

<p>1 Wednesday, 3 October 2018</p> <p>2 (10.00 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone, and welcome</p> <p>4 to today's hearing.</p> <p>5 Today we are going to start hearing important</p> <p>6 evidence from people who were living in the tower at the</p> <p>7 time of the fire.</p> <p>8 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, good morning.</p> <p>10 May I now please call Antonio Roncolato.</p> <p>11 ANTONIO RONCOLATO (sworn)</p> <p>12 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Roncolato.</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Sit down and make yourself</p> <p>16 comfortable.</p> <p>17 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: Good morning, Mr Roncolato.</p> <p>20 A. Morning.</p> <p>21 Q. Can I start, please, by asking you to give the chairman</p> <p>22 your full name.</p> <p>23 A. Antonio Roncolato.</p> <p>24 Q. On behalf of the inquiry, first, I want to thank you</p> <p>25 personally very much indeed for coming here today and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 That's the first page of your first statement and</p> <p>2 you can see it on the monitor on your desk.</p> <p>3 Can we look, please, at the last page of that</p> <p>4 statement, which is page 18.</p> <p>5 You see a signature there; is that yours?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, it is.</p> <p>7 Q. Have you read this statement recently?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, I did, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Can you confirm for us that its contents are true?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, they are, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Can we now please have the second statement that you</p> <p>12 did, which is IWS00000922, dated 10 July 2018.</p> <p>13 Is that your signature?</p> <p>14 A. It is indeed.</p> <p>15 Q. Again, have you read this statement recently?</p> <p>16 A. I did, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Again, can you confirm for us that its contents are</p> <p>18 true?</p> <p>19 A. They are, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>21 Finally, you've provided a third statement, and</p> <p>22 that's IWS00001109.</p> <p>23 Is that the first page of that statement?</p> <p>24 A. It is, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. If we look at the third page, we can see that it's dated</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 for continuing to assist the chairman in his search for</p> <p>2 the truth. Your contribution is very much valued.</p> <p>3 I understand it may be tough for you to sit here and</p> <p>4 relive events of the night, so if at any time you need</p> <p>5 a break, please just signal and we can take a break.</p> <p>6 My questions are supposed to be short and simple;</p> <p>7 sometimes they're not, and if you want me to repeat the</p> <p>8 question, I'm very happy to do that, or to put it in</p> <p>9 a different way. Again, I'm very happy to do that.</p> <p>10 Also, I should just say that sometimes when you're</p> <p>11 answering, I may have to look at my screen or to look at</p> <p>12 some documents. That doesn't mean I'm not listening to</p> <p>13 your answer.</p> <p>14 A. Okay.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay?</p> <p>16 As with all the survivors of this fire who are going</p> <p>17 to be coming to give evidence in the coming weeks, you</p> <p>18 have confirmed to us that your evidence will be limited</p> <p>19 to Phase 1 of the inquiry and the issues around that.</p> <p>20 My questions today will therefore focus on the events of</p> <p>21 the night.</p> <p>22 You've made three written statements for the</p> <p>23 inquiry, for which we are very grateful.</p> <p>24 Can we please have the first of those, which is</p> <p>25 IWS00000894.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 27 September 2018. There's a signature above it.</p> <p>2 Is that your signature?</p> <p>3 A. It is indeed, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Again, have you read this statement recently?</p> <p>5 A. I did, yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Can you confirm for us that its contents are true?</p> <p>7 A. They are true, yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>9 In that statement, if we can just go back to it, you</p> <p>10 can see in paragraph 3 you set out a very helpful table,</p> <p>11 where you've tried to give times for photographs that</p> <p>12 you took on the night and which you've exhibited to your</p> <p>13 first statement. You also make corrections to</p> <p>14 paragraph 77 and 78 of your first statement, if we just</p> <p>15 turn to the next page of this statement. I just want to</p> <p>16 make sure that that is clear to everybody in the room.</p> <p>17 So you can see the corrections which you made at</p> <p>18 paragraphs 5 and 6 respectively to paragraph 77 and 78</p> <p>19 of your first witness statement.</p> <p>20 You provided a number of exhibits to that first</p> <p>21 statement and we need to put those into the record as</p> <p>22 well. Those are AR/1 to AR/12, which is IWS00000892;</p> <p>23 AR/13, which is IWS00000924; and AR/14, which is</p> <p>24 IWS00000923.</p> <p>25 Just so that everybody else is aware, those are</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 exhibits of floor plans and a set of photographs. The</p> <p>2 floor plans show the layout of your flat and the floor</p> <p>3 and they've been marked by you.</p> <p>4 Can I just ask you, are the photographs, with the</p> <p>5 one exception that you've identified, which is the one</p> <p>6 I think taken by your son, photographs that you yourself</p> <p>7 took on the night?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, I did.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay. We'll be looking at some of those photographs</p> <p>10 later on.</p> <p>11 Can I just give a general warning before asking for</p> <p>12 a photograph taken on the night to be displayed, which</p> <p>13 is that some people might find those photographs</p> <p>14 distressing, and those who do should just be aware of</p> <p>15 the fact that we will be looking at some of those</p> <p>16 pictures as we go along. I will give a more specific</p> <p>17 warning as we come to them.</p> <p>18 Can I just ask you this, Mr Roncolato, I think</p> <p>19 you've told the inquiry that the photographs that were</p> <p>20 taken on the night were taken with your mobile phone; is</p> <p>21 that right?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, that is correct.</p> <p>23 Q. Is it right that your phone was damaged after the fire?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, it was.</p> <p>25 Q. I think it's right that you lost those photographs and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 Q. For people who aren't that familiar with the layout of</p> <p>2 the tower, what could you see to your right if you</p> <p>3 looked out of the window?</p> <p>4 A. To the right, I would see towards Westfield, if you know</p> <p>5 what I mean, towards the underground station, but</p> <p>6 I would have to turn quite to an angle. So, yeah. But</p> <p>7 the beautiful views are right in front of us. So</p> <p>8 having, you know, no buildings in front of us was</p> <p>9 beautiful.</p> <p>10 Q. To your left, what could you see?</p> <p>11 A. The academy, and in front of us the leisure centre.</p> <p>12 Q. You, I think, lived in your flat on the 10th floor,</p> <p>13 flat 72, for something like 27 years before the fire.</p> <p>14 A. Correct.</p> <p>15 Q. You had, I think, a secure council tenancy with RBKC.</p> <p>16 A. Correct.</p> <p>17 Q. Then later with the TMO; is that right?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. In June 2017, could you just tell us who was living with</p> <p>20 you?</p> <p>21 A. In June 2017, my son Christopher was living with me at</p> <p>22 the tower and -- yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Anybody else?</p> <p>24 A. Well, my sister-in-law was living with us as well, but</p> <p>25 she was not in the tenancy agreement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 also a verbal account that you recorded into the phone.</p> <p>2 A. Unfortunately, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. But the photographs that you've exhibited -- is this</p> <p>4 right? -- are ones that you sent to friends and family,</p> <p>5 and those that you've exhibited are those they sent back</p> <p>6 to you?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Thank you very much.</p> <p>9 Can we start with an internal photograph of your</p> <p>10 flat taken before the night of the fire, which is</p> <p>11 IWS00000892, page 5, which is exhibit AR/2.</p> <p>12 Could you just describe for us the room we see</p> <p>13 there?</p> <p>14 A. This is my living room. You can see the television, the</p> <p>15 curtains, the windows, sofa. On that occasion we were</p> <p>16 watching a football game, so just, you know, my home,</p> <p>17 our home.</p> <p>18 Q. Which direction do those windows face?</p> <p>19 A. Those ones would face east.</p> <p>20 Q. Can you just describe the view that you had from those</p> <p>21 windows?</p> <p>22 A. Amazing view, right through to the city. You would see</p> <p>23 the iconic landmarks of London and the swimming pool</p> <p>24 downstairs. An amazing view, basically. Very, very</p> <p>25 nice, very beautiful.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 Q. I see.</p> <p>2 Turning to the marked plan of the layout of your</p> <p>3 flat which you did for us -- can we please look at that,</p> <p>4 that's IWS00000892 at page 2 -- this is a plan that you</p> <p>5 prepared, I think, with some assistance when preparing</p> <p>6 your statement; is that right?</p> <p>7 A. Correct.</p> <p>8 Q. And the living room there is marked I think as C?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. So the two windows we've been looking at in the</p> <p>11 photograph, are those the ones marked 2 and 3?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, correct.</p> <p>13 Q. You also have 4 and 5.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. What was the view from windows 4 and 5?</p> <p>16 A. That would look at the underground station and</p> <p>17 Westfield.</p> <p>18 Q. And then if we go to the bedrooms, which I think are</p> <p>19 marked D and E -- is that right?</p> <p>20 A. D and E, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. You would've looked, I think, again, south?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Towards the walks.</p> <p>24 Just help me understand this plan.</p> <p>25 Was there a division or some sort of wall between C</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 and D?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, of course there was, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. So you could only get into D from the hall, not from C?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, from L, basically. From the corridor, yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Exactly.</p> <p>8 Looking at A, is that your kitchen?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, A is the kitchen.</p> <p>10 Q. Can I just ask you, from any of the windows that we see</p> <p>11 there, how close to the base of the tower could you see?</p> <p>12 A. All the way down.</p> <p>13 Q. All the way down?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Could you see where the wall of the tower met the</p> <p>16 ground?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, if you lean out quite a bit, yes, you would, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Let's just clarify one or two things first before we</p> <p>19 leave this plan. Just identify J. On J you say</p> <p>20 "cupboard - old gas meter & boiler", then you've marked</p> <p>21 at 21 on this map -- and it's on the next page of this</p> <p>22 plan -- you call it "proposed new location of boiler".</p> <p>23 Can you just help us identify those.</p> <p>24 So J is at the top of the drawing, under "6", isn't</p> <p>25 it?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 front door.</p> <p>2 Do you know why a new front door was fitted?</p> <p>3 A. I think it was part of a renewal project from the</p> <p>4 council, from the TMO, to have new doors installed, and,</p> <p>5 yeah, and we were given the choice of what design we</p> <p>6 would have and I opted for that one.</p> <p>7 Q. Did anybody give you any fire safety advice about these</p> <p>8 doors at that time?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. What were the choices? You say "I opted for a white</p> <p>11 door with two mottled glass panes". What were the other</p> <p>12 choices, can you remember?</p> <p>13 A. Some others would be totally without any glass, some</p> <p>14 only with part of it, at the top with let's say a half</p> <p>15 moon and so on. So I opted for this one.</p> <p>16 Q. You then go on to say that initially the new door was</p> <p>17 very heavy and difficult to open.</p> <p>18 Can I just ask you, was it the weight of the door</p> <p>19 that made it difficult or was it the door closer</p> <p>20 mechanism that made it heavy?</p> <p>21 A. It was the door close mechanism that would really -- you</p> <p>22 would have to put an effort to close the door -- to open</p> <p>23 the door and then to close it again. So that's why it</p> <p>24 was really difficult.</p> <p>25 Q. Would the door slam shut?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Is that where the old boiler was?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Then the new boiler, just to be clear, where was that?</p> <p>5 A. The original place for the new boiler would've been,</p> <p>6 according to the plan, by the entrance, number 21;</p> <p>7 however, I did not have installed in there, but back</p> <p>8 into position 6, J.</p> <p>9 Q. I see, so it went into where it was before?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Very good.</p> <p>12 Can I then ask you to turn to your first statement,</p> <p>13 and go to paragraph 12. We'll look at it together.</p> <p>14 You say:</p> <p>15 "12. A new front door was fitted around 5-6 years</p> <p>16 before the fire, but I cannot remember the exact date.</p> <p>17 I opted for a white door with two mottled glass panes.</p> <p>18 It had a letterbox with brushes. Initially, the new</p> <p>19 door was very heavy and difficult to open. After</p> <p>20 I called the TMO to repair this, they removed the</p> <p>21 mechanism from the new door so it would stay open,</p> <p>22 unless you physically closed it. It also felt a lot</p> <p>23 lighter. I had no further issues with the front door</p> <p>24 after this time."</p> <p>25 First of all, can I just ask you about this new</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, I think -- yes, it would really -- you know, the</p> <p>2 moment you go out, it would push you out.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 A. Yeah, it was like a bit heavy. Difficult to open but</p> <p>5 very easy to close and it would push you somehow.</p> <p>6 Q. You say you called the TMO to repair the door. Who did</p> <p>7 you call, do you remember?</p> <p>8 A. I don't remember. Perhaps the TMO, the line that is</p> <p>9 provided to us to have contact with them in case of</p> <p>10 emergency or repairs, and shortly after they came and</p> <p>11 they basically cut off this chain that would hold the</p> <p>12 door to the frame and the door was much lighter.</p> <p>13 Q. Did they give you any advice about whether it was</p> <p>14 sensible to cut off the chain?</p> <p>15 A. Zero advice.</p> <p>16 Q. Did the London Fire Brigade ever inspect your front door</p> <p>17 after the TMO had cut the chain off?</p> <p>18 A. No, no.</p> <p>19 Q. Were you ever advised to refit the closer mechanism?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. To the best of your knowledge or memory, Mr Roncolato,</p> <p>22 did other residents in the tower have their door closers</p> <p>23 removed in the same way you did?</p> <p>24 A. I don't know. I don't remember.</p> <p>25 Q. Can I ask you to look at paragraph 14 of your statement.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 You say:</p> <p>2 "14. Prior to the fire, new windows were fitted and</p> <p>3 I had an issue with the draught coming in through the</p> <p>4 windows even when they were closed."</p> <p>5 You go on to say lower down that paragraph:</p> <p>6 "I also experienced a draught coming from underneath</p> <p>7 the window in the kitchen and the window labelled number</p> <p>8 2 in green in the living room on the flat's floor plan</p> <p>9 exhibited as AR/1. I remedied this by covering the gap</p> <p>10 with plastic filler to stop the draught."</p> <p>11 First, can we just identify exactly which window</p> <p>12 we're talking about by reference to your plan at AR/1,</p> <p>13 if we can please go back to that. That's IWS00000892,</p> <p>14 page 2.</p> <p>15 If you go to the window marked 2 in green, could you</p> <p>16 just identify that for us.</p> <p>17 A. Yes, but that was not the window where the draught came</p> <p>18 in initially.</p> <p>19 Q. Which were the windows where the draught came in?</p> <p>20 A. It was the window in the kitchen.</p> <p>21 Q. I see.</p> <p>22 A. That I basically fixed myself with a filler to stop the</p> <p>23 draught from coming in.</p> <p>24 Q. So that's window number 1, just so we're clear.</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 Q. When were these new windows fitted?</p> <p>2 A. The windows were fitted during the refurbishment,</p> <p>3 perhaps during the latter stage of the refurbishment,</p> <p>4 2015/16, I think. I don't remember exactly now the</p> <p>5 year, but during the refurbishment of the tower itself.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you have an issue with drafts through one or more</p> <p>7 windows immediately after they were fitted, do you</p> <p>8 remember?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, and that's why I decided to -- I called them,</p> <p>10 I called the Rydon, I remember, but I fixed it myself,</p> <p>11 basically, because I couldn't wait.