found someone maybe with	3	moment, but it has to stop here. It can't go on and
4	a heart attack but they were in Russell Square, they	4	then we'll be talking about another major incident where
5	might take them to UCL or might take them St Mary's.	5	there is a fire and a loss of life and then we're
6	It's all — I'm not too sure exactly how their systems	6	talking about: did we learn any lessons from Grenfell?
7	work to have an understanding of what happened.	7	Did we learn anything from Hillsborough. Did we learn
8	Q. Mr Burton, I have one final question for you, and it's	8	anything from anything? It has to mean serious stuff.
9	this: is there anything, over and above your written	9	I mean, we've all been through a lot. I mean, we've
10	witness statement and over and above what you've told us	10	got families here now, you know, that have lost multiple
11	today, about the events of the night, what you heard,	11	people, and it's been very, very challenging.
12	what you saw, what you smelt, what you felt, that you	12	So, you know, the weight of responsibility is
13	think it's important for the chairman to know?	13	yourself, you know, to make recommendations now and put
14	A. I've been deliberating about this question because	14	them into place now, not just wait for a report and then
15	you've asked it many times, and I thought if I was going	15	the government say, "Yes, we've got the report and now
16	to write something down, or make a speech or something,	16	we're going to think about another consultational
17	but I just know that I will just keep it sweet	17	process to go through things." It has to stop here with
18	this is an historic event. The consciousness of the	18	Grenfell.
19	nation is looking at all of us, you know, how this	19	And Grenfell I believe will mean something, you
20	inquiry, how the police investigation is going.	20	know, changes in regulations, changes in attitudes,
21	But this is so important that it has to stop here.	21	social housing, all these big things that previous
22	We've seen failings and failings — I've been failed so	22	governments have been just, you know, wiping away
23	many times you know, failings and failings and	23	because it's not their concern at the moment, and that's
24	failings with other fires and other lessons not learnt.	24	why lives are lost.
25	So Grenfell has to stand for something, and it's to	25	So the lessons have to be learnt here and now, and
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1	stop here about how people are treated and how the	1	stop here, I think.
2	loopholes in the system need to be closed, you know.	2	You know, that's what I feel I have to say.
3	We as the survivors and everything, we're dealing	3	MR MILLETT: Mr Burton, thank you, and thank you for that in
4	with multi-billion-pound corporations. We're fighting	4	particular.
5	against a system that is broken, and they know it's	5	THE WITNESS: You're welcome.
6	broken, but, you know, they usually put a sticking	6	MR MILLETT: I just want to say thank you to you for coming
7	plaster over it and move on.	7	here today and giving us evidence. It's not easy. And
8	No disrespect with inquiries, but I think that's	8	your assistance with our investigations has been
9	just a system initially to save the government of the	9	immensely helpful, so thank you very much.
10	day any embarrassment: oh, we're going to have	10	THE WITNESS: You're more than welcome, thank you.
11	an inquiry to find out the truth, and then time lapses,	11	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I would like add to my thanks,
12	we do get hopefully to the bottom of this and to find	12	Mr Burton.
13	out the truth, but it's over a long period of time.	13	You rightly draw attention to the importance of the
14	We've spent times with the Hillsborough families,	14	inquiry, and you've played your part in it by coming to
15	we've spent time with other people, Doreen Lawrence.	15	give your evidence and talking about what must have been
16	I've been going around the country myself, going up to	16	a dreadful experience. It must have taken a lot of
17	Manchester, Plymouth and Portsmouth, talking to people,	17	courage to do it, and I'm well aware of that, so
18	and they are absolutely scared of living in tower blocks	18	THE WITNESS: Yes, a lot has happened on this journey.
19	with that cladding still on. So the system is not	19	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.
20	working.	20	THE WITNESS: During the journey, I had emergency open heart
21	We meet up with, I mean, the Prime Minister	21	surgery as well and other things have happened along the
22	downwards, you know, all the housing ministers. They	22	way, and you know, yeah, it's
23	talk the talk, but, you know, this has to be the one	23	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: This is another step on your long
24	where it stops.	24	journey.
