

<p>1 Thursday, 1 November 2018</p> <p>2 (10.00 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to</p> <p>4 today's hearing.</p> <p>5 Again, we are going to hear evidence from people who</p> <p>6 were in the tower at the time of the fire.</p> <p>7 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, good morning, we are, and our next</p> <p>9 witness is Ms Alemishet Demissie.</p> <p>10 May I call Ms Demissie.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>12 ALEMISHET DEMISSIE (sworn)</p> <p>13 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Ms Demissie.</p> <p>15 Would you like to sit down and make yourself</p> <p>16 comfortable.</p> <p>17 All right? Good.</p> <p>18 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: Ms Demissie, good morning.</p> <p>20 A. Good morning.</p> <p>21 Q. Can I start by asking you, please, to give the chairman</p> <p>22 your full name.</p> <p>23 A. Alemishet Demissie.</p> <p>24 Q. Are you sometimes called Alam?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 the back of the room if you want to.</p> <p>2 Is this the first page of the witness statement</p> <p>3 you've made for this inquiry?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. And if we can please look at the last page of that</p> <p>6 statement, which is page 7, you'll see a signature.</p> <p>7 Is that your signature?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, it is.</p> <p>9 Q. It's dated 30 June 2018.</p> <p>10 I don't think that you confirmed in writing that the</p> <p>11 contents of this statement are true. Can I ask you now,</p> <p>12 are the contents of this statement true?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>15 Have you had an opportunity to read it recently?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: I can confirm for the record that there are no</p> <p>18 exhibits.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, thank you.</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: I want to ask you, if I can, to start with,</p> <p>21 some questions about your background in the building.</p> <p>22 You lived, I think, in flat 94 on the 12th floor of</p> <p>23 the tower.</p> <p>24 A. Yes, I lived in flat 94 on the 12th floor.</p> <p>25 Q. How long had you lived there for?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 Q. I want to begin by thanking you for coming here today to</p> <p>2 help us with our investigations. We are very grateful</p> <p>3 to you and we really appreciate your assisting in us.</p> <p>4 A. Thank you.</p> <p>5 Q. If at any time during my questions you need a break, you</p> <p>6 feel that bringing the events of the night back is</p> <p>7 troubling, we can stop. We can take a break at any</p> <p>8 time.</p> <p>9 We'll aim to sit and take your evidence for not more</p> <p>10 than an hour at a time. But, as I say, if at any point</p> <p>11 you want a break before that, we can do that.</p> <p>12 Also, if my questions don't make sense to you or</p> <p>13 they get muddled up or you don't understand them, please</p> <p>14 ask and I will put the question again or put it in</p> <p>15 a different way.</p> <p>16 I should just also say that sometimes when you're</p> <p>17 answering my question, I'm looking at my screen or at my</p> <p>18 notes or your statement. It doesn't mean that I'm not</p> <p>19 listening to you. I'm very much listening to what</p> <p>20 you're telling us. All right?</p> <p>21 Can I then start by asking you, please, to look at</p> <p>22 your witness statement that you've prepared for the</p> <p>23 inquiry, and that is IWS00000860.</p> <p>24 You'll see that, Ms Demissie, on the screen on the</p> <p>25 desk in front of you. You can also use the screen at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 A. 15 years.</p> <p>2 Q. I think you say in your statement that you moved in</p> <p>3 there in 2004; is that right?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, I think -- I don't exactly remember when, but it's</p> <p>5 about 2004, yes.</p> <p>6 Q. As at June 2017, at the time of the fire, who were you</p> <p>7 living with?</p> <p>8 A. In the flat, I was living on my own.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you rent the flat?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Who did you rent it from?</p> <p>12 A. From the Royal Borough of Kensington.</p> <p>13 Q. Do you remember ever receiving any fire safety advice at</p> <p>14 the time you moved into Grenfell Tower in 2004?</p> <p>15 A. I don't know, that was a long time ago. I don't</p> <p>16 remember that.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you remember ever receiving any fire safety advice</p> <p>18 for the whole time you were a resident at</p> <p>19 Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>20 A. I don't particularly remember a fire safety advice, but</p> <p>21 I remember a couple of times a lady called Claire coming</p> <p>22 and asking me questions about the flat, and how I felt</p> <p>23 and things.</p> <p>24 Q. Did she ask you questions about or say anything about</p> <p>25 fire safety?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 A. I don't remember.</p> <p>2 Q. When did she make these visits, this Claire; do you</p> <p>3 remember?</p> <p>4 A. Before and after the refurbishment.</p> <p>5 Q. Can I ask you, please, to be shown INQ00000093.</p> <p>6 A. Excuse me?</p> <p>7 Q. It's on the monitor now.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It's just a reference to the</p> <p>9 document so that the documents manager can pull it up.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>11 This is a picture of a sign which was in</p> <p>12 Grenfell Tower at the time of the fire.</p> <p>13 My question is: did you ever see a sign like this in</p> <p>14 the building?</p> <p>15 A. I don't remember, to be honest. I mean, it's my</p> <p>16 weakness, I don't pay attention to these things. I do</p> <p>17 remember this -- I cannot say 100 per cent. I'm sorry.</p> <p>18 Q. No, it's okay.</p> <p>19 In general terms, what was your understanding of</p> <p>20 what you should do if there was a fire anywhere in</p> <p>21 Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>22 A. My understanding was to leave the flat as soon as fire</p> <p>23 starts, not to use the lift, to follow, you know, the</p> <p>24 way out, and go downstairs through the stairs. That's</p> <p>25 my understanding.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 A. It was before the refurbishment, the door was replaced.</p> <p>2 I don't know, maybe 4/5 years, I don't remember, but</p> <p>3 yes, it was.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you remember whether it was a self-closing door, the</p> <p>5 new door?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, it's a self-closing door.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you remember whether as at June 2017 your front door</p> <p>8 was a self-closing door?</p> <p>9 A. Just one minute. No, no, the second one was not</p> <p>10 self-closing. I don't know ... I don't remember.</p> <p>11 I mean, initially I remember we had the self-closing</p> <p>12 door, but the second time, I'm not sure. Maybe needed</p> <p>13 to lock it from outside. I don't know.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, you might --</p> <p>15 A. Because I'm now in a flat which is not self-closing, so</p> <p>16 I got confused. I'm getting confused.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Well, for example, when you came in with heavy</p> <p>18 things -- books, shopping, whatever it is -- do you</p> <p>19 remember whether the door would close behind you or you</p> <p>20 would have to put your things down and close it?</p> <p>21 A. You mean when I come out or when I go in?</p> <p>22 Q. When you're coming in.</p> <p>23 A. When I'm coming in?</p> <p>24 Q. Mm.</p> <p>25 A. God, I don't remember. I don't know.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 Q. Did you have any fire alarms or smoke alarms in your</p> <p>2 flat?</p> <p>3 A. Inside, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. What did you have?</p> <p>5 A. I had a smoke alarm in the living room, in the</p> <p>6 kitchen -- on the corridor, on the corridor, not living</p> <p>7 room, maybe.</p> <p>8 Q. So a smoke alarm in the living room, in the kitchen and</p> <p>9 in the corridor?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. The hallway of your flat?</p> <p>12 A. I'm not sure about the living room, but the corridor</p> <p>13 definitely and the kitchen definitely.</p> <p>14 Q. Did you install them?</p> <p>15 A. No, I didn't, they installed it.</p> <p>16 Q. Who is "they", sorry?</p> <p>17 A. The council.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you remember whether they were working, in the sense</p> <p>19 of operable, functioning, in June 2017?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, the ones in the flat, yes. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you remember whether, after you moved in to your flat</p> <p>22 in 2004, at any time your front door to the flat was</p> <p>23 replaced?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, it was replaced, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. When was that?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 Q. Were you aware, or did you have a sense of awareness, at</p> <p>2 around the time of the refurbishment, of a smoke</p> <p>3 ventilation or extraction system in the communal</p> <p>4 lobbies?</p> <p>5 A. In the communal lobbies -- you mean outside?</p> <p>6 Q. Yes.</p> <p>7 A. Outside the flat?</p> <p>8 Q. Outside the flat in the landing where the lifts are.</p> <p>9 A. No. There is something which I saw, but I didn't know</p> <p>10 what it was.</p> <p>11 You see, I mean, this is about me, I failed to</p> <p>12 notice things and maybe there was, but I don't know.</p> <p>13 Q. Do you remember hearing a noise, ventilation or</p> <p>14 extraction of air or something like that at any time?</p> <p>15 A. No, I don't.</p> <p>16 Q. In your statement, you haven't said anything about the</p> <p>17 new windows that were installed as part of the</p> <p>18 refurbishment.</p> <p>19 Can I ask you, in or after 2016, do you remember</p> <p>20 noticing any problems with the windows that had been</p> <p>21 installed in your flat as part of the refurbishment?</p> <p>22 A. No, sometimes small kind of wind I notice coming through</p> <p>23 the living room window sometimes. Nothing else.</p> <p>24 Q. Whereabouts around the living room window do you</p> <p>25 remember noticing wind coming through?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 A. Just on the left-hand side when I sit on the sofa 2 sometimes, there's wind coming. 3 Q. You say "sometimes", what -- 4 A. Yes, I mean -- it wasn't a big problem for me, to be 5 honest. It didn't bother me much. 6 Q. Did you ever discuss that -- 7 A. No. 8 Q. -- with anybody? 9 A. No. 10 Q. Okay. 11 Now, I'm going to turn to the night of the fire 12 itself, 13/14 June 2017. 13 In your statement at paragraph 7, if you could just 14 go to that on page 2 of your statement, under the 15 heading "Night of the fire", you can see that you say 16 that on that night you had a Bible study group and your 17 friend Ethiopia was staying with you. 18 Is that Ethiopia Assefal? 19 A. Yes, that's right. 20 Q. Do you remember whether you both went to sleep after the 21 other members of the Bible study group had left? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. You say at paragraph 9 of your statement that a phone 24 call woke you up. 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 Q. Did you see signs of smoke anywhere else at that stage? 2 A. When we opened the door, we saw the smoke. 3 Q. Before you opened the door, did you -- 4 A. No, after. No, before the -- no. 5 Q. When you woke up and got dressed -- 6 A. There was no smoke. 7 Q. There was no smoke? 8 A. No. 9 Q. Did you look out of the windows of the flat at that 10 stage? 11 A. No, no, we went straight to the door. 12 Q. Was there any smell in your flat of anything particular? 13 A. No, not at that stage, I don't ... 14 Q. In paragraph 12, a little bit lower down, you go on to 15 say: 16 "However as soon as I opened the door the smoke was 17 so bad that I couldn't see anything. It was dark and 18 smelt of chemicals." 19 Before you opened the door, do you remember whether 20 you saw any signs of smoke coming from around the door? 21 A. No, no, it wasn't -- it was when we opened the door we 22 realised that there was smoke. 23 Q. When you opened the door and you saw it, you say it was 24 so bad you couldn't see anything. Do you remember what 25 colour it was?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 Q. "It was a call on my mobile at about 1:30 am from 2 a brother from church." 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. How do you remember that it was about 1.30 am? 5 A. I think I checked it on my mobile, I think. Yes. 6 Q. Were you -- 7 A. It was about 1.30, yes. 8 Q. Were you asleep at that time? 9 A. We were asleep, yes. 10 Q. When you refer to a brother from church, are you 11 referring to a member of your church congregation? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. You explain in paragraphs 10 and 11 how that person came 14 to know you and call you. 15 At paragraph 12 you say -- this is page 3: 16 "12. When I first woke up I did not realise how 17 serious the situation was. I quickly got dressed and 18 said to Ethiopia that there was a fire and that we 19 needed to go. At this point I was relaxed." 20 So my question is: was your first instinct to leave 21 the building? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. At that point, did you see any signs of smoke in your 24 flat? 25 A. Not in the flat, no.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 A. Just black and -- 2 Q. Just black. 3 A. -- cloudy. It's just completely -- no, smoke but very 4 thick. We couldn't see through it. 5 Q. Were there any signs of light, electric light, in the 6 landing at all? 7 A. No, there wasn't. I don't -- no. It was very dark. 8 Q. You describe the smell as "smelt of chemicals". Can you 9 describe that a bit more for us? What kind of 10 chemicals? 11 A. It wasn't normal, it was like chemical -- I don't know 12 what particular smell, but it smelt something ... 13 I can't describe that smell. 14 Q. Was it like anything you'd ever smelt before? 15 A. No. 16 Q. When you smelt it, did it have any particular physical 17 effect on you? 18 A. At that stage, no. 19 Q. In paragraph 12, at the end, you say in the last 20 sentence: 21 "I do not know the exact time but it must have been 22 between 1.35am and 1.45am." 23 How do you estimate that to be the time range? 24 A. Yes, because, I mean, we got up at 1.30 and then I went 25 to Ethiopia and told her there was fire and she got</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 dressed, so I was just estimating from that. I didn't</p> <p>2 look at the time.</p> <p>3 Q. So you opened the door. Did you try to set foot in the</p> <p>4 lobby or did you close the door again immediately?</p> <p>5 A. No, we didn't. We just went straight to the door. She</p> <p>6 had her bag on her, and we just went straight to the</p> <p>7 door. We opened it, and it was completely thick. We</p> <p>8 knew we couldn't see, we couldn't breathe, so we just</p> <p>9 said it's better to stay in and wait, you know, until</p> <p>10 something happens.</p> <p>11 Q. So how long was your front door open for before you</p> <p>12 closed it again?</p> <p>13 A. Not long, we just closed it immediately.</p> <p>14 Q. Did it let much smoke into the flat?</p> <p>15 A. No, no. First it wasn't, really. When we closed the</p> <p>16 door, there was no smoke in the flat.</p> <p>17 Q. When you opened the door for the first time -- I know</p> <p>18 this may be difficult -- do you remember hearing</p> <p>19 anything particular coming from the lobby, any</p> <p>20 particular sound?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. I know it sounds like a rather strange question, but why</p> <p>23 didn't you try and leave at that stage?</p> <p>24 A. To be honest, we wanted to. We wanted to. You know, in</p> <p>25 fact, Ethiopia said, "I'm not coming back here" because</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 the west side.</p> <p>2 Is that right, first of all?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. This is in fact, as you can see, the plan for flats 1</p> <p>5 through to 6, but the layout is the same from the</p> <p>6 4th floor upwards, so flat 4 would be flat 94.</p> <p>7 Can I just have flat 4 expanded, please.</p> <p>8 During the period of time that we're talking about</p> <p>9 between you shutting the front door and making your</p> <p>10 first 999 call, where were you in the flat? Can you</p> <p>11 point it out to us?</p> <p>12 A. When? Between -- in the living room.</p> <p>13 Q. You were in the living room?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you move around the flat at all or did you stay in</p> <p>16 the living room?</p> <p>17 A. In the living -- before the phone call and before</p> <p>18 closing the door.</p> <p>19 Q. So after closing the door --</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. -- but before the phone call, during that 50-minute</p> <p>22 period, do you remember where you were in the flat?</p> <p>23 A. We were in the living room, and at one stage we went to</p> <p>24 the bedroom to close the window. I don't know at what</p> <p>25 time. The bedroom window was open, half open or</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 she said "I go down and I go to work", right then, she</p> <p>2 said she was not going to go back to the flat. And we</p> <p>3 wanted to, but we were unable to see anything and we</p> <p>4 knew, you know, we couldn't make it to anywhere, so we</p> <p>5 went back and we decide to stay in.</p> <p>6 Q. We know from the transcripts of your 999 calls that the</p> <p>7 first call you made to 999 was at 02.24.19. I'll just</p> <p>8 read the reference: it's LFB00000353. So that's</p> <p>9 2.24 am, which means -- is this right? -- there was</p> <p>10 about 50 minutes or so -- maybe 45 to 50 minutes --</p> <p>11 during which you spent time in the flat before you made</p> <p>12 that call? Is that about right?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. I want to ask you about that period of time between you</p> <p>15 waking up, going to the front door and opening it,</p> <p>16 coming back into the flat and then making your call</p> <p>17 50 or so minutes later.</p> <p>18 Can I ask you first to be shown -- I am asking the</p> <p>19 documents director -- MET00012593, page 12.</p> <p>20 I should just explain to you, Ms Demissie, what this</p> <p>21 is. This is a cross-section plan of Grenfell Tower as</p> <p>22 at the time of the fire. Showing the layout of the</p> <p>23 building with the six flats and the central lift lobby</p> <p>24 core.</p> <p>25 You were in flat 94, so you're in the middle one on</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 something, a little open, not very much, and we went to</p> <p>2 close the window. I remember that.</p> <p>3 Q. Why did you do that, do you remember?</p> <p>4 A. Because I think the smoke started coming in, and then we</p> <p>5 noticed that the window was open, and then we closed it.</p> <p>6 Q. When you closed the window, did that keep the smoke out</p> <p>7 or did the smoke continue to come in?</p> <p>8 A. We thought it would, and the smoke now had started</p> <p>9 coming in, you know, properly. First we thought it was</p> <p>10 through the window, so we closed the window, and the</p> <p>11 smoke started coming through the door.</p> <p>12 Q. This is difficult because estimating time is certainly</p> <p>13 difficult on the night of the fire, but how long after</p> <p>14 you closing the front door, having first tried to get</p> <p>15 out, and you noticing the smoke coming in through the</p> <p>16 window, elapsed?</p> <p>17 A. No idea.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you notice the smoke starting to come in through</p> <p>19 anywhere else in the flat during that period?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, through the door from the living room.</p> <p>21 Q. So can you just point out --</p> <p>22 A. Down, you know, down through, you know, the floor.</p> <p>23 Q. Down through the floor.</p> <p>24 A. The door.</p> <p>25 Q. So between the door and the floor?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 A. Between the door and the floor.</p> <p>2 Q. The door between the living room and the hall, is that?</p> <p>3 A. No, from the outside door I'm talking about, from the</p> <p>4 front door.</p> <p>5 Q. The front door?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Let's try it this way: how long before your first 999</p> <p>8 call did you start to notice smoke coming through the</p> <p>9 bottom of the door?</p> <p>10 A. Well, when we made the first 999 call, it was about</p> <p>11 2.30, 2.20, something, and at that stage the smoke was</p> <p>12 coming in the living room and in the different rooms.</p> <p>13 The smoke was coming in.</p> <p>14 Q. Yes.</p> <p>15 A. And ...</p> <p>16 Q. What I'm trying to get a sense of is --</p> <p>17 A. The time.</p> <p>18 Q. Yes, how long before the 999 call did you first start</p> <p>19 noticing smoke coming into the flat?</p> <p>20 A. I don't know. I don't know, sorry.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 Before you called 999, do you remember whether you</p> <p>23 felt a change in the temperature in the flat at all?</p> <p>24 A. Yes. It was rising, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Could you describe what happened when the temperature</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 remember looking out of the windows and seeing what was</p> <p>2 going on outside?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, we did, but what we thought -- when we closed the</p> <p>4 door, what we thought was: well, this is like -- when we</p> <p>5 opened it, we knew it was bad and we knew we couldn't</p> <p>6 leave. So the immediate thing we did was, yes, we tried</p> <p>7 to look through the window and we said, "Let's pray",</p> <p>8 and we started reading the relevant chapters we thought</p> <p>9 were relevant to the situation and we read some books,</p> <p>10 some chapters from the psalms.</p> <p>11 Then we started praying, and all along we are</p> <p>12 praying, but we are looking -- especially Ethiopia was</p> <p>13 looking through the window more than I was, and we are</p> <p>14 praying all through, really.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you see anything outside during your prayers?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, when I looked out, we saw firefighters. I didn't</p> <p>17 see the engine, but there were some firefighters across</p> <p>18 we can see and we knew they were there. So we just</p> <p>19 continued praying. If they were there, we thought there</p> <p>20 was no need to ring 999 because they already knew, so we</p> <p>21 just thought the best thing was to pray.</p> <p>22 Q. Yes, I see.</p> <p>23 Do you remember seeing any smoke or sparks or flames</p> <p>24 outside the building when you looked?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, yes, through the window just, you know, like</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 changed?</p> <p>2 A. The temperature was rising and we were feeling hot, and</p> <p>3 especially Ethiopia started feeling hot because she was</p> <p>4 wearing thin shoes, and we were feeling it, we were</p> <p>5 feeling it. We don't know what degree, but it was</p> <p>6 getting hotter and hotter.</p> <p>7 Q. Really?</p> <p>8 Before you made your first 999 call, could you</p> <p>9 describe the heat? I mean, was it at that point as hot</p> <p>10 as a summer's day or hotter or cooler?</p> <p>11 A. It was hotter. It was hotter than a summer's day, yes,</p> <p>12 it was hotter than a summer's day.</p> <p>13 Q. We'll come back to the question of temperature and how</p> <p>14 to measure that later on.</p> <p>15 Before you called 999 at 2.24, did you try to leave</p> <p>16 again?</p> <p>17 A. Before?</p> <p>18 Q. Yes. Did you make a second attempt?</p> <p>19 A. Yeah, we may have opened the door again, but I don't</p> <p>20 remember. But Ethiopia started putting, you know,</p> <p>21 things between the door and the floor, you know, to stop</p> <p>22 the smoke coming in. So we started trying to block the</p> <p>23 smoke, because we're scared the smoke was coming in.</p> <p>24 Q. At any point during that period, between your first</p> <p>25 attempt to leave the flat and your 999 call, do you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 something coming down. I don't know what -- flames were</p> <p>2 coming down.</p> <p>3 Q. You did see that?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, we saw that.</p> <p>5 Q. Can you tell us in which direction you looked?</p> <p>6 A. We looked through the living room window.</p> <p>7 Q. Were the flames to your left or to your right?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, the flames were coming from this side to this side,</p> <p>9 like this (Indicates).</p> <p>10 Q. So from your right side?</p> <p>11 A. From right to left.</p> <p>12 Q. Right, I see. So from north to south?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, maybe.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 You then call 999, as we see, at 02.24.19. I am</p> <p>16 just going to ask you to look at the transcript which is</p> <p>17 LFB00000353.</p> <p>18 Ms Demissie, just to help you with the timing of</p> <p>19 this, if you look at the top of the page on the screen</p> <p>20 in front of you, you can see a long line of blue numbers</p> <p>21 and letters. The time for this call is the group of</p> <p>22 numbers second from the right, 022419, which is</p> <p>23 02.24.19.</p> <p>24 We can see that the phone call starts on page 2:</p> <p>25 "OPERATOR: Fire brigade. Hello.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 "CALLER: Hello?</p> <p>2 "OPERATOR: Hello. Fire brigade. Can I help you?</p> <p>3 "CALLER: (Overspeaking) yeah, there is fire here in</p> <p>4 Grenfell Tower, and we are in flat 94. Maybe you know</p> <p>5 about it already."</p> <p>6 Do you remember making that call?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. So my next question is: what prompted you to make that</p> <p>9 call at that point?</p> <p>10 A. To be honest, it was Ethiopia who prompted me to make</p> <p>11 that call. In fact, I was saying to her, "Look, they</p> <p>12 are here already, why are we phoning them? Let's just</p> <p>13 pray." She was saying, "Yes, but still you need to make</p> <p>14 the phone call."</p> <p>15 Q. What did you hope to achieve by making that call?</p> <p>16 A. Really, I mean, we wanted them to come and help us to</p> <p>17 come out, which they did. Thankfully, they did.</p> <p>18 Q. I think if you look a little bit lower down that page,</p> <p>19 the second page of this transcript, it says:</p> <p>20 "CALLER: Okay. Okay, please come to save us."</p> <p>21 Then you describe which floor and flat you're in.</p> <p>22 So does that help with the purpose of the call, that</p> <p>23 you're now decided that you wanted them to come up to</p> <p>24 save you?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, yes, yes, that's right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 Did that have any influence on what you did next,</p> <p>2 that advice?</p> <p>3 A. Yes. He said, you know, "We'll check you out", and we</p> <p>4 felt some hope, we thought they would come any minute</p> <p>5 now. But we continued praying still, you know. We were</p> <p>6 praying.</p> <p>7 Q. At this point, when you make this call --</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. -- this is 02.24, do you remember what the smoke</p> <p>10 conditions were like in the flat?</p> <p>11 A. They were bad.</p> <p>12 Q. Could you see Ethiopia?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. You could?</p> <p>15 A. We could see each other, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you remember where you were in the flat when you made</p> <p>17 this call?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, I remember I was near the television, near the TV,</p> <p>19 I don't know what -- I was -- yes, the first time I was</p> <p>20 just standing at one place, I think, I didn't move</p> <p>21 around, but second time I was moving around.</p> <p>22 Q. Were you in the living room?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Could you see from one end of the living room to the</p> <p>25 next?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 Q. If you go to the next page, on page 3, the operator</p> <p>2 says, about a quarter of the way down:</p> <p>3 "OPERATOR: Two adults? Okay, and have you put some</p> <p>4 towels down to stop the smoke coming in?</p> <p>5 "CALLER: Mmm?</p> <p>6 "OPERATOR: Have you put some towels against the</p> <p>7 doors and windows to stop the smoke coming in?</p> <p>8 "CALLER: (Overspeaking) for the smoke not to come</p> <p>9 in?</p> <p>10 "OPERATOR: Yeah, put them at the bottom of the</p> <p>11 door --</p> <p>12 "CALLER: Okay."</p> <p>13 I think you had already done that.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you do it again? Did you do more of the same or did</p> <p>16 you think you'd done enough?</p> <p>17 A. Maybe, maybe, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. And then the call ends.</p> <p>19 Before it ends, two-thirds of the way down page 3,</p> <p>20 the operator says:</p> <p>21 "OPERATOR: -- and anywhere else that you think the</p> <p>22 smoke might come in, and put them there; and what I'm</p> <p>23 gonna do is I'm gonna tell our command unit on the radio</p> <p>24 what flat you're in, and they'll come and check you,</p> <p>25 okay?"</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Could you see where the smoke was coming from at that</p> <p>3 stage?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, through the door, through the living room door.</p> <p>5 Q. Through the living room door?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, but from the front door, coming through the</p> <p>7 corridor and -- so it was filling the room now, you</p> <p>8 know, like coming through the living room.</p> <p>9 Q. So it was coming from the lobby --</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. -- rather than from outside the building?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Did the smoke smell of anything in particular at that</p> <p>14 stage?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, it was a bad smell, it was chemical.