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember who you spoke to at Rydon?</p> <p>13 A. Oh, yes, I spoke to Rydon on many, many occasions.</p> <p>14 Q. Do you remember who you spoke to at Rydon about this</p> <p>15 draught coming through the window?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, I spoke about the draught and also I spoke about</p> <p>17 the draught coming in from the little vent on top of the</p> <p>18 windows that some windows were fitted with.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you remember who you spoke to, which individual at</p> <p>20 Rydon?</p> <p>21 A. I would speak over the phone and then on many occasions</p> <p>22 we had two ladies that would come and check and liaise</p> <p>23 with us residents, between us and the workers,</p> <p>24 basically.</p> <p>25 Q. What, two ladies from Rydon?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 Q. What about window number 2 that you refer to in your</p> <p>2 statement?</p> <p>3 A. Window number 2, obviously there was a gap, but it was</p> <p>4 not very big. The big one was in between window</p> <p>5 number 1 going into number 2, basically. The windows</p> <p>6 were made in a way that there would be a frame going all</p> <p>7 along from number 1 to number 3, let's say, and along</p> <p>8 that side there would be this draught coming in, and the</p> <p>9 strongest part of the draught would be between number 1</p> <p>10 and 2 basically, let's say where the number 4 is. And</p> <p>11 I remember there fixing it myself with some filler in</p> <p>12 order not to have draught coming in.</p> <p>13 Q. But the main part, the most draught, was coming in,</p> <p>14 I think you say, from the bottom -- is this right? -- of</p> <p>15 window number 1?</p> <p>16 A. Yes. When we're talking about a draught before the</p> <p>17 fire, yes, it was number 1, yes, number 1 and going into</p> <p>18 number 2. Obviously then I didn't do anything further</p> <p>19 because there was no need because I didn't feel so much</p> <p>20 draught anymore. So the biggest gap was closed.</p> <p>21 I closed it.</p> <p>22 Q. Let's just take a step back and get some more detail</p> <p>23 about this draught.</p> <p>24 First of all, when were these new windows fitted?</p> <p>25 A. Pardon me?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 A. From Rydon, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember their names?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay.</p> <p>5 How intense or strong was the draught that you felt</p> <p>6 coming through the kitchen window?</p> <p>7 A. Well, on one occasion -- I mean, one of the gaps was</p> <p>8 quite big, and there was like -- you could, you know --</p> <p>9 right between 1 and 2, where number 4 is, there I would</p> <p>10 have my breakfast table, okay? There would be a table.</p> <p>11 And sitting, you know, obviously with your leg under the</p> <p>12 table, you would feel the draught coming from the</p> <p>13 window. That's why I decided I'm going to do the job</p> <p>14 myself.</p> <p>15 Q. Really?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Could you see the gap with the naked eye?</p> <p>18 A. No, because it was quite low, so you would have to go --</p> <p>19 but you could feel it. You put your hands on there and</p> <p>20 you feel the air, the cold air coming through.</p> <p>21 Q. Really? Okay.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It was coming underneath the</p> <p>23 windowsill, was it?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's what I thought you meant.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 A. You know, the ledges, at that height.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Below the ledge?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: Where the ledge meets the wall?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, yes, yes.</p> <p>6 Q. I don't want to suggest things to you, but --</p> <p>7 A. No, no, no, that's exactly where, that's where it would</p> <p>8 come from.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you fit the plastic filler yourself?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you get any advice as to what filler to put in?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you tell Rydon or the TMO that you'd done it?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Did it solve the problem?</p> <p>16 A. Yes. But my intention was to, you know, go on and fill</p> <p>17 also the remaining parts of it because it was, at the</p> <p>18 end of the day, not a difficult job, but then I never</p> <p>19 did it, so ...</p> <p>20 Q. Do you know or have any recollection as to whether other</p> <p>21 residents in the tower had similar draught problems</p> <p>22 coming through their windows after the refurbishment?</p> <p>23 A. No, but I remember someone saying that, yeah, there</p> <p>24 would be some draught coming from the top of the window</p> <p>25 where the little vents were, and then it was explained</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 which is not a photograph of the building on fire,</p> <p>2 Mr Chairman, it's a photograph of the interior --</p> <p>3 BLA00002416.</p> <p>4 This is a fire safety notice which was sited at the</p> <p>5 lifts, and this one is on floor 3.</p> <p>6 My question is: do you remember seeing a notice like</p> <p>7 this between the lifts on floor 10 where you lived?</p> <p>8 A. To be honest with you, I don't remember.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay.</p> <p>10 It's not that easy to read, but if you look at the</p> <p>11 second green block on the notice, it says:</p> <p>12 "You should initially be safe to stay in your flat</p> <p>13 keeping the doors and windows closed.</p> <p>14 "On arrival the Fire Brigade will make an assessment</p> <p>15 and will assist with evacuation if required."</p> <p>16 Do you remember knowing about that advice or having</p> <p>17 that advice in your head as at the night of the fire?</p> <p>18 A. Not really.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you ever get any advice, either from the TMO or from</p> <p>20 the London Fire Brigade, beyond what's on this notice?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. Leaving this notice on one side, Mr Roncolato, as</p> <p>23 at June 2017, do you remember what your understanding</p> <p>24 was of what you as a resident of Grenfell Tower should</p> <p>25 do if there was a fire in the building?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 to us that that was for the condensation, you have to</p> <p>2 have a little gap in there which you can close or you</p> <p>3 can open, depending on -- but it is part of the window</p> <p>4 being fitted that way, so ...</p> <p>5 Q. Can I turn on in your statement to paragraphs 48 and 49,</p> <p>6 if you just look ahead in it. It's page 8 of your</p> <p>7 statement. I just want to ask you some questions about</p> <p>8 fire safety.</p> <p>9 You say:</p> <p>10 "48. I was not given any information regarding fire</p> <p>11 safety when I first moved into Grenfell Tower. When the</p> <p>12 TMO took over management of the Tower, I believe they</p> <p>13 may have given me a blue booklet with generic</p> <p>14 information inside, but I do not remember there being</p> <p>15 any fire safety information.</p> <p>16 "49. I do remember there was a sign by the lifts on</p> <p>17 the ground floor stating not to use them in the event of</p> <p>18 a fire. I do not recall any further fire safety</p> <p>19 information on this sign. I was not aware of the stay</p> <p>20 put advice at Grenfell Tower. In fact I would have left</p> <p>21 my flat on 14 June 2017 if the smoke had not been so</p> <p>22 bad."</p> <p>23 I've read that all to you because I have a number of</p> <p>24 questions about that.</p> <p>25 First of all, can we please have up a photograph --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 A. To get out of there as quickly as possible.</p> <p>2 Q. That was your understanding, was it?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p>5 I'm going to show the witness, Mr Chairman, some</p> <p>6 photographs --</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: -- first of all of the interior of the tower</p> <p>9 after the fire. Again, I have to give this warning so</p> <p>10 that people, if they feel uncomfortable about looking at</p> <p>11 these, can either leave the room or go away from the</p> <p>12 screen if they're watching remotely.</p> <p>13 Could we please start with BLA00002513.</p> <p>14 We can see in that photograph a white object which</p> <p>15 looks like a detector on the ceiling. Do you know what</p> <p>16 that is?</p> <p>17 A. Smoke detector.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you know whether one of those was installed in the</p> <p>19 lobby outside your flat on floor 10?</p> <p>20 A. No, there wasn't.</p> <p>21 Q. There wasn't? Okay.</p> <p>22 A. If there was, it wasn't functioning that night.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 This one is taken from floor 6, to be clear, but you</p> <p>25 think there wasn't one outside your flat?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 A. I don't recall, but if there was, it would've gone off 2 that night because the smoke was quite intense, but the 3 only smoke detectors that went off were in my flat. 4 Q. Can I go back in your statement to paragraph 25. 5 You say there: 6 "25. For many years there was a very nice man with 7 a cockney accent, who used to wear a black tie with a 8 white shirt, who I believe may have been the caretaker 9 or the concierge for the Tower. I did not see him after 10 the recent refurbishment. Residents wanted concierge to 11 be reinstated." 12 First, Mr Roncolato, do you remember whether the 13 concierge sat physically inside the tower? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Where exactly, do you remember? 16 A. At the entrance. As you would enter the tower, before 17 you enter the second door on the left-hand side, there 18 would be a small office, like, and you would see all the 19 screens behind with CCTV cameras being projected in 20 there, and the concierge sitting in there all the time, 21 or most of the time. 22 Q. You say all of the time. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Can we just get some more detail about that. 25 What were their hours of duty, do you know or do you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you know where the concierge went? 2 A. Well, the lady that used to be there on duty, she moved 3 to another office close to the tower, on the way to the 4 underground, basically. But there was no such office 5 for the concierge at Grenfell Tower after the 6 refurbishment. 7 Q. After the refurbishment, did you ever have cause 8 yourself to try to get hold of the concierge for some 9 reason? 10 A. Yes, yes, I did on a few occasions, and the same lady 11 would answer, and if you need to, let's say, discuss 12 something, you would have to go there and walk maybe 13 200 metres to go to her office. 14 Q. Was there a way of calling the concierge remotely or did 15 you have to go physically to the office? 16 A. No, you have to go there physically to the office, you 17 would have to. 18 Q. You did that, did you? 19 A. On a couple of occasions, yes, to report some issues or 20 some little problems or something that you want to 21 discuss personally rather than on the phone, then 22 I went, yeah. 23 Q. Was there a phone number that you could ring them up 24 on -- 25 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 remember? 2 A. I would see them continuously. I mean, late evenings, 3 I don't recall very often, but during the day and during 4 weekends, they would be there, yes. 5 Q. So far as you remember, was it a 24-hour concierge desk? 6 A. Yes. Yes, perhaps they were not there 24 hours perhaps 7 at night, maybe they were at the office behind it, but 8 there was a presence there most of the time. 9 Q. Specifically, do you remember whether somebody was on 10 duty within the building at night or through the night? 11 A. I don't remember. 12 Q. If they weren't at the desk in the night or the middle 13 of the night, was there a number or a button you could 14 press to get hold of the concierge? 15 A. I think at the desk -- I mean, it was all behind glass, 16 so there was a little window and maybe if you knock, 17 they would come out. 18 Q. You say you didn't see the concierge after the recent 19 refurbishment. 20 What happened to the place where the concierge would 21 sit? 22 A. The base of the tower, the ground floor, was completely 23 redesigned. Therefore, that place had gone. So it was 24 a totally different layout, basically, and the concierge 25 has gone.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 Q. -- if you wanted to? 2 A. Yes, yes, there was. 3 Q. If you wanted to get hold of the concierge in the middle 4 of the night after the refurb, how did you go about 5 doing that, do you know? 6 A. Actually, it never happened to me to have to call the 7 concierge in the middle of the night. However, during 8 weekends it has happened that I have had a problem that 9 I had to report, and we had a number which I did call on 10 a few occasions over the years, and then somebody would 11 come, after perhaps hours, but somebody would come to 12 have a look at the problem, if it was an urgent one. 13 Q. Do you remember whether there used to be, before the 14 refurbishment, a communal alarm system? 15 A. Perhaps there was, but I'm not aware or it never sounded 16 like for a big emergency. 17 Q. After the refurbishment, who would monitor the CCTV 18 cameras at Grenfell Tower? 19 A. I don't know. 20 Q. You say in the same paragraph, going back to 21 paragraph 25: 22 "Residents wanted concierge to be reinstated." 23 Do you know whether the residents asked for the 24 concierge to be reinstated? 25 A. Yes. Well, this was also the question at the beginning</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 of the refurbishment, why would the concierge have to</p> <p>2 go? After they went on with the refurbishment, and</p> <p>3 I know that some residents took initiative and started</p> <p>4 a petition to get the concierge reinstated at the tower.</p> <p>5 Q. How many residents got behind that petition?</p> <p>6 A. I believe quite a lot. I don't know exactly the number</p> <p>7 because then, you know, we know what happened, but, yes,</p> <p>8 we were in the process of fighting for this again.</p> <p>9 Q. What happened? What was the result?</p> <p>10 A. I think it came to nothing because the fire came.</p> <p>11 Q. So the petition was still ongoing, was it --</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. -- at the date of the fire?</p> <p>14 A. I believe so, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Prior to the fire, do you know from your own knowledge</p> <p>16 what the response to the petition was?</p> <p>17 A. Well, we would've liked to have it, but that would have</p> <p>18 implemented more costs, that's what the TMO would say to</p> <p>19 us. But we were still trying to find a way to, you</p> <p>20 know, persuade them to have this service that we had and</p> <p>21 was taken away.</p> <p>22 Q. In paragraph 46, if I can just take you back to that,</p> <p>23 you identify two women from Rydon:</p> <p>24 "... who we would liaise with [somebody, you don't</p> <p>25 say] regarding the work being carried out and who would</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 Q. Okay.</p> <p>2 You deal with that at paragraph 51 and following of</p> <p>3 your statement.</p> <p>4 You tell us that you returned home on the evening of</p> <p>5 Tuesday, 13 June at about 8.00 pm and went to bed about</p> <p>6 9.30 to 10 o'clock.</p> <p>7 You then say in paragraph 54 that your bedroom</p> <p>8 window was closed.</p> <p>9 Can you remember if you left any other windows open</p> <p>10 before going to bed that night?</p> <p>11 A. No. All were closed.</p> <p>12 Q. Looking at paragraph 55, you say:</p> <p>13 "55. The next thing I remember is waking up to a</p> <p>14 call from my son around 1.40am. Christopher was crying</p> <p>15 and said 'get out of the house, the tower's burning,</p> <p>16 I love you Pappy get out.'"</p> <p>17 How did you know what the time was? Do you remember</p> <p>18 where you got that 01.40 from?</p> <p>19 A. Well, I must have looked at the phone afterwards,</p> <p>20 perhaps, but then obviously the moment I got up,</p> <p>21 I checked around in my bedroom, looking outside the</p> <p>22 window, then I went to the kitchen, and I've got a clock</p> <p>23 in the kitchen as well, so I saw the time.</p> <p>24 Q. We have a statement from your son Christopher who says</p> <p>25 the call was made at 01.42.34, according to his phone</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 keep us updated. There were also regular newsletters."</p> <p>2 My question is: looking at that paragraph, who would</p> <p>3 the "we" be, if I can put it that way? You say "who we</p> <p>4 would liaise with regarding the work". Would it be all</p> <p>5 residents or just some residents?</p> <p>6 A. Well, the residents, yes. "We", residents, yes.</p> <p>7 Q. So it was a general channel of communication, was it?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. I follow.</p> <p>10 In the last two sentences you say that they would</p> <p>11 keep you updated.</p> <p>12 Apart from the newsletters that you refer to in the</p> <p>13 last sentence, how did Rydon keep residents updated?</p> <p>14 A. Not much differently than the newsletter.</p> <p>15 Q. But how? What was the method of communication?</p> <p>16 A. The letter. This information -- leaflet, the big</p> <p>17 leaflet, A4 size.</p> <p>18 Q. You see, the reason I ask is that you say "There were</p> <p>19 also regular newsletters". I was just wondering</p> <p>20 whether, in addition to the newsletters, there was any</p> <p>21 other method of communication that Rydon used?</p> <p>22 A. No, as far as I know, only the newsletters.</p> <p>23 Q. Can we now turn to the events of the night. Are you</p> <p>24 okay to carry on?