25	Justice for me is that, you know, this never happens	25	THE WITNESS: Yes.
	Page 90		Page 92
	1 age 70	1	1 age 12

23 (Pages 89 to 92)

			1 ,
1	for Ms Wahabi.	1	beginning to come, but not all the way up the whole
2	May I ask for a short break just to check if anybody	2	ceiling.
3	else has supplementary questions they would like to put.	3	Q. You didn't see it spread through the lobby, you just saw
4	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.	4	it coming out of the vent itself?
5		5	
	Well, Ms Wahabi, we'll have a very short break now		A. Yes, because then obviously I went into the flat and
6	to give Mr Rawat a chance to review his questions and	6	remained within, yes.
7	any that may be suggested by others.	7	Q. Thank you.
8	So I'm going to ask you to leave us for 5 minutes.	8	Second topic is back to 14 June and your descent,
9	We'll come back at 3.50 and see if there are any further	9	and it may have been me confusing you a little bit, but
10	questions.	10	you remember that you told us that as you descended, the
11	THE WITNESS: Okay.	11	smoke got thicker?
12	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I have to ask you not to talk to	12	A. Yes.
13	anyone about your evidence while you're out of the room.	13	Q. On the transcript of today's proceedings you're recorded
14	Is that all right?	14	as saying that the smoke was thickest a few floors above
15	THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.	15	floor 4, which is where you saw the firemen, but you
16	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like to go with the usher	16	also said that smoke was thickest at floor 4.
17	then, please.	17	A. What I meant was it was getting thicker, thicker, above
18	All right, 3.50, then, please.	18	floor 4, but once I got to floor 4, that's when it was
19	(3.45 pm)	19	thickest.
20	(A short break)	20	Q. Thank you very much for clearing that up.
21	(3.50 pm)	21	A. That's okay.
22	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think there are a few more	22	Q. My last question to you is this.
23	questions, but I hope not too many.	23	Before I ask it, can I thank you for coming and
24	THE WITNESS: Okay, that's fine.	24	giving evidence today. We all appreciate that it's
25	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Rawat.	25	a difficult task and we're very grateful for it.
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	Page 181	-	Page 183
1	MR RAWAT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.	1	A. Yes.
2	Mrs Wahabi, thank you for coming back.	2	Q. What I want to do is ask you this: if you put aside what
3	A. You're welcome.	3	you've put in your statement and your supplementary
4	Q. I want to pick up two matters that have arisen from some	4	statement, and put aside the answers that you've given
5	of the answers you've given.	5	to my questions today, and, again, taking you back to
6	Do you remember that you described an earlier fire	6	the night itself, is there anything else that you saw or
7	in the tower?	7	heard or smelt on that night that you think it important
8	A. Yes, I did.	8	to draw to the attention of the chairman?
9	Q. Which took you up to what was then the 18th floor to	9	A. I do have something I prepared, if that's okay, because
10	your brother's flat?	10	I have memory loss and I wanted to read it. Is that
11	A. Yes.	11	okay?
12	Q. You recall that on that occasion you saw smoke coming	12	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course. All right.
13	through the vents?	13	A. Thank you.
14	A. Yes.	14	It's not very long, I just worded it big so I could
15	Q. That was on the 18th floor?	15	see it.
16	A. Yes, I did.	16	I've addressed it to you, the chairman.
17	Q. Just so that we can get it very clear, was the smoke	17	Dear Sir Martin Moore-Bick. I'm normally very quiet
18	coming into the 18th floor lobby?	18	and don't like making a fuss. I appreciate this
19	A. Yes.	19	opportunity to have my say and have prepared a statement
20	Q. And how much smoke did you see?	20	that I'd like to read.
21	A. No comparison to what happened on 14 June. It was very	21	I am here, but my brother and his family are not.
22	light, very light. Like cigarette smoke, like you said	22	I need to be his voice, because I know, if it was the
23	earlier. I'd say like that, cigarette smoke. And it	23	other way round, he would be mine. He would fight for
24	wasn't all the way across the ceiling; it was just	24	me, I know he would.
25	literally I could see it coming through the vents,	25	There are four brief points I want to make.