</p> <p>16 Q. Was it the same smell that you'd smelt when you'd gone</p> <p>17 out into the lobby?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, even stronger.</p> <p>19 Q. Did the smoke have any particular physical effect on you</p> <p>20 at that stage?</p> <p>21 A. We started coughing. I don't know at what stage. We</p> <p>22 started coughing, both of us were coughing.</p> <p>23 Q. After the call, what did you expect would happen next?</p> <p>24 A. We thought somebody would come any minute, but then</p> <p>25 I was also thinking how come, because it was difficult</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 to see and we knew the flat was not accessible, and who</p> <p>2 would take that risk to come to save -- I was thinking,</p> <p>3 and I was saying God would send somebody. You know,</p> <p>4 I had two minds at that stage.</p> <p>5 Q. Yes, I understand.</p> <p>6 You made a second call to 999 at 02.42. If I can</p> <p>7 just ask you to look at paragraph 20 of your statement</p> <p>8 on page 4, you say:</p> <p>9 "20. No firefighters were coming and so I called</p> <p>10 999 again. The second time I phoned 999 it was at</p> <p>11 2:40am. I did not know what to do."</p> <p>12 My question is: what prompted you to make that call?</p> <p>13 A. We were desperate at that stage because we were</p> <p>14 coughing, it was getting hot and the floor was black,</p> <p>15 completely, you know, dark, dark, so we were making the</p> <p>16 last attempt to get somebody.</p> <p>17 But behind all -- in my heart, I was saying: who</p> <p>18 would come at that stage? How would somebody pay that</p> <p>19 price to come into that place, you know? I was</p> <p>20 desperate, but in the meantime I was believing God, you</p> <p>21 know, that him send somebody.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you call on that second occasion, 18 minutes later,</p> <p>23 because no firefighter had yet come to the flat?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Can I ask you, please, to be shown the transcript of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 Where was the smoke coming from at that point? So</p> <p>2 we're now at 2.42. Where was the smoke coming in at</p> <p>3 that stage?</p> <p>4 A. Must be coming in from everywhere because it's thick</p> <p>5 now, very, very thick, so it was coming from everywhere.</p> <p>6 Maybe it was coming from everywhere, you know, because</p> <p>7 at that stage it was like chaotic.</p> <p>8 Q. Was the smoke at this point thicker --</p> <p>9 A. Very.</p> <p>10 Q. -- than the time when you made your first call?</p> <p>11 A. Very, very.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay.</p> <p>13 Can I just ask you to look at page 8 of the</p> <p>14 transcript. This is after you have been told that you</p> <p>15 had to leave.</p> <p>16 He says at the bottom of the page:</p> <p>17 "OPERATOR: Get into the stairwell and make your way</p> <p>18 down, okay?"</p> <p>19 "CALLER: Yeah, I can't see (several inaudible words)</p> <p>20 we went two times to go out. We can't even see it."</p> <p>21 My question is about the two times you refer to</p> <p>22 there.</p> <p>23 We know about your first attempt to go into the</p> <p>24 lobby after you woke up when you and Ethiopia tried to</p> <p>25 leave. When was the second attempt to go out?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 that call, which is LFB00000683.</p> <p>2 Again, Ms Demissie, the time of that call can be</p> <p>3 found in the group of numbers second from the right in</p> <p>4 that long line of numbers, 02.42.40.</p> <p>5 Do you remember where you were when you made that</p> <p>6 second call?</p> <p>7 A. I think I was at the same place, but this time I was</p> <p>8 moving around because he was giving us advice to leave</p> <p>9 the flat and, you know, I knew he didn't realise how bad</p> <p>10 it was. I was like panicking at that stage.</p> <p>11 Q. You were speaking to a man?</p> <p>12 A. I spoke to a man, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. With a distinctive voice?</p> <p>14 A. A man with a Scottish accent, I remember exactly.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 At the bottom of page 2, you say -- this is</p> <p>17 two-thirds of the way down the page:</p> <p>18 "CALLER: Fire, fire.</p> <p>19 "OPERATOR: Yeah, is there smoke coming into the</p> <p>20 flat?</p> <p>21 "CALLER: Yeah, it's coming yeah.</p> <p>22 "OPERATOR: Right, have you the doors covered?</p> <p>23 "CALLER: sorry?</p> <p>24 "OPERATOR: Have you all the doors and windows</p> <p>25 closed? "</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 A. I think it was after the first call, you know, when he</p> <p>2 said leave, you know, we tried again, I think.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you remember making that attempt, the second time?</p> <p>4 A. I can't remember, but I think we did, we must have,</p> <p>5 because we were getting desperate, more and more</p> <p>6 desperate. We knew we couldn't, but still we must have</p> <p>7 tried.</p> <p>8 Q. Were the conditions in the lobby when you tried to go</p> <p>9 out the second time, if you can remember it at all, the</p> <p>10 same or different from before?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, I mean, it's just because we were desperate, we</p> <p>12 tried again, because we could've left at the first</p> <p>13 instant when we knew. It was just we didn't know what</p> <p>14 to do.</p> <p>15 Q. If you go back in the transcript to page 5, at the top</p> <p>16 of the page the operator says:</p> <p>17 "OPERATOR: Yeah, I'm going to tell you, you have to</p> <p>18 leave okay?</p> <p>19 "CALLER: Okay, thank you.</p> <p>20 "OPERATOR: Right, and so you need to get a towel,</p> <p>21 cover it with water, okay? Please stay on the phone</p> <p>22 with me while you do it, okay?"</p> <p>23 And then over the page he repeatedly says to you,</p> <p>24 "we need you to leave", then again on page 7 as well and</p> <p>25 repeatedly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 Then if you come to page 12 of the transcript, 2 a third of the way down, the operator says: 3 "OPERATOR: If you don't do what I tell you you're 4 going to die in that flat. Okay? I know it's really 5 harsh but that's the truth. Right? You need to cover 6 your face with the wet towel -- 7 "CALLER: (overspeaking) 8 "OPERATOR: -- go out of your flat turn left 9 (overspeaking) and get to the stairwell. 10 "CALLER: I can only try, sir, okay? 11 "OPERATOR: Right, you have to do it, okay? 12 "CALLER: (several inaudible words) 13 "OPERATOR: Are you doing it now?" 14 What impact did the operator's advice have on you? 15 A. Well, we realised it was like -- I mean, we realised we 16 were about to die, but when he said that, he just 17 confirmed what we knew. 18 So then we just started getting ready to die, and 19 one of the things we did was we said, "God forgive us 20 for our sins", and then we started praising God for the 21 life we had in the past. 22 I mean, he just confirmed really what we thought was 23 going to happen, so we started thanking God for the good 24 life we had. 25 Q. Mm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 A. No, we couldn't. We didn't get to the lobby, not at 2 all. We didn't get to the lobby. Nowhere. We couldn't 3 leave the flat itself, but maybe to the corridor 4 I meant, maybe. 5 Q. When I said lobby, I mean the landing outside your flat. 6 A. No, no, no, no, there was no way. 7 Q. Right. 8 So after the call we've just looked at finishes, you 9 come back into your flat. Did you shut the door again? 10 A. Maybe I meant the living room, come back to the living 11 room, not to the flat, because we never left the flat. 12 I don't remember leaving the flat. 13 Q. I see. So you didn't leave the flat while on -- 14 A. No, no, no. 15 Q. Okay. Can I just be clear then. 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. When you say at paragraph 20, at the foot of page 4: 18 "While on the phone to him we tried to leave the 19 flat and opened the door again." 20 Which door are you talking about there? 21 A. It must be the front -- maybe we opened the front door, 22 maybe we opened it, I don't know that part. Because 23 what I know is at that stage everything was a dead end, 24 everything, and we knew we were about to die, but we 25 must have -- I must have done. Ethiopia was relatively</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 Can I just ask you, then, to go back to your 2 statement and look, please, at the bottom of page 4, 3 paragraph 20. You say: 4 "I listened and told Ethiopia that we should leave 5 while he continued to speak to us on the phone. While 6 on the phone to him we tried to leave the flat and 7 opened the door again. As we did this it was 8 terrifying. The smoke was so dark and made us cough. 9 On the second time we opened the door, it was even worse 10 than before. It was just not possible to walk through 11 the smoke or know where we were going. We had to come 12 back inside and shut the door. I lost contact with the 13 999 call and in my rush to get back in the phone was cut 14 off." 15 Just so we're clear, Ms Demissie, you're on the 16 phone to the operator while trying to leave; is that 17 what happened? 18 A. Yes, I don't remember that part. But we must have, 19 because he insisted, you see, he said, you know, it's 20 either dying or, you know -- so it's like a natural 21 instinct, and we wanted to leave again. We knew we 22 couldn't, and just when you don't know what to do, you 23 know, you just do whatever. I don't know ... 24 Q. Do you remember how far you got into the lobby, the 25 landing?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 calm -- we were calm relatively, considering the 2 situation, and we must have done different things which 3 I don't exactly recall, as you can imagine. 4 But what we knew was we were going to die. That was 5 for sure, for me. 6 Q. After this call, do you remember whether there was any 7 fire in the flat by that stage? 8 A. No, there was no fire. 9 Q. Moving on in your statement, if I can, to paragraph 22 10 on page 5, you say: 11 "22. After the second 999 call I gave up. Nobody 12 was coming and we had tried to leave. The floor was 13 completely black now and we were simply waiting for it 14 to catch fire. The heat was starting to get to 15 Ethiopia's feet. She could feel it because she was 16 wearing thin shoes." 17 Was that after you came back into the flat or after 18 you tried to leave during or after that call that -- 19 A. I never left the flat, but maybe -- I meant living room 20 and -- we were going around. At that stage, we were 21 walking to the living room, to the corridor, to the 22 front -- we were just like looking at the floor and how, 23 you know, black it was, and we were like moving around. 24 The heat started coming to her earlier than that, 25 really, at an earlier stage, but it was getting worse</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 and worse and she was telling me, "It's hot, I'm hot", 2 and the temperature was rising. 3 Q. What was the floor in your flat made of? 4 A. Wood. 5 Q. Wood? 6 A. (Nodded assent) 7 Q. When you say the floor was black, was it black with 8 soot? 9 A. Charcoal, charcoal colour. 10 Q. Was it actually burnt? 11 A. It was wood, oak wood, but it was changing to charcoal 12 colour. Just black. 13 Q. Did you -- 14 A. I think it was the smoke, or I don't know whether the 15 fire was coming from down -- I don't know, but it was 16 like black. 17 Q. Right. 18 You say in your statement that Ethiopia could feel 19 it because she was wearing thin shoes. 20 A. Mm. 21 Q. So the floor was hot, was it? 22 A. Mm. 23 Q. Did you feel it yourself? 24 A. Yes, yes -- no, my shoes were -- but the temperature -- 25 I was feeling the whole room temperature was really,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 "OPERATOR: You're ringing from flat 94? 2 "CALLER: (Inaudible) 3 "OPERATOR: Right, you're in Grenfell tower? 4 "CALLER: Yeah. 5 "OPERATOR: Right, you need to listen to me 6 carefully, okay, you need to get as many towels or tea 7 towels, anything you can find, cover them with water, 8 okay? 9 "CALLER: Okay, okay. 10 "OPERATOR: Cover your face and get to the stairwell. 11 "CALLER: Okay, okay. 12 "OPERATOR: Right, you have to do that, that is your 13 only option, okay? 14 "CALLER: Mmm, just important(?) want to do it. 15 "OPERATOR: Listen carefully, okay, your only chance 16 of surviving this fire is to cover your face with a wet 17 towel and get to the stairwell and make your way 18 downstairs, okay? 19 "CALLER: We can't, we can't do so, we can't go out 20 even in the flat now the smoke is coming in the flat and 21 we can't even see now anymore. 22 "OPERATOR: Listen, this is your only chance, it's 23 the only way. 24 "CALLER: Okay, sir, okay, thank you, God bless you, 25 God bless you now."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 really hot now. It was not particularly my feet, but 2 the room temperature was very, very hot. 3 Q. Can you tell us how hot, by comparison with what? 4 A. Very, very hot. Very hot. I've never experienced that. 5 Q. Really? Okay. 6 Since you made your statement, or after you made 7 your statement, I know you've been provided with two 8 further 999 call transcripts. 9 A. Mm. 10 Q. There's a third call that you made at 02.58.44. 11 A. Mm. 12 Q. That's LFB00000680. There's a fourth call which is at 13 03.05, and that's INQ00000281. 14 I just want to look at your third call, which is 15 LFB00000680, if we can just have that up, please. 16 You can see, Ms Demissie, that, again, like the 17 other calls we looked at before, in the long line of 18 numbers at the top of the page there there's a group of 19 numbers towards the right, 025844, which shows the time 20 of the call. 21 We start on the first page of that: 22 "OPERATOR: Fire brigade. 23 "CALLER: Hello? 24 "OPERATOR: Hello? 25 "CALLER: Hello, I'm ringing from flat 94.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 I've read most of that to you because it's a short 2 call. 3 Do you remember what you did in response to that 4 advice? 5 A. You know, I thought I made only two phone calls, and 6 Ethiopia recalls we made more phone calls. I only 7 remember two of them. But I remember -- I don't know at 8 what stage -- Ethiopia going to the bathroom, wetting 9 the towel and bringing it for us, because he advised us 10 to do that, I remember that. But I don't know at what 11 stage. 12 The phone calls, I only remember two, to be honest 13 with you. 14 MR MILLETT: Okay. All right. 15 Ms Demissie, we've been going for about 50 minutes 16 now. 17 I wonder, Mr Chairman, whether that's an appropriate 18 moment for a break. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Is that a good point from your point 20 of view? 21 MR MILLETT: It is. 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Maybe you would like to have a short 23 break now. 24 THE WITNESS: Yes. 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course. We'll stop then for just</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 over 10 minutes.</p> <p>2 I'm going to ask you not to talk to anyone about</p> <p>3 your evidence while you're out of the room, and we'll</p> <p>4 resume at 11.05.</p> <p>5 So if you would like to go with the usher now,</p> <p>6 she'll look after you, all right? Thank you very much.</p> <p>7 Right, 11.05, please.</p> <p>8 (10.53 am)</p> <p>9 (A short break)</p> <p>10 (11.05 am)</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? Do sit down. Are you</p> <p>12 happy to carry on?</p> <p>13 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>15 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: Ms Demissie, thank you very much for coming</p> <p>17 back to us.</p> <p>18 Can I turn, then, to your description of the</p> <p>19 firefighters arriving at about 3.00 am, as you say in</p> <p>20 your statement, and take you, please, to paragraph 24 of</p> <p>21 your statement on page 5.</p> <p>22 You say there:</p> <p>23 "24. At around 3pm a firefighter came to our door."</p> <p>24 First of all, should that be "am"?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, that should be "am", yeah, yeah.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 A. -- to die. In the living room, we were in the living</p> <p>2 room.</p> <p>3 Q. There's one more 999 call which was made at 03.05.27 and</p> <p>4 that's INQ00000281, if I can just ask you to be shown</p> <p>5 that, please.</p> <p>6 This is a transcript of an emergency call received</p> <p>7 by the police, the MPS, and associated calls, timed at</p> <p>8 03.05.27, if you see that.</p> <p>9 I will just read a little bit of it to you. The</p> <p>10 police operator, who is a male, says:</p> <p>11 "MPS Operator (male): Police emergency can I help</p> <p>12 you?</p> <p>13 "Operator 2 (female): (Background noise — a voice is</p> <p>14 heard but words are not distinct) Hi it's Portadown</p> <p>15 connecting mobile number 079[redacted]449. There's been</p> <p>16 no request but it (inaudible words) to me (inaudible)</p> <p>17 upset in the background there.</p> <p>18 "MPS Operator: No problem Portadown thank you. Can</p> <p>19 I just take their service provider please?</p> <p>20 "Operator 2: Yes (inaudible)</p> <p>21 "MPS Operator: It's who sorry?</p> <p>22 "Operator 2: O2</p> <p>23 "MPS Operator: I see that's great thank you. Hello</p> <p>24 caller this is the police can you hear me?</p> <p>25 "Caller: Jesus, Jesus (Background noise but nothing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 Q. How do you remember that it was about 3.00 am?</p> <p>2 A. I think when we left the place, after we came out, we</p> <p>3 must have checked what time we came out, I think, and</p> <p>4 that's why I thought 3 pm[sic].</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. So this is you later on when you did your</p> <p>6 statement --</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. -- looking back on it and working it out --</p> <p>9 A. Yeah, yeah --</p> <p>10 Q. -- rather than remembering it at the time?</p> <p>11 A. No, no, no, not remembering it at the time.</p> <p>12 Q. Let's try this approach.</p> <p>13 I know you don't remember your third 999 call, but</p> <p>14 how long after the last call you remember do you think</p> <p>15 the firefighters arrived?</p> <p>16 A. It could be 10 minutes. About 10 minutes, probably.</p> <p>17 Q. What were you doing when the firefighters arrived at</p> <p>18 your door?</p> <p>19 A. When they arrived at the door, I remember that instant</p> <p>20 we were just, like, waiting for the flat to catch fire,</p> <p>21 and we were praising God again and again for his</p> <p>22 goodness. We were looking back at our lives and, you</p> <p>23 know, we were praising God, we were praising God a lot</p> <p>24 at that stage. We were just --</p> <p>25 Q. Where were --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 distinct)</p> <p>2 "MPS Operator: Caller this is the police I cannot</p> <p>3 understand you</p> <p>4 "Female Caller: Jesus, Jesus</p> <p>5 "MPS Operator: Where are you?</p> <p>6 "Female Caller: Jesus (inaudible)</p> <p>7 "MPS Operator: Caller where are you? Calm down</p> <p>8 where are you?"</p> <p>9 Then a little bit lower down, do you see it says</p> <p>10 female caller says:</p> <p>11 "Female Caller: Jesus Jesus Jesus</p> <p>12 "MPS Operator: Caller can you hear me. Where are</p> <p>13 you?</p> <p>14 "Female Caller: Jesus (inaudible words)."</p> <p>15 It goes on a little bit like that over the page, and</p> <p>16 then a third of the way down over the page:</p> <p>17 "Female Caller: Jesus, Jesus."</p> <p>18 And then:</p> <p>19 "Female Caller: I'm here Sir. God bless you."</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Ms Demissie, are you all right?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, I'm fine.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, if you need --</p> <p>23 A. No, no, I'm fine, it is just the power of the word.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course. But if you need a little</p> <p>25 pause at any stage --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 A. Yeah, yeah, I'm fine.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Take a pause. There's some water on the desk</p> <p>3 if you need something.</p> <p>4 A. Thank you.</p> <p>5 (Pause)</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well done. Thank you.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: I know it's difficult to bring these back.</p> <p>10 My question, having shown you that, is: do you</p> <p>11 remember making this call at all?</p> <p>12 A. Honestly, I don't remember this call, I don't remember</p> <p>13 this call. But, you know, we were like complete -- like</p> <p>14 we knew, you know, we knew this is the end. I wasn't</p> <p>15 frightened of death in the past, but I was face-to-face</p> <p>16 with death, we were face-to-face, and at that stage, you</p> <p>17 just -- I didn't know -- this is like my -- I call Jesus</p> <p>18 every time in my life, every time, every minute, I call</p> <p>19 him, and this was, like, just coming naturally.</p> <p>20 I wasn't thinking, I was just -- it was coming out.</p> <p>21 Yeah, I don't remember.</p> <p>22 Q. Can I just take you to your statement. We'll take our</p> <p>23 time over this.</p> <p>24 A. No problem.</p> <p>25 Q. Go to your statement and turn to page 6 and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 Q. You remember saying that in the stairs?</p> <p>2 A. This one I remember; the other one I don't.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you remember having your mobile with you when you</p> <p>4 were in the stairs?</p> <p>5 A. No, no. What happened was I had my mobile and I put it</p> <p>6 in my bag. My bag was on the table. And when the</p> <p>7 fireman came, Ethiopia and I were, like, leaving, and</p> <p>8 Ethiopia said, "Pick up your bag", and I picked up my</p> <p>9 bag, because she saw me putting the mobile in my bag.</p> <p>10 But I wasn't talking -- I wasn't holding it, it was in</p> <p>11 the bag. I think the mobile was in the bag.</p> <p>12 And as we were going -- I mean, there were like --</p> <p>13 they were like also confused how to take us down, it was</p> <p>14 not easy. So they were trying this way -- in fact, what</p> <p>15 they said when they arrived was, "We will try to take</p> <p>16 you out", they said, "We are not sure but we will try to</p> <p>17 save you", you know.</p> <p>18 So they were like leading us sometimes from the</p> <p>19 front, from the back, and they were pushing us around.</p> <p>20 Q. Yes. I am just trying to get a sense of whether what</p> <p>21 you were saying on the transcript of the call -- "Jesus,</p> <p>22 Jesus" -- was when you were in the stairs or before you</p> <p>23 left your flat.</p> <p>24 A. No. On the phone, I might have said it, because I don't</p> <p>25 remember making that phone call, I don't remember the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 paragraph 28.</p> <p>2 This is the second paragraph in the section of your</p> <p>3 statement underneath the heading "Leaving via the</p> <p>4 stairs".</p> <p>5 You explain in paragraph 27 going into the stairs,</p> <p>6 and we'll look at that in just a moment in a bit more</p> <p>7 detail, but on this I just want to show you</p> <p>8 paragraph 28.</p> <p>9 You say:</p> <p>10 "28. As we were walking I was feeling very scared.</p> <p>11 The smoke was very thick and it was dark, and I was</p> <p>12 shouting Jesus! Jesus!"</p> <p>13 Just pausing there --</p> <p>14 A. I remember that. Clearly I remember, because now I knew</p> <p>15 we were coming out and I was calling Jesus, like,</p> <p>16 intentionally and knowingly. And that time it was dark,</p> <p>17 it was frightening, still frightening, but at this stage</p> <p>18 there was a little bit of hope. And I remember that</p> <p>19 instant. In fact, the fireman said, "Please be quiet"</p> <p>20 because he felt distracted, I think, and I continued</p> <p>21 shouting "Jesus", yes. I remember this one. The other</p> <p>22 one, I don't remember.</p> <p>23 Q. You don't remember the other. Showing you the call and</p> <p>24 showing you this statement --</p> <p>25 A. Yes, this one I remember.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 last phone call. The last word I remember from the</p> <p>2 boardroom[sic] was when he said, you know, "If you don't</p> <p>3 go out now, you will die". You know, I remember that</p> <p>4 part. I thought that was the last call, but I might</p> <p>5 have made -- I mean, I have made more calls then.</p> <p>6 I don't remember that instance.</p> <p>7 Q. No. I mean, let me put this possibility to you: is it</p> <p>8 possible that your phone made, as it were, a pocket call</p> <p>9 from your bag and then recorded what was being said?</p> <p>10 A. Maybe, yes, I don't know.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Coming back to the arrival of the firefighters into</p> <p>13 your flat, do you remember whether they came inside the</p> <p>14 flat when they arrived?</p> <p>15 A. They didn't come inside, they were at the door.</p> <p>16 Q. Did they stay at the door?</p> <p>17 A. No, they just took us out.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 A. I don't think they came to the flat.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you remember whether a firefighter took into the</p> <p>21 bathroom in order to help you put a wet towel on your</p> <p>22 head or around your head?</p> <p>23 A. I don't remember, I don't remember that.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you have a conversation with the firefighters at</p> <p>25 that point?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 A. I don't remember. Even that one, the one when they said 2 there "We will try", Ethiopia remembered it. It's not 3 me remembered that. 4 Q. Did they say anything to you that you remember? 5 A. No. 6 Q. Did you say anything to them that you remember? 7 A. Yes, just shouting "Jesus". 8 Q. I see. 9 When you went out of the flat, do you remember 10 whether the door was closed behind you? 11 A. Mm, yeah, I think that door needed locking. I think it 12 was not a self-closing door. I don't know. 13 I don't know, for some reason I thought I needed the 14 keys as well, because I dropped my key -- again, you 15 know, like the confusion of knowing what was happening 16 and then hoping to come back, and when I dropped my key, 17 I was like saying, "Oh, I dropped my key", you know? So 18 it's like ... I don't know what I was thinking. 19 Q. You say that in paragraph 28 of your statement. 20 A. Yes, I did. I did say, "I dropped my key". 21 Q. As we can see. 22 My question is: do you remember whether, when you 23 and Ethiopia left the flat, the door shut? 24 A. Yeah, I don't know. I don't know. Maybe it was locked. 25 Q. When you came out of the flat with Ethiopia, were you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 you'd opened the front door? 2 A. It was the same, but in the flat at least I could see, 3 you know, I could see inside the flat. But on the 4 outside, I didn't see anything, nothing, until we got to 5 the 2nd floor. 6 Q. You say it was very hot as you came out of the flat. 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. Was it hotter than the flat? 9 A. I don't know. It's about the same maybe. I don't know, 10 I don't know. 11 Q. You go on to describe the smoke smelling of chemicals. 12 Is that the same chemical smell that you had smelt while 13 you were in your flat? 14 A. I don't know. I don't remember. I mean, it was just 15 a smell of something, but I don't know, I can't compare. 16 Q. When you left your flat and went with the firefighters, 17 do you remember how you got to the stairwell door? 18 A. Yes. The firefighter was like, you know, doing this, 19 this, and he was trying different ways of coming out and 20 taking me. Sometimes he was, you know, next to me, 21 sometimes behind, sometimes pushing. They were trying 22 to find their way I think. It was very difficult. 23 I don't know how he did it, to be honest. 24 Q. Did he have a torch? 25 A. Torch -- oh, he had --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 first or was she in front of you? 2 A. She was first. 3 Q. She was first? 4 A. She was first. 5 Q. Do you remember what the the conditions were like in the 6 landing outside your flat at that stage? 7 A. Breathing was literally impossible. Nothing we could 8 see. That was the condition. Smell. 9 Q. The smell? 10 A. Bad smell, yes. Chemical. 11 Q. What was the smell? 12 A. Bad chemicals. 13 Q. Same as before? 14 A. But breathing was a problem then. 15 Q. Right. Let's just look at that a bit more. 16 If you go, please, to paragraph 26 of your 17 statement, so going back to page 5, you say at the foot 18 of that page: 19 "26. The smoke was really bad as we came out of the 20 flat and very hot. I don't remember it all but think I 21 had a towel over my head. There was very strong smoke 22 that smelt of chemicals." 23 Was the smoke in the communal hallway, the landing, 24 worse when you came out onto it then with the 25 firefighter than it had been on the earlier occasions</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 Q. A light. 2 A. Maybe he had, I don't know. But he was not able to see. 3 Honestly, there was not -- because how I know is he was 4 like taking us this way and then he takes us back and 5 then he takes me this way, and so I know he was not able 6 to see what ... 7 Q. When you got to the stairs, you say there was thick 8 smoke in the stairs. How did the smoke in the stairs 9 compare with the smoke in the lobby, the landing? 10 A. It could be about the same. It could be about the same. 11 Still dark, still thick smoke, still -- just dark, it 12 was dark. What I remember clearly about the stairs is 13 how dark the stairs were. 14 Q. Did you notice anything about the temperature in the 15 stairs when you went into them? 16 A. Yes, it was hot, but maybe it's -- I mean, the striking 17 thing was the darkness about the stairs for me, to be 18 honest. 19 Q. Do you remember anything about the temperature? 20 A. I don't know. Mm, could be hot. And also, you know, 21 from inside, you know, there was hope, there was hope, 22 so maybe I was not paying attention to the heat, because 23 there was some hope, you know, of coming out of that 24 fire. 25 Q. As you came down the stairs, did the temperature change</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 at all?</p> <p>2 A. Downstairs?</p> <p>3 Q. As you went out?</p> <p>4 A. It was fine, it was normal then downstairs.</p> <p>5 Q. Did there come a point on your journey down the stairs</p> <p>6 when the temperature started to drop?