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 records, and it lasted about 4 minutes. Does that</p> <p>2 accord with your recollection?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. At paragraphs 57 onwards to 63 of your statement, you</p> <p>5 describe your movements: looking out of your bedroom</p> <p>6 window, and then moving to the kitchen and opening the</p> <p>7 kitchen window.</p> <p>8 At paragraph 60, you say:</p> <p>9 "60. I was shocked at what was happening, but at</p> <p>10 this stage I did not feel in too much danger. There did</p> <p>11 not seem to be much smoke and I couldn't see the full</p> <p>12 magnitude of the fire."</p> <p>13 When you say "There did not seem to be much smoke",</p> <p>14 were you aware of any smoke inside your flat at that</p> <p>15 time?</p> <p>16 A. No, at that time there was no smoke inside my flat.</p> <p>17 Only a little bit of, let's say, like, dark, thick dust.</p> <p>18 You know, if you look against the light, you will see</p> <p>19 rather more dust than you normally would see on a clear</p> <p>20 day. So there was something coming through from</p> <p>21 somewhere, but no specific place from where the smoke</p> <p>22 would come through.</p> <p>23 Q. Could you tell where the very light smoke was coming</p> <p>24 from?</p> <p>25 A. No, it was just like -- yeah, dust, very thick dust.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 Q. You say in 62, if you go on to that paragraph: 2 "62. I initially left the kitchen window open." 3 Why did you do that? 4 A. Well, because I opened the window in order to look 5 downstairs, to look, and obviously I could see that 6 a lot of people were standing and shouting, and 7 I realised that there was something unusual going on. 8 And also to make myself seen and known by police or 9 firefighters that I'm there. So basically -- yeah. 10 Q. I understand. 11 In the next sentence you say: 12 "However, a small piece of smoking debris entered my 13 flat through the window so I closed it again." 14 Do you remember where that piece of debris came 15 from? 16 A. From above. It must have been somehow sucked in from 17 the draught -- 18 Q. Right. 19 A. -- into my flat. 20 Q. This is your kitchen window. To remind us, this is on 21 the east side? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. We've got a photograph of that, if we can just look at 24 that. That's AR/6, which we have at IWS00000892, 25 page 13.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 Q. Did that smoke have any physical effect on you at the 2 time? 3 A. Not at the time, it was very light. It was like -- 4 yeah, not so bad. 5 Q. Were you aware of any smoke outside any other window in 6 the flat? Because we're talking about the kitchen 7 window here. 8 A. Not at that stage. We're talking here about -- the 9 timing here is about, yeah, 02.00/02.30, so that time 10 was okayish, until then the dark grey smoke started to 11 come in from the window ledges. 12 Q. We'll come to that in a moment. 13 At this point, were the smoke alarms operating in 14 your flat? Did they go off at this time? 15 A. No, not at this stage. 16 Q. When you looked out of your bedroom window or kitchen 17 window, could you see flames? 18 A. No. 19 Q. Same page of your statement, but can we just go back 20 a paragraph to the very end of paragraph 59. You say: 21 "I could hear a crackling sound from outside." 22 I also saw sparks, which reminded me of fireworks." 23 You described a crackling sound; could you just tell 24 us more about that sound? 25 A. It was like when you hear or see a piece of dry wood</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 Just to be clear, I think you've corrected the 2 timing of this photograph because we can see it's light 3 outside. I think you corrected this in your first 4 statement to around 05.00 am. 5 A. Yes. The fact is that the debris came in much earlier 6 than that. 7 Q. Yes. 8 A. Then I tried to clean up a little bit, but then I closed 9 the window, obviously, and then I took that picture 10 a little bit later when I managed to clear up somehow 11 the smoke that came in during the night. 12 Q. When we look at the windowsill on this photograph, is 13 that the burn mark from the debris that came in? 14 A. Yes, it is. 15 Q. And the clearing-up marks? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. You then say, going back to paragraph 62: 18 "I also noticed that there was a thin layer of grey 19 smoke up at the ceiling in both the hallway and the 20 kitchen." 21 When you're referring there to a thin layer of 22 smoke, did you notice that at that time? 23 A. This thin layer of grey smoke was basically the dust 24 I was talking earlier about. So this is another way of 25 describing it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 burning. It's like a clean, crispy noise. That's what 2 I could hear. 3 Q. Do you remember which direction it was coming from when 4 you heard it? 5 A. It was from the kitchen window. So basically I believe 6 that the fire was right on my left, on that side, on the 7 east side. 8 Q. I am going to show you two more photographs and, again, 9 I should give a warning at this point about these. They 10 are photographs which may be distressing, so I'll just 11 wait 10 seconds or so so that people can leave if they 12 wish to. 13 I'll just give the reference to the documents 14 director: it's AR/3, IWS00000892, page 11. 15 I'll just pause a second before we put it on the 16 screen. 17 (Pause) 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I don't think anyone appears to be 19 moving. 20 MR MILLETT: It's actually AR/5, IWS00000892, page 11. 21 This photograph needs to be rotated a quarter turn 22 to the right. 23 First of all, if you can tell me, is that the right 24 way round, Mr Roncolato? 25 A. This is wrong. It has to be like it was before.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 Q. Oh, was it? Right, okay.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Just assist us, will you, on what we see in this</p> <p>4 photograph.</p> <p>5 The orange colouring at the bottom, what is that?</p> <p>6 A. Well, that would be -- at the bottom -- well, you see,</p> <p>7 normally outside it would be darker, this time of the</p> <p>8 night, and I believe it is orange because of the fire,</p> <p>9 the flames reflecting from above the tower, basically,</p> <p>10 and this is the academy.</p> <p>11 Q. If we look at the photograph in its normal state, what</p> <p>12 else can we see in that photograph?</p> <p>13 A. Well, all these white bits and pieces that you see are</p> <p>14 all debris falling down from above. Obviously a mobile</p> <p>15 phone camera is not as accurate as a proper camera, but</p> <p>16 these are all bits and pieces falling down from above.</p> <p>17 Q. And which window is this taken from?</p> <p>18 A. The kitchen.</p> <p>19 Q. The kitchen.</p> <p>20 A. Pretty much sure it is the kitchen.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You say that's the academy?</p> <p>22 A. The academy, yes.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And the light reflected off it?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, yes. Outside was brighter than usual, basically,</p> <p>25 because of the fire.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 A. I think I made the attempt to leave the flat as soon as</p> <p>2 Christopher told me that there is a big fire, so I got</p> <p>3 ready, and then I remember receiving this photo, and</p> <p>4 realising the gravity of it, how big it was.</p> <p>5 Q. Just so you're clear, your son Christopher exhibits the</p> <p>6 same photograph to his witness statement, which we're</p> <p>7 going to be putting into the record later this morning.</p> <p>8 He says he can't give a precise time for the photograph</p> <p>9 but it was shortly after the call he made to you at</p> <p>10 about 01.42.</p> <p>11 A. Yes. So basically we had the first call, and then</p> <p>12 I assessed a little bit, I got ready -- obviously I hung</p> <p>13 up -- I tried to get out, and then he send me this one.</p> <p>14 So, basically, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. So this photograph came in after your first attempt to</p> <p>16 get out, you think?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Just so we're clear about that.</p> <p>21 A. Yes, yes, yes, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Going back, if I can, to paragraph 68 of your statement,</p> <p>23 you say:</p> <p>24 "68. Christopher called after sending the</p> <p>25 photograph of the burning Tower. He was with a fire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 MR MILLETT: Could you see debris falling from any other</p> <p>2 window?</p> <p>3 A. Perhaps window number 2, in the living room. I don't</p> <p>4 remember now, but if we go on then we have a big chunk</p> <p>5 of cladding falling down that I managed to capture. And</p> <p>6 it was from the east side, basically. The debris</p> <p>7 falling down were from the east side, either the window</p> <p>8 in the kitchen or the one next to it in the living room.</p> <p>9 Q. The second picture I want to show you I think is one</p> <p>10 that your son Christopher sent you by text, and that's</p> <p>11 AR/7, which we have at reference IWS00000892, page 15.</p> <p>12 Is that correct?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. This is the photograph sent to you by your son?</p> <p>15 A. The other way round.</p> <p>16 Q. You believe that you received this no later than</p> <p>17 02.00 am, I think?</p> <p>18 A. Yes. I think it was the second phone call that I had</p> <p>19 with Christopher, and he told me, "You see, believe me,</p> <p>20 it is really big, so it's really dangerous."</p> <p>21 Q. We know you made a first attempt to leave your flat. Do</p> <p>22 you think you received this picture before or after that</p> <p>23 first attempt?</p> <p>24 A. I think I received the photo I think after.</p> <p>25 Q. After.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 marshal and handed the phone over to him. We had a</p> <p>2 short conversation where I confirmed my location. The</p> <p>3 fire marshal told me to stay put as the fire was not</p> <p>4 near my flat and they would come and get me. I felt</p> <p>5 reassured after this call."</p> <p>6 Was this conversation before or after you had made</p> <p>7 your first attempt to leave?</p> <p>8 A. It was after.</p> <p>9 Q. After?</p> <p>10 A. After.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you discuss the conditions in the lobby that you'd</p> <p>12 seen on your first attempt to leave with the fire</p> <p>13 marshal?</p> <p>14 A. I don't recall, perhaps I did, but for sure he told me</p> <p>15 to stay put, that someone will come and get me.</p> <p>16 Q. You use the word "fire marshal"; did the person you</p> <p>17 spoke to identify themselves as a fire marshal?</p> <p>18 A. No, no, no, I say fire marshal to say firefighters or</p> <p>19 fire -- yeah, person in charge downstairs.</p> <p>20 Q. An officer?</p> <p>21 A. An officer, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Did that person identify themselves, do you remember?</p> <p>23 A. No, I don't think so, no.</p> <p>24 Q. Was it a man or a woman you spoke to?</p> <p>25 A. It was a man.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 Q. You say "they would come and get me". Can you remember 2 more precisely what the man said to you?</p> <p>3 A. Well, very much, "Stay put, somebody is coming to get 4 you". He was very determined in his words not to try 5 anything risky, basically, that they were aware I was 6 there and they will come and get me.</p> <p>7 Q. Moving back in your statement to paragraph 63, this 8 is where you describe your effort to leave. You say you 9 got dressed, you put your shoes on, you packed a number 10 of essentials.</p> <p>11 So did you move around the flat when you were doing 12 that or were you in one place?</p> <p>13 A. Well, I picked up the most important things I could 14 think of, put it in the rucksack, and that was basically 15 my bedroom, to pick up some stuff, and then the laptop 16 from the living room, and that was all that I could put 17 in, basically, so ...</p> <p>18 Q. Did you notice whether there had been any change in the 19 conditions within the flat when you were moving around 20 doing that?</p> <p>21 A. No, this was still at the very early stage because, as 22 I said, I wanted to get out. So there was no 23 significant changes, so light grey dust or smoke, but no 24 significant changes.</p> <p>25 Q. What prompted your decision to try to leave?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 carefully, and it was not hot, but it was very warm. 2 But still, nevertheless, I said, okay, I can handle it, 3 so I opened a little bit. The moment I opened, it was 4 like I was invested[sic] with this path of smoke and 5 I closed straight away, and for some reason -- silly 6 reason -- I even put the chain, you know, to close the 7 door properly. So it was like an instinctive reaction. 8 But it was really -- it scared me, so it was really -- 9 I managed to think: okay, if you try to go out there, 10 you cannot see, you cannot breathe, maybe you lose your 11 bearings, you lose your senses -- I don't know. It was 12 really scary.</p> <p>13 Q. What colour was the smoke?</p> <p>14 A. Pitch black. Black, black.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you smell it?</p> <p>16 A. Of course.</p> <p>17 Q. What did it smell like?</p> <p>18 A. Horrible. Something like never before.</p> <p>19 Q. Really?</p> <p>20 A. I mean, you smell occasionally some smoke from 21 something, but this was really intense and -- yeah, 22 a killer. To me that was a killer.</p> <p>23 Q. Yes. You say, "My eyes were stinging; I was almost 24 crying". Was there any other part of your body that was 25 affected?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 A. Because of the photo that Christopher sent me. 2 I realised that, yes, I have to see and analyse and 3 assess if I can get my way out. But obviously it was 4 extremely dangerous. Once I tried and I realised that 5 the smoke outside was very strong, very black, very -- 6 it wouldn't be possible to breathe, it was very -- it 7 would take your breath away, basically. So the moment 8 I opened the door, I felt like I'd been hit by gas as 9 well as smoke, so basically it would stop me from 10 breathing. So I said, "Oh, you know, you cannot go out 11 there", so that's why I closed promptly and my eyes were 12 crying like, you know, it was really horrible. So 13 that's why I closed the door and I went to rinse my eyes 14 in the bathroom.</p> <p>15 Q. You cover this in paragraph 64 of your statement, if we 16 can just turn to that. Let's look at some of the 17 detail.</p> <p>18 You say:</p> <p>19 "I then went towards my front door; it was warm to 20 touch."</p> <p>21 Can we just get a feeling for how warm?</p> <p>22 First of all, which part of the door was warm to the 23 touch, do you remember?</p> <p>24 A. Well, I touched first like this, with the back of my 25 hand (Demonstrated), and then the handle, but very</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 A. No, because obviously I was properly dressed and my face 2 was the only part exposed and, yeah, that's where the 3 biggest impact came.</p> <p>4 Q. You say it was impossible to breathe. I mean, this is 5 maybe a difficult question, but do you remember how many 6 breaths of the smoke you took?</p> <p>7 A. One, perhaps, or two, but it was enough for me to shut 8 the door.</p> <p>9 Q. I understand.</p> <p>10 You say the smoke was very smelly and hot.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you actually --</p> <p>13 A. Yes, very, very warm, yes. Very, very warm.</p> <p>14 Q. Where did you feel the warmth?</p> <p>15 A. In my face, right in my face.</p> <p>16 Q. Could you see any fire?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. Could you see anything out into the lobby?</p> <p>19 A. Zero visibility.</p> <p>20 Q. As you approached your closed front door to open it to 21 try to get out, did you notice whether there was smoke 22 coming through any gaps around it?</p> <p>23 A. The door?</p> <p>24 Q. Yes.</p> <p>25 A. No, the door was properly sealed and closed and there</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 was no smoke coming in.</p> <p>2 Q. When you opened the door, did much smoke come into your</p> <p>3 flat?</p> <p>4 A. No, no, no, not too much, because it was an instant</p> <p>5 reaction to close it straight away because of the</p> <p>6 intensity, because of the heat, because of the -- yeah,</p> <p>7 it was like horrible. So I closed straight away.</p> <p>8 Q. Did you see any lights on in the lobby at all?</p> <p>9 A. No, zero.</p> <p>10 Q. After you had washed your face, as you say you did, did</p> <p>11 you have any lasting effects of the smoke?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. After you shut the front door, and I think you went to</p> <p>14 the bathroom and washed your face, did you then move</p> <p>15 around your flat after that?</p> <p>16 A. Yes. I was continuously moving around to assess, to</p> <p>17 check, to see what is going on, if I could see any fire,</p> <p>18 if I could see any potential danger. During this time</p> <p>19 I had various conversations with Christopher and then</p> <p>20 with people that started calling me. One of the</p> <p>21 conversations was the photo that Christopher sent me,</p> <p>22 and also the fire official that told me to stay put.</p> <p>23 When he told me, "Stay put, somebody's coming to get</p> <p>24 you", I kept my jacket on, even my rucksack on my</p> <p>25 shoulder, because I thought it would be happening soon.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 further trigger warning that after the break -- and</p> <p>2 I will repeat it after the break -- we will be coming</p> <p>3 back to look at further photographs that were taken on</p> <p>4 the night.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>6 Well, 11.10, then, please.</p> <p>7 (11.00 am)</p> <p>8 (A short break)</p> <p>9 (11.10 am)</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: Mr Roncolato, thank you very much for coming</p> <p>12 back to us.