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The first thing I want to talk about is the previous 1 fire in 2010. A you know, there was a fire, which we just talked 4 about, on 30 April 2010. This fire was on my floor. When I exited my flat in 2010, the flames were quite intense. My son was upstairs playing with his consist on the 18th floor, so I ran, rather than exit, up the 8 stairs to my brother's flat, carrying my daughter in my arms. I already said about what the 299 call said to stay put. There was some smoke on the upper floors that came through the veriflation system, but it was not black. You could see where you were going and the fire did not spread. There was simited damage to my own flat on the 6th floor from the 2010 fire, and I did suffer some smoke in hubition, as idid others. But there is no comparison with what happened on 14 Janue. There was initited damage to my own flat on the 6th floor from the 2010 fire, and I did suffer some smoke in hubition, as idid others. But there is no comparison with what happened on 14 Janue. There was limited damage to my own flat on the 6th floor from the 2010 fire, and I did suffer some smoke in hubition, as idid others. But there is no comparison with what happened on 14 Janue. There was limited damage to my own flat on the 6th floor from the 2010 fire, and I did suffer some smoke in hubition, as idid others. But there is no comparison with what happened and tail that some one stail that it is a massive change in the behaviour of the fire from What I want to bring to your attention is that this is a massive change in the behaviour of the fire from Page 185 The refurbishment changed the building and had the fire act differently. There is no question in my mind about that fact. The second issue I want to mention is the lack of help from RBKC or KCTMO on the night. The refurbishment changed the building and had the fire act differently. There is no question in my mind about that fact. The refurbishment changed the building and had the fire a count of the fire that the sum of the fire that				
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21 participant status. I urge you, chairman, to please 21 The impact it's had on our families and our		-		
22 rethink this and have a look at this, because he is key 22 community could have been prevented. We can't change	0.0000			
23 to this inquiry. 23 that now, but we can change the lives of those we've		•		•
24 Finally, I need to speak for my brother and his 24 lost to count, for their deaths not to have been in				, -
25 family. There is what happened on the night for us, but 25 vain. There has to be change. We have to learn from			1	*
				6
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47 (Pages 185 to 188)

1	this.	1	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, thank you.
2	Life will never be the same for us. We may find	2	MR RAWAT: If we go to page 11 of the statement, we can see,
3	a new place to live, but it won't be our home. Grenfell	3	Mr Chairman, it's dated 3 July 2018, it carries
4	was our home. The people who were there were our	4	a statement of truth and it's signed.
5	family. The impact on me and my children, all of those	5	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.
6	impacted, will last a lifetime. And I want to know that	6	MR RAWAT: There is one exhibit which is also part of the
7	we will be supported for the rest of our lives.	7	statement, which is a floor plan at page 12.
8	As a result of this inquiry, I want the truth to be	8	If I could, I'd like to just read a short extract
9	found and for change to happen.	9	from the statement.
10	I finally want to thank all of those people,	10	As you will have appreciated from Mrs Wahabi's
11	including the inquiry team, who have and continue to	11	evidence, her and her family were at home on the night
12	help us. It makes a huge difference and I can't express	12	of the fire. If I can pick it up at paragraph 24, this
13	my gratitude enough.	13	is Mr Chebiouni's account of the events of the night.
14	Words will never be enough, but from my heart, thank	14	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.
15	you.	15	MR RAWAT: I preface it with this: you'll remember that
16	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mrs Wahabi, thank you very much for	16	Mrs Wahabi was saying that they wouldn't go to sleep
17	those powerful and perceptive and, may I say also,	17	until their son had got back, and that's where we start:
18	generous remarks.	18	"24. According to the CCTV image I have been shown,
19	I am very sorry, of course, for the loss of your	19	[redacted] returned home at 12:38 a.m. Hanan and I went
20	brother and his family. That's a loss that can never be	20	to sleep when he got in. The next thing I remember is
21	repaired, and I understand that.	21	waking up and wanting to go to the toilet. I don't know
22	I'm sure there are lessons to be learned, and it's	22	what time it was. As I walked towards the bathroom, I
23	the inquiry's job to identify them and do our best to	23	smelled a strong plastic burning smell. I thought, 'oh
24	make sure they're learned and put into effect.	24	my god, [redacted] has left something in the cooker', so
25	We're very grateful to you for coming to give your	25	I didn't go to the toilet. Instead, I went to the
	and the second s		
	Page 189		Page 191
1	evidence. I've said this to other people, but I'll say	1	kitchen and opened the cooker, but there was nothing in
2	it again: it's very important that we understand as much	2	it, and it was switched off. I couldn't find the source
3	as we can about the conditions in the tower at different	3	of the smell, which was stronger now, in the kitchen,
4	times and different places, and what was going on more	4	than it had been in the hallway. I couldn't tell you if
5	generally. Your evidence and the evidence of others	5	the kitchen was hotter than usual because I was
6	like you who have come along to tell us that is really	6	panicking. I could see light grey smoke in the kitchen.