</p> <p>7 A. Yes. Again, I would say down it was fine, it was</p> <p>8 like -- and also we were able to see the light and, you</p> <p>9 know, the temperature wasn't a problem. I wouldn't even</p> <p>10 think about it, because --</p> <p>11 Q. At what point do you remember first seeing light?</p> <p>12 A. The light? The light ...</p> <p>13 Q. At what point?</p> <p>14 A. Maybe 2nd floor, 3rd floor, maybe. I don't know. 2nd,</p> <p>15 3rd floor, I don't know, could be.</p> <p>16 Q. So quite close to the exit?</p> <p>17 A. Yes. Maybe 3rd floor.</p> <p>18 Q. On your journey down the stairs, did you notice any</p> <p>19 doors from the stairwell to other lobbies open?</p> <p>20 A. Down the stairs, you mean on the ground floor?</p> <p>21 Q. No, let me put it a different way.</p> <p>22 As you were coming down the stairs, did you notice</p> <p>23 whether any of the stairwell doors were open?</p> <p>24 A. I didn't see, I don't know, it was dark.</p> <p>25 Q. You didn't see any light coming from any of those doors?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 (11.26 am)</p> <p>2 (A short break)</p> <p>3 (11.40 am)</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, now, Mr Millett, I imagine</p> <p>5 you've found one or two questions.</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: There are literally one or two.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: I shall regret saying that!</p> <p>9 (Pause)</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Ms Demissie?</p> <p>11 Mr Millett says he has one or two questions for you,</p> <p>12 so let's see how we go, shall we?</p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: Ms Demissie, thank you very much for coming</p> <p>14 back to me.</p> <p>15 First of all, when you left the flat, do you</p> <p>16 remember whether the flat itself was on fire?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you check the rooms to see whether it was on fire?</p> <p>19 A. About a few days after, yes, I checked through -- you</p> <p>20 know, from the street, checked if the flat was burned</p> <p>21 from outside, but --</p> <p>22 Q. No.</p> <p>23 A. -- not on the day.</p> <p>24 Q. Not on the night, okay.</p> <p>25 When you went down the stairs, did you have a wet</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 A. No, I don't remember.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>3 Well, Ms Demissie, I've come to the end of my</p> <p>4 questions that I wanted to ask you and I'm very grateful</p> <p>5 to you.</p> <p>6 Mr Chairman, it might be appropriate if we just take</p> <p>7 a short break now just to make sure I have covered</p> <p>8 everything I need to.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>10 Ms Demissie, it may be that, on reflection,</p> <p>11 Mr Millett will find that he has a few more questions,</p> <p>12 so we're going to give him an opportunity to think about</p> <p>13 that now. We'll break until 11.35.</p> <p>14 Again, please don't talk to anyone about your</p> <p>15 evidence while you're out of the room, and then, when</p> <p>16 you come back, we'll see if there are any more questions</p> <p>17 for you. All right?</p> <p>18 So if you would like to go with the usher, we'll</p> <p>19 resume at 11.35.</p> <p>20 Thank you.</p> <p>21 (Pause)</p> <p>22 All right, I've given you slightly longer than the</p> <p>23 usual 5 minutes, Mr Millett, but it works on the clock.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you very much.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, 11.35, please.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 towel around your nose and mouth?</p> <p>2 A. I think I had, but I don't think -- that's another</p> <p>3 thing, you see, I don't remember that detail, because</p> <p>4 I remember having something on me, but I don't know if</p> <p>5 I put it on, if I left it or -- I don't remember.</p> <p>6 Q. You don't remember?</p> <p>7 A. I think -- I don't remember. Maybe I have, maybe</p> <p>8 I covered and then I took it off, could be different</p> <p>9 things, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay.</p> <p>11 At paragraph 29 of your statement, on page 6, if you</p> <p>12 can just be shown that, you say:</p> <p>13 "29. We came out at 3:11am. The fire fighters were</p> <p>14 in lines standing outside of the tower. They were</p> <p>15 standing waiting to go in. The two firefighters who</p> <p>16 came for us, saved our lives. I did not meet those two</p> <p>17 firefighters afterwards. For us they were angels."</p> <p>18 Do you want to add anything there to your expression</p> <p>19 of gratitude?</p> <p>20 A. Yes. Me get a little bit emotional about this.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Take your time and go at your own</p> <p>22 pace.</p> <p>23 A. Yes, our experience is unique and it's unprecedented.</p> <p>24 And especially for me, I've had challenge in my life,</p> <p>25 but this is unique in its form, and, you know, death was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 there right in front of me and Ethiopia, who was like --</p> <p>2 she's a sister, really, she's not just a friend. She</p> <p>3 was with me on that night, she came because of me, and</p> <p>4 we were both to die, and she was going to leave a son,</p> <p>5 who she was very, very close to, behind, and she lost</p> <p>6 her husband about four years ago.</p> <p>7 And, I mean, I was like in tears all the time</p> <p>8 thinking about, you know, her. I mean, I was thinking</p> <p>9 about myself and also her being trapped in that</p> <p>10 situation.</p> <p>11 And, I mean, with my faith, you know, death should</p> <p>12 not be feared, but I was -- to be honest, I was</p> <p>13 terrified. I just -- I don't remember any situation</p> <p>14 I've been to at that level.</p> <p>15 And also, all along, I was praying, we were praying,</p> <p>16 seriously, we were reading the Bible, but finally we</p> <p>17 gave up hope, we thought nobody would come. One thing</p> <p>18 is they wouldn't be able to get to that place because we</p> <p>19 saw it, what it's like. And who would sacrifice a life</p> <p>20 to come there and die with us, you know? So that was</p> <p>21 a hopeless situation.</p> <p>22 And they arrived, and they took us out, by hand.</p> <p>23 For me, they were sent by God and they were angels.</p> <p>24 I would just like to say thank you, and may God</p> <p>25 bless them and their family and their loved ones,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 residents, friends.</p> <p>2 I personally would like to say thank you for helping</p> <p>3 me to get back my life.</p> <p>4 And I would like to say thank you to the people of</p> <p>5 this country, who contributed to all this, getting back</p> <p>6 life together, in different ways. I don't know who to</p> <p>7 say -- I mean, if I call, you know, departments -- if</p> <p>8 I say, for example, London Transport, it's just a simple</p> <p>9 thing to say, because there are so many and a lot of,</p> <p>10 you know, government departments, and the Prime Minister</p> <p>11 made her pledge as well and the royal family, and the</p> <p>12 British public, the kindhearted British public, helped</p> <p>13 us to get back to where we are. I love this country,</p> <p>14 I've always loved this country.</p> <p>15 And thank you to, you know, my pastor who is here</p> <p>16 accompanying me, and Shannon, my counsellor, is here</p> <p>17 with me as well. I would like to say thank you for all</p> <p>18 the support I've received, literally. I don't want to</p> <p>19 mention this department, this department, if I say this</p> <p>20 social worker, that -- because there are so many people</p> <p>21 involved and all the faith communities involved.</p> <p>22 And just I thank God for all this, and that's what</p> <p>23 I want to say.</p> <p>24 I don't want to remember much about the chemicals</p> <p>25 and things because it doesn't help me. It helps me, you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 really, I don't know what to say.</p> <p>2 Q. Ms Demissie, thank you for that. I'm sure that you will</p> <p>3 be thanked.</p> <p>4 I have a final question, and it's this: in addition</p> <p>5 to the witness statement that you provided, and in</p> <p>6 addition to what you've told the chairman this morning,</p> <p>7 is there anything else about what you saw, heard, felt,</p> <p>8 smelt, on the night of the fire itself, that you would</p> <p>9 wish the chairman to know?</p> <p>10 A. I think I've said what I experienced.</p> <p>11 Talking about it and facing the situations are not</p> <p>12 the same. I'm relaxed and I'm in a room here, and</p> <p>13 I survived while a lot of residents who we knew and were</p> <p>14 close to us didn't make it.</p> <p>15 So now, for us, it's a time of saying thank you,</p> <p>16 really, for me. What I want to take from this is that</p> <p>17 this lesson will be, you know, learnt properly and the</p> <p>18 mistakes, the mistakes which were made in the past,</p> <p>19 wouldn't be made again. That's the most important part.</p> <p>20 And the other thing is nobody can bring back, you</p> <p>21 know, things, they have happened.</p> <p>22 The other thing is I am in a permanent place right</p> <p>23 now, and I feel I've been supported to get this place.</p> <p>24 I would like to say thank you to everyone, literally</p> <p>25 everyone, who supported me and Ethiopia and the other</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 know, to remember the good things I have received</p> <p>2 through this.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Ms Demissie, thank you very much, and can</p> <p>4 I thank you very much for coming here today and</p> <p>5 answering our questions and assisting us with our</p> <p>6 investigations. We really are very grateful to you, so</p> <p>7 thank you.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Ms Demissie, I would like to add my</p> <p>9 own thanks to that. You've obviously had a terrifying</p> <p>10 experience, and we're very grateful to you for being</p> <p>11 willing to come along and talk about it and explain what</p> <p>12 things were like on the night in question.</p> <p>13 It's important for us to know what people</p> <p>14 experienced and what was going on inside the building at</p> <p>15 different times, so your evidence will be very helpful</p> <p>16 to us, and I want you to know that and that we're very</p> <p>17 grateful to you for coming.</p> <p>18 I'm sorry if it's been a difficult experience for</p> <p>19 you to do that, but we are very grateful. Thank you.</p> <p>20 All right? Thank you very much, if you would like</p> <p>21 to go with the usher.</p> <p>22 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, Mr Millett.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: Well, Mr Chairman, there are two further</p> <p>25 statements I would wish to read into the record.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>2 ETHIOPIA ASSEFAL (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: The first of which is the witness statement of</p> <p>4 Ethiopia Assefal. There is quite a lot of this which is</p> <p>5 worthy of reading aloud into the record.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: You've heard quite a bit already this morning</p> <p>8 from the last witness about Ethiopia.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Her statement is IWS00000891. It's dated</p> <p>11 8 June 2018. There there's a statement of truth above</p> <p>12 the signature on page 18 of that statement.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: She originally lived in flat 195 on the</p> <p>15 21st floor of Grenfell Tower for some 20 years or so,</p> <p>16 with her husband, who died, unfortunately, in 2016, and</p> <p>17 with her son, Gabriel, who is now an adult, and they</p> <p>18 moved away in 2014.</p> <p>19 As you heard, she's very good friends with the last</p> <p>20 witness, Alemishet Demissie, who she calls Alam, and</p> <p>21 they had a study group about which you've heard.</p> <p>22 Can I pick it up at paragraph 13 on page 3 of the</p> <p>23 statement, first of all.</p> <p>24 She says:</p> <p>25 "13. I said goodnight to Alam at around 22:30. She</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 smoke. We looked at each other in horror. I was</p> <p>2 speechless. I didn't know what to say. After a few</p> <p>3 minutes, I said to her 'I am sorry Alam. We can't try</p> <p>4 and get out. There is too much smoke. We can't see</p> <p>5 anything. If we can get help from the firefighters then</p> <p>6 we can get out but otherwise we can't leave'.</p> <p>7 "22. I was absolutely petrified. I had this sudden</p> <p>8 realisation that we were both going to die. I tried to</p> <p>9 stay calm but I couldn't and neither of us knew what to</p> <p>10 do. I remember trying to think of ways that we could</p> <p>11 get out of the Tower. I thought about her holding on to</p> <p>12 me and walking down the stairwell but we would be</p> <p>13 walking down blindly because of the thickness of the</p> <p>14 smoke. I decided that this was not a good idea as I</p> <p>15 thought we would just pass out from the smoke. The</p> <p>16 smoke was so hot and thick. I said to Alam 'we are not</p> <p>17 leaving.'</p> <p>18 "23. We walked to the living room and shut the</p> <p>19 living room door. This is because the living room was</p> <p>20 the furthest away from the front door and we wanted to</p> <p>21 get away from the smoke."</p> <p>22 Then she describes praying and calling her son.</p> <p>23 Picking it up at the bottom of page 6, at</p> <p>24 paragraph 29, she says:</p> <p>25 "29. I looked outside the window of the living room</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 went into her bedroom and I lay on the sofa in the</p> <p>2 living room reading my book before I fell asleep. I</p> <p>3 think it was around 11pm when I fell asleep.</p> <p>4 "14. I woke up suddenly in the middle of the night.</p> <p>5 I didn't know what time it was when I woke up. I could</p> <p>6 hear Alam in the corridor saying 'yes I will pray. I</p> <p>7 will pray.' I think this is what woke me up. At the same</p> <p>8 time, I heard a glass window break and could hear a lot</p> <p>9 of noise coming from outside. It sounded like glass</p> <p>10 smashing outside."</p> <p>11 Then at 19 she says, over the next page:</p> <p>12 "19. Alam went to the front door to the flat to</p> <p>13 leave and I was stood behind her. When she opened the</p> <p>14 front door, heavy, thick, black smoke suddenly entered</p> <p>15 the flat. It came pouring in. I froze. I felt hot</p> <p>16 smoke on my face. It was pitch black in the communal</p> <p>17 landing. I couldn't see anything or hear anyone in the</p> <p>18 landing. I couldn't see a thing outside of the flat.</p> <p>19 "20. I was completely and utterly shocked. I just</p> <p>20 couldn't understand how this had happened. I was</p> <p>21 terrified. There were no fire alarms going off still.</p> <p>22 This was the moment I realised how serious the fire was.</p> <p>23 I thought to myself that we were trapped and we wouldn't</p> <p>24 be able to get out.</p> <p>25 "21. Alam quickly closed the front door to stop the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 as I was on the phone to him. I could see fire coming</p> <p>2 straight up the West side of the Tower towards Alam's</p> <p>3 flat. The fire was below the flat. I could see fire</p> <p>4 fighters outside on the ground. In my mind, I believed</p> <p>5 that calling 999 was pointless because I didn't think</p> <p>6 they would be able to rescue us but I told my friend</p> <p>7 that I would call them anyway.</p> <p>8 "30. I understand that the Inquiry have disclosed</p> <p>9 two 999 calls which were made by Alam. I understand</p> <p>10 that they are recorded as having been made at 02:24 and</p> <p>11 02:40.</p> <p>12 "31. I recall that Alam made four phone calls to</p> <p>13 the emergency services. I may be wrong about the number</p> <p>14 of calls which were made. What happened to us was so</p> <p>15 traumatic and this may have affected what I can</p> <p>16 remember. All I can say is that I believe Alam made</p> <p>17 four 999 calls in total."</p> <p>18 Then, Mr Chairman, from paragraphs 32 through all</p> <p>19 the way down to 45, she deals with the first, second and</p> <p>20 third calls.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: The third call she deals with at paragraph 46,</p> <p>23 and I'll just read some of those paragraphs.</p> <p>24 At 32 she says:</p> <p>25 "32. I told Alam to call the emergency services on</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 999, even though I didn't believe that they could help</p> <p>2 us.</p> <p>3 "33. Alam then looked outside the window and</p> <p>4 questioned why we needed to call them as the fire</p> <p>5 services were there and aware that there was a fire in</p> <p>6 the Tower. She probably saw the firefighters at the</p> <p>7 bottom of the Tower when she said this. I insisted that</p> <p>8 she call anyway so Alam used her phone to call 999."</p> <p>9 I shall pick it up at 36 at the bottom of page 7.</p> <p>10 She says:</p> <p>11 "My phone started ringing. It was my friend who I</p> <p>12 had spoken to before, I answered the call and he asked</p> <p>13 me what the operator had said. I told him that they had</p> <p>14 told us to get out of the flat. He agreed with the</p> <p>15 advice and told me to get out. I explained to him that</p> <p>16 there was too much smoke in the hallway so we couldn't</p> <p>17 get out. He didn't know what to say. He told me to</p> <p>18 call 999 again to ask them what to do.</p> <p>19 "37. I hung up the phone and said 'Alam, can you</p> <p>20 phone them again'. She refused at first to call because</p> <p>21 she said that it was pointless and that we were going to</p> <p>22 die. I also believed that she was right but I insisted</p> <p>23 that she called them and she did agree to call them</p> <p>24 again."</p> <p>25 Then at paragraph 38 to 41 she deals with the second</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 out any more smoke from entering.</p> <p>2 "44. At one point I was banging on the living room</p> <p>3 window to try and get attention to where we were. After</p> <p>4 the fire I remember watching a video of the fire and I</p> <p>5 saw footage of someone at the window who I believed was</p> <p>6 me but I can't remember where this video was from and</p> <p>7 what news channel was showing it. I was wearing a long</p> <p>8 sleeved blue cardigan on the night.</p> <p>9 "45. I remember my friend phoned me again to find</p> <p>10 out if I had called 999 and what I was doing. He told</p> <p>11 me to call them again to ask them what to do next. I</p> <p>12 was incredibly reluctant to do this but I told Alam to</p> <p>13 call them one last time."</p> <p>14 Then at paragraph 46, she says:</p> <p>15 "46. Alam called 999 for the last time. Again, I</p> <p>16 heard her tell them that she was in Flat 94. This was a</p> <p>17 very short conversation and I just heard her say 'Ok.</p> <p>18 Thank you. God bless you.' She hung up the phone. As</p> <p>19 I have said, this is my recollection and I may be wrong</p> <p>20 about the number of calls that Alam made to the fire</p> <p>21 brigade.</p> <p>22 "47. She looked at me and told me that they said</p> <p>23 'if we don't get out of the flat in the next two to</p> <p>24 three minutes, then we are going to die.' When said</p> <p>25 this I froze. She grabbed my hand tightly and said 'if</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 call, and she says at 39:</p> <p>2 "39. There was now smoke coming into the living</p> <p>3 room from the hallway inside the flat. I looked over at</p> <p>4 the living room door which was closed and could see</p> <p>5 smoke was coming through from the gap underneath the</p> <p>6 door. It was a light grey smoke that was starting to</p> <p>7 spread around the living room. I could still see in the</p> <p>8 flat despite there being smoke. It wasn't like the</p> <p>9 smoke I had seen outside the front door of the flat.</p> <p>10 "40. I just started praying again but at this point</p> <p>11 my lungs started to feel tight and felt like they were</p> <p>12 burning from the smoke and my eyes were watering. I was</p> <p>13 coughing too.</p> <p>14 "41. The living room window was closed the whole</p> <p>15 time and so I don't think smoke was coming through from</p> <p>16 the window. The kitchen window was open but I hadn't</p> <p>17 realised this until later on. I didn't know at the time</p> <p>18 that the kitchen window was open. I started to really</p> <p>19 panic and I was crying out in fear. The room was</p> <p>20 filling up with smoke."</p> <p>21 Then at paragraphs 42 to 45 she deals with the third</p> <p>22 call, Mr Chairman, and at paragraph 43 she says:</p> <p>23 "43. I grabbed some clothes that were already in</p> <p>24 the living room, wet them in the kitchen, and then put</p> <p>25 them under the door of the living room to try and block</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 it is in God's will then there is nothing we can do</p> <p>2 about it. We have had a good life.' We both said</p> <p>3 goodbye to each other.</p> <p>4 "48. I really believed that this was it. This was</p> <p>5 the moment we were going to die. We both sat down on</p> <p>6 the sofa. I still had my scarf wrapped around my neck</p> <p>7 and my bag over my shoulder. Alam still had the wet</p> <p>8 towel over her face. I had taken the wet towel I had</p> <p>9 around my face off and I had put it on the table.</p> <p>10 "49. As I sat on the sofa, I could see the wooden</p> <p>11 brown floor turn black with smoke. I can't say now</p> <p>12 whether it was actually the floor which changed colour</p> <p>13 and turned black, or whether it was black smoke on the</p> <p>14 floor which made it look black. I was so scared and so</p> <p>15 traumatised at the time that it is difficult to</p> <p>16 remember. All I can say is that the floor which was</p> <p>17 brown was now black.</p> <p>18 "50. I had my shoes on but I could feel my feet</p> <p>19 were getting hot. I think the floor was getting hot. I</p> <p>20 was absolutely petrified. I was so scared and wondered</p> <p>21 which part of the flat was going to catch fire first.</p> <p>22 "51. For a split second, I thought about how we</p> <p>23 could escape. I thought about jumping out of the Tower.</p> <p>24 I looked out of the closed window. The ground floor was</p> <p>25 too far down to jump and the fire was coming up the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 Tower. I thought to myself that jumping out the Tower 2 would be certain death, but then again staying in the 3 flat would also be certain death. I personally thought 4 that there was no difference in dying on the sofa or 5 jumping out of the window and dying outside. I banged 6 on the window with my fist just in case anyone could see 7 us but I knew this wouldn't help. I sat back down and I 8 could just feel my throat burning from the smoke. It 9 was difficult to breathe. There was smoke all in the 10 living room. My eyes continued to burn and water and I 11 was coughing from the smoke. I knew that this was the 12 moment I was going to die.</p> <p>13 "52. Alam shouted 'I can hear someone knocking!' I 14 could hear a knocking noise too. I quickly got up, ran 15 to the living room door, opened it and looked into the 16 hallway of the flat. I shouted 'is anyone there?' No 17 one answered but the knocking on the door carried on.</p> <p>18 "53. I opened the front door of the flat and 19 standing outside the flat was a firefighter. I couldn't 20 believe someone had come to save us. He was wearing 21 what I would describe as a gas mask and he had a torch 22 light on his head.</p> <p>23 "54. As soon as I opened the door, thick black 24 smoke from the hallway poured into the flat. I then saw 25 another firefighter standing behind him. He asked me if</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 couldn't see anything. It was pitch black and full of 2 thick smoke. I had now covered my entire face with the 3 towel.</p> <p>4 "59. I didn't know where the fire exit was because 5 the layout of the hallway seemed different since I had 6 lived there. I remember it took us a few minutes to 7 find the fire exit door to the staircase. The 8 firefighters had torches but they couldn't see anything 9 with them on either and that was because of the 10 thickness of the smoke. I remember bumping into a lot 11 of walls on this floor trying to find the doors to the 12 stairwell. The firefighter was feeling his way around 13 and tried several doors before we found the door to the 14 stairwell. I was just praying to God that we would make 15 it out alive. I was coughing uncontrollably and it was 16 so hard to breathe.</p> <p>17 "60. Once we all found the doors to the stairwell 18 we started to walk down the stairs as fast as we could. 19 I remember feeling incredibly hot as I was walking down 20 the staircase. It was hot like an oven. The 21 firefighter kept shouting out to his colleague to make 22 sure that we were still all together. Alam and the 23 other firefighter were behind us on the stairs.</p> <p>24 "61. Suddenly the firefighter I was holding on to 25 said 'we've lost your sister. We need to go back</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 I was alone. I said 'no. I am with my sister.' He 2 told me to 'go and get her. We are going to try and 3 save you.' My heart was racing so fast. He didn't 4 enter the flat but waited in the hallway with the door 5 open.</p> <p>6 "55. I ran into the living room and told Alam to 7 come with me as there were firefighters. She came with 8 me to the front door. The same firefighter told us to 9 hold onto him and to put towels around our faces. He 10 said he would try to get us out of the Tower by the 11 stairs and that we had to hold onto him tightly. 12 Although the firefighter had a gas mask on, I could 13 understand him very clearly.</p> <p>14 "56. I went back into the living room and I picked 15 up the wet towel that on the side of the table. Alam 16 already had her towel over her mouth and so she stayed 17 by the front door. I still had my bag over my shoulder 18 and put the wet towel over my face.</p> <p>19 "57. I think that we had been trapped inside the 20 flat for around two to three hours before we were 21 rescued. Before I left the flat I remember thinking 22 this is my last chance of making it out alive.</p> <p>23 "58. I put the wet towel over my face and held the 24 firefighters hand tightly. Alam was behind me with the 25 other firefighter. As we walked into the hallway, I</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 upstairs to find them.' I was terrified. I think we 2 walked up one flight of stairs and he shouted out for 3 his colleague. At this point I quickly removed the 4 towel from my face and could see Alam. I am not sure 5 what floor this was. The smoke must have been thinner 6 here because I was able to see her.</p> <p>7 "62. The stairs were very narrow and the 8 firefighter I was with quickly moved me to one side to 9 give away to another firefighter who was coming down the 10 stairs because the firefighter was holding someone in 11 his arms. It looked like he was holding a child. I 12 will never forget this image. It was haunting to see. 13 I have a feeling that this might have been Isaac Paulo. 14 I did not know him before the fire but I have seen his 15 photo since.</p> <p>16 "63. Alam and the other firefighter were back with 17 us. I put the towel over my face again, held onto the 18 firefighter tightly, and continued to walk down the 19 stairs. As we were going downstairs I could see through 20 the towel that the smoke was a little bit lighter.</p> <p>21 "64. I didn't talk the whole time we were walking 22 down the stairs. I didn't reply to the firefighter 23 either if he said something. I just kept praying and 24 praying that we would get out of the Tower safely. It 25 was difficult to breathe on the stairwell and it was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 hot.</p> <p>2 "65. The firefighter I was with kept calling out to</p> <p>3 his colleague to make sure they were still behind us. I</p> <p>4 couldn't hear any fire alarms going off in the building</p> <p>5 as I made my way down the stairs. I could occasionally</p> <p>6 hear Alam shouting 'Jesus!' At one point I heard her</p> <p>7 shout 'I've dropped my key!' The firefighter told her</p> <p>8 to not worry about that. I could hear people screaming</p> <p>9 in the stairwell but I didn't recognise the voices. I</p> <p>10 assume it was other residents trying to get out of the</p> <p>11 Tower. I was trying to block this out. I don't know</p> <p>12 which floors I heard this from.</p> <p>13 "66. The firefighter I was holding on to was</p> <p>14 encouraging me to keep going. We were walking down the</p> <p>15 stairs relatively quickly. There was smoke throughout</p> <p>16 the stairwell and I remember seeing bits on the floor</p> <p>17 like wallets and clothes but I don't think they were</p> <p>18 large enough to obstruct the stairs. I don't remember</p> <p>19 how long it took us to get down the stairs. I just</p> <p>20 remember the firefighter I was with say 'we made it'. I</p> <p>21 could hear a lot more noise now.</p> <p>22 "67. I removed the wet towel from my face and I saw</p> <p>23 that I had made it to the ground floor alive. I</p> <p>24 couldn't believe it. I was in a complete state of</p> <p>25 shock. I turned to the firefighter and just kept</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 Mr Chairman, that's all I propose to read from the</p> <p>2 statement.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: It will stand, like all the others, in its</p> <p>5 entirety as evidence in the record and will be taken</p> <p>6 into consideration.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course.</p> <p>8 RHEA ROJO (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: The second statement that I would wish to read</p> <p>10 to you this morning, before I hand over to Mr Rawat, is</p> <p>11 the statement of Rhea Rojo, IWS00000066.</p> <p>12 It's dated 24 April 2018. She lived at flat 91 on</p> <p>13 the 12th floor of Grenfell Tower, so the same floor as</p> <p>14 Alemishet Demissie and Ethiopia Assefal, from whom you</p> <p>15 have just heard.</p> <p>16 The statement of truth is on the first page, in the</p> <p>17 middle of the page before the main statement starts, and</p> <p>18 the signature page is at the very end at page 7.</p> <p>19 There are a number of paragraphs I would just wish</p> <p>20 to read.</p> <p>21 She explains in paragraph 6 that before</p> <p>22 December 2016 she visited Grenfell Tower approximately</p> <p>23 three times to visit a relative whom she calls uncle and</p> <p>24 that's her friend Farshid Kaficheraghi, who she came to</p> <p>25 know in 2012.