</p> <p>13 I want now to look at three more photographs with</p> <p>14 you, if I can. The first is your exhibit AR/8, which is</p> <p>15 IWS00000892 at page 17.</p> <p>16 According to your latest statement, your third</p> <p>17 statement, I think you took this at 02.30 or around</p> <p>18 about 02.30; is that right?</p> <p>19 A. Correct.</p> <p>20 Q. Could you just tell us what we can see in this picture?</p> <p>21 A. These are brand new windows installed only a few months</p> <p>22 before, and you can see from the bottom part of it there</p> <p>23 is smoke coming in through these fine little gaps that</p> <p>24 were still there, basically.</p> <p>25 Q. Could you just show us where on the picture we can see</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 After a while, I realised it's going to take some</p> <p>2 time here, so I took my jacket off because it was quite</p> <p>3 warm, and then that's when I started around 02.30 to see</p> <p>4 the smoke coming in from the windows.</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: Right. We're going to turn to that in</p> <p>6 a moment.</p> <p>7 Mr Chairman, I notice we've been going just under</p> <p>8 an hour.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: I know that an hour's evidence is quite a lot</p> <p>11 for witnesses.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Roncolato, most people giving</p> <p>13 evidence find that an hour at a time is enough and would</p> <p>14 quite like to have a break. Shall we have a short break</p> <p>15 now?</p> <p>16 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll stop now then for 10 minutes.</p> <p>18 I have to ask you, please, not to talk to anyone about</p> <p>19 your evidence during the break.</p> <p>20 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you go with the usher, we'll</p> <p>22 start again at 11.10. All right?</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you very much.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I should just say by way of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 the smoke coming in in detail?</p> <p>2 A. Well, it is there.</p> <p>3 Q. It's at the bottom of the picture?</p> <p>4 A. The bottom, yes, the very bottom, a bit further down.</p> <p>5 There, there, yes.</p> <p>6 Q. I see. There?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. I'm sorry to keep asking detailed questions, but was it</p> <p>9 bubbling up through a gap or was it coming in at a joint</p> <p>10 between the glass and the PVC?</p> <p>11 A. No, it came through the frame.</p> <p>12 Q. Through the frame?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, which was not airtight.</p> <p>14 Q. This window is, I think you say, the window on the east</p> <p>15 side of the building?</p> <p>16 A. Number 2 I think it is.</p> <p>17 Q. Number 2. Right, so that's your living room?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. In your statement you say that at paragraph 69 and,</p> <p>20 indeed, at 70.</p> <p>21 How soon after your first attempt to leave did you</p> <p>22 notice this smoke coming in through the living room</p> <p>23 window here?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, about 40/50 minutes afterwards. 40 minutes.</p> <p>25 Q. Can I then look, please, at AR/9, which is IWS00000892</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 at page 19.</p> <p>2 Again, I think you say now that you took this around</p> <p>3 about 02.30, in your third statement.</p> <p>4 A. Yes, slightly after the previous picture.</p> <p>5 Q. Right, I see.</p> <p>6 Is it also of your living room?</p> <p>7 A. It is indeed, yes.</p> <p>8 Q. From which angle or direction is it taken, do you know?</p> <p>9 A. It is from the kitchen, behind the breakfast table,</p> <p>10 which I was talking earlier on about.</p> <p>11 Q. Can we see the breakfast table in this picture?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, it is. You can see also there is a spoon in there,</p> <p>13 so that is the breakfast table.</p> <p>14 Q. You describe the smoke in paragraph 70 of your</p> <p>15 statement, if we just go to that. You describe the</p> <p>16 smoke there as thick and grey, thick grey smoke.</p> <p>17 Besides the colour and the density, was it different</p> <p>18 in any other way from the smoke that you'd seen in the</p> <p>19 lobby when you opened the door?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, definitely different, much lighter and you could</p> <p>21 somehow, if I may -- you can still breathe, even though</p> <p>22 I put a towel, a wet napkin on my face, but it was</p> <p>23 totally different than the smoke in the hallway.</p> <p>24 Q. Did it have a smell or a taste, this grey smoke?</p> <p>25 A. Yes. Very -- how can I put it? -- very smoky, very</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 the photograph?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, that's the one.</p> <p>3 Q. Apart from burning your eyes, did it have any other</p> <p>4 physical effect on you?</p> <p>5 A. No, it was totally uncomfortable or unpleasant to</p> <p>6 breathe, that's why I would have this wet towel on my</p> <p>7 mouth, and that's why I would go to my living room and</p> <p>8 get some fresh air from the window.</p> <p>9 Also, I knew that breathing that stuff would not be</p> <p>10 good for you, so I tried to protect myself as much as</p> <p>11 I could.</p> <p>12 Q. Was the effect on you of the thick grey smoke that we've</p> <p>13 just been looking at coming through your window</p> <p>14 different from the effect of the black smoke that you'd</p> <p>15 encountered when you opened your door to the lobby?</p> <p>16 A. Yes. As I said, the black smoke was, like, very hot --</p> <p>17 very, very hot -- and very powerful. This one was still</p> <p>18 very bad, but not as bad. They were totally different.</p> <p>19 Q. The effect on you physically, did it have a different</p> <p>20 effect physically?</p> <p>21 A. The one at the door, when I first breathed in the first</p> <p>22 time, it was for a very, very short time, a few seconds,</p> <p>23 basically. If I had had that black smoke in my living</p> <p>24 room, perhaps I would have run for my life.</p> <p>25 Q. At paragraph 74, you say:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 horrible as well.</p> <p>2 Q. Did it taste or smell different from the smoke that</p> <p>3 you'd encountered in the lobby?</p> <p>4 A. Yes. The one in the lobby was like a gas, something</p> <p>5 that would, you know -- you go into a gas chamber and</p> <p>6 that would kill you shortly after. This one was</p> <p>7 somehow, again, breathable, but still horrible.</p> <p>8 Q. Could you describe the smell or the taste of this smoke?</p> <p>9 A. When you --</p> <p>10 Q. What was it like?</p> <p>11 A. -- burn a lot of -- let's say a lot of rubbish, and the</p> <p>12 smell is awful, but the one in the hallway, in the</p> <p>13 landings, would be like if you burn something --</p> <p>14 chemicals, like some, I don't know, sponges or something</p> <p>15 that is like rubber or like a tyre, you know, a strong</p> <p>16 smell and black, whilst the one in the living room was</p> <p>17 more like rubbish-like.</p> <p>18 Q. On page 12 of your statement, if you just go back to</p> <p>19 your first statement, you say in paragraph 72:</p> <p>20 "72. My eyes were burning from the smoke. I wet a</p> <p>21 fabric napkin and put it over my nose and mouth and went</p> <p>22 into my bedroom to breathe in some fresh air from the</p> <p>23 window."</p> <p>24 Is that smoke that you're referring to there the</p> <p>25 same smoke as we've seen coming through the window in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 "74. After this both smoke detectors in my flat</p> <p>2 started beeping loudly. I tried to cool them down with</p> <p>3 a fanning them[sic] with a dry cloth, but they soon went</p> <p>4 off again."</p> <p>5 I just want to try and get the the timing. You say</p> <p>6 "After this", and in the previous paragraph,</p> <p>7 paragraph 73, you see that you say that "I took two</p> <p>8 photographs", and those are AR/9 and AR/10. We've</p> <p>9 looked at AR/9. Could we just look at AR/10. It's just</p> <p>10 a timing point. This is IWS00000892, page 21.</p> <p>11 This is the photograph I think of your hallway; is</p> <p>12 that right?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. I think in your first statement you said this was taken</p> <p>15 around about 02.40, but now I think you say this was</p> <p>16 around 04.30.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. So just in terms of the smoke conditions in your flat,</p> <p>19 when do you think the smoke detectors went off? What</p> <p>20 sort of time?</p> <p>21 A. They went off shortly after -- they went off on a few</p> <p>22 occasions. They went on shortly after the smoke was</p> <p>23 pouring in from the windows.</p> <p>24 Q. So about 02.30?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, a few times, and I managed to somehow cool it down,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 so to stop from making the noise.</p> <p>2 Then they went off again later on in the night, when</p> <p>3 Christopher's room, which is that one (Indicates), got</p> <p>4 filled up with smoke, because of the fire that was</p> <p>5 crawling down on the outside of his window.</p> <p>6 Q. I'm going to come back to that shortly.</p> <p>7 At this point on the night, you go on, I think, at</p> <p>8 paragraph 75 on page 12 of your first statement, if we</p> <p>9 can just go back to that, to say:</p> <p>10 "75. I then went into my bedroom to devise a plan</p> <p>11 to try and get rid of the smoke from my flat. I opened</p> <p>12 my bedroom window on the south side and the kitchen</p> <p>13 window on the east side of the Tower whilst shutting</p> <p>14 Christopher's bedroom, the bathroom and toilet doors to</p> <p>15 create a draught. Thankfully this gradually cleared the</p> <p>16 smoke."</p> <p>17 Can I please look at the third photograph with you</p> <p>18 that I wanted to show you, which is AR/13. That's</p> <p>19 IWS00000924.</p> <p>20 I think your third statement explains that this</p> <p>21 photograph was taken between 02.30 and 03.00 am, and</p> <p>22 I just want to see if that was really right.</p> <p>23 A. Perhaps slightly later than that, perhaps, looking at it</p> <p>24 now, because dawn is breaking outside basically, but,</p> <p>25 yeah, I don't recall exactly the time. I mean ...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 attempt to leave the flat?</p> <p>2 A. No, up to that stage, only one attempt.</p> <p>3 Q. Moving ahead, the next time marker we have, aside from</p> <p>4 your timing of photographs, is a call with the LFB, and</p> <p>5 specifically Control Room Officer Pam Jones, and we have</p> <p>6 that at 04.49 am. We'll look at that in a little bit of</p> <p>7 detail in a moment.</p> <p>8 Before we do that, 04.49, in the time that passed</p> <p>9 between the call to your night manager, 02.40, and your</p> <p>10 contact with the LFB at 04.49 -- it's a two-hour</p> <p>11 spread -- what were the conditions like in general terms</p> <p>12 in your flat?</p> <p>13 A. It was very smoky at around 02.30, the time I took the</p> <p>14 picture, and the time I took the photo also from the</p> <p>15 kitchen showing the living room full of smoke. So --</p> <p>16 sorry, repeat the question.</p> <p>17 Q. As a general question --</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. -- what were the conditions like during that two-hour</p> <p>20 period?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, so, basically, it was smoky, but I managed somehow</p> <p>22 to get rid of the smoke by putting all wet towels and</p> <p>23 bedsheets and stuff that I had around all the window</p> <p>24 ledges, independently if there was smoke or not coming</p> <p>25 in from the window. So basically I put towels</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 Q. Can we see any smoke in that picture?</p> <p>2 A. No, no.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you know why we can't?</p> <p>4 A. Because at that stage in there, there was only light --</p> <p>5 you see, this is the south side, so the fire had not</p> <p>6 come to that side yet, and it was quite early in the</p> <p>7 night.</p> <p>8 Q. Going back to your statement, at paragraph 76, you say:</p> <p>9 "76. According to my phone records at around</p> <p>10 2.40am, I called the night manager at the hotel where</p> <p>11 I work. I told him that I was not able to come to work</p> <p>12 as there was a fire and I was trapped in my flat. He</p> <p>13 told me not to worry about work and 'to get the hell out</p> <p>14 of there.'"</p> <p>15 You give a time for that call at 02.40. That means</p> <p>16 that about an hour had passed between Christopher's call</p> <p>17 to you which woke you up --</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. -- and this call. That's right, is it?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. To the best of your recollection?</p> <p>22 A. Yes. I did this because I realised that it was very</p> <p>23 serious and obviously I could not go to work the day</p> <p>24 after. So that's why I ...</p> <p>25 Q. Before you made that call, had you made any other</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 everywhere, wet. Then by opening the window in the</p> <p>2 kitchen and in the bedroom, I was busy getting rid of</p> <p>3 the smoke.</p> <p>4 Q. Did that work?</p> <p>5 A. Basically that kept me busy for a while.</p> <p>6 Q. Did the amount of smoke coming through the window frame,</p> <p>7 as you referred to it earlier, increase during the</p> <p>8 night?</p> <p>9 A. No, because I managed -- because I put the towels, I put</p> <p>10 towels all over it. So --</p> <p>11 Q. And that worked?</p> <p>12 A. It worked, yes. Thank God it worked.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay.</p> <p>14 The next photograph I think that you're able to time</p> <p>15 in your third statement, your most recent, is one</p> <p>16 I think you believe was taken from your bedroom window</p> <p>17 at about 04.30 am. We can look at that. That's AR/11,</p> <p>18 and you corrected the time for this to about 04.30.</p> <p>19 This is IWS00000892, page 23.</p> <p>20 At about this time -- we can see it's beginning to</p> <p>21 get light -- was there any smoke still coming into your</p> <p>22 bedroom?</p> <p>23 A. No. No, not my bedroom.</p> <p>24 Q. Did any smoke ever come into your bedroom?</p> <p>25 A. Not really my bedroom, no. Christopher's bedroom, yes,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 but not mine. Perhaps very, very, very light.</p> <p>2 Q. We know you made a second attempt to leave the flat. Do</p> <p>3 you think you took this photograph before that or after</p> <p>4 that?</p> <p>5 A. I made a second attempt to leave the flat at around</p> <p>6 04.30, 04-something, so it was about more or less the</p> <p>7 same time. Perhaps before.</p> <p>8 Q. What is this a photograph of?</p> <p>9 A. Pardon?</p> <p>10 Q. What is this a photograph of?</p> <p>11 A. This photo is from the window, from my bedroom. The</p> <p>12 tower above me is burning -- so basically the fire</p> <p>13 started on the east -- west side, correct? So it went</p> <p>14 all the way to the south side as well, on the top</p> <p>15 levels, and then the fire started to come down as well.</p> <p>16 So basically this is the reflection of the fire, the</p> <p>17 tower burning, the flats above me, well above me, maybe,</p> <p>18 but the fire was coming down obviously and this is the</p> <p>19 reflection onto that building, which is part of the</p> <p>20 estate -- they call it the fingers -- and you see those</p> <p>21 windows at the top are open at an angle, and that's</p> <p>22 where the reflection is coming from.</p> <p>23 Q. We can see the yellow flames reflected --</p> <p>24 A. Yes, from above the tower.</p> <p>25 Q. -- in the vents at the top of these --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 I just want to try to get a time on that.</p> <p>2 When you checked Christopher's room and saw what</p> <p>3 you've described there, was that at the same time as or</p> <p>4 before or after you took the photograph that we've just</p> <p>5 looked at IWS00000892, page 21?</p> <p>6 A. I think I've taken the photograph -- the one with the</p> <p>7 reflection on the --</p> <p>8 Q. No, no, page 21, the hallway photograph. That</p> <p>9 photograph there.</p> <p>10 So let me put the question again.</p> <p>11 When you checked Christopher's room and saw the</p> <p>12 whole room full of white thick smoke --</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. -- and flames coming down the outside --</p> <p>15 A. Yes, yes, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. -- was that before or after or the same time as you took</p> <p>17 this photograph?</p> <p>18 A. I've seen the fire crawling down, and the room quickly</p> <p>19 filled up with smoke, and then I took the picture.</p> <p>20 Q. Thank you, that's very clear.</p> <p>21 Going back to your statement, you say:</p> <p>22 "When I next checked Christopher's room ..."</p> <p>23 Had you checked Christopher's room before that?</p> <p>24 A. Only occasionally.</p> <p>25 Q. You describe white thick smoke. Could you see where the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. -- glass dormer windows?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. I see.</p> <p>5 A. So that was, to me, pretty signal that, yes, fire is</p> <p>6 coming this way as well.</p> <p>7 Q. We're going to see another photograph in a moment which</p> <p>8 we looked at I think a moment ago, which is AR/10,</p> <p>9 IWS00000892, page 21.</p> <p>10 You said earlier and you say in your statement that</p> <p>11 this was taken in the hallway into Christopher's</p> <p>12 bedroom; is that correct?</p> <p>13 A. Correct.</p> <p>14 Q. You now I think say that this was taken at about 04.30</p> <p>15 or 04.40, before the call with Control Room Officer</p> <p>16 Jones at 04.49.