7	essential.	7	No windows in our flat were open, except for our bedroom
8	So I'm sorry its been a difficult experience, but	8	window. We generally kept the windows closed because
9	you can at least be assured that it's been very helpful.	9	people smoke and we worry about them throwing a lit
10	Thank you very much indeed.	10	cigarette down, and flame catching a curtain.
11	THE WITNESS: Thank you. Thank you.	11	"25. I heard crackling, like when you burn
12	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? Thank you.	12	something. I turned to the left and, could see flames
13	All right, would you like to go with the usher now	13	coming up behind the kitchen window, like someone was
14	then.	14	having a bonfire just outside of my window. I wondered
15	THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.	15	if it was fireworks or something, so I opened the
16	(The witness withdrew)	16	kitchen window. Straight away, smoke came in and I felt
17	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Rawat.	17	an immense heat. I closed the window. I did not hear
18	MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, we have a bit of time and, if I may,	18	any fire alarms go off. This all happened very quickly,
19	I'd like to use that just to put one statement into the	19	within a few seconds.
20	record, if I may.	20	"26. Then I walked into the living room, confused,
21	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.	21	and looked out of the window there. I opened the window
22	SALAH EDDINE CHEBIOUNI (evidence read into the record)	22	and leaned forward. I could see flames below our flat,
23	MR RAWAT: That is the statement of Mrs Wahabi's husband,	23	on the outside of the building, and I could feel intense
24	Salah Eddine Chebiouni. The statement is at	24	heat. The fire looked like it was just a metre or two
25	IWS00000945, please.	25	away. I closed back the window after just a couple of
	D 400		D 400
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48 (Pages 189 to 192)

1	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I am sure it was very important to	1	decisions, at the time cost lives, and I truly believe
2	do that, yes.	2	that a lot more lives would've been saved if things were
3	MR MILLETT: I have no further questions that I want to put	3	done quicker.
4	to the witness or need. To be fair to the witness,	4	We've discussed the lessons learnt, you know, I've
5	I think it would probably be not a particularly	5	heard that before. There's been lots of lessons learnt
6	efficient use of his time, so I'm going to say at this	6	in the past. But we need actions. We need those
7	point that I've come to the end of my questions.	7	lessons actually completed and not in 10 years' time.
8	We normally have the traditional break at this point	8	People need to feel safe in their homes.
9	for any further questions.	9	That's it.
10	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We do, but in some cases I have felt	10	MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Gomes.
11	that it was unnecessary to ask the witness to go out of	11	Thank you for that and thank you for all your
12	the room while other counsel have a word with you.	12	evidence. I just want to express our gratitude on
13	So can I just invite an indication at this stage	13	behalf of the inquiry to you for coming here today and
14	whether anyone has points they wish to put to	14	assisting us with our investigation. We really very
15	Mr Millett?	15	much appreciate it, so thank you.
16	You shouldn't feel inhibited because I'm doing it	16	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
17	this way because Mr Gomes and I will ignore you while	17	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm very grateful to you, Mr Gomes.
18	you speak to Mr Millett if you need to, but if you don't	18	You've had an extraordinary and terrible experience, and
19	need to, so much the better.	19	you've given us a very clear and careful account of what
20	(Pause)	20	went on that night as far as you and your family were
21	Right. Do you mind, Mr Gomes, we'll just ignore	21	concerned.
22	them and see whether there are any more questions. I am	22	You've given your evidence, if I may say so, with
23	sure you would like to finish before we rise.	23	great courage and great dignity, and we're very grateful
24	THE WITNESS: Yes, that's fine. I've been ignoring them all	24	to you for allowing us to ask you questions about
25	the way through!	25	something that as personal as the call we've just been
	Page 149		Page 151
1	(Pause)	1,	listening to. Thank you very much.
1 2	(Pause) MR MILLETT: Mr Gomes, I have one question for you and it's	1 2	listening to. Thank you very much. THE WITNESS: I hope it helps.
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