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 holding him telling him that he had saved me and that he</p> <p>2 was 'my angel'."</p> <p>3 Then at paragraph 69 she says:</p> <p>4 "69. Because of the falling debris, we could not</p> <p>5 get out of the Tower to safety. We needed to get to the</p> <p>6 other side of the road but we couldn't because the</p> <p>7 debris was raining down. Suddenly, four or five</p> <p>8 firefighters circled around me and covered me with</p> <p>9 shields to protect me.</p> <p>10 "70. I waited with the firefighters by the</p> <p>11 entrance, waiting for a moment when the debris stopped.</p> <p>12 The firefighters with me suddenly shouted 'go!' and we</p> <p>13 ran out of the Tower and we ran across to the other side</p> <p>14 of the road.</p> <p>15 "71. I understand that there is a photograph taken</p> <p>16 from CCTV inside the Tower which shows me leaving the</p> <p>17 Tower at 03:07. The police showed me this photograph</p> <p>18 and I identified the person in it as me. I think that</p> <p>19 we were trapped in the flat for two hours. That would</p> <p>20 mean that I woke up at around 01:00.</p> <p>21 "72. I believed that Alam called the fire brigade</p> <p>22 for the last time not long before 03:00. We were</p> <p>23 rescued by the firefighters after this. I don't know</p> <p>24 how long it took for me to get from the flat down the</p> <p>25 stairs."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 She says at paragraph 12:</p> <p>2 "12. The Tenant Management Organisation had changed</p> <p>3 the front door to flat 91 about a month before the fire,</p> <p>4 from a brown door into a white door. The new door shut</p> <p>5 and locked automatically. You had to lock the old one</p> <p>6 from the outside."</p> <p>7 At 14 she says:</p> <p>8 "14. The windows were just normal windows. I did not</p> <p>9 notice any problems with them."</p> <p>10 She says at paragraph 18 that while she was staying</p> <p>11 with uncle, she met Helen Gebremeskel and started</p> <p>12 staying with her two to three times a week, and she</p> <p>13 lived at flat 186 on the 21st floor. She's also</p> <p>14 provided a witness statement to the inquiry,</p> <p>15 Mr Chairman.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Then at paragraphs 31 and following she</p> <p>18 describes her experiences on the night of the fire</p> <p>19 itself.</p> <p>20 If I can just pick that up at paragraph 31 and 32.</p> <p>21 At 31, she says:</p> <p>22 "31. On the evening in question, I was in Helen's</p> <p>23 flat but uncle called me and asked me to go to his flat.</p> <p>24 This was early on in the evening. It was past 11pm by</p> <p>25 the time I was able to go down to his flat. Everything</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 was normal at that time. I was trying to help him clean 2 up mess in his kitchen because there was work going on 3 in his flat. They had removed the old floor in his 4 kitchen to change it.</p> <p>5 "32. I was in his flat, in the kitchen when we 6 heard commotion downstairs. We heard the fire 7 department's car. We looked out of the window. This 8 was past midnight, I am not sure of the time. I think 9 00:30 — 00:45 when we heard the commotion downstairs. I 10 now know that the fire was reported at 00:54, but this 11 is how I remember it. I saw the smoke first. The smoke 12 was rising past the window I was looking out of. I was 13 looking out of the kitchen window. It was thick black 14 smoke."</p> <p>15 Then picking it up at paragraph 36, she says: 16 "36. I felt like something was wrong so I looked 17 out of the bedroom window and saw some people standing 18 in the front of the building, near the Kensington 19 Leisure Centre. I saw something like fire crackers in 20 the window. It was like fire balls that were spreading, 21 I cannot explain it exactly. I saw the fire crackers in 22 the air, it was spreading. They were going up from what 23 I can remember. The colours of the fire was yellow, 24 bits of red and some blue and black smoke. 25 "37. The bedroom window was open at this point, I</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 recently bumped into him in the street and we talked 2 about meeting that time. His name was Roy from flat 95. 3 "44. There was no smoke in the hallway. I pressed 4 the lift button. I know this is wrong but I was 5 panicking. When the lift arrived there was a black guy 6 in his twenties or thirties in it. I went into the lift 7 and the lift started to go up. The other guy was just 8 pressing buttons. I remember thinking if it went to the 9 21st floor I would bang on Helen's door. I didn't have 10 her number on the mobile I had taken with me. 11 "45. The lift went to the 18th floor and the doors 12 opened. I left the lift to check what was going on. 13 Two ladies in the hallway opened the stairwell door and 14 I could see thick smoke in the stairwell at that point. 15 I was scared and panicked and went straight back into 16 the lift. The two ladies got into the lift with us on 17 this floor. My understanding of their actions was that 18 they wanted to go down the stairs but came into the lift 19 after seeing the smoke on the stairwell. 20 "46. The doors managed to close on 18th floor and 21 no smoke came into the lift at this point. The lift 22 started to go down again. 23 "47. The lift stopped at the 12th floor but the 24 lift doors did not open. It then continued to go down. 25 "48. All of a sudden, thick smoke came into the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 could smell burning and gas at the same time. The smell 2 smelt like burning plastic but a stronger smell was gas. 3 When I smelled that, I went to the kitchen to check 4 there was no gas leak or that uncle had left the cooker 5 on. He had a gas hob as far as I remember. 6 "38. I could hear sirens from fire cars at that 7 point but no fire alarms. 8 "39. Smoke was not yet coming into the flat. 9 "40. My instinct told me to leave. I had two 10 mobiles at the time. My apple iPhone was charging so I 11 left that but I grabbed my Lebara one (which I used to 12 make international calls to my family in the 13 Philippines) and had that with me. 14 "41. When I left the flat there was no smoke in the 15 flat at that point. The bedroom window was left open. 16 I am sure that was the only window which was open. The 17 front door shut behind me when I left the flat. 18 "42. All of the doors inside the flat were left 19 open. 20 "43. When I came out of his flat, I went to the 21 lift. There was a guy from the same floor, he came out 22 just wearing shorts, saying what is happening, I said 23 there is the fire brigade here and there is a fire going 24 on from a lower flat. He went back into his flat. I 25 did not know what his name was at the time but I</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 lift. The door didn't open, so I don't know where the 2 smoke came from. It might have been from 10th or 9th 3 floor as it was after the lift stopped at the 12th 4 floor. 5 "49. The lift was stopping at every floor and the 6 smoke was very thick. We could not see each other. Had 7 I held my hand in front of my face I wouldn't have been 8 able to see it. I was really panicked at this stage. 9 The lift was full of smoke from the ground to the 10 ceiling. 11 "50. I felt like I was trapped, when the lift 12 stopped at the ground floor it didn't open straight 13 away. At that time, I felt like the doors would never 14 open. The lift had been stopping on every floor and the 15 doors hadn't opened. I really panicked and begged that 16 I was not ready yet to go. By go, I meant die. 17 "51. When the doors opened, I was crawling coming 18 out of the lift, I wasn't standing. When the thick 19 smoke came in, I went down to the ground as it made me 20 feel dizzy. When the lift doors opened, smoke spread 21 everywhere, it went everywhere from the lift. It was 22 black thick smoke. It was just the smoke coming out of 23 the lift, there was no other smoke. I did not see 24 anyone from the fire brigade inside the building. 25 "52. I have seen a CCTV still with a handwritten</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 note of me leaving at 01:27:05. I think this time is</p> <p>2 accurate.</p> <p>3 "53. I didn't hear a fire alarm at any point whilst</p> <p>4 in the building, on uncle's floor or the 18th floor."</p> <p>5 Mr Chairman, that is all I propose to read from</p> <p>6 Ms Rojo's statement and, like the others, it will stand</p> <p>7 in its entirety as evidence to the inquiry and be taken</p> <p>8 into consideration in full.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>10 As I've said in other cases, the inquiry is very</p> <p>11 grateful to those who have taken the time and trouble to</p> <p>12 make these statements, and they will form part of the</p> <p>13 evidence which is taken into consideration. Yes.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you very much.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: At that point, Mr Chairman, I note the time,</p> <p>17 but I am going to propose to hand over to Mr Rawat</p> <p>18 straight away without further ado.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>20 Yes, Mr Rawat, when you're ready.</p> <p>21 JOSEPH JOHN (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>22 MR RAWAT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>23 What I propose to do now is to put into the record</p> <p>24 two statements from residents of flat 6 in</p> <p>25 Grenfell Tower. The first statement is that of Joseph</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 what was going on. I could see a fire engine outside.</p> <p>2 "12. I opened our front door to see what was</p> <p>3 happening. I went out onto the landing and pushed open</p> <p>4 the door to the stairs, where the noise was coming from.</p> <p>5 There was a big computer monitor on the floor. There</p> <p>6 was a firefighter kneeling down on the floor doing</p> <p>7 something on the monitor. There were 4 or 5</p> <p>8 firefighters on our floor, they were watching what was</p> <p>9 on the monitor. There was a hose coming out of the lift</p> <p>10 stretching along the floor of the lobby. No-one was</p> <p>11 holding it or using it, it was just lying there. I</p> <p>12 asked them what was going on. One of the firefighters</p> <p>13 said 'There's a minor fire in your block. Go back</p> <p>14 inside and wait for further instructions.' There was no</p> <p>15 smoke or fire at this point in our flat, on the landing,</p> <p>16 or in the stairwell. I told them 'I have a young baby</p> <p>17 and a disabled person living with me. What is the</p> <p>18 procedure for getting them out?' The firefighter</p> <p>19 replied, 'Go back and wait for further instructions.'</p> <p>20 "13. I went back to the flat and woke up Leanne. I</p> <p>21 told her that there is a fire in the block. She started</p> <p>22 panicking. She went into blind panic, she just wanted</p> <p>23 to get out. Our first priority was [redacted]. I said</p> <p>24 to her 'Don't panic, they've told us to stay where we</p> <p>25 are and they will come to get us.' I was trying to calm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 Kyle John, the reference for the statement is</p> <p>2 IWS00000062.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, very well.</p> <p>4 MR RAWAT: If we go to the last page of that statement,</p> <p>5 page 10 -- it's on the screen now -- we see that it's</p> <p>6 signed, dated 13 April 2018, and accompanied by</p> <p>7 a statement of truth.</p> <p>8 If I give some context, Mr Chairman, first.</p> <p>9 Mr John and his then partner Leanne Jackson Le Blanc</p> <p>10 moved into flat 6 on the 2nd floor of Grenfell Tower in</p> <p>11 early 2017, and Ms Jackson's brother, Karim El-Ansari,</p> <p>12 moved in with them shortly afterwards.</p> <p>13 The couple had a young child who, in fact, had just</p> <p>14 been born the year before. They were at home with their</p> <p>15 child on the night of 13 June 2017. Mr El-Ansari was</p> <p>16 not at home.</p> <p>17 With that, if I pick it up with Mr John's statement</p> <p>18 at page 3, please, from paragraph 11:</p> <p>19 "11. I was indoors with Leanne and our son. They</p> <p>20 were both asleep and I was up watching TV. I was</p> <p>21 watching a movie but I can't remember what it was. I</p> <p>22 think it was just after 12 but I am not sure about</p> <p>23 times. I was just about to go to bed. I was hearing a</p> <p>24 lot of noise on our floor and outside the building. I</p> <p>25 looked through the window in our sitting room to see</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 her down and reassure her but she was really panicked,</p> <p>2 she wanted to leave the flat straight away. I was</p> <p>3 telling her that they were going to come and get us and</p> <p>4 we needed to wait for them.</p> <p>5 "14. There was a smoke alarm in our kitchen but it</p> <p>6 didn't go off while we were in the flat. I didn't hear</p> <p>7 any alarms going off. After 20-30 minutes, no-one had</p> <p>8 come to get us and I started to smell smoke. It smelt</p> <p>9 like plastic, like burning tyres. I looked out of the</p> <p>10 window and I could see smoke and fire burning, going up</p> <p>11 the outside of the building. There was a car at the</p> <p>12 bottom of the building, I could see the reflection of</p> <p>13 the fire in the windscreen, so I could see the fire</p> <p>14 moving upwards. There were red flames, and there was a</p> <p>15 lot of dark black, thick smoke. I could hear the fire</p> <p>16 was shattering the glass of the windows in the flats</p> <p>17 above me. People were screaming, and people outside the</p> <p>18 building were calling out 'Get out! Get out!'. I</p> <p>19 started panicking. I could see the people on the</p> <p>20 Walkway who were shouting at us. I don't remember</p> <p>21 anyone in particular. There were no firefighters or</p> <p>22 police on the Walkway at this stage - the people</p> <p>23 shouting were from the community.</p> <p>24 "15. We were still waiting, and watching the fire</p> <p>25 grow in the reflection of the glass. I could see that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 the fire was completely out of control. I decided that</p> <p>2 we couldn't wait any more. We got ready to go. I was</p> <p>3 in boxers and a vest, no shoes on. I put on a jacket</p> <p>4 and a pair of trousers, and a pair of trainers. Leanne</p> <p>5 had some slippers on, she was in a nightie. I helped</p> <p>6 her to put a jacket on."</p> <p>7 Mr John then says that he put a jacket on his son.</p> <p>8 In the next paragraph he continues:</p> <p>9 "... Leanne called 999. She told them that she's</p> <p>10 in Flat 6 on the second floor and that she needs help to</p> <p>11 get out. She said to them 'What's going on? It's been</p> <p>12 20-30 minutes.' She was crying. I asked her 'What did</p> <p>13 they say?' She said they told her 'Hold on, someone will</p> <p>14 be coming to get you.' She was panicking, crying. My</p> <p>15 son was crying now, I thought about the window. I</p> <p>16 pushed my head out of the window and saw the flames on</p> <p>17 the side of the building. I felt that the only way out</p> <p>18 now was the window. I knew the window would open wide</p> <p>19 enough for us to climb out. I didn't know where the</p> <p>20 fire was, I didn't want to risk going into the</p> <p>21 stairwell. I knew that people would help me if we went</p> <p>22 outside the window, because I could see them shouting to</p> <p>23 me. So I decided to get out. I didn't want to risk</p> <p>24 opening our front door. I could smell smoke from inside</p> <p>25 the building and thought there would be smoke in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 helped me. I swung [redacted] over the gate, and her</p> <p>2 son reached out to take him, and then his mum took him.</p> <p>3 "19. Then I went back for Leanne. It was a lot of</p> <p>4 drama to get her out. I climbed through the window with</p> <p>5 her. I took her out to the passageway. We couldn't</p> <p>6 pass through the gate because it was locked. We had to</p> <p>7 go around the gate, and I had to get help to bring her</p> <p>8 over. It was scary, frightening. I had to carry her</p> <p>9 out in my arms. The scariest part was on the corner,</p> <p>10 when we were trying to get her round the gate. We were</p> <p>11 on the second floor, so there was a big drop. One wrong</p> <p>12 move and we would have fallen. God was with us. I</p> <p>13 climbed up on the gate. I told her to go sideways on</p> <p>14 the wall. There were two Muslim men who helped me to</p> <p>15 scooch her over the wall. We kept moving over until we</p> <p>16 cleared the gate. She was terrified, frightened — she</p> <p>17 had no belief that she could do it. She was crying,</p> <p>18 telling me she can't get up on the wall, she can't</p> <p>19 climb, she's in pain. She held on tightly to the gate</p> <p>20 and then we had to take our time and slowly scooch her</p> <p>21 over until we cleared the gate, and there was people</p> <p>22 there to help us. It was risky but it was our only</p> <p>23 option.</p> <p>24 "20. We got Leanne out onto Grenfell Walk, and then</p> <p>25 I was looking for my son. The woman who took him was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 lobby and the stairs. It was just one flight of stairs</p> <p>2 down, but I didn't want to take that chance with</p> <p>3 [redacted], who was so young and so fragile. We left</p> <p>4 everything. Lost everything. We didn't take anything</p> <p>5 ... I said to Leanne, 'Let's go'. I told her 'If you're</p> <p>6 with me, let's go ..."</p> <p>7 He continues in paragraph 17:</p> <p>8 "17. On our floor we had access to Grenfell Walk.</p> <p>9 There was a passageway connecting the Tower to the Walk,</p> <p>10 but it was blocked by a big gate. It's a black gate,</p> <p>11 nearly twice my height and it goes the whole way across,</p> <p>12 touching onto our short wall. I knew it was always</p> <p>13 locked but I tried it anyway. Some people tried it as</p> <p>14 well. The gate is always locked to secure access to the</p> <p>15 Tower — otherwise you would be able to get right up to</p> <p>16 the window of our sitting room. I used to hang washing</p> <p>17 out of the window. The lock on the gate was very</p> <p>18 strong, it was a big C-lock.</p> <p>19 "18. The window opens outwards a small way. I had</p> <p>20 to break the hinges to force it fully open. I took my</p> <p>21 son and climbed out. I told my partner I would come</p> <p>22 back for her. I climbed over the gate and handed my son</p> <p>23 to a complete stranger. I handed him to a Muslim lady</p> <p>24 who was wearing a headscarf. She was with a man who I</p> <p>25 presumed was her son, he was one of the people who</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 sat down with him. I hugged her, thanked her, and she</p> <p>2 gave me back my son. Leanne was crying. I told her to</p> <p>3 sit down. It was deep. We sat there and witnessed</p> <p>4 everything."</p> <p>5 Mr Chairman, I just want to read two further</p> <p>6 paragraphs from the statement which refer to what</p> <p>7 Mr John then saw once he was outside the tower.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>9 MR RAWAT: If I go to paragraph 22 which is on page 6, he</p> <p>10 says there:</p> <p>11 "22. The fire had red flames and then later on I</p> <p>12 also saw blue flames. Like it was two different types</p> <p>13 of fire. The smell of the smoke was very terrible, you</p> <p>14 could smell the plastic. I've never smelt anything like</p> <p>15 that before. The blaze was massive. Things were</p> <p>16 blowing up. Glass was breaking, popping — like if a</p> <p>17 glass gets too hot, it shatters. You could see shards</p> <p>18 of glass falling down from the building. It looked like</p> <p>19 the building was being eaten away on the outside. It</p> <p>20 looked like a death trap, no-one was going to be able to</p> <p>21 survive on the upper floors. The ones who did, they are</p> <p>22 very very blessed."</p> <p>23 If I move on to paragraph 24, before I finish</p> <p>24 reading from this statement.</p> <p>25 "24. I also saw a guy with a long sheet running</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 down the window, he was bawling. He had a kid and a 2 partner. He wanted to come out down the sheets with his 3 little girl on his back, we were all shouting at him not 4 to. Someone next to me was on the phone to the 5 firefighters and I think the firefighters were already 6 inside the building, they were able to tell the 7 firefighters where this family was. I don't remember 8 what this person looked like, but I believe it was 9 someone who knew them. We were shouting at them to put 10 wet towels around their heads and to try to flood the 11 flat, that help was on its way. His flat was just to 12 the right of the Walk, on the same side of the walk. I 13 turned away because I didn't think they were going to be 14 helped in time. I saw this man later in my hotel, and I 15 was so surprised he was alive. His name is Olu, and he 16 is now one of my best buddies."</p> <p>17 If I end with that statement.</p> <p>18 LEANNE JACKSON LE BLANC (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>19 MR RAWAT: Now I'd like to put into the record the statement 20 of Leanne Mya Jackson Le Blanc. The reference for that 21 is IWS00000177.</p> <p>22 It's a 16-page statement, and if we go to page 16, 23 please, there is a statement of truth signed and dated 24 18 May 2018. There are no exhibits accompanying the 25 statement.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 In paragraph 53 Ms Jackson Le Blanc says:</p> <p>2 "53. I could still hear the noise, it sounded 3 similar to a hoover but not as loud. I was not really 4 aware of what was going on, but I felt safe at first. 5 However, I then started to feel uneasy and thought, 6 'There is a fire but where is it?'</p> <p>7 "54. I got up and wanted to find out more 8 information. I went into the living room where Joseph 9 was and from the window I could see smoke. I did not 10 put my head out the window, I just looked whilst the 11 window stayed shut. My living room has two windows, one 12 which faces out the south side of the Tower and one 13 which faces out from the west side. I was looking out 14 the window that faces the south side. The smoke was 15 thick. The smoke was coming from the east side of the 16 Tower. I could see the fire brigade was there, so I 17 just left it and thought it was safe.</p> <p>18 "55. I then went to the back bedroom which faces 19 out the south of the Tower but more towards to the east 20 side than the living room window does. I turned the 21 light off as I did not want people to be able to look 22 into the property. I looked outside the window and 23 could see a black cab downstairs, in the window of the 24 cab I could see the reflection of the flames on the 25 Tower."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 I would like to just read a part of Ms Jackson 2 Le Blanc's statement, and that relates to her account of 3 the events around the fire itself.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>5 MR RAWAT: She gives a similar account to Mr John's in terms 6 of learning about the fire, and if we pick it up at 7 paragraph 49, please, in page 8 of the statement.</p> <p>8 In paragraph 49, she begins:</p> <p>9 "49. At around 1am I woke up ... I could hear a 10 sound, but I was not entirely conscious of the sound as 11 I was still half asleep.</p> <p>12 "50. Joseph said to me 'Are you okay?' I said, 13 'Yeah what is that noise' he said, 'Oh it is just afire 14 engine outside'. I said, 'What is going on?' he said, 15 'There is a bit of smoke.'"</p> <p>16 In the next paragraph Ms Jackson Le Blanc continues:</p> <p>17 "51. Around 10 minutes later Joseph came back into 18 the room, I opened my eyes and he said, 'Just making 19 sure everything is okay' I said, 'Yeah, I am fine what 20 is going on' he said, 'There is a fire they are just 21 putting it out, I spoke to the firemen he said go back 22 inside it is under control, so I came back inside,' I 23 said, 'Okay' and continued to lay there, I thought to 24 myself 'It is fine the firemen said it is fine, so it is 25 safe.'"</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 Ms Le Blanc continues in the next paragraph:</p> <p>2 "56. I went back to Joseph and said, 'That is a 3 fire not .smoke, how can it be under control?' we 4 continued to talk hoping no one was injured and that it 5 would get put out quickly, that was the kind of 6 conversation we were having. We were concerned that the 7 firemen had said everything was okay, but I could see 8 flames reflected onto the cab window.</p> <p>9 "57. Whilst we were talking, Joseph opened the 10 living room window that faces the west side. We were 11 interrupted by a bunch of screaming that started taking 12 place and took our attention. I said to Joseph, 'Why 13 are people screaming how can it be okay if people are 14 screaming?' I told Joseph to jump out onto the landing 15 of the Walkway to see what was going on."</p> <p>16 She continues in paragraph 58:</p> <p>17 "58. When he went out and saw what was going on, he 18 came back and said, 'I think we need to make a move.' I 19 went and picked [redacted] up. I was panicking and could 20 not breathe properly ... I could hear people screaming 21 outside saying 'Don't jump, they are coming to get you' 22 and people were saying back 'We are going to jump.'"</p> <p>23 The statement continues at paragraph 60:</p> <p>24 "60. Before leaving the house, I called my sister 25 Natalie from the house phone, as I did not have my phone</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 on me at the time, I later found out that Joseph had</p> <p>2 packed it into [redacted]'s bag. I cannot remember</p> <p>3 exactly what time it was, maybe around 1:30am. I told</p> <p>4 Natalie there was a fire in the building and that we</p> <p>5 were safe and leaving now so she did not need to panic.</p> <p>6 I cannot remember what her response was.</p> <p>7 "61. Joseph took [redacted] from me and put his</p> <p>8 coat on and headed over to the south side living room</p> <p>9 window. Lie passed [redacted] back to me and opened the</p> <p>10 window. He then jumped out the window onto the landing.</p> <p>11 I held [redacted] out the window to pass him to Joseph.</p> <p>12 Whilst this was happening people started to see us and</p> <p>13 came closer to help. Someone went to go call someone</p> <p>14 else, I am assuming the caretaker to open the black gate</p> <p>15 that is on the landing outside my flat. They were</p> <p>16 taking so long to come and I was getting scared.</p> <p>17 "62. I did not look up to see the fire. I could</p> <p>18 not see smoke, but I could smell it. The smell was so</p> <p>19 strong it made me feel like it was really close.</p> <p>20 "63. A lady came and asked if we want help and to</p> <p>21 look after [redacted]. Joseph passed [redacted] over</p> <p>22 the gate to the lady. I did not know who this lady was.</p> <p>23 [redacted] was not crying at this point he was just</p> <p>24 looking around at everything.</p> <p>25 "64. At this point more people came to help</p> <p>Page 89</p>	<p>1 the brother of Ms Jackson Le Blanc. He wasn't there on</p> <p>2 the night of the fire itself, but he did -- once he</p> <p>3 learnt about it -- return back to the tower.</p> <p>4 If I pick it up, please, at page 3 of the statement</p> <p>5 and paragraph 26:</p> <p>6 "26. On 13 June 2017 I was working a shift at the</p> <p>7 [redacted]. I got a call from Leanne, I am not certain</p> <p>8 what time it was, but I think it was around 1:30am. She</p> <p>9 said, 'The building is on fire.' I asked her if she was</p> <p>10 okay and told her that I was on my way, she told me she</p> <p>11 was fine as she was outside. When Leanne called I was</p> <p>12 very worried about her and [redacted] as Leanne is</p> <p>13 disabled and is unable to walk. I was thinking about</p> <p>14 how she would be able to get out.</p> <p>15 "27. I always cycle home to and from work. I</p> <p>16 started cycling faster and faster. I saw a fire engine</p> <p>17 pass me. I got to the Tower around 2am as it takes</p> <p>18 around 40 minutes to cycle from Shoreditch.</p> <p>19 "28. When I was driving towards the Tower I could</p> <p>20 see the fire from Ladbroke Grove/Notting Hill. The</p> <p>21 Tower looked like a giant candle had been lit and the</p> <p>22 sky was bright around the Tower. I could see a bit of</p> <p>23 smoke.</p> <p>24 "14 June 2017</p> <p>25 "29. When I got to the area, I parked my car to the</p> <p>Page 91</p>
<p>1 including Elias Altequakrim, Hanan Cherbika and her</p> <p>2 husband.</p> <p>3 "65. In order for me to get over the fence I would</p> <p>4 have to climb onto a wall and climb around the gate. I</p> <p>5 started to panic as this was not something I felt I</p> <p>6 could do. I saw the drop from the wall to the ground,</p> <p>7 which I later found out was 20 feet.</p> <p>8 "66. My legs were shaking.</p> <p>9 "67. Joseph got me onto the wall and I was sitting</p> <p>10 on there. He helped me stand up whilst I held onto the</p> <p>11 gate. He guided my foot onto the next part of the wall.</p> <p>12 When I got to the part of the wall that is passed the</p> <p>13 gate Elias grabbed me and took me off the wall.</p> <p>14 "68. Joseph then followed."</p> <p>15 That's where I will pause in reading that statement.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>17 KARIM EL-ANSARI (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>18 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, I have another statement to put into</p> <p>19 the record at this stage, and that is the statement of</p> <p>20 Karim El-Ansari, the reference for which is IWS00000088.</p> <p>21 If we go, please, to the last page on page 7, the</p> <p>22 statement is accompanied by a statement of truth. It's</p> <p>23 signed and it's dated 10 May 2018.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>25 MR RAWAT: As I explained a little earlier, Mr El-Ansari is</p> <p>Page 90</p>	<p>1 West of the Tower. I started looking for Leanne and</p> <p>2 Joseph. I do not remember if I called them or not.</p> <p>3 "30. Shortly after arriving, I found them and we</p> <p>4 stood near the Tower facing the South West side of the</p> <p>5 Tower. The fire had completely covered the South side</p> <p>6 of the Tower. It was moving fast, like it was running.</p> <p>7 The fire was moving upwards and around the Tower but the</p> <p>8 speed at which it was going up was faster than the speed</p> <p>9 at which It was going around. The fire was red and</p> <p>10 orange and also in between a blue/purple colour. It was</p> <p>11 not just a straight red colour like a normal fire is.</p> <p>12 The smoke was thick and black. I could feel the heat</p> <p>13 from the fire on me. I could smell burning plastic and</p> <p>14 smoke.</p> <p>15 "31. At one point - I am unsure what time it was</p> <p>16 but I know that the sun was starting to rise so it was</p> <p>17 around dusk - I tried to go into the Tower. I saw a man</p> <p>18 with an axe, he was not a firefighter and I do not know</p> <p>19 where he got the axe from. He was going towards the</p> <p>20 Tower from the landing by Grenfell Walk. He managed to</p> <p>21 get in to the Tower through a window, I was behind him</p> <p>22 as I wanted to go in with him, however, I was stopped by</p> <p>23 a firefighter just as I climbed onto the window. The</p> <p>24 firefighter told me 'Do not go in', I told him that</p> <p>25 someone had just gone in and that I wanted to go in too</p> <p>Page 92</p>