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. You say in your first statement, paragraph 84 -- let's</p> <p>19 just go back to that:</p> <p>20 "84. When I next checked Christopher's room, I saw</p> <p>21 the entire room was full of white thick smoke. His</p> <p>22 window was closed, but smoke was pouring in. This all</p> <p>23 happened very quickly. I also saw flames crawling down</p> <p>24 the left side of Christopher's bedroom window. This was</p> <p>25 very scary."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 smoke was coming in from?</p> <p>2 A. From the window, from the window. But it all happened</p> <p>3 so quickly that I could not figure out, is it from that</p> <p>4 point, that -- you know, it went so quickly. It came in</p> <p>5 so quickly.</p> <p>6 Q. Was there a lot of smoke coming in?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Was it at the bottom of the window or the top of the</p> <p>9 window or the sides, are you able to tell us?</p> <p>10 A. I can't tell, but it just came in.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 You say in your statement:</p> <p>13 "I also saw flames crawling down the left side of</p> <p>14 Christopher's bedroom window. This was very scary."</p> <p>15 Do you remember whether the flames that you saw</p> <p>16 crawling down were inside the flat or still outside?</p> <p>17 A. Outside.</p> <p>18 Q. Outside.</p> <p>19 A. Clearly burning the cladding outside.</p> <p>20 Q. How close to the left side of the window frame were the</p> <p>21 flames you saw?</p> <p>22 A. Well, basically you have the window and right after you</p> <p>23 have basically the column or the pillar, how you call</p> <p>24 them, and that part of the cladding, it was like</p> <p>25 burning, and I could see the flames like coming down.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 Q. Yes. It must have been scary.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. You then go on to say in the next paragraph:</p> <p>4 "85. Suddenly water from outside started pouring</p> <p>5 into mine and Christopher's bedroom putting out the</p> <p>6 fire."</p> <p>7 Do you know how the water got into Christopher's</p> <p>8 bedroom?</p> <p>9 A. How what?</p> <p>10 Q. How the water got into Christopher's bedroom?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, the water came through the little vent at the top</p> <p>12 of the window, and -- yeah, in his bed room and my</p> <p>13 bedroom. Only because the pressure of the water was</p> <p>14 quite strong, and obviously they were aiming at the</p> <p>15 fire, but a lot of water came through that little --</p> <p>16 which is a tiny gap like this, but a lot of water came</p> <p>17 through. A lot.</p> <p>18 Q. Did it have any effect on the fire that you had seen</p> <p>19 crawling down on the left side of the window?</p> <p>20 A. I could see that the fire went off immediately. And</p> <p>21 then slowly the smoke disappeared as well.</p> <p>22 Q. Just so we're absolutely clear, can I ask you to look at</p> <p>23 your plan of your flat, AR/1, IWS00000892, page 2, so we</p> <p>24 have the windows completely clear where you say that the</p> <p>25 water came in.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 Q. What, in the channel or on the face?</p> <p>2 A. No, on the outside. Burning the cladding, basically,</p> <p>3 burning the aluminium, whatever material it was, the</p> <p>4 cladding.</p> <p>5 Q. And you got a good look at it, did you?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, I did, yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you think this incident you're describing, the flames</p> <p>8 coming down, that happened before you tried to leave the</p> <p>9 flat for the second time?</p> <p>10 A. I tried to leave the flat before, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Before that?</p> <p>12 A. The second time, yes, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. So that's before you saw the flames crawling down the</p> <p>14 window?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, yes, yes, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 A. Yes, yes, I did, yes, because when I saw the flames,</p> <p>18 that was the warning that, okay, I have to in a way step</p> <p>19 up a gear, so I want to make more awareness towards 999</p> <p>20 or towards the fire officer that the fire is coming at</p> <p>21 me, so where am I standing now.</p> <p>22 Q. I follow. Just so we're clear, is this right -- correct</p> <p>23 me if this isn't right -- the order was you tried to</p> <p>24 leave a second time, couldn't, then you saw the flames</p> <p>25 on the outside, and then you rang 999?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 Are the windows marked 6 and 7?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. That's where the water came in?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. And Christopher's window is 6?</p> <p>6 A. Yes. If you see Christopher's window, 6, on -- I mean,</p> <p>7 looking at it now, on the right-hand side, this little</p> <p>8 dark spot, that's where the fire was crawling.</p> <p>9 Q. That's very interesting. Could you just explain. So</p> <p>10 when you saw the fire crawling down, could you just</p> <p>11 describe where on the diagram you saw it.</p> <p>12 A. Can I stand up and show you?</p> <p>13 Q. Please do.</p> <p>14 A. You see, from this door, I could see -- because here,</p> <p>15 this is not flat, this is the column, the pillar, that</p> <p>16 holds the tower. So basically the flames were there.</p> <p>17 So basically I could see -- from going inside, you could</p> <p>18 see that the flames were there, burning this part of the</p> <p>19 cladding (Indicates).</p> <p>20 Q. Could you see whether the joints were burning or was it</p> <p>21 the face of the cladding?</p> <p>22 A. This one?</p> <p>23 Q. Yes.</p> <p>24 A. Yes, so the fire was, you know -- this one obviously</p> <p>25 goes high and the fire was crawling down there.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. And then I had -- I don't know if I rang -- yeah,</p> <p>2 I rang on a couple of occasions, but yes, that was the</p> <p>3 time when I realised, okay, something more has to be</p> <p>4 done now because the fire is coming. Even though the</p> <p>5 Fire Brigade, firefighters, they put off the fire and</p> <p>6 they put a lot of water, but I was, you know ...</p> <p>7 Q. Sure.</p> <p>8 Let's just go and have a look in detail about what</p> <p>9 you say about your second attempt to leave your flat.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. This you cover at paragraph 78 of your first statement</p> <p>12 and you say:</p> <p>13 "78. Around 4am, I tried to leave the flat again.</p> <p>14 I put on my rucksack and had a wet towel to cover my</p> <p>15 nose and mouth. I opened the front door and the very</p> <p>16 same black, thick, hot smoke engulfed me. I immediately</p> <p>17 shut the door again. This time, I could also hear</p> <p>18 screaming and banging from the stairwell."</p> <p>19 You say there it was around 04.00 am. I think in</p> <p>20 your third statement you say that you made that attempt</p> <p>21 just before the call with CRO Jones at 04.40 or 04.50.</p> <p>22 Is that right?</p> <p>23 A. I don't remember. I mean, everything was happening so</p> <p>24 quickly.</p> <p>25 Q. When you made that second attempt, you say</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 "I immediately shut the door again". Were the</p> <p>2 conditions in the lobby that you could see when you</p> <p>3 opened the door different from the first time or the</p> <p>4 same?</p> <p>5 A. Exactly the same.</p> <p>6 Q. What prompted you to make that attempt?</p> <p>7 A. To see if I, you know, could help myself, to see if</p> <p>8 I could get out of there, to see if I can, you know --</p> <p>9 yes, basically, maybe now it is a bit better, maybe</p> <p>10 somehow the fire has been -- I don't know -- it's less</p> <p>11 or -- I tried.</p> <p>12 Q. No, sure.</p> <p>13 Did the flat front door still continue to protect or</p> <p>14 keep the smoke out?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. When you did open the front door -- I know it was very</p> <p>17 brief -- did you get any sense of the temperature in the</p> <p>18 lobby?</p> <p>19 A. Again, very hot, just like the first one. The only</p> <p>20 difference was the noises that I heard coming from</p> <p>21 outside, from the landings, and some screaming as well.</p> <p>22 So that's why I got more.</p> <p>23 Q. What did you think when you heard the screaming and the</p> <p>24 banging in the stairwell?</p> <p>25 A. I was thinking that someone is not well at all in there,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 to be there for me.</p> <p>2 Q. Did he tell you about the progress of the fire or what</p> <p>3 he could see, do you remember?</p> <p>4 A. Possibly, but I don't remember.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay.</p> <p>6 In your third statement -- I summarise it -- you say</p> <p>7 that you remember speaking to your sister-in-law,</p> <p>8 shortly before you had a call with the 999 control room,</p> <p>9 and then you got called up by the control room.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. I've summarised it, but is that right?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, yes, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. We can look at the transcript of that call, it's</p> <p>14 INQ00000372, timed at 04.49.59.</p> <p>15 At page 2, it starts "AUTOMATED SPEAKER", and then:</p> <p>16 "CALLER: Hello?</p> <p>17 "OPERATOR: Hello, it's the Fire Brigade Control Room</p> <p>18 here, I just spoke to your sister-in-law."</p> <p>19 Is it right she rang you on your mobile?</p> <p>20 A. My sister-in-law?</p> <p>21 Q. No, the control room operator.</p> <p>22 A. Yes, yes, yes, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Right:</p> <p>24 "CALLER: Yes.</p> <p>25 "OPERATOR: She said that you're still in the flat?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 so something is going on. And I was thinking even if</p> <p>2 you want to try and you don't see, you'll not be able to</p> <p>3 breathe. Again, so you might find someone or you might</p> <p>4 find some obstruction on the way down, maybe you trip</p> <p>5 over and maybe you can fall down. And then I was</p> <p>6 thinking I'm sure the firefighters are trying to fight</p> <p>7 the fires and rescue people. And, yeah, the stairs are</p> <p>8 very narrow as well. And, again, I was continuously</p> <p>9 thinking that I will not be able to breathe properly and</p> <p>10 therefore it's very risky.</p> <p>11 Q. Yes.</p> <p>12 A. And that's why, you know, I stay put.</p> <p>13 Q. We know from your statements that you spoke to</p> <p>14 Christopher, your son, a number of times during the</p> <p>15 course of that night.</p> <p>16 At any stage, do you remember whether he passed on</p> <p>17 to you any information about what you were supposed to</p> <p>18 do in response to the fire and smoke?</p> <p>19 A. No. He was just trying to find out how I was, how I was</p> <p>20 coping, if there was smoke, if there was fire, the state</p> <p>21 of my being there, and obviously I could feel that he</p> <p>22 was very worried, he was very stressed. He was</p> <p>23 extremely worried, yes, I repeat again. At one stage,</p> <p>24 I remember him saying that he had to be strong and he</p> <p>25 had to be focused because I would need him outside there</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 "CALLER: Yes, I am.</p> <p>2 "OPERATOR: Okay, I've let the firefighters know who</p> <p>3 are there --"</p> <p>4 Then it continues you describe the conditions.</p> <p>5 Then what I wanted just to look at is page 3 of this</p> <p>6 transcript, a quarter of the way down the page. You</p> <p>7 say:</p> <p>8 "CALLER: The fire alarm stopped as well, so I've got</p> <p>9 a little bit of oxygen coming through a window, you</p> <p>10 know, where it's safe, so, I'm safe here, you know what</p> <p>11 I mean? I don't want to risk anything go outside and</p> <p>12 try to do something heroic."</p> <p>13 When you refer to "The fire alarm stopped", what are</p> <p>14 you referring to there?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, yes, the smoke detectors, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. In your flat?</p> <p>17 A. In my flat, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Then a little bit lower down the page, halfway, she asks</p> <p>19 you the question:</p> <p>20 "OPERATOR: Okay, so, there's no smoke or anything</p> <p>21 coming in where you are?</p> <p>22 "CALLER: There is -- no, there is smoke, plenty of</p> <p>23 smoke, yeah, but I'm okay because the window a little</p> <p>24 bit open, you know, I open and close the window little</p> <p>25 bit so to get some oxygen."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 When you refer to "plenty of smoke", what smoke were 2 you referring to? 3 A. I think I was referring to the smoke that came 4 through -- what time was this phone call made? 5 Q. 04.49. 6 A. This referred to the smoke that came through 7 Christopher's room because of the fire. 8 Q. Okay. 9 A. On this occasion also, from what I see here, the smoke 10 detector went off. 11 Q. Then you go on to say just a little bit below that: 12 "CALLER: But there is no fire, there is no fire 13 surrounding my floor, if you know what I mean. There 14 was fire before but now they put it off." 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. What's that a reference to? 17 A. It was referring to the fire on the outside of 18 Christopher's room. 19 Q. That you described before? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. At page 4 of this transcript, to pick something up with 22 you, you say at the top: 23 "CALLER: Yeah, yeah, the fire, I can see now where 24 it was -- 25 "OPERATOR: Right, okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 and smoky", had you actually seen the stairwell by that 2 point? 3 A. No, I was assuming that because there was so much smoke 4 in the landings, I was assuming that the whole of the 5 stairwell, landings and the surrounding areas would be 6 smoke-logged basically, and that's why I said that. But 7 obviously I did not see the smoke or if there was any 8 smoke in the stairs. 9 Q. Lower down the page, page 5, two-thirds of the way down, 10 you say: 11 "You know, I think if the floor -- there's no fire 12 around me, I'm going to be safe here in the flat." 13 What made you feel safe? 14 A. The fact that -- important was that the door was holding 15 the smoke out, basically the main door, there was no 16 smoke coming in, that was a positive thing. That the 17 fire on the outside of Christopher's room was put off, 18 and by the amount of water that was put, sprayed, into 19 that part of the wall or the building, including my 20 bedroom, there was no fire in there, made me feel okay. 21 And also seeing that the firefighters outside the 22 building at the level of my floor, basically, were 23 spraying water continuously. So basically: okay, these 24 guys will stop the fire from coming down. And that's 25 what made me say: okay, I'm safe here -- well, at least</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 "CALLER: -- next to my flat --" 2 Was that a reference to the outside that you've told 3 us about this morning? 4 A. Yes, because that was the only fire I've ever seen that 5 night. 6 Q. Then you say: 7 "And I just checked, I just tried to go out with a 8 cloth in my mouth to see if I could go, but it's too 9 dark outside and it's too dangerous." 10 When you say "I just checked", what did you -- 11 A. It was referring to the attempt I did to go out for the 12 second time. Yes, the second and last time, basically. 13 Q. So looking at what you say, "I just checked", does that 14 help you remember how long before this call you made 15 that second attempt? 16 A. I don't remember. 17 Q. Okay. 18 A. I don't recall. 19 Q. All right. 20 On the next page, page 5, a third of the way down, 21 you say: 22 "... I don't want any -- to put anybody life at risk 23 to come to the tenth floor by(?), you know, walking, 24 because the stairwell is totally pitch black and smoky." 25 When you say "the stairwell is totally pitch black</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 I'm okay at the moment, because at least on this side 2 there is no fire coming down. 3 Q. If the control room operator had said to you on this 4 call -- we see she didn't -- "You must get out of your 5 flat", what would you have done, do you think? 6 A. Well ... I would have assessed again if I was in the 7 condition to go out. But obviously she would've taken 8 a big responsibility to do so on her behalf, because she 9 wouldn't know how bad the conditions outside were. 10 I knew, she didn't. She wouldn't know. 11 Q. We know that at the end of the call, if you just look at 12 it, she says to you -- it's the same page, actually, 13 just below where we've been looking: 14 "If you don't get -- hear anyone, you call back, 15 okay?" 16 Do you see that? It's at the foot of page 5. She 17 says: 18 "Okay, well, I've let them know where you are. If 19 you don't get -- hear anyone, you call back, okay?" 20 You say: 21 "CALLER: Yeah, okay, fine, all right." 22 "OPERATOR: Okay, okay, all right, bye." 23 We know you did call the LFB back at 05.05.45. We 24 can look at that. That's LFB00000430, if we can just 25 please look at that call.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 We can see from the top right-hand corner of that</p> <p>2 that it's timed at 05.05.45, and on page 2 at the top,</p> <p>3 you say:</p> <p>4 "CALLER: Oh hi, my name is Antonio, I'm calling</p> <p>5 from Grenfell Tower, 72 Grenfell Tower. Right, you know</p> <p>6 there is a big fire going on there at the moment, right?</p> <p>7 "OPERATOR: Yes."</p> <p>8 The conversation then starts.</p> <p>9 You say, two-thirds of the way down:</p> <p>10 "CALLER: I'm not in any sort of danger, I'm not in</p> <p>11 any sort of danger, there's a lot of smoke around but</p> <p>12 I'm not in danger. I've been told that I should try</p> <p>13 to -- from downstairs they told try to come down, try to</p> <p>14 come down, it's impossible, I tried to open the door a</p> <p>15 little bit and there is so much smoke if I go out I die,</p> <p>16 so basically I just want to speak to your fire brigade</p> <p>17 men downstairs, somebody in charge that can advise me</p> <p>18 what to do."