<p>1 to help, he responded again telling me not to go in. I</p> <p>2 climbed back down the window and went back onto the</p> <p>3 outside landing and stood with Leanne, Joseph and</p> <p>4 [redacted].</p> <p>5 "32. I tried to find different ways of getting into</p> <p>6 the building, but the police and firefighters kept</p> <p>7 stopping me from going in, there were also riot police</p> <p>8 that blocked me from getting closer to the Tower. I</p> <p>9 told them that I know first aid and how to do CPR, but</p> <p>10 they did not take any notice.</p> <p>11 "33. I felt very frightened and scared. I could</p> <p>12 see people at their windows and I was scared for them.</p> <p>13 I could see people with what looked like Christmas tree</p> <p>14 lights out of their windows and torch lights trying to</p> <p>15 signal to the firefighters. I could hear screams and</p> <p>16 crying. I saw a man around the 10th — 15th floor that</p> <p>17 was trying to climb out of his window with his</p> <p>18 bedsheets. I felt angry with the police and fire</p> <p>19 brigade. The police were pushing me away ...</p> <p>20 "34. Coming into the morning - I am not sure what</p> <p>21 time it was but it was getting brighter - I had been</p> <p>22 walking around the area trying to find a way to get into</p> <p>23 the Tower. I eventually realised this was not going to</p> <p>24 work. I ended up on the main road near to Latimer Road</p> <p>25 station. I saw a medical van and told them that I am a</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 3 October 2018.</p> <p>2 Accompanying it are four exhibits labelled MA/1 to</p> <p>3 4, but the collective reference for those, so that they</p> <p>4 can be put into the record, is IWS00001155.</p> <p>5 If I could return back to the first page of the</p> <p>6 statement, please.</p> <p>7 In the statement, Mr Ahmed explains that he lived in</p> <p>8 flat 102 on the 13th floor of Grenfell Tower. His wife,</p> <p>9 Randa Al-Arasi, has already made a statement which, I'll</p> <p>10 be corrected if I'm wrong, has been put into the record.</p> <p>11 The couple were living in flat 102 with their two</p> <p>12 children at the time.</p> <p>13 If I just pick up, before going to Mr Ahmed's</p> <p>14 account of the night, just two paragraphs from</p> <p>15 an earlier part of his statement and the first one is on</p> <p>16 page 3 of the statement, paragraph 18.</p> <p>17 This is in the section where Mr Ahmed is dealing</p> <p>18 with the refurbishment, and he says:</p> <p>19 "18. I think they told me that fire alarms were</p> <p>20 going to be installed in the hallway. I remember seeing</p> <p>21 them working on both sides of the lifts on something</p> <p>22 that was there before the refurbishment. I asked them</p> <p>23 what they were doing and the workmen told me it was to</p> <p>24 do with fire. It was metal and inside the wall. It</p> <p>25 looked like some sort of a vent. It was from the floor</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 certified lifeguard and whether I could help. The medic</p> <p>2 just said, 'It is okay, we have it under control'. I</p> <p>3 noticed a big case of water bottles next to the van, so</p> <p>4 I took it and went back towards the entrance of the</p> <p>5 Tower.</p> <p>6 "35. When a firefighter would bring out a survivor,</p> <p>7 an officer would take them to the medical vans. Whilst</p> <p>8 they did this I handed out the bottled water, most of</p> <p>9 the survivors took it but some did not want any water.</p> <p>10 I was standing around two swimming pool lengths away</p> <p>11 from the Tower, maybe around 50ft. I was stood within</p> <p>12 the area that had be barricaded by the police. I had</p> <p>13 tried to go through the barriers earlier in the night</p> <p>14 but been stopped by the police, however when I was</p> <p>15 carrying the water no one tried to stop me from going</p> <p>16 past the barriers."</p> <p>17 That's where I propose to stop with that statement.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, thank you.</p> <p>19 MOHAMMED AHMED (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>20 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, there's one more statement that we</p> <p>21 can put into the record at this stage, and that is the</p> <p>22 statement of Mohammed Ahmed.</p> <p>23 The statement reference is IWS00001113.</p> <p>24 If we go to the eighth page, the statement carries</p> <p>25 a statement of truth, it's signed and it's dated</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 up to about three feet."</p> <p>2 If we go to the next page, at paragraph 25, Mr Ahmed</p> <p>3 has this to say about the door to flat 102:</p> <p>4 "25. My flat door was not changed in the</p> <p>5 refurbishment. It was a door that would not shut</p> <p>6 automatically and you had to pull it shut. I think</p> <p>7 there was a fire alarm on the ceiling in the hallway</p> <p>8 directly outside the lift but I have only ever heard the</p> <p>9 smoke alarm ringing in my flat."</p> <p>10 If I turn now to the account of the fire, and</p> <p>11 Mr Ahmed's recollection of events of that night. It</p> <p>12 begins at paragraph 28, and he begins paragraph 28 by</p> <p>13 saying:</p> <p>14 "28. On Tuesday 13 June 2017 just before the fire,</p> <p>15 it was a normal night in Ramadan. I had broken fast</p> <p>16 with my brother and work colleagues at a restaurant."</p> <p>17 He then continues:</p> <p>18 "29. At the time of my police statement I thought</p> <p>19 that I had got home at about 12 midnight. I have now</p> <p>20 though been shown a still from a CCTV camera ... from</p> <p>21 the downstairs lift lobby area that shows a time of</p> <p>22 00.28 so it was slightly later than I had initially</p> <p>23 thought. I took the lift up to my flat on the 13th</p> <p>24 floor. The kids were asleep in their room and my wife</p> <p>25 was with two female friends in the living room.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 "30. After I had been back home for about 20 or 30 2 minutes I heard a fire engine siren. I looked out of 3 the sitting room window which looks towards the leisure 4 centre and saw a fire engine by the building which had 5 come in from Grenfell Road area. About 5 minutes later 6 I saw another fire engine, it was lost and had gone past 7 the entrance to Tower on the road where the Rugby Club 8 was." 9 If I then move to paragraph 32, which is on page 5, 10 please. 11 Mr Ahmed continues: 12 "32. I went in to the kitchen and got on the table 13 to get higher to look down. I did not open the window 14 because it was locked for my kids' safety. When I 15 looked out of the window I saw the trees below 16 reflecting the light from the building, it was a light 17 that was moving. The trees should have been dark but I 18 did not realise that the light was from a fire. I 19 didn't know what it was. 20 "33. Then someone banged on the door really hard. 21 Like somebody was scared. My wife and friends said that 22 we should not open the door were scared that someone was 23 coming to attack us. 24 "34. I looked through the spy hole in the door. I 25 could not see anyone. I opened the door and smelt</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 "38. We did not stay there for long a matter of 2 seconds there was thick black smoke coming from the 3 hallway into the stairs. The smoke was very thick and 4 had a strong taste like metal. The smoke was only on 5 that floor and we past through it as we went down. We 6 continued down to the third floor where we had to change 7 stairs. The door out of the stairs on the third floor 8 was closed but we just pushed it open. Then we went 9 down the second stairs to the ground floor and out of 10 the Tower. I have seen a still from the CCTV system at 11 Grenfell Tower that shows myself and my daughter at the 12 bottom of the stairs ... and is timed at 01.22.17." 13 Mr Chairman, that's all I propose to read from that 14 statement. 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, yes, thank you very much. 16 MR RAWAT: That is in fact all the reading we have for this 17 morning. 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Again, I think it's right I express 19 my thanks to those who made these statements, and they 20 will of course form part of all the evidence before the 21 inquiry and will be taken into account. 22 MR RAWAT: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 24 So is that it for the morning? 25 MR RAWAT: It is, and we have a witness scheduled for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 smoke. It was a very strong smell. I did not see any 2 smoke or anybody in the lobby. 3 "35. I went back into the flat and told everyone 4 that we had to leave ..." 5 Mr Ahmed then describes how he picked up one of his 6 children and one of their guests picked up the other. 7 He continues: 8 "My police witness statement suggests that we all 9 left together but in fact I went first with the children 10 and one friend and my wife and her older friend stayed 11 in the flat and came a short while later. 12 "36. Before leaving my floor I knocked on all my 13 neighbours' doors to alert them but no one answered. I 14 am not sure if I have seen a sign in the Tower but I 15 knew from general knowledge not to use the lift if there 16 is a fire. We therefore opened the door in the lift 17 lobby area and went down the stairs. I didn't see 18 anyone else on the stairs and although the smell of 19 smoke got stronger as we went down I did not see any 20 smoke until we reached the 4th floor. 21 "37. On the 4th floor I saw two or three firemen 22 who were wearing masks. One of them was at the door to 23 the lift lobby area for that floor. It looked like they 24 were trying to unwind a hose. They were panicking and 25 told us not to stand and just to go down.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 2 o'clock. 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right. In that case, we'll break 3 now and have a slightly longer break than usual and 4 resume at 2 o'clock, then. 5 2 o'clock, then, please, thank you. 6 MR RAWAT: Thank you, Mr Chairman. 7 (12.45 pm) 8 (The short adjournment) 9 (2.00 pm) 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Rawat. 11 MR RAWAT: Good afternoon, Mr Chairman. 12 May I now call, please, Sener Macit. 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you. 14 SENER MACIT (sworn) 15 Questions by MR RAWAT 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Macit. Do 17 sit down and make yourself comfortable there. 18 Yes, Mr Rawat. 19 MR RAWAT: Thank you, Mr Chairman. 20 Can you give the inquiry your full name, please. 21 A. My name is Sener Macit. 22 Q. Mr Macit, first of all, thank you very much for coming 23 to give evidence today. 24 A. Thank you. 25 Q. Your willingness to continue to help the inquiry with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 its work is very much appreciated.</p> <p>2 As I hope you already know, the majority of the</p> <p>3 questions that I am going to ask you today will concern</p> <p>4 the night of the fire itself, and we all appreciate that</p> <p>5 it is difficult to ask someone to go back over those</p> <p>6 events again. So please take your time, and if you need</p> <p>7 a break at any time, just let me know and we can stop.</p> <p>8 I aim to try and keep my questions short and</p> <p>9 straightforward. Sometimes that doesn't always happen.</p> <p>10 So if I do ask you a question that you don't understand,</p> <p>11 please tell me and I'll ask it in a different way.</p> <p>12 A. Sure.</p> <p>13 Q. The first thing we have to do is to put your statements</p> <p>14 formally into the record.</p> <p>15 You've made two statements to the inquiry, so could</p> <p>16 we have the first statement, please, the first page, and</p> <p>17 it's IWS00000069, page 1.</p> <p>18 Mr Macit, if I explain, this is the first page of</p> <p>19 your first statement to the inquiry. You can see it on</p> <p>20 the monitor that's on the desk in front of you. If you</p> <p>21 prefer paper, that bundle that you've opened up will</p> <p>22 also have a copy there.</p> <p>23 A. Okay.</p> <p>24 Q. If we can go, please, to the last page of the statement,</p> <p>25 which is page 23, we can see that the last sentence on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 A. Truth.</p> <p>2 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, if I formally just explain that</p> <p>3 there are five exhibits accompanying the statement.</p> <p>4 They are SM/1 to SM/5. They are also part of the same</p> <p>5 reference, which is IWS00000069, and SM/1 is at page 25,</p> <p>6 SM/2 at 27, SM/3 at 29, SM/4 at 31 and SM/5 at 33.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>8 MR RAWAT: They comprise, firstly, a diagram of the south</p> <p>9 facade of the tower; a floor plan for Mr Macit's home;</p> <p>10 a floor plan for the floor where he lived; and three</p> <p>11 photographs of the tower taken on the night itself.</p> <p>12 So I'd ask that those exhibits are put into the</p> <p>13 record.</p> <p>14 Mr Macit, the next statement is your supplementary</p> <p>15 statement. Could we have IWS00001156 up on the screen,</p> <p>16 please. That's your supplementary statement.</p> <p>17 If we go to the last page, page 6, again, we have</p> <p>18 the statement of truth. It's dated 17 October 2018.</p> <p>19 Can you confirm that that is your signature?</p> <p>20 A. That is my signature.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>22 MR RAWAT: Could we go back, please, to the first page of</p> <p>23 that statement.</p> <p>24 In paragraph 2, you mention that you hadn't had</p> <p>25 an opportunity yet to listen to audio recordings of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 that reads:</p> <p>2 "I believe that the facts stated in this witness</p> <p>3 statement are true."</p> <p>4 The statement is dated 12 April 2018.</p> <p>5 There's a signature there. Can you confirm that</p> <p>6 that is your signature?</p> <p>7 A. That is my signature.</p> <p>8 Q. Have you had an opportunity to read that statement</p> <p>9 recently?</p> <p>10 A. I did.</p> <p>11 Q. There's just perhaps one small point that we ought to</p> <p>12 clarify. If we go back to page 1, please, and just look</p> <p>13 at paragraph 4 and the last sentence. You say there:</p> <p>14 "My solicitor has transcribed these calls ..."</p> <p>15 And these are recordings of calls that you made to</p> <p>16 the emergency services and you've read the transcript.</p> <p>17 It's right that the reference to transcribes of</p> <p>18 these calls are to notes your solicitors made at the</p> <p>19 time; is that right?</p> <p>20 A. That's correct.</p> <p>21 Q. But you've also seen, haven't you, transcripts of the</p> <p>22 calls themselves?</p> <p>23 A. I have seen them.</p> <p>24 Q. So subject to that clarification, are the contents of</p> <p>25 this statement true?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 999 calls that you made.</p> <p>2 Can you confirm, Mr Macit, that you have had</p> <p>3 an opportunity now to listen to all the audio recordings</p> <p>4 that are available?</p> <p>5 A. I've had opportunity to listen to all calls, except one</p> <p>6 which is missing.</p> <p>7 Q. I'll come back to that in due course, if I may.</p> <p>8 A. Thank you.</p> <p>9 Q. Have you had an opportunity to go through this statement</p> <p>10 recently?</p> <p>11 A. I have had an opportunity.</p> <p>12 Q. Subject to the clarification that you have had</p> <p>13 an opportunity to listen to all available audios, are</p> <p>14 the contents of this statement true?</p> <p>15 A. True.</p> <p>16 Q. Could we start, if I may, just with a little bit of</p> <p>17 background. If I could take you to your first</p> <p>18 statement, IWS00000069, page 2, please.</p> <p>19 At the time of the fire you were living in flat 133</p> <p>20 on the 16th floor of Grenfell Tower; is that right?</p> <p>21 A. That's correct.</p> <p>22 Q. When did you first move into flat 133?</p> <p>23 A. I think I moved in there in 1992, that's just a month</p> <p>24 after my son was born, which is -- yes, 1992.</p> <p>25 Q. So that flat was where you brought up your three</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 children, was it?</p> <p>2 A. That's correct.</p> <p>3 Q. They're now all grown up, are they?</p> <p>4 A. They're all now grown up.</p> <p>5 Q. So in June 2017, who was living in the flat?</p> <p>6 A. It was me and my wife only.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you rent the flat?</p> <p>8 A. I did rent the flat.</p> <p>9 Q. Who did you rent it from?</p> <p>10 A. I rented it from RBKC, but TMO was the people who was in</p> <p>11 charge.</p> <p>12 Q. So as far as you can remember, did you pay your rent to</p> <p>13 RBKC?</p> <p>14 A. I think I paid my rent to TMO.</p> <p>15 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>16 For the next set of questions we may jump around in</p> <p>17 your statement a little bit, but I just want to ask you</p> <p>18 a few questions about various aspects of your flat.</p> <p>19 If we could go to page 7 of this statement, please.</p> <p>20 Before we expand any part of it, this is the part of</p> <p>21 your statement, Mr Macit, where you deal with the</p> <p>22 refurbishments.</p> <p>23 If we expand, please, paragraph 39 down.</p> <p>24 In paragraph 39, you say that you believe that, as</p> <p>25 part of the refurbishment, the front door to flat 133</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 the chute. So he said, well, a lot of people don't</p> <p>2 bother with this self-closing mechanism, so I thought</p> <p>3 he's the expert, he is the handyman from the door</p> <p>4 company, so I took his advice and it was left like that.</p> <p>5 Q. Can you remember what he actually removed?</p> <p>6 A. He just removed from the back of the door a kind of</p> <p>7 a spring, a self-closing mechanism that would push the</p> <p>8 door to close. And that place -- you know, was at the</p> <p>9 back of the door.</p> <p>10 Q. Would you be able to see it when you opened and shut the</p> <p>11 door?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, a little bit of it. It was like a chain plus</p> <p>13 a spring. I remember it.</p> <p>14 Q. You tell us that this workman told you that a lot of</p> <p>15 people didn't bother with it.</p> <p>16 A. That's right.</p> <p>17 Q. Did he explain to you what that mechanism was for?</p> <p>18 A. I can't remember him explaining that to me.</p> <p>19 Q. The reason that he turned up was because you had</p> <p>20 a problem with the door.</p> <p>21 A. That's correct.</p> <p>22 Q. Before that problem arose, and you found that your door</p> <p>23 couldn't close properly, was it closing automatically?</p> <p>24 A. Before that, it was closing automatically, before it got</p> <p>25 jammed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 was replaced and you had a new door fitted.</p> <p>2 A. May I say that, yes, the whole of Grenfell Tower, they</p> <p>3 had the new doors fitted.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you remember yourself that, as part of that, your</p> <p>5 flat got a new door?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, I do.</p> <p>7 Q. Can you remember when your door was replaced?</p> <p>8 A. That, I can't remember.</p> <p>9 Q. But what you explain in these paragraphs is that, a few</p> <p>10 months after the door had been fitted, it developed</p> <p>11 a problem.</p> <p>12 A. Yes, it did.</p> <p>13 Q. So a workman came, and you say in paragraph 40:</p> <p>14 "He was there within a few hours. He looked at the</p> <p>15 door and he took out a mechanism from within the door.</p> <p>16 He told me that this was the automatic closing</p> <p>17 mechanism. He said that this was what was causing my</p> <p>18 door to jam."</p> <p>19 A. Correct.</p> <p>20 Q. And he didn't replace the mechanism; is that right?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, he said the whole door should be replaced, they did</p> <p>22 not replace the mechanism on its own. So he said you</p> <p>23 can only replace the whole door.</p> <p>24 He also told me that a lot of people, they lock</p> <p>25 themselves out while they go to put the rubbish out in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 Q. Just so that we can be clear, it was still without</p> <p>2 a closing mechanism by the time of the fire, was it?</p> <p>3 A. That's correct.</p> <p>4 Q. Just another question about your door, please.</p> <p>5 You said that the workman told you a lot of people</p> <p>6 didn't bother with the mechanism. Once that mechanism</p> <p>7 had been removed from your door, if you went out and it</p> <p>8 shut behind you, would you be able to push the door open</p> <p>9 or would you need a key to open it?</p> <p>10 A. I think we would need a key to open it.</p> <p>11 Q. So even if it wasn't locked at all, somebody couldn't</p> <p>12 just push it open from the outside and come into your</p> <p>13 flat?</p> <p>14 A. No, it had a latch. Once you close the door, it would</p> <p>15 close and you would have to open it with the key.</p> <p>16 Q. Were there any gaps between your front door and the</p> <p>17 frame at all?</p> <p>18 A. I would say minimal. It wasn't that huge.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you ever feel a draught coming through the front</p> <p>20 door?</p> <p>21 A. Little bit. I mean, if I opened the windows, you know,</p> <p>22 I would hear the draught come in.</p> <p>23 Q. Was that coming in from the windows or from --</p> <p>24 A. Well, I suppose the air ventilation would be causing it.</p> <p>25 Q. But if you just imagine yourself standing in front of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 your closed front door and you're inside your flat, in</p> <p>2 your hallway, looking at the front door, would you feel</p> <p>3 a draught coming through then?</p> <p>4 A. Not very strong though, little bit.</p> <p>5 Q. So nothing that made you feel uncomfortable?</p> <p>6 A. No, no.</p> <p>7 Q. If we look at page 9, please, and look at paragraph 48.</p> <p>8 In paragraph 48, you begin that paragraph by saying:</p> <p>9 "48. All the windows in our flat were replaced."</p> <p>10 Did you experience any problems with the windows</p> <p>11 after they were replaced?</p> <p>12 A. No, I didn't have any problems at all, and I was really</p> <p>13 pleased with the new windows because they looked nice.</p> <p>14 Q. And did you notice, for example, any gaps around the</p> <p>15 windows?</p> <p>16 A. No, I didn't notice any gaps around the window.</p> <p>17 Q. I told you we'd jump around the statement; now I want to</p> <p>18 go back a little bit in the statement to paragraph 44,</p> <p>19 which is on page 8, please.</p> <p>20 In paragraph 44 you say:</p> <p>21 "44. During the Refurbishment I recall that smoke</p> <p>22 extractor fans were fitted into the walls of the</p> <p>23 corridors on each floor. By this I mean the communal</p> <p>24 area outside the flats. I saw workmen testing them</p> <p>25 during the refurbishment. When they tested them you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you see those? That's at the top of the wall.</p> <p>2 A. Correct.</p> <p>3 Q. If you look on the other photograph, that's looking in</p> <p>4 the other direction, and we now see a grille at the</p> <p>5 bottom of the wall.</p> <p>6 When you refer to smoke extractor fans being fitted</p> <p>7 into the walls, is that what you're referring to?</p> <p>8 A. They are the ones I'm referring to.</p> <p>9 Q. Were these -- we'll call them vents -- were they</p> <p>10 something that you only noticed after the refurbishment?</p> <p>11 A. I think I noticed them after the refurbishments.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you have a memory of seeing square grilles like that</p> <p>13 before the refurbishment on your floor?</p> <p>14 A. No, I don't have a memory of seeing them before.</p> <p>15 Q. What you've described them as in your statement is smoke</p> <p>16 extractor fans.</p> <p>17 A. Mm.</p> <p>18 Q. How did you know they were smoke extractor fans?</p> <p>19 A. Well, I saw the workmen testing them once, and they was</p> <p>20 making a loud noise, much more than a full working</p> <p>21 hoover. That's what made me believe that they're smoke</p> <p>22 extractor fans, to clean the smoke if there was any.</p> <p>23 Q. So nobody told you that that was a smoke extractor fan?</p> <p>24 A. No, nobody told me.</p> <p>25 Q. When you say you saw workmen testing them during the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 could hear this noise coming from them that sounded like</p> <p>2 the air was being sucked out through them."</p> <p>3 I'd like to show you a couple of photographs.</p> <p>4 They're photographs that are not distressing, but they</p> <p>5 were taken of the interior of the tower after the fire.</p> <p>6 Are you comfortable with me showing you the photographs?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, I'm comfortable, actually.</p> <p>8 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, these are photographs we've shown</p> <p>9 a number of witnesses now.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: This is floor 6, yes.</p> <p>11 MR RAWAT: I hope my explanation has been sufficient time</p> <p>12 for anyone to look away or step out.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I don't think they're particularly</p> <p>14 distressing.</p> <p>15 MR RAWAT: No, they're not. So can I have side by side,</p> <p>16 please, BLA00002513 and BLA00002514.</p> <p>17 Mr Macit, if I explain, these are photographs that</p> <p>18 aren't taken on your floor; as the chairman mentioned,</p> <p>19 they're photographs taken on floor 6.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. They've been taken by one of the inquiry's experts.</p> <p>22 If we look at the photograph that is on the</p> <p>23 left-hand side of the screen, can you see on the far</p> <p>24 wall there appears to be a grille?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 refurbishment, was that on your floor that you saw these</p> <p>2 workmen?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, they was on my floor. I think they was checking</p> <p>4 every floor, I'm not sure, but I saw them on my floor</p> <p>5 briefly.</p> <p>6 Q. Sticking to your floor, did you ever see anyone testing</p> <p>7 these smoke extractor fans at any time after the</p> <p>8 refurbishment?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, I saw them after the refurbishment.</p> <p>10 Q. So you actually saw someone come along and work on them</p> <p>11 after the refurbishment?</p> <p>12 A. No, just as they've been installed or put there, that's</p> <p>13 the time I saw them testing them.</p> <p>14 Q. So it was just the one time that you saw them being</p> <p>15 tested?</p> <p>16 A. Just one time, just one time.</p> <p>17 Q. You've described a moment ago that the noise was much</p> <p>18 louder than that of a full working hoover.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. So is that a hoover on full power, and the noise was</p> <p>21 still louder than that, is that what you meant?</p> <p>22 A. Louder than that, correct.</p> <p>23 Q. Once these had been installed, after the refurbishment,</p> <p>24 and when you were going and coming from your flat, did</p> <p>25 you ever hear any noise from these smoke extractor fans?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 A. I think there was a little noise, but it wasn't to the 2 extent that it would bother you. I think it kind of 3 also done a job of ventilation, in my opinion. 4 Q. The nature of your job, did that mean you worked 5 flexible hours? 6 A. Yes, I did. Mm-hm. 7 Q. Were there particular times of the day or the night that 8 you'd hear a noise from these fans? 9 A. No, I think the noise level was always same. 10 Q. Doing the best you can, can you describe how loud it 11 was? 12 A. Oh, it was just minimal. I think it was just enough to 13 ventilate the corridor. 14 Q. You say it was just enough to ventilate the corridor. 15 A. That's it. 16 Q. Did you ever feel the movement of air? 17 A. No, I didn't feel that, but I heard little, little 18 noise. I heard that it was on. 19 Q. Can you compare that noise to something? 20 A. Er ... at the moment I can hear something working, but 21 I'm not sure what it is. It's similar to that sound. 22 Q. So sort of the whirring of a fan, would that be -- 23 A. Yes, that's it, yes. 24 Q. You've said that your view was that it might have 25 something to do with ventilation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 had your flat door changed or before they started 2 putting windows in? 3 A. I think it might be during the refurbishment, but I'm 4 not 100 per cent sure. 5 Q. Can you remember where those fire alarms were located? 6 A. Yes, they was on the wall side above -- not directly 7 above but above the side of the lifts. 8 Q. And was there an alarm like that on your floor? 9 A. Yes, there was. 10 Q. Tell me if you can't remember this, but were you aware 11 of a similar alarm on other floors? 12 A. Yes, I was aware of similar alarms on other floors. 13 Q. And when that alarm went off, what did it sound like? 14 A. It was -- well, it was a fire alarm ring tone, like 15 ring, ring, ringing, it had a kind of hammer to the 16 metal kind of effect. That kind of alarm. 17 Q. You describe it as being located just above the lift. 18 A. That's correct. 19 Q. And having a hammer. 20 A. Yes, hitting it. 21 Q. Can you tell us a little bit more about what the alarm 22 looked like? 23 A. It was round and red and it was, like, mounted on the 24 wall. 25 Q. Do you know what happened to the communal alarm after</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 So what was the temperature like on your floor in 2 the communal area? 3 A. It was just -- at normal time? 4 Q. At normal times. 5 A. At normal times. I think it was okay, it wasn't humid 6 or it wasn't hot. But the communal area where the lifts 7 and the rubbish chutes are, there was no windows, so 8 obviously it had to be ventilated. 9 Q. But you didn't find the temperature in the communal area 10 on your floor to be uncomfortable? 11 A. Not really. 12 Q. Can I again go a little back into your statement to 13 paragraph 29, which is on page 5. 14 What you say is: 15 "29. I recall that there used to be fire alarms in 16 the communal areas of Grenfell Tower that you could hear 17 when there was a fire. I remember times in the past 18 where the fire alarms went off in the building." 19 Do you remember, was this before the refurbishment 20 that you remember these going off? 21 A. I think this was before the tower had a stay-put policy 22 put on. They changed the -- I think that was before the 23 stay-put policy. I remember that. 24 Q. But do you remember, for example, whether your hearing 25 the fire alarms going off was before you, for example,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 the refurbishment? 2 A. I think they took them away, they just didn't have them 3 anymore. 4 So my understanding was, because they also put 5 notices as to, you know, the -- in case of a fire, the 6 building had a stay-put policy. So with the stay-put 7 policy, they didn't need the fire alarms anymore. 8 Q. Was that something that you understood at the time? 9 A. That's what I -- yes, I put two and two together and 10 came to that conclusion. 11 Q. Well, you've mentioned a stay-put policy. 12 Can I take you to paragraph 33 in your statement, 13 which is on page 6. 14 If you can expand 33, please. 15 You begin this sentence, Mr Macit, with: 16 "33. The fire policy in Grenfell Tower is displayed 17 in writing around the building." 18 Can you remember how it was displayed? 19 A. It was kind of written on a piece of -- I won't say 20 paper, but it's like, you know -- well, plastic or 21 cardboard, something, you know, and it was displayed on 22 the walls. 23 Q. Whereabouts was it placed? 24 A. I'm not 100 per cent sure but I think it was on the side 25 of the lifts, on the wall.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 Q. Can I show you, please, an image, and it's INQ00000093.</p> <p>2 Again, it's not a distressing image for those who</p> <p>3 may need to look away when notice is given.</p> <p>4 This is a photograph of a sign -- again, it's</p> <p>5 a photograph taken by one of our experts -- and it's of</p> <p>6 a sign that was sited between the lifts on floor 3.</p> <p>7 Is this something that you remember seeing --</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. -- before the fire?</p> <p>10 A. This is something that I remember seeing before the</p> <p>11 fire.</p> <p>12 Q. Is that what you had in mind as saying the fire policy</p> <p>13 was displayed in writing around the building?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you remember a sign like that by the lifts on your</p> <p>16 floor?</p> <p>17 A. As I say, I'm not 100 per cent sure whether it was on</p> <p>18 the side of the lift, but I do remember seeing the sign</p> <p>19 on the floor.</p> <p>20 Q. At the time, before June 2017, how much attention had</p> <p>21 you paid to that sign?</p> <p>22 A. I read the sign and I understood that if the fire wasn't</p> <p>23 immediately on my floor or next to my flat, I should</p> <p>24 stay in my flat until I'm advised otherwise.</p> <p>25 Q. We see right at the top, just below the label that says</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 flat 133?</p> <p>2 A. It was me and my wife.</p> <p>3 Q. Could I have up, please, two pages of Mr Macit's</p> <p>4 statement, IWS00000069, page 10 and page 11.</p> <p>5 If we could expand paragraphs 57 to 60 on those two</p> <p>6 pages, please.</p> <p>7 Thank you.</p> <p>8 In these paragraphs, Mr Macit, you have explained</p> <p>9 that it was Ramadan, as we all know, and you'd actually</p> <p>10 broken your fast that evening with your family at around</p> <p>11 9.30, and then by 1 o'clock it was yourself and your</p> <p>12 wife at home.</p> <p>13 A. Correct.</p> <p>14 Q. You explain that, at that time, you were still awake and</p> <p>15 your wife was on the phone to her sister.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Your wife then told you that her sister could see fire</p> <p>18 engines at the bottom of Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>19 Just so that we can understand, your wife's sister</p> <p>20 lives not too far away from the tower, doesn't she?</p> <p>21 A. She lives opposite Kensington Leisure Centre, which is</p> <p>22 about 100/150 yards away.</p> <p>23 Q. So you got given this piece of information, and you</p> <p>24 say -- if we look at paragraph 60, you'll see this --</p> <p>25 that you then opened the living room window and looked</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 "Fire Action - Grenfell Tower", it reads:</p> <p>2 "There is a 'stay put' policy for residents unless</p> <p>3 the fire is in or affecting your flat."</p> <p>4 A. Correct.</p> <p>5 Q. So did the phrase "stay put" mean something to you</p> <p>6 before June 2017?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, it did, because a lot of fires happened in</p> <p>8 Grenfell Tower before, and they was contained in the</p> <p>9 flat that it started and the compartmentation has not</p> <p>10 failed. It would start in a flat and the firemen would</p> <p>11 come and put it out easily.</p> <p>12 So for that reason, you know, we was not alarmed,</p> <p>13 and we thought that, yes, you know, if a fire starts in</p> <p>14 a flat, it stays in the same flat or same room at least</p> <p>15 one hour before it kind of breaks through to the next</p> <p>16 flat or next floor.</p> <p>17 Q. So before June 2017, you understood what the policy that</p> <p>18 applied to Grenfell Tower was --</p> <p>19 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. -- and you also had had experience of other fires which</p> <p>21 had not gone beyond the flat themselves?</p> <p>22 A. Correct, correct.</p> <p>23 Q. I'd like now please, Mr Macit, just to turn to the</p> <p>24 events of 13 and 14 June, if I may.</p> <p>25 On the night of 13 June, can you tell us who was in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 out, and you give a time for doing this as at around</p> <p>2 1.10 am.</p> <p>3 A. Correct.</p> <p>4 Q. How do you estimate that time?</p> <p>5 A. To be honest, I haven't looked at the clock or the</p> <p>6 watch, but I feel that was about that time because I was</p> <p>7 watching something on the telly and it started about --</p> <p>8 I think 5 minutes before that time. So I calculated</p> <p>9 that it would be 01.10.</p> <p>10 Q. I follow, thank you. So it's working on the basis of</p> <p>11 what you were watching on the TV at the time?</p> <p>12 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>13 Q. But it's clear in your mind, if we look at 57, that the</p> <p>14 time of 1 o'clock is something that's in your mind, is</p> <p>15 it?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, something like 1 o'clock and -- mm-hm.</p> <p>17 Q. If we focus on page 11 now and look at paragraph 60 to</p> <p>18 63.</p> <p>19 You explain your wife, Hanife, also looked down out</p> <p>20 of the window and you could see a number of fire</p> <p>21 engines.</p> <p>22 A. Mm.</p> <p>23 Q. Then if you look at 61, you begin that paragraph by</p> <p>24 saying:</p> <p>25 "61. I remember not feeling concerned about this."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 Then you return to watching television. 2 But then if we look at 63, you say: 3 "63. A few minutes later, I left Flat 133 and 4 walked into the corridor area to see if I could hear 5 anything happening." 6 You hadn't seen anything from the window, you'd gone 7 back to watching television; what was it that made you 8 decide to go out into the communal area? 9 A. Just to check if there was any commotion or if there was 10 any noise or if there was any smell. Just curiosity as 11 to, say, why are these firemen there? 12 I think also the fire engines, the pumps, increased. 13 That's what made me think: well, is it something 14 serious? That's why I went to the corridor to check if 15 I could hear some noise or commotion or someone shouting 16 "Fire" or any smell. Then obviously I would be ready to 17 leave the flat. 18 Q. Before you went out to check, could you hear any noise 19 coming from the communal area at all? 20 A. No, nothing. 21 Q. When you went out at that time, what did you see? 22 A. Nothing at all. I even opened the door to the 23 stairwell, fire exit, and couldn't hear nothing or there 24 was no smell, no smoke. So ... 25 Q. So nothing in the communal area and nothing in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 went to the door of the stairwell and opened that door, 2 the burning smell was even stronger. 3 Do you remember your wife opening the flat door? 4 A. I do, but that was after I first investigated and came 5 back. I think that happened, I would say, 5/10 minutes 6 after. 7 Q. Well, can I come back to that -- 8 A. Yes, sure. 9 Q. -- if I may. 10 So when you did this first investigation, your wife 11 wasn't with you; is that right? 12 A. No. 13 Q. Could we look at the bottom of this page, please, at 14 paragraph 64. 15 In this paragraph, Mr Macit, you're setting out that 16 you received a photograph from your brother-in-law, 17 Abdullah, and you give a time of that at around 1.35 am. 18 A. That's correct. 19 Q. How sure are you of that time? 20 A. I am very sure of that because there were some pictures 21 and I had the time it was sent to me on top of that 22 picture. And he actually sent me two pictures, but 23 I had both correct times. But unfortunately I deleted 24 the pictures by mistake as I was deleting some stuff on 25 the WhatsApp. But I think the inquiry still have these</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 stairwell? 2 A. Nothing in the stairwell. 3 Q. Did you see any of your neighbours around this time? 4 A. No, I haven't. 5 Q. The fans that we were talking about a few moments ago, 6 what you've described as the smoke extractor fans -- 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. -- could you hear any noise from them at all? 9 A. No, they didn't come on. 10 Q. So even the faint sound that you -- 11 A. Oh, faint sound was always there. 12 Q. That was -- so -- 13 A. It was standard, it was always there. 14 Q. Right. 15 A. Uh-huh. 16 Q. But you didn't hear any louder noises than usual -- 17 A. No. 18 Q. -- from the fans? 19 A. No. 20 Q. Do you remember where your wife was at this time? 21 A. She was still at the living room. 22 Q. Her recollection in the statement that she's given to 23 this inquiry is that she went first, she was the first 24 of the two of you to go to the door of the flat, and 25 when she did do that, she could smell burning. When she</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 exhibits. 2 Q. The pictures that you sent are exhibited to your 3 statement. 4 A. Sure. 5 Q. But at the time that you made this first statement, did 6 you still have the WhatsApp message or had you already 7 accidentally deleted it? 8 A. No, no, I had the WhatsApp message, yes. 9 Q. We're going to talk about this in a moment, but we know 10 that you opened your flat door on a second occasion, and 11 you say that in your statement. 12 But just so that we can get the chronology correct, 13 are you, in your mind, clear that you received this 14 WhatsApp message from Abdullah before you opened your 15 flat door for a second time? 16 A. Yes, correct. 17 Q. I won't put up the image, but if you want to quickly 18 look at it yourself, it's at page 31 in your statement. 19 A. Mm-hm. 20 (Pause) 21 Q. Have you found the page, Mr Macit? 22 A. Yes, I have found the page. 23 Q. Can I ask you this, then: firstly, when you got the 24 WhatsApp message from Abdullah, did you look at it there 25 and then?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 A. I looked at it and I was shocked. I thought: what, is 2 this Grenfell Tower? And I thought: oh, this is 3 serious. I thought: no, I'm -- this is -- this is very 4 serious than I thought. And at that time, I started 5 panicking. 6 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, before I continue, just for the 7 record, so that we have it, the image that Mr Macit is 8 referring to is IWS00000069, page 31. 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you. 10 MR RAWAT: So we have that on the record. But I don't think 11 there's a need for us to put the image up. 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No. 13 MR RAWAT: Can I go to the next page in your statement, 14 Mr Macit, or to page 12, and look at paragraphs 65 to 15 68, please. 16 At 65, you tell us, Mr Macit, that Abdullah then 17 called you and you spoke to him, and he told you he 18 could see a large fire in Grenfell Tower and he told you 19 to leave, or that you needed to leave the building. 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. You then looked out of the living room window and you 22 couldn't see any sign of a fire. 23 A. That's correct. 24 Q. But you then, as you say in 67, went to the front door 25 and walked out onto the landing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 fan -- to the left of that would be your front door, 2 wouldn't it? 3 A. That's correct. 4 Q. When you went out the second time, how far out did you 5 go from your front door? 6 A. I think I just opened the door and I was standing by the 7 door, and I saw my neighbours escaping, and I also saw 8 some people opening the fire door to the stairwell and 9 shouting at us, "There's a fire, there's a fire, get 10 out." 11 Q. Can I take that in stages, please. 12 A. Sure. 13 Q. When you say the fire door, are you referring to the 14 door that leads from the communal area into the 15 stairwell? 16 A. That's correct. 17 Q. If you were standing in the doorway of your front door, 18 would you have a clear view of that door? 19 A. I would have a clear view of that door. 20 Q. When you told us that you could see your neighbours 21 leaving, were these people who lived on the 16th floor 22 as well? 23 A. No, I should have put it in a different context. When 24 I said neighbours, I call the whole of Grenfell Tower 25 neighbours, so I think they was, like, coming down from</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Were you still on the phone to Abdullah at the time? 3 A. No, no, I'd put the phone down on him. 4 Q. After ending the call with your brother-in-law, did you 5 go straight out to the landing? 6 A. No, I went to look out of the window briefly, about 7 10 seconds, and I couldn't see any fire. Then I came 8 and opened the front door. That's the time. 9 Q. What you tell us in paragraph 67 was that your wife came 10 with you. 11 A. Yes, she did. 12 Q. And you say that you saw some of your neighbours. 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Can I just bring up, please, the plan that is attached 15 to your statement, which is a plan of your floor. 16 It's IWS00000069, page 29, please. 17 This is a plan that -- is it marked in your 18 handwriting, Mr Macit? 19 A. Yes, that's correct. 20 Q. And you've signed it in the bottom left-hand corner, 21 haven't you? 22 A. I did. 23 Q. This is the layout of your floor, floor 16. 24 Can you see at the bottom of the page it's marked 25 "EF" for extractor fan. So there was an extractor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 upper floors, and briefly some of them opened the door 2 and shouted, "There's fire, there's fire in the 3 building." But I can't remember who they were. 4 Q. So these were people coming down from -- 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. -- higher floors? 7 A. From the higher floors. 8 Q. And would some of them open up the door and shout into 9 your floor? 10 A. Yes, just a couple of them, a couple. A lady shouted, 11 "There's a fire, there's a fire in the building." 12 Q. At that time, what was the lighting like in the communal 13 area? 14 A. The lighting was okay, but I could start seeing some 15 smoke. 16 Q. Did you recognise anyone who lived in another flat on 17 the 16th floor at this time? Do you remember seeing 18 anybody from one of the other flats? 19 A. I didn't, but my wife did. 20 Q. Did she tell you at the time that she'd seen someone? 21 A. No, she didn't tell me at the time. 22 Q. Let's leave that there. We're going to be reading your 23 wife's statement in due course. 24 A. Okay, sure. 25 Q. When the stairwell door was opened, did you see what the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

<p>1 lighting was like in the stairwell?</p> <p>2 A. I could see some smoke there, but the lighting was okay.</p> <p>3 You could still see.</p> <p>4 Q. So there were lights on in the stairwell, were there?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, there was.</p> <p>6 Q. You've described smoke, but was your visibility good</p> <p>7 from the doorway?</p> <p>8 A. No, visibility was okay, we could see people's faces.</p> <p>9 Like if you was standing there, I could see you. But</p> <p>10 I noticed the smoke at that time, that's the only time</p> <p>11 I noticed the smoke.</p> <p>12 Q. Can you describe the smoke that you saw at that time?</p> <p>13 A. It was light smoke, but kind of -- how shall I say? --</p> <p>14 it wasn't a dense smoke, it was just, you know -- you</p> <p>15 could see the smoke, that's it.</p> <p>16 Q. And where was it coming from?</p> <p>17 A. It was coming from the stairwell, from ...</p> <p>18 Q. Other than seeing the smoke, was there anything else</p> <p>19 that you noticed about the condition in the communal</p> <p>20 area at the time?</p> <p>21 A. No, to be honest, I didn't. I quickly made up my mind</p> <p>22 that, you know, we needed to escape and I just went back</p> <p>23 inside to put my clothes on.</p> <p>24 Q. At that time, you hadn't seen anybody else who lived on</p> <p>25 floor 16?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 A. -- when I was dressing up.</p> <p>2 Q. Let's just confirm where your bedroom was. If we look</p> <p>3 at IWS00000069, page 27, please.</p> <p>4 Your front door would be between your bathroom,</p> <p>5 which is labelled "BA", and your storage room. Then you</p> <p>6 have two bedrooms labelled "B1" and "B2". Which bedroom</p> <p>7 was yours?</p> <p>8 A. I was in B2.</p> <p>9 Q. That's where you went obviously to get changed.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. And, as you told us, you would've had your front door</p> <p>12 shut and your bedroom door shut.</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. If someone had banged or knocked on your door, would you</p> <p>15 have been able to hear them from your bedroom?</p> <p>16 A. If it was loud enough, I would, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Can we go back to page 13 of your statement, please.</p> <p>18 Let's look at paragraph 72 to 74.</p> <p>19 In these paragraphs, Mr Macit, you're discussing --</p> <p>20 you and your wife have now got ready to leave, and you</p> <p>21 then describe opening the front door and being</p> <p>22 confronted by the landing area being filled with smoke.</p> <p>23 You describe the smoke as thick, hot and black.</p> <p>24 So how much time do you think -- and I appreciate</p> <p>25 that estimating times is difficult -- in between your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 A. No, I haven't.</p> <p>2 Q. You told us that you'd made up your mind that you needed</p> <p>3 to escape and you went back to get changed.</p> <p>4 Did you think that the smoke would've prevented you</p> <p>5 from leaving, the smoke that you saw at that time?</p> <p>6 A. No, that smoke didn't scare me at all because it was</p> <p>7 very light smoke. It was just, you know ... I can't</p> <p>8 describe it to you, but it was just like if you've set</p> <p>9 a paper alight there, it's that much smoke (Indicates).</p> <p>10 Q. If you could give me a moment, please.</p> <p>11 A. Sure.</p> <p>12 (Pause)</p> <p>13 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>14 Once you were back in the flat, and you were getting</p> <p>15 changed, did you hear any knocking on your door at all?</p> <p>16 A. No, I didn't hear any knocking at all.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you hear any noises coming from the communal area at</p> <p>18 this ...?</p> <p>19 A. No, I didn't hear any noises either.</p> <p>20 Q. Let's go to your plan of your flat --</p> <p>21 A. Sorry, Mr Rawat, can I say, because I closed the front</p> <p>22 door and I also went into my bedroom and closed the</p> <p>23 bedroom door, so I wouldn't hear any noise or any</p> <p>24 knocking at all --</p> <p>25 Q. Well --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 returning, shutting the front door to go and get changed</p> <p>2 and now getting ready to leave, how much time do you</p> <p>3 think had passed?</p> <p>4 A. I would estimate something like 4 minutes or maybe</p> <p>5 5 minutes. Yes, something like that.</p> <p>6 Q. Just give us a sense of what confronted you. What were</p> <p>7 the conditions like now on the landing area?</p> <p>8 A. As soon as I opened the door, this hot smoke hit my</p> <p>9 face, and I was surprised and shocked. I thought: well,</p> <p>10 in this short time, where did this smoke come from? You</p> <p>11 know, I wasn't expecting that to happen.</p> <p>12 And the smoke was hot, and also I couldn't see</p> <p>13 anything. That was another shock. If you're standing</p> <p>14 this much in front of me, I couldn't see you</p> <p>15 (Indicates).</p> <p>16 Q. In terms of filling the height of the communal area,</p> <p>17 whereabouts was the smoke in the communal area?</p> <p>18 A. It was filled everywhere. It was filled everywhere.</p> <p>19 The whole communal area was filled with smoke.</p> <p>20 Q. When you'd opened up the door when your wife was with</p> <p>21 you, were you aware that the lighting was on in the</p> <p>22 communal area?</p> <p>23 A. To be honest, I wasn't sure whether the light was on or</p> <p>24 not. But to me, it was pitch black, and as soon as</p> <p>25 I took a gulp of that smoke, my throat started hurting,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 it was like someone is stabbing me in the throat, and my 2 eyes started hurting, and even inside my nostrils felt 3 the hot smoke. And I thought: no, this is terrible. 4 Shall I tell you exactly how I felt? I thought, "Oh 5 God", you know, I thought, "This is not good", and I ran 6 back inside straight away. 7 Q. This is the third time that you opened your flat door, 8 isn't it? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. If I just take you back to that second time when you 11 spoke about hearing or seeing neighbours going down the 12 stairwell. 13 On that occasion, were you aware of whether there 14 were lights on in the communal area on your floor? 15 A. Yes, there was lights on. 16 Q. And now, this time, just so that we can be clear, this 17 is the third time you've opened the door, you've 18 described the conditions that you saw, and is it right 19 that you couldn't tell whether the lights were on? 20 A. No, I couldn't tell. They might have been on but there 21 was so much dense smoke that you wouldn't notice if the 22 lights was on. 23 Q. How far were you able to get on this occasion from your 24 front door? 25 A. No, I didn't even have the courage to walk a step out of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 waiting, there was another little problem we had to sort 2 out. 3 Yes, Mr Rawat. 4 MR RAWAT: Thank you, Mr Chairman. 5 Mr Macit, before the break I said I would turn to 6 the first 999 call that you made, and we have that at 7 INQ00000280, please. 8 We can see at the top that the time of the call is 9 given as 01.37.27, but if I could explain just for the 10 record -- this is something you know about, Mr Macit -- 11 this is a call where you first, as we can see, speak to 12 a police operator, identified as "MPS Operator", and 13 then that operator speaks to the London Fire Brigade and 14 then connects you to an operator from the Fire Brigade. 15 I think that when you made your first statement, 16 what was available at the time was a transcript of the 17 conversation with the Fire Brigade, rather than with the 18 police as well. 19 A. That's correct. 20 Q. So we're going to use this transcript because it gives 21 us a complete picture of the discussions that followed 22 your call. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. But our starting point was at 01.37. 25 I don't want to go through it all; I just want to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 my flat. I just saw the smoke and I thought: no, this 2 is not good. You know, I just panicked and ran back 3 inside and closed the door, and told my wife that we 4 can't leave, we need to phone the Fire Brigade. 5 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, I think Mr Macit has been going for 6 almost an hour, and I am going on to a new topic, which 7 is the call to the Fire Brigade. 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I was going to ask you whether this 9 would be a good moment. 10 MR RAWAT: It would be a convenient moment for a short 11 break. 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think we would all benefit from 13 a short break, Mr Macit. 14 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir. 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I am going to ask you, when you go 16 from the room, please don't talk to anyone about your 17 evidence. 18 THE WITNESS: Sure. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you go with the usher, we'll 20 resume at 3.20. All right? Thank you very much. 21 Right, 3.20, then, please. 22 (3.10 pm) 23 (A short break) 24 (3.25 pm) 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Macit, I'm sorry we kept you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 pick specific bits of information that you provided at 2 the time and just to ask you about it. 3 So if we see in the middle of it, where the operator 4 asks you: 5 "MPS Operator: And where's the fire? 6 "Sener: It's underneath. I can't see, but because 7 we, we went (inaudible) 8 "MPS Operator: is it underneath you? 9 "Sener: No, no. Not underneath. But I'm not sure 10 exactly where. But the...there's so much smoke, we 11 can't even go out." 12 Then if we go to the next page, page 2, we see seven 13 lines down -- 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Could we have it expanded? It's 15 quite hard to read. 16 MR RAWAT: Yes, I'm sorry. If we expand the top half. I'm 17 sorry Mr Chairman. 18 If we go seven lines down, the response from 19 Mr Macit which begins "The fire escape", and if we just 20 look above that, you say: 21 "I didn't go out of the flat but er, I tried, I 22 tried to get into the, the umm the stairs." 23 The operator acknowledges you, and then you say: 24 "Sener: The fire escape. But there there was so 25 much smoke in the, in the corridor, we just ran back</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 inside and close the door."</p> <p>2 A few lines down, the operator asks:</p> <p>3 "MPS Operator: Did you say you tried to get through</p> <p>4 the stairs?</p> <p>5 "Sener: Yeah. But there was so much smoke. We were</p> <p>6 scared. We ran back inside our flat. It's, it's dark</p> <p>7 as well. There is no light."</p> <p>8 Just so that we can understand the sequence of what</p> <p>9 was going on, what smoke are you referring to there?</p> <p>10 A. The smoke I'm referring to is the smoke that got inside</p> <p>11 while we kept the door open briefly, and also the smoke</p> <p>12 that is pouring in from underneath the door. There's,</p> <p>13 I would say, you know, half a centimetre of gap</p> <p>14 underneath the front door to the lobby area. So the</p> <p>15 smoke was pouring in by this time, you know, from the</p> <p>16 door.</p> <p>17 Q. So we talked just before the short break about that</p> <p>18 third occasion on which you opened your door and you</p> <p>19 described the conditions.</p> <p>20 So was that the smoke that was then coming into your</p> <p>21 flat through the open door?</p> <p>22 A. I kept the door open for something like a matter of 5 to</p> <p>23 7 seconds, maybe, maybe maximum 10, before I realised</p> <p>24 this is something that I'm not going to be able to</p> <p>25 escape. This is something that, you know -- too much.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, it was, but not as much as when I was standing by</p> <p>2 the door.</p> <p>3 Q. Could we go to page 4 of this transcript, please, and</p> <p>4 expand the top section, just to "CALL CONCLUDED".</p> <p>5 Just to put this into context, Mr Macit, what the</p> <p>6 MPS operator says is that they are going to get someone</p> <p>7 from the fire service, but as they're explaining that to</p> <p>8 you, the operator says, "I'm gonna call you back, okay,</p> <p>9 in literally two minutes", but in between you say,</p> <p>10 "Stuff is coming in."</p> <p>11 What stuff were you referring to?</p> <p>12 A. I was referring to the smoke again.</p> <p>13 Q. If we go to page 6 in the transcript, and just expand</p> <p>14 the top half of it, please.</p> <p>15 In fact, just before we do that, can I go back to</p> <p>16 page 4, please, just to help you with time, please,</p> <p>17 Mr Macit.</p> <p>18 A. Okay.</p> <p>19 Q. At page 4 is that part of the transcript where the call</p> <p>20 is being connected to the London Fire Brigade. We're</p> <p>21 now at 01.45, so a few minutes have gone on.</p> <p>22 If we go through to page 6, you're now speaking to</p> <p>23 an LFB operator, and you say at the top:</p> <p>24 "Sener: I'm on the sixteenth floor and there's smoke</p> <p>25 coming in more now, more now.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 So I decided to shut the door and run back inside. And</p> <p>2 that 10 seconds, I suppose enough smoke went inside my</p> <p>3 flat, and also the smoke continued coming in from</p> <p>4 underneath the door.</p> <p>5 Q. How quickly was it coming in underneath the door?</p> <p>6 A. It was coming in kind of -- I can't measure it in</p> <p>7 anyway, but it was filling the corridor inside my flat.</p> <p>8 Q. What you also mention in the part that I've just read</p> <p>9 out -- you say that:</p> <p>10 "... it's dark as well. There is no light."</p> <p>11 Where was there no light?</p> <p>12 A. Oh, it's in the landing area, when we opened the door.</p> <p>13 Q. Do you think you're discussing there that third occasion</p> <p>14 when you recall opening your door?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. And the smoke that was now coming into your flat, what</p> <p>17 did it look like?