</p> <p>19 Just in that, you say, "I've been told that I should</p> <p>20 try to -- from downstairs they told try to come down".</p> <p>21 What are you describing there? Did somebody tell you to</p> <p>22 come down?</p> <p>23 (Pause)</p> <p>24 A. I think in a previous conversation with someone, I don't</p> <p>25 recall who.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 described that in some detail.</p> <p>2 Can I just pick up one or two things about the</p> <p>3 detail you've given us there very helpfully.</p> <p>4 At paragraph 91 you say:</p> <p>5 "91. We quickly left the flat and headed to the</p> <p>6 stairwell. As soon as we were on the landing and in the</p> <p>7 stairwell, the temperature changed and it was very hot."</p> <p>8 Just to clarify, when you say "landing" --</p> <p>9 A. Just outside my flat, basically.</p> <p>10 Q. That was your lobby?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, the lobby.</p> <p>12 Q. You said the temperature changed and it was very hot; is</p> <p>13 that a change from the temperature in your flat?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. When you say "it was very hot", was it hotter than when</p> <p>16 you'd first experienced it when you first opened the</p> <p>17 front door?</p> <p>18 A. Well, when I first experienced it, it was only for a few</p> <p>19 seconds into my face and obviously -- but when we left,</p> <p>20 I felt, even though I was properly dressed, that there</p> <p>21 was like a heatwave coming at me, right at my body,</p> <p>22 right through my clothes, basically, and that's how</p> <p>23 I felt, so that it was very, very hot.</p> <p>24 Q. Then you describe how you left the flat in that</p> <p>25 paragraph.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 But perhaps there was an attempt to say, you know,</p> <p>2 "Get what you can and try to make your way down". But</p> <p>3 I don't recall exactly.</p> <p>4 Q. I mean, do you remember having around this time</p> <p>5 a conversation with a fire officer, an LFB officer,</p> <p>6 about coming out of the flat?</p> <p>7 A. I don't recall. It must be all in the statement</p> <p>8 somewhere, all the conversation that I've had, but</p> <p>9 I don't recall a clear message, "You have to go out now"</p> <p>10 or anything like that.</p> <p>11 Q. You go on to say:</p> <p>12 "... I just want to speak to your fire brigade men</p> <p>13 downstairs, somebody in charge that can advise me what</p> <p>14 to do."</p> <p>15 Why did you want to speak to somebody at that stage?</p> <p>16 A. Because a person, an official in charge downstairs, or</p> <p>17 someone that is in the place would know and assess</p> <p>18 better than a person on the other side of the phone</p> <p>19 maybe miles away. So, to me, it was the time where,</p> <p>20 okay, you know, I cannot be here forever. I've been</p> <p>21 told to stay put, at the end of the day, meaning you are</p> <p>22 committing someone to come and help me out, and that's</p> <p>23 what I was waiting for.</p> <p>24 Q. We know that you got evacuated, and we can see from the</p> <p>25 detail in your statement from paragraph 89 onwards you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 Do you remember whether the stair door, the door</p> <p>2 between the lobby and the stairwell, was open or closed?</p> <p>3 A. I don't remember because I was totally blind. I had</p> <p>4 a big towel over my head and I was just following the</p> <p>5 firefighter in front of me, holding on him from the</p> <p>6 back, and basically I was just guided. If he had opened</p> <p>7 the door to go out or if the door was open, I don't</p> <p>8 know.</p> <p>9 Q. You didn't hear it?</p> <p>10 A. No. I was just concentrating, following what they told</p> <p>11 me to do.</p> <p>12 Q. When you got into the stairwell, do you recall what the</p> <p>13 temperature was like there?</p> <p>14 A. Well, the moment I left the flat together with the</p> <p>15 firefighters, obviously you have this sudden impact of</p> <p>16 heat coming at you. And then somehow your body --</p> <p>17 I mean, you get used soon straight away. So basically</p> <p>18 to me the temperature didn't change, I didn't feel any</p> <p>19 change.</p> <p>20 Also because, actually, to be honest, it cooled down</p> <p>21 a bit, because the moment we went into the stairs, it</p> <p>22 was very wet, lots of rubbish on the floor and water</p> <p>23 pouring down from above. So basically that made</p> <p>24 obviously the temperature lower, and -- yeah, it was</p> <p>25 wet, totally pouring down, water pouring down from</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 above.</p> <p>2 Q. I know you were covered with a wet towel, but did you</p> <p>3 get any sense of how thick the smoke in the stairwell</p> <p>4 was once you got into the stairwell?</p> <p>5 A. No, no, also because I had a towel in my mouth and nose.</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: Mr Roncolato, that brings me to the end of my</p> <p>7 questions for the moment. I am extremely grateful to</p> <p>8 you.</p> <p>9 I am going to ask the chairman to rise for</p> <p>10 a few minutes just to make sure there aren't other</p> <p>11 questions which my team want me to ask, or I want to</p> <p>12 ask, or which others in the room might want me to ask.</p> <p>13 So if that's not inconvenient to you, Mr Chairman,</p> <p>14 may we have 10 minutes?</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That sounds sensible. It does</p> <p>16 sometimes happen that further questions come to light.</p> <p>17 So would you like 10 minutes?</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: If I could, please.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Let's say 12.10, that's just over</p> <p>20 10 minutes, and then we'll see whether there are some</p> <p>21 more questions for you.</p> <p>22 Again, I have to ask you not to talk about your</p> <p>23 evidence while you're out of the room.</p> <p>24 Right, if you would like to go with the usher, that</p> <p>25 will be fine.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 first statement. You say there:</p> <p>2 "51. On Tuesday 13 June 2017, I arrived home after</p> <p>3 a week in Italy at around 8pm. It was a beautiful</p> <p>4 summer's evening. I noticed nothing unusual at Grenfell</p> <p>5 Tower. There were no issues with the lifts, lighting or</p> <p>6 electricity."</p> <p>7 Can I ask you, do you remember what the temperature</p> <p>8 was like in the lobby when you came in?</p> <p>9 A. That evening?</p> <p>10 Q. Yes, on that evening.</p> <p>11 A. Mm, maybe around 20 degrees, 22, something like that.</p> <p>12 Q. Was the temperature different from the temperature you</p> <p>13 would normally experience?</p> <p>14 A. No, no, it would be like any other day during that</p> <p>15 summer.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you notice any blowing or air or ventilation in</p> <p>17 operation at that time?</p> <p>18 A. No, nothing unusual than any other day.</p> <p>19 Q. Moving on to a different point.</p> <p>20 I just want to see if I can get slightly better</p> <p>21 clarity on timing of your first attempt to leave.</p> <p>22 Thinking about it again, do you think your first</p> <p>23 attempt to leave was before or after you received</p> <p>24 Christopher's photograph?</p> <p>25 A. I think it was before, but I'm not 100 per cent sure.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 Right, 12.10, then, please.</p> <p>2 (12.00 pm)</p> <p>3 (A short break)</p> <p>4 (12.10 pm)</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think there are just a few more</p> <p>6 questions, Mr Roncolato.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Mr Roncolato, thank you for coming back to us.</p> <p>8 A. Pleasure.</p> <p>9 Q. There are just a few more.</p> <p>10 First, you mentioned your beautiful view, and I just</p> <p>11 wanted to make sure we could understand what that was</p> <p>12 and from which direction you had it.</p> <p>13 Could the witness please be shown IWS00000892 at</p> <p>14 page 7, which is AR/3 to your first witness statement.</p> <p>15 Is that the view from your flat?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. It looks towards the city, does it?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, it does.</p> <p>19 Q. So just tell us, from which window in your flat is that</p> <p>20 picture taken?</p> <p>21 A. This is from the kitchen window.</p> <p>22 Q. We can see the leisure centre on the right and the</p> <p>23 academy on the left; is that right?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Could I please ask you to look at paragraph 51 of your</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 Q. So just asking the question I asked earlier again, what</p> <p>2 prompted you to make that first attempt?</p> <p>3 A. Because I would see the thick smoke outside, okay, it</p> <p>4 means there's something big going on. I didn't know the</p> <p>5 intensity and the severity of the smoke obviously. And</p> <p>6 then also because lots of people were gathering</p> <p>7 downstairs, as I opened the window in the kitchen</p> <p>8 especially, so I would see a lot of people, and I said:</p> <p>9 okay, you have to try at least. So that's why I put my</p> <p>10 stuff together and I got ready and tried.</p> <p>11 Q. So doing the best you can with what I know is difficult</p> <p>12 recollection, does that mean -- is this right? -- you</p> <p>13 got the photograph from Christopher of the exterior of</p> <p>14 the tower after that first attempt?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, yes, yes, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 A. Because the moment I saw the picture, I realised how</p> <p>18 severe the problem was.</p> <p>19 Q. Yes, thank you.</p> <p>20 Moving on to a separate question, a different point,</p> <p>21 can I ask you, please, to go back to your second 999</p> <p>22 call, which is LFB00000430. This is the one at</p> <p>23 05.05.45.</p> <p>24 Can I please ask you to go to page 3 in that</p> <p>25 transcript.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 You say, two-thirds of the way down:</p> <p>2 "CALLER: No, I cannot go out, if I go out, believe</p> <p>3 me, I'm going to be on somebody else's conscious[sic].</p> <p>4 It's totally -- you know, my eyes started crying</p> <p>5 (inaudible) and it's impossible to breathe."</p> <p>6 When you said "It's going to be on somebody else's</p> <p>7 conscious", what did you mean?</p> <p>8 A. I meant that if that person on the other side of the</p> <p>9 line would tell me, "You must get out, you have to try</p> <p>10 or" -- you know, I tried already, so I knew. Now let's</p> <p>11 say I would be convinced by this person to go out, and</p> <p>12 if something had happened to me, how would that person</p> <p>13 feel if I had not made it out, basically? So that's why</p> <p>14 I said, you know, I don't want to think of someone</p> <p>15 thinking, "Oh, because I gave him that advice, look what</p> <p>16 happened to him". How would that person then live for</p> <p>17 the rest of their life?</p> <p>18 Q. Yes. Yes, thank you.</p> <p>19 Just a couple more questions.</p> <p>20 First of all, at paragraph 8 of your first</p> <p>21 statement, if I can just ask you to go back to that,</p> <p>22 please.</p> <p>23 I just want to see if this is actually correct when</p> <p>24 you say:</p> <p>25 "The tenancy agreement was subsequently amended with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 there were others including myself, who were not happy.</p> <p>2 The new boiler was not attractive and blocked the</p> <p>3 hallway. We also had health and safety concerns with it</p> <p>4 being located above the electricity meter. We formed a</p> <p>5 residents' compact and started to encourage other</p> <p>6 residents to voice their concerns about this work. We</p> <p>7 also involved our local MP."</p> <p>8 Just a couple of very short questions about this</p> <p>9 compact.</p> <p>10 First of all, do you know when it was formed?</p> <p>11 A. When?</p> <p>12 Q. Yes.</p> <p>13 A. I don't know exactly the year now, but at the beginning</p> <p>14 of the refurbishment.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you remember who was in it or who did led it?</p> <p>16 A. It was Ed Daffarn that I knew from before but not so</p> <p>17 well, basically, through his immense work of trying to</p> <p>18 get people aware of what was going on. Then there was</p> <p>19 another gentleman called David Collins that used to be,</p> <p>20 let's say, the chair, together with Edward, and that's</p> <p>21 when I got involved as well.</p> <p>22 Q. Was it solely related to the boilers or were there other</p> <p>23 matters as well?</p> <p>24 A. There were other matters as well, but the boiler was one</p> <p>25 of the biggest ones.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 the TMO, who ran the building at the time of the</p> <p>2 fire ..."</p> <p>3 Do you know whether your landlord changed to become</p> <p>4 the TMO?</p> <p>5 A. When?</p> <p>6 Q. Well, when you refer to the tenancy agreement being</p> <p>7 amended with the TMO, was it your understanding that the</p> <p>8 TMO became your landlord or was it your understanding</p> <p>9 that RBKC remained your landlord?</p> <p>10 A. Well, my understanding is that the council would be,</p> <p>11 let's say, the owner, and that the TMO would run or</p> <p>12 manage it on behalf of the council. So that was my</p> <p>13 understanding.</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 A. Therefore, they would have full power and responsibility</p> <p>16 to manage the estate the best way, which to my and many</p> <p>17 other people's opinion, they did not.</p> <p>18 Q. No. No, that's --</p> <p>19 A. That's a different matter altogether.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 Can I ask you finally to go to page 7 of your first</p> <p>22 statement, paragraph 41. You describe the boilers and</p> <p>23 the change of location there in that statement.</p> <p>24 You say, two-thirds of the way down:</p> <p>25 "Some residents accepted the revised plans, but</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you know whether some residents were unhappy, had</p> <p>2 concerns, but didn't want to join the compact?</p> <p>3 A. If I may say so, many residents, they would -- because</p> <p>4 of the language, because of the time, because of the --</p> <p>5 not to have the hassle to have workers at home for so</p> <p>6 long to do the boiler in the original place, like near</p> <p>7 to the kitchen, they would accept the option that Rydon</p> <p>8 was offering them.</p> <p>9 So basically it was a combination of things, but to</p> <p>10 many, many, many of us, it was a big factor.</p> <p>11 Q. Well, we have many questions around that, but not for</p> <p>12 now, I think. I just wanted to know those basic</p> <p>13 questions.</p> <p>14 Thank you very much.</p> <p>15 Now, we are all aware that you left the tower at</p> <p>16 approximately 06.05 after many hours in your flat.</p> <p>17 I want to say thank you very much to you for your</p> <p>18 assistance today, it has been invaluable to the inquiry.</p> <p>19 You've given us a lot of interesting evidence which</p> <p>20 I hope we find very useful.</p> <p>21 Before we conclude, I'd like to invite you to tell</p> <p>22 the chairman whether there is anything further, over and</p> <p>23 above what's in your statements, over and above what</p> <p>24 you've told us today, that you think the chairman should</p> <p>25 know about, about the events of that night?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 A. Well, about the events of that night, we have spoken and 2 we have heard so many things and many testimonies from 3 firefighters, from residents and so on. 4 If I may say something, because we were living in 5 a big tower, high-rise building, council estate, social 6 flats, what my suggestion is, is that residents living 7 in these conditions which are, you know, conditions, 8 should not accept things imposed by local authorities 9 from above, but should be part of any decision-making, 10 in the sense that if you have to do a work or renovation 11 or refurbishment, which is welcome, and you do it in our 12 homes, in our houses, we should be part of that 13 committee or decision-making committee, and we have to 14 be happy as well. Because after all, we are paying our 15 dues, and it is our lives that could be at risk, like it 16 happened with Grenfell. 17 Therefore, the reason I'm saying this is because 18 obviously we do not know absolutely never, ever again 19 anything like this to happen to no one. 20 MR MILLETT: Mr Roncolato, thank you very much for coming 21 and giving us your evidence. Thank you. 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Roncolato, I'd add my thanks. 23 Your evidence is really helpful because it's only 24 through people like you who were inside the tower that 25 we can start to understand how the conditions were and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 a slightly longer lunch. 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 3 CHRISTOPHER RONCOLATO (evidence read into the record) 4 MR MILLETT: Christopher Roncolato's statement is 5 IWS00000840, and I would now formally put that into the 6 record. There are three exhibits to it: IWS00000836, 7 IWS00000837 and IWS00000838. IWS00000836 is a floor 8 plan for floor 10, and IWS00000837 and IWS00000938 are 9 photographs taken while outside the tower. 10 Christopher is the son of Antonio and also 11 a resident of flat 72 on floor 10. He was not present 12 at the time of the fire but on his way home when he 13 learnt of it. We've heard about the call and various 14 other calls that he made to his father during the course 15 of the night. 