</p> <p>18 A. It was black and it kind of had a plastic burning smell,</p> <p>19 and it had some other smell to it, but it was disgusting</p> <p>20 and it was terrible. And as I say, it burns people's --</p> <p>21 it burnt my eyes straight away, and it's like -- it made</p> <p>22 a bad taste in my mouth and also it was like my throat</p> <p>23 started hurting straight away.</p> <p>24 Q. Was that effect still happening even in your own flat</p> <p>25 once you'd got back into it?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 "LFB Operator: Okay, then. Where's the smoke coming</p> <p>2 from? ...</p> <p>3 "Sener: Underneath the door. And we tried to go out</p> <p>4 into the, the stairs, the fire escape, but there was</p> <p>5 (inaudible) pitch black and there was so much smoke ...</p> <p>6 run."</p> <p>7 Which door are you referring to when you're saying</p> <p>8 "underneath the door"?</p> <p>9 A. My front door to my flat.</p> <p>10 Q. The advice that you are given is:</p> <p>11 "LFB Operator: You're probably best to stay in your</p> <p>12 flat."</p> <p>13 Then you're told:</p> <p>14 "LFB Operator: Can you put something against the</p> <p>15 door? Some blankets, cushions. Anything to stop the</p> <p>16 smoke coming in.</p> <p>17 "Sener: Okay."</p> <p>18 Then you're told to shut your windows.</p> <p>19 Do you remember doing that at the time?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, I was on the phone to the operator, but at the same</p> <p>21 time I instructed my wife to do it.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you also try to block up the door at this time?</p> <p>23 A. No, I didn't do it myself, she has done it, because</p> <p>24 I was busy talking to the operator and I had the phone</p> <p>25 in my hand.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 Q. So you passed on the instructions to your wife?</p> <p>2 A. I did.</p> <p>3 Q. If you just scroll down slightly, what the LFB operator</p> <p>4 does is to ask you what flat number you're in, and then</p> <p>5 to say:</p> <p>6 "LFB Operator: Okay. If it gets worse, ring us</p> <p>7 back. But just try and stop the smoke coming in. And</p> <p>8 just stay where you are for now. But we are dealing</p> <p>9 with the fire on the fourth floor."</p> <p>10 Do you remember being told that there was a fire on</p> <p>11 the 4th floor?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, I have been told that, I do remember that.</p> <p>13 Q. Do you still have a memory of being told that?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. So you've now been put through to an LFB operator and</p> <p>16 you've been given some advice.</p> <p>17 What effect did that advice have on what you decided</p> <p>18 to do next?</p> <p>19 A. That advice did not satisfy me at all. I had question</p> <p>20 marks in my head as to if this fire is on the 4th floor,</p> <p>21 how come the smoke came to 16th floor? Because that was</p> <p>22 kind of an exclamation mark or question mark, I don't</p> <p>23 know, whatever you call it.</p> <p>24 And also, I thought to myself: is that the only</p> <p>25 thing that they're going to do for me, just "Stay in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 or one of the plans, you marked that you had three</p> <p>2 alarms in your flat.</p> <p>3 A. Mm.</p> <p>4 Q. Was it an alarm in a particular location that was set</p> <p>5 off?</p> <p>6 A. It was all three of them.</p> <p>7 Q. If we go back to the first page of this transcript,</p> <p>8 please. I wonder if you could just help with the</p> <p>9 sequence of events, Mr Macit.</p> <p>10 I appreciate that it's difficult to put it all</p> <p>11 together, but you told us that you have a message from</p> <p>12 Abdullah, a WhatsApp message, which you're clear was at</p> <p>13 1.35 am.</p> <p>14 After that, you've opened your front door twice,</p> <p>15 you've come back, you've got changed, which you said</p> <p>16 took you 4 or 5 minutes, then you've tried to leave.</p> <p>17 It's after that that you first ring 999.</p> <p>18 The time for that call is 1.37, which would just be</p> <p>19 2 minutes after the WhatsApp message from Abdullah?</p> <p>20 A. True.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you think you might have got the sequence wrong in</p> <p>22 your recollection?</p> <p>23 A. No, I think I didn't get the sequence wrong at all.</p> <p>24 Q. And so would you have been able to have done everything</p> <p>25 in the two minutes between the WhatsApp message from</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 your flat", and this is something serious?</p> <p>2 I thought to myself: no, if we can't live in these</p> <p>3 smoke-filled corridors, they need to bring us breathing</p> <p>4 sets so that we can leave. That's what was going</p> <p>5 through my mind.</p> <p>6 Q. If we go to page 7. Again, if we could just expand the</p> <p>7 text, please.</p> <p>8 You're now back with the MPS operator. The MPS</p> <p>9 operator said:</p> <p>10 "MPS Operator: Yeah. So the fire is coming from the</p> <p>11 fourth floor. Have you got...where's your duvet in your</p> <p>12 and blankets and that. Make sure you put them through</p> <p>13 the door, like under the door, alright.</p> <p>14 "Sener: Okay."</p> <p>15 Then there's a sound of an alarm in the background.</p> <p>16 If we scroll down a little bit more.</p> <p>17 As the conversation continues, the transcript</p> <p>18 records that there is a sound of an alarm in the</p> <p>19 background.</p> <p>20 Do you remember an alarm being triggered in your</p> <p>21 flat?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. And what alarm was that?</p> <p>24 A. It was the smoke alarm.</p> <p>25 Q. I'll take you back to it if you want to, on your plan,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 Abdullah at 01.35 and this call?</p> <p>2 A. I'm sure I did everything right after that WhatsApp</p> <p>3 message, straight away I dialled 999.</p> <p>4 Q. But do you think in between that WhatsApp message, you</p> <p>5 would've had time to go to your front door twice, come</p> <p>6 back and get changed, and go back to your front door?</p> <p>7 A. Between -- would you say that again?</p> <p>8 Q. The evidence that you've given us so far is that</p> <p>9 Abdullah sends you a WhatsApp message at 1.35.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. After that, you go to your front door.</p> <p>12 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>13 Q. Then you come back and you get changed.</p> <p>14 A. Right.</p> <p>15 Q. And you told us that takes you 4 to 5 minutes. Then you</p> <p>16 go back again with your wife, and that's when you notice</p> <p>17 there's black smoke.</p> <p>18 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>19 Q. You then tell us you call 999.</p> <p>20 A. Okay.</p> <p>21 Q. But taking the times, taking Abdullah's WhatsApp message</p> <p>22 as a starting point and the time of this call as</p> <p>23 a starting point, it's only 2 minutes.</p> <p>24 A. Sure.</p> <p>25 Q. My question is whether the sequence could be wrong.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 A. I understand what you're asking me, because when I said 2 4 to 5 minutes, there's only a gap of 2 minutes between 3 the message and the time I called the LFB or the police. 4 Okay. In that case, I can't remember correctly, but 5 I thought it was 4 to 5 minutes it took us to change. 6 Q. But is it possible that you might have received the 7 WhatsApp message from Abdullah after you had already 8 decided to leave -- 9 A. Oh, I see. 10 Q. -- and got changed, and after you'd noticed what the 11 conditions were like on the lobby, that there was 12 already black smoke in the lobby area? 13 A. Right. I'll give my honest answer: I can't remember 14 that now. 15 Q. That's what we want, an honest answer, so thank you very 16 much. 17 A. Thank you, sir. 18 Q. Can I turn now, however, to the second 999 call that you 19 make, and if I could go back to your statement, please, 20 and can we have pages 14 and 15 side by side. I would 21 like to have paragraphs 83 to 85, which spans those two 22 pages. 23 In paragraph 83, if you see that, Mr Macit, this is 24 another WhatsApp message from Abdullah. You then say in 25 84 that he called you on the phone, and he told you to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 this call. 2 It's actually a long call, it lasts for just over 3 27 minutes, so it would have taken you to about 02.37. 4 If we go to page 2, can you see that on this, the 5 operator will be the North West Fire Control operator, 6 but there's a reference at the top to "Operator 2" which 7 says: 8 "OPERATOR 2: Glasgow connecting mobile 9 078[redacted]58, the call was originally for London Fire 10 but we've been asked to redirect it because all their 11 lines are busy." 12 Do you remember speaking to someone from Glasgow and 13 them being connected to the Fire Brigade? 14 A. Yes, I do remember that, and I thought I was connected 15 to Glasgow call centre, and I thought this is odd, the 16 fire is happening in London, why I'm not being connected 17 to London Fire Brigade? That's what went through my 18 mind. But obviously at that time they was overwhelmed 19 with so many calls, and ... 20 Q. If we go to page 3, please, in this, and just look at 21 the bottom of the page. If we could expand the bottom 22 of page 3 of this transcript, please. 23 What you tell the operator -- and this is the North 24 West Fire Control operator -- is that you're in the 25 living room of your flat.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 get out of the building. 2 If we look in paragraph 85, you then say: 3 "85. Soon after the call from Abdullah ended, 4 Hanife and I tried to leave the building again. We left 5 the flat and I closed the front door behind me, which 6 locked the door. There was so much smoke in the 7 corridor that I couldn't see what was in front of me. 8 The smoke again was hot and black and it hurt my eyes 9 and my throat." 10 If we could have LFB00000520, please. 11 This the first page of a transcript of a second 999 12 call. If you see, there's a row of numbers and letters 13 at the top. Can you see the last letters in the 14 sequence are NWFC? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Which stands for North West Fire Control. 17 A. Mm. 18 Q. The numbers just before that are 021033, and that gives 19 us the time, 2.10 in the morning. 20 Doing the best that you can -- I've just shown you 21 that part of your statement where you describe Hanife 22 and yourself trying to leave again -- do you think that 23 you made this call before or after you tried to leave? 24 A. No, this is after we had the second attempt to escape. 25 Q. I want to ask you a few questions about the content of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 Do you remember being in the living room for the 2 duration of this call? 3 A. Yes, I do remember being in the living room. 4 Q. During this call -- and I will take you to the specific 5 pages if you want to help you by showing you that -- you 6 talk about smoke and smoke coming in. 7 Do you remember at the time that you were making 8 this call smoke coming into your flat? 9 A. Yes, I do. 10 Q. And where was the smoke coming from? 11 A. It was mainly coming underneath the door, the front door 12 of my flat. 13 But on a couple of occasions I think my wife opened 14 the windows to see what was happening downstairs, and 15 smoke came in through the windows again. 16 Q. Did you yourself look out of the windows during this 17 call? 18 A. Briefly, about 5/10 seconds, but I was looking out of 19 the windows all the time without opening them. 20 Q. Can we just quickly bring up your plan of your flat 21 which is IWS00000069, page 27. 22 We can see "L" marks your lounge, and there are 23 windows in the lounge facing south and west. 24 Can you tell us which windows the smoke was coming 25 in from?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 A. I think we opened the corner window where I marked on 2 the front of the tower. 3 Q. Would you mind if you just show us on the large plan? 4 A. Yes, definitely. This was the window we opened. 5 (Indicates). 6 Q. So that's the most southwesterly window? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. With the windows closed, was there any smoke coming into 9 the lounge? 10 A. No, there wasn't. 11 Q. Aside from the front door, which you've already given 12 evidence about, was there smoke coming in through any 13 other window in your property at that time? 14 A. I'll be quite honest, I did not notice smoke coming in 15 through the windows. If they did, I would probably have 16 missed it or I wouldn't notice it. 17 Q. You had been told in the earlier call to block up the 18 door. 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. How effective had that been in stopping smoke coming in? 21 A. It did not -- we wet some towels and put it underneath. 22 We blocked the door from underneath, but from the sides 23 there was still some smoke coming in. Even if it was 24 little, it was still pouring in. 25 Q. And what effect did that have on you and your wife?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 it did not burn my hand, but it was hot. 2 Q. Can you compare the heat to anything? 3 A. To be honest, I really don't know. Like ... say you 4 bought hot bread from, you know, the bakers, it's not 5 just came out of the oven immediately, but it was left 6 on the side for about 2 minutes. It was still hot. 7 That kind of heat. So that's the only way I could 8 describe it. 9 Q. What about, for example, if you touch a freshly-boiled 10 kettle with your hand? 11 A. No, it wasn't to the extent as that, no. 12 Q. Before we leave that page, could you just scroll up 13 a little bit. Pause there. 14 You're the person identified as "Caller", Mr Macit. 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. But you say: 17 "CALLER: Yeah, yeah. We did everything we can to 18 block it. And I'm not sure where the fire is and I'm 19 not sure whether we should run outside, we don't want to 20 burn alive here. 21 "OPERATOR: No. I don't know what your policy would 22 be, but we're just trying to keep you as safe as 23 possible." 24 Did that phrase or that sentence, "I don't know what 25 your policy would be", register with you at all at the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 A. We started coughing, and the conditions in the corridor, 2 which is here (Indicates), was worse than conditions in 3 the living room. 4 Q. So did you stay in the living room with the living room 5 door shut? 6 A. Yes, we did. 7 Q. Was it still black smoke that was coming in at this 8 time? 9 A. It was. 10 Q. Let's go back to the transcript, and let's look at 11 LFB00000520, page 8, please. 12 Could we expand from the second time the operator 13 speaks, the beginning, "No. I don't know what your 14 policy would be ..." 15 What the operator asked you is: 16 "OPERATOR: ... Have you put your hand at the back of 17 the door? Have you touched the back of the door with 18 the back of your hand quickly? Can you feel any heat? 19 "CALLER: I'm just going to do that. I'm just going 20 to the door now." 21 Did you actually go and check the heat on the front 22 door? 23 A. Yes, I did. 24 Q. And what was it like? 25 A. To a point it was hot, but it did not -- to the degree</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 time? 2 A. Well, when the operator said that, it kind of didn't 3 register with me as to what the hell is he talking 4 about, or, like, what am I to do if you don't know what 5 advice to give me? How am I supposed to know what I'm 6 supposed to do? That's the only message I got from 7 that. 8 Q. You told us already that your smoke alarms had gone off 9 in your flat. 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. Were they still active during this call? 12 A. Yes, they were still active during this call, and 13 normally if I set the smoke alarms ever, if I was 14 cooking or burn the pan or something, or burnt oil, we 15 would just get a stick and press it and turn it off 16 manually. But at that time I couldn't give a damn if it 17 was going off because, you know, that was the last thing 18 in the back of my mind. 19 Q. And were all three still going off? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Can we go to the next page, please, and just expand the 22 top third of it. 23 You see the operator asks you if you've blocked up 24 the doorway, and you say: 25 "CALLER: We did, we did but there's smoke still</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 coming in.</p> <p>2 "OPERATOR: Okay. And you can't open the windows</p> <p>3 because there's fire outside as well, is that correct?</p> <p>4 "CALLER: Yeah, yeah, yeah. That's correct."</p> <p>5 You're in the lounge, in the sitting room, you've</p> <p>6 told us, but what could you see from the windows of the</p> <p>7 lounge at this time?</p> <p>8 A. We could see smoke going up on the side of the window,</p> <p>9 coming from underneath.</p> <p>10 Q. Could you see any flames at that time?</p> <p>11 A. At that time, no, I can't remember seeing any flames.</p> <p>12 But I have to be correct, I didn't look out of the</p> <p>13 window at that time. I just didn't open the window,</p> <p>14 I just saw the smoke travelling up.</p> <p>15 Q. Did that give you any sense of how close the fire was to</p> <p>16 your flat?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, it did. It's like I thought: God, we are in</p> <p>18 trouble here, someone has to do something and get us out</p> <p>19 of here.</p> <p>20 Q. Could you at that time see anything falling past your</p> <p>21 windows?</p> <p>22 A. Not that time, not that time.</p> <p>23 Q. In this call -- and I'll take you to specific pages if</p> <p>24 that will help you, but otherwise I'll summarise it --</p> <p>25 the advice that you are given is you are told to block</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 the floor? Is she -- is she still on the telephone?</p> <p>2 "CALLER: Yeah, she is. My relatives keep ringing --</p> <p>3 well, actually her relatives keep ringing, and also my</p> <p>4 daughter rang as well."</p> <p>5 What were your relatives telling you about what was</p> <p>6 going on outside?</p> <p>7 A. Well, they was telling us that there's a big fire and we</p> <p>8 needed to get out, and we kept telling them, "We can't,</p> <p>9 the smoke is preventing us from getting outside".</p> <p>10 Because I said to them, "I'm not sure whether my breath</p> <p>11 is going to be enough to come down all the way down to</p> <p>12 the ground through the stairwell", because I knew</p> <p>13 I couldn't use the lifts anyway.</p> <p>14 And also I wasn't sure whether I was not going to be</p> <p>15 confronted by fire as I was coming down the stairs.</p> <p>16 That was another question mark in the back of my head.</p> <p>17 That was another fear, I should say.</p> <p>18 Q. Can we bring up, please, page 23 of this transcript, the</p> <p>19 second answer from Mr Macit down, if we expand from</p> <p>20 there, just down to the bottom of the page. Where it</p> <p>21 begins:</p> <p>22 "CALLER: We don't whether there is ..."</p> <p>23 What you're saying there, Mr Macit, if we pick up</p> <p>24 the last part of that response:</p> <p>25 "CALLER: ... We just don't know where the fire is.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 doors, not to open windows, to get low to the floor --</p> <p>2 A. Correct.</p> <p>3 Q. -- to cover your nose and mouth with a wet towel and to</p> <p>4 keep calm.</p> <p>5 Did you follow that advice?</p> <p>6 A. I did. I immediately went to the bathroom and wet</p> <p>7 a towel and put it for my mouth and nose, for my face,</p> <p>8 and I was trying to keep low on the floor as much as</p> <p>9 I could. But my wife was panicking from this, and she</p> <p>10 was running from room to room, and she was also on the</p> <p>11 phone to her sister.</p> <p>12 Q. Can I take you to the pages where you refer to those</p> <p>13 phone calls. If we have side by side, please,</p> <p>14 LFB00000520, page 18 and page 20.</p> <p>15 Perhaps we might need to expand it, but if we expand</p> <p>16 the bottom part of page 18 just from "Okay", the</p> <p>17 operator has asked your names, although I think there's</p> <p>18 a typographical error. The operator asks:</p> <p>19 "OPERATOR: Okay. Is Hamife[sic] okay?</p> <p>20 "CALLER: Yeah, she is. But she's on the phone to</p> <p>21 the relatives."</p> <p>22 Then on the next page, if we go again to the bottom</p> <p>23 of page 20, you refer to Hanife panicking. The operator</p> <p>24 says:</p> <p>25 "OPERATOR: Yeah. Has she got her face low down to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 "OPERATOR: We don't, we don't know where it is at</p> <p>2 the moment. Yeah. Okay. Sener, keep calm."</p> <p>3 If we scroll down, the operator is recorded as</p> <p>4 saying at the very bottom there:</p> <p>5 "OPERATOR: Can we try and get an update (inaudible)</p> <p>6 from London?"</p> <p>7 If you go over to the next page, please, what the</p> <p>8 operator later tells you is:</p> <p>9 "OPERATOR: Sener, Sener we think that the fire</p> <p>10 fighters are now working their way up from the 14th</p> <p>11 floor. So, they should be on the 16th floor very, very</p> <p>12 soon. That's what we think is the situation. So, keep</p> <p>13 calm, keep doing what we've just explained for you to</p> <p>14 do, breathe shallowly if you can. And make sure Hamife</p> <p>15 does the same."</p> <p>16 What did you think when you were told that they</p> <p>17 thought the firefighters were working their way up from</p> <p>18 the 14th floor?</p> <p>19 A. I thought at last they're coming to save us, and it kind</p> <p>20 of made me relieved a little to say that there's some</p> <p>21 help on the way.</p> <p>22 I was still scared, but I was assured that help is</p> <p>23 coming, it's on the way, and I thought they would know</p> <p>24 how to get us out of here. So ...</p> <p>25 Q. If we go, please, to page 28 in the transcript.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

<p>1 Again, bottom third of the page, please, expand 2 that. 3 Can we see where it says: 4 "OPERATOR: Right. We've just has a message to pass 5 on to you. If you can get the towels that you've got. 6 "CALLER: Yeah. 7 "OPERATOR: Get them as wet as you possibly can, wet 8 them through. 9 "CALLER: Yeah. 10 "OPERATOR: Put -- cover yourself with the towels. 11 "CALLER: Yeah, go on. 12 "OPERATOR: Cover yourself with the wet towels as 13 much as you possibly can. And you -- we are, we are 14 being instructed to ask you to leave your flat. Like 15 you just said you were going to do." 16 If we scroll down to the bottom of that page, you 17 say: 18 "CALLER: Yeah, yeah, we're gonna do that, we're 19 gonna do that. So, the firemen can't come here? 20 "OPERATOR: That's what they've told me to ask you to 21 do. That would be the safest option at the [moment]. 22 So, I want you and Hamife to do that. 23 "CALLER: I'm gonna try to run downstairs 24 (inaudible), yeah? 25 "OPERATOR: Try to run. Yes, try to run out."</p> <p>Page 157</p>	<p>1 lighting in the lobby area? 2 A. No, I didn't have any sense of what's happened to the 3 lighting. I wasn't even sure whether they was on or 4 switched off or whether it was pitch black because of 5 the smoke. 6 Q. What you say, if we look at paragraph 86, is: 7 "86. We walked slowly across the corridor to where 8 the fire doors to the stairwell were." 9 Just tell us, how were you trying to navigate your 10 way from your front door to that stairwell door? 11 A. Like put yourself in a blind person's condition and just 12 close your eyes and try to find the door there, you 13 know, with your hands. We knew where the fire door was 14 because we lived there for so long, and we just aimed 15 for that angle and tried to find the fire door with our 16 hands. 17 Q. Were the lights in your hallway working at the time? 18 A. In our hallway, it was working. 19 Q. So was there light coming from your hallway into the 20 lobby area? 21 A. It wouldn't help us at all. 22 Q. Did you have anything like a torch on your mobile phone 23 to light your way? 24 A. No, I didn't use that at all, because I was holding 25 a towel and, at the same time, I was trying to feel the</p> <p>Page 159</p>
<p>1 So the advice you're now given is changed, and what 2 was your reaction to that change of advice? 3 A. Because knowing how smoky it was out there, it was 4 a challenge, it was -- I thought: God, am I going to be 5 able to do it? That's what was going through the back 6 of my mind. 7 I was given the instruction to run down the stairs, 8 but I didn't know what my chances were, whether it was 9 50/50, you know, like -- that's what was -- when I said 10 "Oh God", that's what was going through my mind, whether 11 we could survive, we could live through that, or we 12 could make it downstairs, or our breath would be enough 13 to go down, you know. At that time, I didn't know. 14 Q. Can we go back, then, to your statement, please, page 15 15 of IWS00000069, and look at paragraphs 85 to 89. 16 This is, rather than just opening the door, actually 17 an attempt to try and leave your flat and leave the 18 building. 19 When you made this second attempt, do you recall 20 whether you and your wife used wet towels at all? 21 A. Yes, we did. 22 Q. When you opened your front door, how far could you see? 23 A. I think we couldn't even see this much (Indicates), 24 like, say, 10 centimetres. 25 Q. Did you have any sense of what had happened to the</p> <p>Page 158</p>	<p>1 fire escape door. 2 Q. In your statement -- and we're looking again at 3 paragraph 86 -- you describe getting to the stairwell 4 door and pushing it open, and that there was smoke in 5 the stairwell. 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Was there any difference, if any, between the smoke that 8 you were encountering in the lobby area and the smoke in 9 the stairwell? 10 A. It was exactly the same. 11 Q. Did you have any sense of what the lighting was like in 12 the stairwell? 13 A. It was exactly the same, again. You couldn't see 14 nothing. 15 Q. Just tell us, what was it that prevented you from 16 beginning to go down the stairs? 17 A. I was already out of breath, and I started panicking, 18 and when I saw the stairwell full of smoke as well -- 19 let me tell you, first of all, when I walked out of my 20 flat, I didn't know the conditions in the stairwell. So 21 I was hoping if I could get to the stairwell, and if it 22 was smoke-free, then I would have made it, I would have 23 been able to come down and run down. 24 But as soon as I saw that there was smoke in the 25 stairwell as well, I thought: no, I'm already out of</p> <p>Page 160</p>

<p>1 breath, we're not going to make it.</p> <p>2 And it was hot, the conditions was hot, and it</p> <p>3 was -- it was to the point hot, like, air was hitting my</p> <p>4 face, and it scared me.</p> <p>5 So I thought I'm not going to do it, I'm not going</p> <p>6 to have enough breath to run down, and that's what made</p> <p>7 me decide not to continue with the escape, and I turned</p> <p>8 back.</p> <p>9 Q. And you made your way back to your flat?</p> <p>10 A. I did.</p> <p>11 Q. I think you explain that because of the way your door</p> <p>12 worked, you had to try to unlock it.</p> <p>13 A. I closed it behind me as I was escaping, and then I had</p> <p>14 to open the door again. But this time I couldn't see</p> <p>15 the keyhole, so I just took the keys out of my pocket</p> <p>16 and I was trying to feel the keyhole on the door</p> <p>17 (Indicates).</p> <p>18 While I was doing that, Hanife was panicking and she</p> <p>19 was saying to me, "Oh my God, quick, quick, Sener, open</p> <p>20 the door, open the door, we're going to die here, we're</p> <p>21 going to collapse here." And I was panicking as well,</p> <p>22 I was thinking: God, what if I can't open the door? And</p> <p>23 I managed to find the keyhole and I managed to put the</p> <p>24 key through to the keyhole. And I tell you, that was</p> <p>25 a mission. I did manage to open the door and we just</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 Q. Was there any difference in visibility between the lobby</p> <p>2 area and the stairwell?</p> <p>3 A. No, there wasn't.</p> <p>4 Q. So it was, as you described, like being --</p> <p>5 A. Pitch black.</p> <p>6 Q. -- a blind man trying to find a door?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. What you say about the stairwell, though, is that it</p> <p>9 felt like there was no oxygen and you couldn't breathe.</p> <p>10 Was it easier to breathe when you were in the lobby</p> <p>11 or was it just because you were out of breathe?</p> <p>12 A. No, I think it's the same conditions in the stairwell or</p> <p>13 in the lobby.</p> <p>14 Q. If we look at the bottom of the part of your statement</p> <p>15 that we've got up on the screen, you say that when you</p> <p>16 got back into the flat, you went into the living room</p> <p>17 and closed the door of the living room to try and get</p> <p>18 away from the smoke:</p> <p>19 "There was thick, black smoke pouring into the flat</p> <p>20 and closing the door of the living room didn't stop it</p> <p>21 from coming in."</p> <p>22 So how was this thick, black smoke getting into your</p> <p>23 flat?</p> <p>24 A. Well, it was travelling all the way from the lobby area</p> <p>25 where the lifts are, underneath the door to our</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 ran back inside.</p> <p>2 Q. You described a moment ago that it was hot.</p> <p>3 When you left your flat and moved out into the lobby</p> <p>4 area, what was the heat like in that part of the floor?</p> <p>5 A. Well, I think it was hotter than, you know, a sauna in a</p> <p>6 Turkish bath, much hotter. I would say, you know, the</p> <p>7 heat is unbearable. It's like sticking your head into</p> <p>8 an oven.</p> <p>9 Q. When you got to the stairwell, what was the heat like</p> <p>10 there?</p> <p>11 A. It was the same.</p> <p>12 Q. So there was no difference in temperature between the</p> <p>13 two?</p> <p>14 A. No difference, no difference at all.</p> <p>15 But I did not venture fully into the stairwell,</p> <p>16 I just kept the door open and saw the conditions.</p> <p>17 I suppose one foot was in the stairwell, and I quickly</p> <p>18 decided to run back.</p> <p>19 Q. So, again, doing the best that you can, can you estimate</p> <p>20 how much time you spent out in that landing area, the</p> <p>21 time it took to go to the stairwell door and come back</p> <p>22 to your own flat?</p> <p>23 A. I'm not 100 per cent accurate on that, but it seemed</p> <p>24 ages, and it might have been 1 minute, maybe</p> <p>25 1.5/2 minutes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 corridor, and from the corridor it was filling with the</p> <p>2 smoke and the smoke was pushing into our living room</p> <p>3 from underneath the living room doors.</p> <p>4 Q. What did you do to try and stop that smoke coming in?</p> <p>5 A. Again, we put towels underneath the living room doors as</p> <p>6 well. But it didn't stop it either because there was</p> <p>7 gaps between the doors. And there was already enough</p> <p>8 smoke poured in.</p> <p>9 Q. So where we have got to now, Mr Macit, is that you've</p> <p>10 had your second 999 call, which took just under half</p> <p>11 an hour. You've now made your second attempt to leave</p> <p>12 and you've come back to your flat.</p> <p>13 You then made a number of calls to 999, all of which</p> <p>14 went to the London Fire Brigade.</p> <p>15 Do you have a recollection of making those calls?</p> <p>16 A. I do.</p> <p>17 Q. I'll take you to them briefly just to ask some</p> <p>18 additional questions, but can I take you to a number of</p> <p>19 those calls, and I'll take you to them in time sequence.</p> <p>20 The first one is LFB00000372.</p> <p>21 Again, as I explained before, the reference at the</p> <p>22 top gives us the time, and this is a call that's at</p> <p>23 02.41.31.</p> <p>24 Can you help us with how soon after you had made</p> <p>25 that second attempt to get out you then rang 999 again?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 A. Yes, I think it would be immediately after I got back 2 into the living room, because I was in a desperate 3 position, and the only people who could help me was the 4 Fire Brigade. 5 Q. If we go to page 3 of this. If we take the bottom of 6 page 3, please. 7 If you see at the bottom there, the operator asks 8 whether you're able to get yourself out of the property 9 safely, and you say: 10 "CALLER: No, no (Several inaudible words) tried 11 (Several inaudible words) ran back (Overspeaking)." 12 If we go to the next page, at the top, please, top 13 half, the operator says: 14 "OPERATOR: Right, you can't get out? Okay. Listen. 15 "CALLER: There's so much black smoke (Overspeaking) 16 "OPERATOR: What you need to do is get some towels, 17 make them damp and put them -- 18 "CALLER: Yeah, we did already. We -- 19 "OPERATOR: Yeah, but, also, put them around you as 20 well -- okay, or some sheets or something like that, and 21 put them around you as well, and -- if it's not -- 22 definitely not safe to get out." 23 If we scroll to the bottom of the page, a bit 24 further down. Pause there. 25 What the operator also says is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 What the operator says is: 2 "OPERATOR: Right. Yeah, right, listen to what I'm 3 going to say — tell you. You need to try and get to 4 yourself outside the property. I know there's a lot of 5 smoke so what you need to do is you need to put some 6 towels and some sheets around your head and around your 7 body and put a damp towel around your face and you need 8 to try and get out of the property together safely. 9 "CALLER: To the stairs, yeah? 10 "OPERATOR: To the stairs ... 11 "CALLER: Is there is smoke in the stairs? 12 "OPERATOR: I don't know, I can't see but you need to 13 try and get away from where you are safely to try and 14 get outside. 15 "CALLER: Okay." 16 If we scroll down a little bit, what the operator 17 also tells you is: 18 "OPERATOR: Okay, there's a lot of firemen about and 19 they're on all different floors so you should be able to 20 — once you get outside safely then you should be able to 21 see a fireman and they'll help you down the stairs." 22 This is 02.49, as I told you. Did you at that time 23 try to open the flat door to go out? 24 A. No, that ... I can't recall that, to be honest. 25 Q. If we go to the next call in the sequence that you made,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 "OPERATOR: ... Well, I'm gonna tell them on the 2 radio." 3 So the operator asks whether it's safe to get out 4 and you say no, and then the operator tells you to put 5 damp towels around you. 6 What did you take from the fact that the operator 7 was going to pass a message on the radio? 8 A. That we tried a second time, it was second attempt, and 9 we couldn't leave and we were still trapped in there, and 10 what I thought was that the operator was going to tell 11 the Fire Brigade that we are still trapped in our flat. 12 And also it might have been that I requested -- at 13 that time I referred to it as oxygen mask, like 14 breathing apparatus, breathing sets. 15 Q. Can I take you to the next call that you make -- 16 A. Sure. 17 Q. -- which is at 02.49.05, and it's at LFB00000382, 18 please, page 1 of that. 19 This is only a few minutes after that call that 20 we've just been looking at. Was there anything that 21 made you call 999 again? 22 A. To be honest, I really can't remember why I made the 23 second call. I suppose -- no, I can't remember why 24 I made the second call. 25 Q. If we go to the bottom of page 2, please.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 which is at LFB00000398, please. That's a call at 2 03.02.27. 3 If we go to the next page, just the bottom half from 4 where the operator says: 5 "OPERATOR: Okay. What we're advising people to do is 6 leave the building. 7 "CALLER: We couldn't, me (inaudible) went back 8 inside. 9 "OPERATOR: So, you tried to leave and now you're 10 back inside? 11 "CALLER: Yeah, yeah. It's -- 12 "OPERATOR: Why couldn't you leave, was the smoke too 13 bad or was it a fire? 14 "CALLER: Too bad, too bad ..." 15 What you're being told is that you have to leave, 16 but you say you've tried. 17 Now, this is a few minutes after that call that 18 I showed you of 02.49. 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Does that help you at all whether after that 02.49 call 21 you might have tried to leave again? 22 A. I still can't remember. 23 Q. Could you be referring to your earlier attempt to try 24 and leave? 25 A. It could be. It could be.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

42 (Pages 165 to 168)

<p>1 Q. If we go to the next page, please, the bottom half</p> <p>2 again.</p> <p>3 The operator, having confirmed your flat says:</p> <p>4 "OPERATOR: ... And is the smoke or a fire coming</p> <p>5 inside your flat?</p> <p>6 "CALLER: Smoke coming inside."</p> <p>7 This is now just after 3 o'clock in the morning.</p> <p>8 Do you have a recollection of where the smoke was</p> <p>9 coming into your flat at this time?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, this time it was still coming through underneath</p> <p>11 the doors.</p> <p>12 Q. So even at that time there wasn't smoke coming through</p> <p>13 the windows?</p> <p>14 A. That I'm not sure, 100 per cent.</p> <p>15 Q. Were you still in your living room?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, I was still in the living room.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you have any memory of smoke coming through the</p> <p>18 windows of the living room?</p> <p>19 A. No, I don't have any memory of smoke coming in through</p> <p>20 the windows at that time.</p> <p>21 But don't get me wrong, it could have been coming</p> <p>22 through the windows or I didn't notice it, because I was</p> <p>23 in such a shock that I was so concerned about me and my</p> <p>24 wife's life, so I couldn't give you accurate information</p> <p>25 on that.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 thinking to myself that I'm not going to be able to make</p> <p>2 it downstairs without the breathing apparatus. They</p> <p>3 need to come and save us with the breathing apparatus,</p> <p>4 that's what I was hoping.</p> <p>5 Q. You've been told now in calls to get out.</p> <p>6 A. Yes, we have.</p> <p>7 Q. What was it that was stopping you from getting out?</p> <p>8 A. I think I didn't have the courage to come out. I was</p> <p>9 still scared because I was thinking that I'm not going</p> <p>10 to be able to make it.</p> <p>11 Q. If we look at page 2 of this transcript, the bottom</p> <p>12 there, you're asked:</p> <p>13 "OPERATOR: ... are you able to get out through the</p> <p>14 door with the wet towels?</p> <p>15 "CALLER: No (inaudible) I'm nearly fainting, I, I</p> <p>16 don't think I can make it."</p> <p>17 The reference to "nearly fainting", what was</p> <p>18 happening to you at that time?</p> <p>19 A. I felt dizzy. I felt that I was having difficulty</p> <p>20 breathing and also I was coughing constantly, and</p> <p>21 I thought I'm going to pass out any minute. That's why</p> <p>22 I said I'm nearly fainting. Because I thought that the</p> <p>23 whole energy has drained out of my body.</p> <p>24 Q. What were the smoke conditions like in your flat at that</p> <p>25 time?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 Q. Again, I know it's hard to go back --</p> <p>2 A. Mm.</p> <p>3 Q. -- but asking you to go back, was your primary concern</p> <p>4 smoke coming through the front door?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Can I just look at page 4 of that transcript, please.</p> <p>7 The operator says:</p> <p>8 "OPERATOR: And you're sure you can't make a run for</p> <p>9 it? You're sure you can't go?</p> <p>10 "CALLER: We tried, we tried twice. We tried twice</p> <p>11 and we couldn't breathe and we couldn't see anything."</p> <p>12 That would suggest that you'd only made two</p> <p>13 attempts --</p> <p>14 A. That's correct.</p> <p>15 Q. -- and you hadn't gone out again, wouldn't it?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>17 Q. Can I ask you just to look at the next call that you</p> <p>18 made, and that's at LFB00000416, please.</p> <p>19 Now, that's at 03.12.56, so that's about 10 minutes</p> <p>20 after your last 999 call. Had anything changed that had</p> <p>21 now prompted you to make another 999 call?</p> <p>22 A. Well, we was told that the fireman was coming and they</p> <p>23 was, like, on the 14th floor. And I was constantly</p> <p>24 asking where they are or, you know, whether they're</p> <p>25 going to come or whether they're going to -- and I was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 A. It was becoming like very densely -- the smoke was</p> <p>2 getting very thick. Say, for example, I was on the</p> <p>3 floor, trying to get more oxygen, and sometimes my wife</p> <p>4 would be standing up and I couldn't see her face. It</p> <p>5 was to the point -- that much.</p> <p>6 Q. Were you still always in your living room?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, always in the living room.</p> <p>8 Q. Did you have the lights on in your living room?</p> <p>9 A. We had the lights on in the living room.</p> <p>10 Q. Even with the lights, you couldn't see your wife's face?</p> <p>11 A. Yes. If I was low down on the floor, and she was</p> <p>12 standing 2 metres away in front of me, if she was</p> <p>13 standing up, I couldn't see her face.</p> <p>14 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, I have still got quite a few more</p> <p>15 questions, I'm afraid.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I was going to wait until the</p> <p>17 clock reached 4.30 before I raised the point myself.</p> <p>18 How much longer do you think you need this witness</p> <p>19 for?</p> <p>20 MR RAWAT: I suppose realistically we'll go to 5.00 if we</p> <p>21 were to continue.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I think he ought to be offered</p> <p>23 a break anyway because we've been running for over</p> <p>24 an hour.</p> <p>25 Mr Macit, how are you feeling?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 172</p>

<p>1 THE WITNESS: Sir, I'm feeling fine. I think I can go on.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You can?</p> <p>3 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Rawat thinks he might want to ask</p> <p>5 you questions for as much as half an hour. Could you</p> <p>6 cope with that?</p> <p>7 THE WITNESS: That's no problem, sir.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Well, if you are</p> <p>9 comfortable there --</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: I am comfortable.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- we'll carry on. But if you get</p> <p>12 to a point when it's becoming a bit too much, will you</p> <p>13 make sure I'm aware of that?</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. We'll keep going, then.</p> <p>16 MR RAWAT: Thank you very much, and thank you, Mr Macit.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think, as a matter of courtesy --</p> <p>18 although I didn't do it last time -- I better check with</p> <p>19 the transcribers and the documents manager that they're</p> <p>20 all right to keep going, and the ushers too.</p> <p>21 Yes, all right. Well, keep going, then.</p> <p>22 MR RAWAT: A big thank you to everyone.</p> <p>23 Can I go to the last call for which we have</p> <p>24 a transcript, Mr Macit, and that is LFB00000423, please.</p> <p>25 This is a call timed at 03.33.46. It's the last</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 smoke was still there, I just thought: no, it's not</p> <p>2 going to be possible. Because what I was hoping, I was</p> <p>3 hoping that by the time I get to the stairwells, the</p> <p>4 smoke would have been cleared from there. That's what</p> <p>5 I was hoping.</p> <p>6 Q. Were the conditions on this third attempt to leave any</p> <p>7 different from on the previous one, the second one?</p> <p>8 A. Exactly the same. Exactly the same.</p> <p>9 Q. What I've taken you through is a sequence of 999 calls</p> <p>10 which go over about 45 minutes, so we're now at 03.33.</p> <p>11 If you go back an hour, how had the conditions</p> <p>12 changed in the preceding hour in your flat?</p> <p>13 A. Oh, I think the conditions were almost the same as the</p> <p>14 corridor -- not the corridor, the lobby area where the</p> <p>15 lifts are. But it was still bearable in my flat, in the</p> <p>16 living room. But just barely, you know.</p> <p>17 Q. It's right, isn't it, that your recollection is after</p> <p>18 this call, you made another call to 999. How soon after</p> <p>19 this call do you think you made that final call?</p> <p>20 A. That, I can't remember, sir.</p> <p>21 Q. But do you remember anything about that final call at</p> <p>22 all?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, I do. I think that transcript or that call is</p> <p>24 missing from -- but the lady said to me, "What floor are</p> <p>25 you?" I said, "I'm on the 16th floor." "16th floor?"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 call for which we have a transcript.</p> <p>2 If you go to the third page, please. I won't take</p> <p>3 you to it, but in this call you're again told by the</p> <p>4 operator to get out. But if we look at the bottom half</p> <p>5 of that page, if that's expanded, what the operator</p> <p>6 later asks you is:</p> <p>7 "OPERATOR: ... Are you sure you can't ..."</p> <p>8 That's a reference to getting out:</p> <p>9 "... I mean, honestly, that's what they're telling</p> <p>10 everybody now.</p> <p>11 "CALLER: No, no. (inaudible)</p> <p>12 "OPERATOR: You - have you tried?</p> <p>13 "CALLER: We did, we did, three times, and we run</p> <p>14 back inside."</p> <p>15 So there's a reference there to three times, and</p> <p>16 that would suggest that between the last call at 03.12</p> <p>17 and this call, which is some 20 minutes, you had made an</p> <p>18 attempt to leave.</p> <p>19 A. Yes, we did.</p> <p>20 Q. What happened during that attempt?</p> <p>21 A. The same again. I think my courage wasn't there again.</p> <p>22 I just couldn't do it, I just ran back inside.</p> <p>23 Q. How far did you get from your flat door, do you</p> <p>24 remember?</p> <p>25 A. Again, to the stairwell. And as soon as I saw the black</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 And she said, "You're still there?" I said, "Yes, I'm</p> <p>2 waiting, you know, for help." And she said, "No, you</p> <p>3 have to run downstairs. I'm going to tell you this,</p> <p>4 your only option is to run downstairs." She said, "You</p> <p>5 have to run downstairs, there's nobody coming to save</p> <p>6 you." And I said, "Look, I'm 56 and my wife is the same</p> <p>7 age and, you know, we're both not fit people, we're not</p> <p>8 going to make it, we're going to drown in the smoke."</p> <p>9 She said, "I'm afraid you're on your own. If you don't</p> <p>10 run down the stairs, I'm afraid, you know, you're not</p> <p>11 going to make it."</p> <p>12 That's what she said to us.</p> <p>13 Q. And what decision were you then faced with?</p> <p>14 A. Well, at that time there was already debris falling from</p> <p>15 the top, and there was cracking sounds of my windows,</p> <p>16 and I saw that my curtains were on fire.</p> <p>17 I opened the living room door to collect something</p> <p>18 from the wardrobe, a brief couple of seconds, maybe</p> <p>19 two -- you know, like you open the door, you just have</p> <p>20 a glance, and you just register as much as you can, you</p> <p>21 know, then close the door, because I saw there was paint</p> <p>22 melting and dripping from the ceiling. In that two</p> <p>23 seconds, that's what I saw. My curtains was on fire, my</p> <p>24 bed was on fire, my wardrobe was on fire.</p> <p>25 Q. So this was in your bedroom?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 A. Yes. And the heat of the fire hit my face and I quickly 2 shut the door. That's when I came back and I said, 3 "God, we're going to have to do it, we're going to have 4 to run down the stairs because we don't want to burn 5 alive here", I said to her. 6 Then I thought we have to wet ourselves to resist 7 against the fire, so I put three buckets of water on my 8 wife's head, we doused ourselves with water, and we put 9 wet towels around our faces and I said to her, "No 10 matter what happens, we're going to have to run out of 11 this door, and this time we're not coming back ever. 12 Don't answer any phone calls, concentrate on getting 13 downstairs." I said, "We're going to have to try it, 14 we're going to have to try it, and don't stop for 15 anything." I said, "Until we get downstairs, we have to 16 try, we have to run." 17 And that was the last attempt. 18 Q. Could I take you just to the plan of your flat, please, 19 which is IWS00000069, page 27, please. 20 In your statement, when you're dealing with this, 21 you describe that you saw the glass of the windows in 22 the living room crack and shatter like an explosion? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Which windows was that, the ones on the south or the 25 ones on the west?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 Q. You've already told us that you then left the flat. 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. And what you told your wife about what you both needed 4 to do now. 5 A. Mm. 6 Q. What were the conditions like compared to your previous 7 attempts when you went out into the communal area this 8 time? 9 A. I remember it was exactly the same condition. 10 Q. And what was the heat like? 11 A. It was very hot. It was very hot. By this time, 12 I could feel my eyebrows, like, getting like -- how 13 shall I -- not burnt but like, you know, kind of -- not 14 burnt completely, but I could feel that they was 15 affected a little. 16 Q. You compared the heat earlier to worse than a Turkish 17 sauna; what was it like now? 18 A. God, it was exactly the same. 19 As a result of this, my wife's eyes stuck and she 20 couldn't open them for three days. She had some eye 21 drop treatments. 22 Q. Was there any difference with the conditions that you 23 encountered in the stairwell? 24 A. The conditions on the stairwell were the same. But as 25 we was coming down, I noticed as we was descending, it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 A. I can't remember -- no, it would be -- because, yes, it 2 would be the front of the building. I'll show you. 3 I think this side (Indicates). 4 Q. So the ones on the south side? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. You say in your statement that you saw the curtains 7 catch fire. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Were you already getting ready to leave by then? 10 A. We was already getting ready to leave. I think we only 11 picked up our passport bags and, you know, identity 12 cards and this and that, you know, things like that, 13 mobile phone, and nothing else. We was just concerned, 14 you know, about our identity. 15 Q. The bedroom that you opened the door of was your 16 bedroom. Is that B2 or B1? 17 A. B2. 18 Q. That was the only other room you went into, was it? 19 A. No, my wife already seen the fire in the B1, already 20 seen the fire in the B1. 21 Q. Was this all at about the same time that you saw the 22 windows shatter in the lounge? 23 A. All at the same time. 24 But I didn't go into B1, but I just like briefly 25 opened the door to B2.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 became bearable, it became much better. 2 Q. Can you remember how far you had descended before it 3 became much better? 4 A. I think on the 8th floor we could see something if it 5 was in front of us on the floor. 6 Q. You describe the smoke as toxic and tasting poisonous. 7 Did it have any immediate effect on you? 8 A. Yes, I was coughing constantly and I couldn't breathe. 9 Even when we was taken to the Latimer Road tube station 10 where they, you know, assembled all the survivors, we 11 was given oxygen masks to breathe and I couldn't 12 breathe, and I was thinking: why can't I breathe? 13 And then I realised that I had some stuff in my nose 14 and in my throat, and I coughed and I -- excuse my 15 thing, but I had to clear my throat with water and some 16 black stuff came out of my mouth. It was blocking my 17 nostrils, it was blocking my throat. That's why 18 I wasn't able to get some oxygen. 19 So I told my wife to do the same, and she washed her 20 mouth, she washed her nose. That was the only way we 21 could breathe. 22 Q. Just remind us, you described earlier that you doused 23 yourselves with water. 24 How were you covered up when you left your flat? 25 A. I was wearing a suit and my wife was wearing a blouse</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 180</p>

<p>1 and --</p> <p>2 Q. Did you have any towels around you or --</p> <p>3 A. Just a towel around my face. My wife tried to wet some</p> <p>4 dressing gowns and put them on, but I said to</p> <p>5 myself: no, this is going to be too heavy, we're not</p> <p>6 going to be able to escape with this, so I took them</p> <p>7 off. Instead, I put three buckets of water on each of</p> <p>8 us.</p> <p>9 At that time, we was in the -- this is the bathroom.</p> <p>10 Sorry, yes, this is the bathroom. We was standing on</p> <p>11 the corridor. As I poured water on her, she was in such</p> <p>12 a shock, she said, "What are you doing? You're making</p> <p>13 the carpet wet."</p> <p>14 Q. So did you both go out with a towel covering your</p> <p>15 mouth --</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. -- and your nose?</p> <p>18 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>19 Q. As far as you can remember, Mr Macit, as you went down</p> <p>20 the stairwell, were you able to keep that over your</p> <p>21 mouth?</p> <p>22 A. I was able to keep that over my mouth all the way down.</p> <p>23 Q. You said a while ago about the 8th floor it began to get</p> <p>24 light.</p> <p>25 On your descent, was there any time at which you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 THE WITNESS: Sure, okay, sir.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll come back at 4.50 and see</p> <p>3 whether there are any more questions.</p> <p>4 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much, sir.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, thank you very much.</p> <p>6 Would you like to go with the usher, please.</p> <p>7 Right, 4.50, then, please.</p> <p>8 (4.45 pm)</p> <p>9 (A short break)</p> <p>10 (4.54 pm)</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Macit, I think just a few</p> <p>12 questions, you'll be pleased to know.</p> <p>13 Yes, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>14 MR RAWAT: Thank you very much, Mr Macit.</p> <p>15 It's one point just to ask for your help with, and</p> <p>16 it's this: do you remember I took you to the transcript</p> <p>17 of that long 999 call you had, the 27-minute one, which</p> <p>18 began at 02.10?</p> <p>19 Do you remember making that call before or after</p> <p>20 your second attempt to leave?</p> <p>21 A. Right. I'll be quite clear, sir, I can't remember it,</p> <p>22 so I won't give you a wrong answer.</p> <p>23 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>24 Well, there's only one matter more for me to ask</p> <p>25 you, and it's this.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 noticed that the smoke was less or the temperature got</p> <p>2 better?</p> <p>3 A. I think after the 10th floor it was getting bit better.</p> <p>4 Q. One of the features of your statement is that you were</p> <p>5 able to identify specific floors in relation to that</p> <p>6 descent.</p> <p>7 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>8 Q. I won't take you to those paragraphs, but how did you</p> <p>9 identify the floors?</p> <p>10 A. As I was descending, I was subtracting how many floors</p> <p>11 I came down in my mind. So as I was coming down from</p> <p>12 16th floor to 15th floor, I was saying: okay, that's one</p> <p>13 gone. To the 14th floor, I was saying: okay, I'm on</p> <p>14 14th floor now. That's how I was, you know, counting</p> <p>15 them in my mind, as I turned and come to the base of the</p> <p>16 fire doors.</p> <p>17 MR RAWAT: Sir, those are all the questions I have.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, thank you.</p> <p>19 MR RAWAT: But I'll ask for a quick 5 minutes, if I may,</p> <p>20 just to --</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.</p> <p>22 Mr Macit, as you heard, Mr Rawat thinks he has asked</p> <p>23 all the questions he needs to ask you, but he needs</p> <p>24 a moment to check that that's the case. So we're going</p> <p>25 to break for 5 minutes and give him a chance to do that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 Before I do that, can I thank you for your patience</p> <p>2 and the way in which you've answered my questions today.</p> <p>3 A. Thank you, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>4 Q. But it's this: putting aside your two statements, and</p> <p>5 putting aside the answers that you've given to all of my</p> <p>6 questions today, is there anything else that you saw or</p> <p>7 heard on the night of the fire that you think it</p> <p>8 important to draw to the attention of the chairman?</p> <p>9 A. Well, I have seen a helicopter hovering up, and I didn't</p> <p>10 know what it was doing, whether it was trying to help</p> <p>11 the survivors. That's one thing.</p> <p>12 Obviously I saw a lot of people shouting from</p> <p>13 outside, "Get out, get out", and some people was also --</p> <p>14 I do remember this, I just remembered now -- shining</p> <p>15 a torch at the windows as to say, "Get out, get out".</p> <p>16 I do remember that now.</p> <p>17 That's about it, sir.</p> <p>18 MR RAWAT: Thank you very much again.</p> <p>19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Macit, thank you very much</p> <p>21 indeed for coming to give us your evidence. Your</p> <p>22 experience must have been completely terrifying. You</p> <p>23 have told us you were very frightened and I can't</p> <p>24 imagine anyone not being as frightened as you were. It</p> <p>25 was really a very dreadful experience.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 184</p>

<p>1 I'm sorry, in a way, that we've had to ask you to</p> <p>2 relive it and tell us all about it, but it's very</p> <p>3 helpful for us to hear about conditions inside the tower</p> <p>4 at different places at different times, and so I really</p> <p>5 am very grateful, and your evidence will be very</p> <p>6 helpful. So thank you very much for coming to give it</p> <p>7 to us.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? Now you're free to go.</p> <p>10 If you would like to go with the usher, she'll look</p> <p>11 after you.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: May I just say a couple of things, if you</p> <p>13 don't mind, sir?</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: In the first place, may I offer my condolences</p> <p>16 to everyone who lost relatives in this tragic fire.</p> <p>17 I hope they're at peace.</p> <p>18 Because of this fire, my immediate family has</p> <p>19 suffered a lot. I hope that we find answers, and also</p> <p>20 I hope that these kind of tragic things don't happen to</p> <p>21 other families, the lessons are learned from this.</p> <p>22 That's all I can say, sir.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, thank you very much indeed.</p> <p>24 That's very fair. Thank you.</p> <p>25 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 185</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2 I N D E X</p> <p>3 ALEMISHET DEMISSIE (sworn)1</p> <p>4 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY1</p> <p>5 ETHIOPIA ASSEFAL (evidence read into57</p> <p>6 the record)</p> <p>7 RHEA ROJO (evidence read into the71</p> <p>8 record)</p> <p>9 JOSEPH JOHN (evidence read into the77</p> <p>10 record)</p> <p>11 LEANNE JACKSON LE BLANC (evidence85</p> <p>12 read into the record)</p> <p>13 KARIM EL-ANSARI (evidence read into90</p> <p>14 the record)</p> <p>15 MOHAMMED AHMED (evidence read into94</p> <p>16 the record)</p> <p>17 SENER MACIT (sworn)100</p> <p>18 Questions by MR RAWAT100</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like to go with the usher</p> <p>2 now, and thank you again for coming.</p> <p>3 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>5 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, that is the evidence for today.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>7 MR RAWAT: In terms of witnesses, we will be resuming with</p> <p>8 witnesses on Monday.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: On Monday.</p> <p>10 Right, thank you very much. Well, at that point</p> <p>11 we'll break, and on Monday morning at 10 o'clock we will</p> <p>12 look forward to hearing from some more witnesses.</p> <p>13 MR RAWAT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>15 (5.00 pm)</p> <p>16 (The hearing adjourned until Friday, 2 November 2018</p> <p>17 at 11.00 am)</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 186</p>	

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Abdullah 123:17	ado 77:18	Alam's 60:2	apparatus 166:14	asking 1:21 2:21
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