16 To give some context to the evidence we've heard 17 today, Mr Chairman, it's I think useful briefly to draw 18 attention to some parts of his statement, if I may. 19 If I can quote from paragraph 42 of his statement. 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 21 MR MILLETT: He says: 22 "42. I called my dad straightaway. My phone records 23 show that I made my first call to him at 01:42:34 for 24 approximately 4 minutes. I woke my dad, who had been 25 asleep in the flat and was not aware of the fire. His</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 how they developed. 2 If I may say so, you've given your evidence in 3 a very clear and careful way, rather reflecting the calm 4 way that you approached the terrible circumstances that 5 you faced. I'm sure your family who are here are very 6 proud of you, and quite rightly. 7 Thank you very much for coming to give your 8 evidence. 9 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. Thank you. 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the 11 usher. Thank you very much. 12 (The witness withdrew) 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett. 14 MR MILLETT: Well, our next live witness is scheduled to 15 come this afternoon, and that's Fatima Alves, Mrs Alves, 16 so we'll start her at 2 o'clock. 17 Before we do that, may I read into the record 18 a statement from Mr Roncolato's son Christopher. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you. 20 MR MILLETT: I should just say that after we've finished 21 with Mrs Alves's evidence this afternoon, there will be 22 quite a lot of reading into the record, so I will try 23 and allow some time for that, and I am going to say 24 something brief about disclosure of documents as well, 25 so we do have a full day's work, even though it may be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 smoke detector had not gone off yet. I was effectively 2 his fire alarm." 3 Then at paragraph 59 he says: 4 "59. When I was speaking to my dad on the telephone 5 after 5am, he told me to put someone in an official 6 capacity on the phone, who could tell him what to do. 7 At that moment, I was sat in Jasoom's car speaking to 8 him. I headed back to the tower and kept dad on the 9 line. I managed to work my way round to the side of the 10 block where our flat was at the bottom of Grenfell Walk. 11 I ran through the police cordon and told a police 12 officer that my dad was alive and trapped on the 10th 13 floor. He immediately took me to the Fire 14 Marshall[sic], who was in a booth by a fire engine. 15 I explained the situation to the Fire Marshall and the 16 fact that I was on my phone to my dad. He spoke to my 17 dad and said that they were coming for him. He said he 18 would organise a team to go and get him now. 19 "60. After this the Fire Marshall handed the phone 20 back and I spoke with my dad briefly. I told him that 21 I had a pair of swimming goggles[sic] in my bedroom 22 drawer and he should wear them to protect his eyes from 23 the smoke when he left the flat. 24 "61. A short while later my mum rang to say dad was 25 out of the building and was on his way to hospital.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 This was such a massive relief."</p> <p>2 So, Mr Chairman, that I think is all I need to read</p> <p>3 into the record from Christopher's statement.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>5 I'm sure that Christopher will understand that the</p> <p>6 whole of his statement will form part of the evidence</p> <p>7 and will be taken into account --</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Indeed.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- with all the other evidence.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Indeed. And specifically the impact of the</p> <p>11 fire on him.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course.</p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>14 Mr Chairman, I'm very grateful. Might that be</p> <p>15 a convenient moment to take a rather lengthier lunch</p> <p>16 break than we otherwise would?</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. What time is Ms Alves coming?</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: I'd ordinarily ask for you to come back earlier</p> <p>19 than 2 o'clock, but she is expecting to come at</p> <p>20 2 o'clock and I wouldn't want to disturb those</p> <p>21 expectations.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course not.</p> <p>23 All right. Well, it is slightly earlier than usual,</p> <p>24 but it seems sensible to break now and have a rather</p> <p>25 longer than usual lunch break, and we'll resume at</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 A. You're welcome.</p> <p>2 Q. Can I begin by thanking you for coming to the inquiry</p> <p>3 and assisting us with our investigations. We really are</p> <p>4 very grateful to you.</p> <p>5 A. You're welcome.</p> <p>6 Q. I understand it might be difficult for you to answer</p> <p>7 some of my questions and relive the events of the night,</p> <p>8 and so if it's difficult at any time, we can take</p> <p>9 a break, all you have to do is just signal and we can</p> <p>10 stop.</p> <p>11 A. Thank you.</p> <p>12 Q. My questions are intended to be short and simple and</p> <p>13 sometimes they're not. If you want me to repeat</p> <p>14 a question or a word or explain the question, I'm very</p> <p>15 happy to do that as well.</p> <p>16 A. Thank you.</p> <p>17 Q. It may also be that sometimes when you're answering my</p> <p>18 question, I'm looking somewhere else, I'm looking at the</p> <p>19 screen or my papers. But I am listening very hard to</p> <p>20 what you are saying, so don't think that I am not paying</p> <p>21 attention.</p> <p>22 A. Thank you.</p> <p>23 Q. Can I start by asking you to look, please, at your</p> <p>24 witness statement that you gave to the inquiry. That is</p> <p>25 IWS00000443, page 1.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 2 o'clock. All right?</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Thank you.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: 2 o'clock, please.</p> <p>4 (12.30 pm)</p> <p>5 (The short adjournment)</p> <p>6 (2.00 pm)</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>9 Our next witness is Mrs Maria Fatima Alves.</p> <p>10 Mrs Alves. Could I please call Mrs Alves.</p> <p>11 MARIA DE FATIMA ALVES (sworn)</p> <p>12 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. Sit down and</p> <p>14 make yourself comfortable.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right?</p> <p>17 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: Good afternoon, Mrs Alves.</p> <p>19 A. Afternoon.</p> <p>20 Q. Could I start, please, by asking you to give the</p> <p>21 chairman your full name?</p> <p>22 A. Maria Fatima Rodrigues Tavares Alves.</p> <p>23 Q. I wonder if it might be possible for you to pull the</p> <p>24 microphone closer to your mouth so the transcriber can</p> <p>25 hear you. Thank you very much.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 On the screen in front of you -- you can look at it</p> <p>2 in the file if you like --</p> <p>3 A. Sorry, I can't see here.</p> <p>4 Q. Is it not on the screen?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, but I can't see with these glasses.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 A. Put it a bit -- oh, thank you, yes.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Is that better?</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: There's a paper version of that in the file in</p> <p>10 front of you, so we can use that if you prefer.</p> <p>11 A. It's all right, thank you.</p> <p>12 Q. We'll do our best.</p> <p>13 A. All right, thank you.</p> <p>14 Q. There's also the screen at the back of the room. That</p> <p>15 may be clearer as well.</p> <p>16 The first page of your witness statement is this.</p> <p>17 Can I just ask you to look at the last page, which is</p> <p>18 page 13, please.</p> <p>19 If we could have that blown up so it's a bit bigger.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. We can see that the statement is dated 18 May 2018.</p> <p>22 Can you see the signature there?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Can you confirm that that is your signature?</p> <p>25 A. That is mine, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 Q. Have you had an opportunity to read this statement 2 recently? 3 A. Yes, I did. 4 Q. Can you confirm for us that its contents are true? 5 A. Yes, it's true. 6 Q. Thank you. 7 I also want to read into the record, so formally, 8 the exhibits to the statement. Those are MDFA/1 and 9 MDFA/2, and the references are IWS00004411 and 10 IWS00004412 respectively. They're both aerial maps of 11 the tower and the surrounding area which you've marked. 12 Can I then start, having done that, with some 13 general background. 14 Is it right that in June 2017, your family home was 15 flat 105 on the 13th floor of Grenfell Tower? 16 A. Yes, that's true. 17 Q. You I think started living there as a tenant, but then 18 you bought the property together with your husband, 19 Miguel. 20 A. That's right. 21 Q. When was that, do you remember? 22 A. May 2001. 23 Q. I think after that you made it into three bedrooms. 24 A. Yes, we did. 25 Q. So you had been living there 18 years before the fire?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 not changed because we were -- you know, the flat was 2 ours, so they didn't change our doors. 3 Q. On the night of the fire itself, we can turn to that if 4 we can, if you go to your statement and look at 5 paragraph 5, first of all, page 2, you explain in 6 paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 what you did in detail that 7 evening. 8 Just to summarise it, I think you went out for 9 dinner -- 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. -- with cousins or relatives from South Africa. 12 A. Yes, my cousin. 13 Q. You went to a Portuguese restaurant nearby called The 14 Village? 15 A. Yes, Village Fayre. 16 Q. After dinner, everyone went back to your flat. 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. But Tiago, I think, went -- 19 A. Yes, my husband dropped Tiago to meet his girlfriend, 20 but then he came -- he didn't take too long with her. 21 Q. No. 22 A. So he came afterwards, a few -- 23 Q. I think you go on to say at about 12.20 am, you and 24 Miguel, your husband, left the flat to drive your 25 relatives back to their hotel.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Besides your husband and you, who else was living in the 3 flat as at June 2017? 4 A. Only four of us. 5 Q. The four of you? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. So that's Tiago, your son? 8 A. Tiago, my son, my daughter, Ines, my husband, Miguel, 9 and myself. 10 Q. How old was Tiago at the time? 11 A. Tiago was 20, Ines was 16 and my husband and me. 12 Q. Can I ask you about your front door. 13 Do you remember whether at the time of the fire, 14 just before the fire, it had a self-closing mechanism? 15 A. No, it wasn't. 16 Q. No? 17 A. No. 18 Q. Does that mean that the door, if it was open, wouldn't 19 shut itself? 20 A. No. 21 Q. Was it always like that? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Did the TMO ever come to you and tell you to put 24 a self-closing mechanism on it? 25 A. No. When they changed for the new doors, our door was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. And that was, I think you said, in Sussex Gardens? 3 A. Yes, it was Sussex Gardens. 4 Q. Then you came back home. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. You came back home, parked the car, and then walked to 7 the front entrance of the tower. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Is that right? 10 A. Yes, correct. 11 Q. I just want to show you a CCTV still, which is 12 INQ00000393, please. 13 If we can just have that enlarged a little bit. 14 Just so that you know, the adjusted time for this is 15 00.56.12, so just shortly before 01.00 am. 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Can you just tell us what that shows? 18 A. Here in the picture, it's me and my husband entering the 19 building. 20 Q. Does that accord with your recollection? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. When you were walking up to the tower at that time, do 23 you remember whether you saw any signs of smoke or fire? 24 A. No, at this moment, no, nothing, everything was normal. 25 Q. When you went into the lobby, just after this photograph</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 was taken, do you remember what the temperature in the 2 lobby was like?</p> <p>3 A. It was warm because it was warm outside, but nothing -- 4 there was no suspicion of a fire at that point.</p> <p>5 Q. Was the temperature warmer than usual?</p> <p>6 A. Yeah, usual, yes.</p> <p>7 Q. It was normal, was it?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Could you hear any sounds when you went into the lobby?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. You then say that you got into the lift to go to the 12 13th floor, which is where your flat is, and two other 13 men got into the lift and pressed the button for that 14 floor.</p> <p>15 Can I ask you to go to paragraph 10 of your 16 statement, please. We'll just read it together. You 17 say:</p> <p>18 "10. As the lift door opened at the 41h floor, the 19 two men walked out and turned left out of the lift. 20 They could have been walking to flat 14, 15 or 16 - I am 21 not sure which one. We watched them as they walked out 22 and in the same direction, there was smoke across the 23 ceiling. It was hardly noticeable and it was a 24 white/light grey colour in the hallway. I couldn't see 25 where the smoke was coming from. Miguel suddenly said</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 statement, could you see the lobby area of floor 4 2 clearly?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Were the lights working well --</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. -- and clearly? Right.</p> <p>7 You describe smoke across the ceiling. Was this the 8 ceiling of the lobby area?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. How thick in the ceiling --</p> <p>11 A. It was not thick. It was just very light smoke, like 12 white smoke.</p> <p>13 Q. No smoke at any other level?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you hear anything in particular?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. The lift you were in had a camera. I don't know if you 18 know that, but there was a camera.</p> <p>19 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. It's C18, and I want just to show you two CCTV stills 21 taken from that camera. The first one is INQ00000394, 22 if we can just have that up.</p> <p>23 This is timed at an adjusted time mark of 00.56.38.</p> <p>24 Can you describe what you see there, or what you 25 think you see there?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 'there's smoke. There's a fire.' My police statement 2 says that I could smell smoke but I do not recall being 3 asked this and have no recollection of smelling anything 4 at this stage."</p> <p>5 Could I first of all ask you, having shown you that, 6 to look at a floor plan of the 4th floor, and it's 7 MET00012593, at page 12.</p> <p>8 So, Mrs Alves, we have a floor plan of the 4th floor 9 of the tower, and we can see the lifts in the section 10 just to the left of the main core.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Towards the west side.</p> <p>13 Do you remember which direction the men came out of 14 the lift and went in?</p> <p>15 A. I'm not sure if they went to flat 16 or flat 15. I know 16 when they exit, they turn left.</p> <p>17 Q. Yes.</p> <p>18 A. But I can't say. I can't remember. I know them just 19 going onto the left direction, but I didn't see which 20 flat they got in.</p> <p>21 Q. Right. And --</p> <p>22 A. Or could be flat 4 as well, the flat -- sorry, flat 5.</p> <p>23 Q. Yes.</p> <p>24 A. Either flat 4, 5 or 6.</p> <p>25 Q. When the lift doors opened, as you've described in your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, it's me and my husband, Miguel, got into the lift 2 on the basement -- on the entrance.</p> <p>3 Q. The entrance, the ground floor?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, ground floor, basement, sorry.</p> <p>5 Q. We have a second photograph. It is INQ00000395, please. 6 This is taken with an adjusted time of 00.57.24, so it's 7 six seconds later.</p> <p>8 Can you describe for us what we see there?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, when those two men exit -- this is on the 4th 10 floor. When those two men exit from the building, we 11 notice there was smoke. After I've seen this footage, 12 I see there's a lot of smoke, but at that moment we 13 didn't realise it was so much smoke. Here we can see 14 because the camera was higher than us. Yes, and then we 15 immediately left the lift.</p> <p>16 Q. Yes, I see, thank you.</p> <p>17 Does this photograph accord with your recollection 18 of how much smoke there was at the ceiling level?</p> <p>19 A. There was not much. There was not much, just on the 20 ceiling, but it was not a big smoke, no.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you have a recollection of the smoke coming into the 22 lift --</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. -- as the doors opened?</p> <p>25 A. No, no. I just remembered, as I said, to see the smoke</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

1 **on the ceiling, but here it shows more than on the night**
 2 **of the fire when the doors opened.**
 3 Q. Do you remember whether the smoke had any effect on you?
 4 **A. Nothing.**
 5 Q. In your statement, if we can look at paragraph 11, the
 6 next one, you say:
 7 "11. Miguel told me to get out of the lift and to
 8 take the stairs up to our flat. I couldn't hear any
 9 fire alarms. As we were about to go up the stairs,
 10 Miguel realised that he had left his phone in the car.
 11 He turned and said to me 'I'll go and get the kids. You
 12 go down and get my phone from the car.' He told me to
 13 not take the lift down but to walk down the stairs.
 14 "12. I agreed and opened the door to take the
 15 stairs."
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. At that stage, did you see anybody else in the communal
 18 area?
 19 **A. Yes, I saw a lady. She was carrying -- but I think it**
 20 **was after the door because there was the hallway where**
 21 **the lifts are and then there was another door and then**
 22 **there was the staircase.**
 23 Q. Yes.
 24 **A. And I saw a lady with a suitcase with some clothes on**
 25 **her arm, and I helped her bringing the suitcase down.**

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1 Q. Okay. We'll come to look at that in a moment.
 2 Before we do, I am talking about the lobby. As soon
 3 as you come out of the lift into the lobby area --
 4 **A. No, there was no one, no.**
 5 Q. There was no one, okay.
 6 Did you hear any smoke alarms?
 7 **A. No.**
 8 Q. Did you hear any voices?
 9 **A. No.**
 10 Q. This may be difficult, but did you hear any vents
 11 operating or air extraction systems or things like that?
 12 **A. No, no.**
 13 Q. Did you notice any movement of air?
 14 **A. No.**
 15 Q. No wind blowing?
 16 **A. I can't remember, no, but I don't -- because sometimes**
 17 **there was the ventilation, and we hear that, not much,**
 18 **but at this point I don't remember to hear anything,**
 19 **because I never thought there was, you know -- in the**
 20 **beginning when I saw the smoke, I thought maybe there**
 21 **was something burning, but not a fire.**
 22 Q. Does that mean you didn't notice --
 23 **A. No, when I saw the smoke, it was smoke, but I never**
 24 **thought -- I thought maybe it was something burning on**
 25 **the hob or -- I never thought it was, you know, a major**

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1 **fire -- could be a major fire.**
 2 Q. Just to go back to my question again, do you remember
 3 hearing or noticing any smoke ventilation system working
 4 or --
 5 **A. No, I don't remember to hear anything like that, no.**
 6 Q. Or movement of air?
 7 **A. No.**
 8 Q. Okay.
 9 When you came out of the lift, the stairwell would
 10 be on your right.
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. Was it you or was it Miguel, do you remember, who opened
 13 the door to the stairwell?
 14 **A. It was Miguel.**
 15 Q. Do you remember whether the door was closed or whether
 16 it was open?
 17 **A. No, it was closed.**
 18 Q. So was Miguel ahead of you then when he went into the
 19 stairs?
 20 **A. Yes, we --**
 21 Q. Or did he open the door for you and let you go through
 22 first?
 23 **A. No, no, no, he opened the door and then he got out of**
 24 **the hallway, and then he said to me to go down because**
 25 **he left his phone in the car, in the garage, and he was**

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1 **going up to bring the children down.**
 2 Q. Did he go first into the stairwell or did you go first
 3 into the stairwell?
 4 **A. No, he went up, and I went down. I don't know --**
 5 Q. Did he go through the door first or did you?
 6 **A. No, no, he went through the door first.**
 7 Q. Did you notice any problems with the door?
 8 **A. No.**
 9 Q. Like it not opening or not shutting properly?
 10 **A. No.**
 11 Q. When you went through it, both of you went through it,
 12 did it close behind you, do you remember?
 13 **A. I think so, because the door closed, I believe, so ...**
 14 Q. When you went into the stairwell, do you remember
 15 whether there was any smoke in the stairs?
 16 **A. I don't remember, but I don't think at this point was**
 17 **any smoke, unless when, you know, we opened the door,**
 18 **the smoke came out through the door. But at this point,**
 19 **if there was any smoke, it was very, very small.**
 20 Q. Do you remember whether you felt when you got into the
 21 stairwell whether there was any movement of air or any
 22 sound of a fan or vent going?
 23 **A. I don't remember. But I don't think it was any**
 24 **ventilation. But I can't say it was or it wasn't**
 25 **because I don't remember.**

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25 (Pages 97 to 100)

<p>1 Q. In the next paragraph, paragraph 12, still on page 3 of 2 your statement, you describe encountering a woman on the 3 stairs. You say: 4 "As I approached the landing to descend the stairs 5 I saw a woman. I can't quite remember what she looked 6 like and I wouldn't be able to recognise her again but 7 I believe she was in her late 30s, olive skinned and 8 about my height. She had a large wheeled suitcase with 9 her and she was trying to carry it down the stairs with 10 some coats or clothes balancing on her other arm. I 11 said 'I can help' ..." 12 And you helped her. 13 First of all, when you say "As I approached the 14 landing to descend the stairs", can you describe what 15 you mean by the landing? 16 A. It was halfway the stairs, down. 17 Q. Okay. I understand. So down one flight -- 18 A. Yes, because it was the stairs and then there was a door 19 at the end, and then there was the new stairs they built 20 after the refurbishment. So I think it was up to there, 21 and then the lady stayed there. I thought I helped her 22 downstairs to the ground floor, but after I've seen the 23 footage, I left her there and then someone else helped 24 her to bring the suitcase down. 25 Q. We can look at some pictures.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 That may be a better picture. 2 Is that as you recall it, the lady with the 3 suitcase? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. You then say in your statement that you continued to 6 make your way down the stairs to the ground floor, as 7 you do in paragraph 12. 8 We have a picture of you doing that, it's 9 INQ00000396. 10 Can you identify yourself in that picture? 11 A. Yes, that's myself, yes. 12 Q. That has, as I say, a time mark of 01.00.16, adjusted to 13 00.59.40. So the adjusted time for that is 00.59.40, so 14 just after you'd encountered the lady with the suitcase. 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. My question is: on your way down to the bottom of the 17 stairs, did you come across any smoke? 18 A. No. 19 Q. No smoke. 20 Did you come across any other people, apart from the 21 lady with the suitcase? 22 A. I don't think so. I don't remember, but I don't think 23 so. 24 Q. In your statement, if we just go to paragraph 15, if we 25 can jump ahead to page 4, you say:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 First of all, can we look at INQ00000062. 2 This is a picture taken from the CCTV outside the 3 boxing club, and the adjusted time we have for it is 4 00.59.12, so just before 01.00 am. 5 Can you identify yourself in that picture? 6 A. Yes, with the orange blouse. 7 Q. Right. 8 A. Dark jeans, and ... 9 Q. And the lady with the suitcase, can we see her there? 10 A. Yes. Yes, she's the one over there (Indicates). 11 Q. She's on your right, is she? I think that's where 12 you're pointing. 13 A. Pardon? 14 Q. She's on your right? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. That's where you were pointing? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Can we see the suitcase? I think we can. Is that the 19 silver object, the suitcase? 20 A. Yes, yes. 21 Q. Okay. 22 We may get a better view of that in the next 23 picture, Mr Documents Director, that's INQ00000063, 24 which has an adjusted time mark of three seconds later 25 at 00.59.15.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 "15. There is a photo of me coming down the stairs 2 which was included in the police statement. This photo 3 was taken at 1.00.16 which I think was just after I had 4 left the fire fighters." 5 Given what we've been looking at this afternoon, 6 Mrs Alves, and the photographs we've been looking at, do 7 you think that's now right, that it was after the 8 firefighters, or did you come down the stairs before 9 seeing the firefighters? 10 A. I still don't know. I think I came down, and then 11 when -- this picture was when I first came down, and 12 then I met the firefighters at the entrance. 13 Q. Right. 14 A. And then I went up again with the firefighters. I think 15 that picture is when I first came down. 16 Q. Yes. Okay. That's very helpful. 17 I think that might be clearer as we look at some 18 more pictures, which we're going to do next. 19 So if we can in fact look at INQ00000397, I'll just 20 show you this, this is another CCTV still. 21 Again, formal question, really, can you identify 22 yourself in that picture? 23 A. Yes, it's me. 24 Q. That's you. 25 This is at an adjusted time now of 00.59.53, so</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 13 seconds after we saw you coming down the stairs. 2 Can you describe what you're doing there? 3 A. Yes, I was buzzing up my husband to say -- but at this 4 point, I have spoke already with the firefighters. 5 Q. Well, there's another photograph we're going to look at 6 in a minute which shows you buzzing the buzzer. 7 A. Yes, because I buzz my husband after I spoke with the 8 firefighter when he said to me to, you know, tell my 9 family to stay in the flat. 10 Q. Right. Let's see how we go. You think that's after -- 11 A. I think so, but I'm not sure. But I think it was after 12 I opened the door for the first firefighters. 13 Q. Well, do you remember what you were doing, buzzing up? 14 A. Here? 15 Q. Yes. 16 A. Yes, I was buzzing up for sure. This is for sure. 17 Q. Can I just ask you about this buzzer. When you press 18 the button, what happens? 19 A. I have to press 105 and then the button says "call", and 20 this is what I do. 21 Q. What happens when you do that? 22 A. Normally the person answers, but at that moment 23 I couldn't hear anyone, so I didn't hear my husband 24 answer. But he said later on that he answered the phone 25 at home, but I didn't reply. Maybe I didn't wait enough</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 A. It was before. 2 Q. You think it was before? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Do you remember who made the decision whether you and 5 your family should leave the tower? 6 A. It was my husband. 7 Q. Okay. 8 We'll come back to the sequence of movement and the 9 fob key in a minute, but I just want to ask you one or 10 two other questions about the building. 11 Could you please be shown INQ00000093. 12 (Pause) 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It seems there's some difficulty. 14 MR MILLETT: Drawn a blank, never mind. 15 Let me try something different. 16 Can I please ask you to be shown BLA00002416. 17 This is a notice that is entitled "Fire Action - 18 GRENFELL TOWER". 19 This one I think comes from the lifts at floor 3, 20 Mrs Alves, but do you remember seeing a notice like this 21 anywhere in the building? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. You did? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Was there one on your floor?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 at the entrance. It was a miscommunication. 2 Q. I am just interested in how this buzzer system worked. 3 When you press the buzzer -- 105, call -- what happens 4 in the flat? Does the phone -- 5 A. Yes, the phone rings in the flat. 6 Q. Then it has to be answered, does it? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. You can't broadcast into the flat? 9 A. No, no, no, no, you have to lift the handle of the phone 10 and speak. 11 Q. I see. 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Thank you, that's helpful. 14 A. You're welcome. 15 Q. You then say in paragraph 13 of your statement, if we 16 can just go back a page to that: 17 "13. I was just waiting by the main entrance door 18 for Miguel when I saw more than four fire fighters 19 arrive. I held the door open for them to let them get 20 inside the Tower. One of the fire fighters asked if he 21 could use my fob key but I said that I needed them as it 22 had my keys, including my keys for my job on it. I said 23 I could open the doors for them instead" 24 Do you think that conversation was before or after 25 the time when you buzzed the intercom?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Did you ever read it? 3 A. I remember reading it but I don't remember what -- well, 4 you know, we'd read it but I don't remember what it was 5 now written on it, but it was something about fire, 6 yeah. 7 Q. Leaving aside the notice, what was your understanding on 8 the night of the fire as to what you should do in the 9 event of a fire in the building? 10 A. Exit. 11 Q. Exit? 12 A. Yes, from the building. 13 Q. That was your understanding, was it? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Did you ever read -- let me just show it to you. 16 There's a series of red and green blocks in this notice. 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Just above halfway down, if we just expand it, 19 Mr Documents Director, it says: 20 "If you are safely within your flat and there is 21 a fire elsewhere in the block." 22 Then we need the green text as well, it says: 23 "You should initially be safe to stay in your flat 24 keeping the doors and windows closed. 25 "On arrival the Fire Brigade will make an assessment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 and will assist with evacuation if required.</p> <p>2 "If you wish to evacuate, leave closing the door</p> <p>3 behind you and use the staircase to exit the building."</p> <p>4 Do you remember knowing that that was the advice</p> <p>5 that had been given to you in the event of a fire in</p> <p>6 Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>7 A. What do you mean, after reading that?</p> <p>8 Q. Yes.</p> <p>9 A. Yes, as I said, I read that when they first put next to</p> <p>10 the lifts, but I don't remember what it was written</p> <p>11 afterwards because I think we never thought that</p> <p>12 a fire's going to happen.</p> <p>13 Q. But as you said before, you thought exit was your --</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 Apart from this notice, were you ever aware of any</p> <p>17 advice being given to you or other residents about what</p> <p>18 to do in the event of a fire in the block?</p> <p>19 A. No. I remember once the firefighters came into our flat</p> <p>20 and they were giving smoke alarms, and they fixed one on</p> <p>21 my corridor. But then a few months later it fell down,</p> <p>22 just fell down from the ceiling. Then I stuck it on the</p> <p>23 wall and it fell down again, and then I went to the</p> <p>24 firefighter to exchange for a new one and I had it in my</p> <p>25 flat.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 was the lifts, there was a whole --</p> <p>2 Q. Right, okay, and --</p> <p>3 A. I could have given the fob, but at this point, when they</p> <p>4 asked, "Can I have your key?", I thought, well, I'm not</p> <p>5 going to give all my keys, but at this time I didn't</p> <p>6 realise, you know, I could just give the fob. It was</p> <p>7 silly of me but I didn't realise I could give my fob.</p> <p>8 Q. Do you remember who asked you for the fob?</p> <p>9 A. It was one of the firefighters, I don't know.</p> <p>10 Q. Was he wearing a white helmet or a yellow helmet?</p> <p>11 A. I don't know. I don't know. I have no idea.</p> <p>12 Q. Were you surprised to be asked by the Fire Brigade for</p> <p>13 your fob to get into the building?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, because I thought, you know, all the buildings, in</p> <p>15 the event of a fire, I thought the firefighters would</p> <p>16 have like a master fob to open all the buildings.</p> <p>17 Because if someone ring at my bell at 2 o'clock in the</p> <p>18 morning and says, "I'm a firefighter, open the door for</p> <p>19 me", I don't know if I was going to open. Because once</p> <p>20 I hear at 5 o'clock in the morning someone said, "I'm a</p> <p>21 police officer, could you open the door for me."</p> <p>22 I said, "I'm sorry, you can't prove you are a police</p> <p>23 officer, I'm not going to open the door for you", and</p> <p>24 I didn't.</p> <p>25 So I assumed the firefighters had like a master fob</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 Q. Right.</p> <p>2 A. But never anyone came and gave advice in case of a fire.</p> <p>3 Q. Where was it in your flat on the night of the fire, the</p> <p>4 smoke alarm?</p> <p>5 A. It was on the left. I think on top of the -- there was</p> <p>6 a cupboard between the kitchen and the toilet, and it</p> <p>7 was on top of that door.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 A. Cupboard door.</p> <p>10 Q. Can I take you to paragraph 13 of your statement, which</p> <p>11 is on page 3.</p> <p>12 You say:</p> <p>13 "I was just waiting by the main entrance door for</p> <p>14 Miguel ..."</p> <p>15 We've read this before, it's about your discussion</p> <p>16 with the firefighters, and you say you couldn't give</p> <p>17 them your fob.</p> <p>18 Can I show you another picture. It's INQ00000096.</p> <p>19 The adjusted time for this is, Mrs Alves, 01.00.50.</p> <p>20 Can you identify yourself in this picture, first of</p> <p>21 all?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, it's me. Yes, I was opening the door with my fob</p> <p>23 and letting the firefighters in.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 A. And this is the second door. And then after this door</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 for all the buildings to get into the building, you</p> <p>2 know, in case of a fire.</p> <p>3 Q. Is there any way the firefighters could've got through</p> <p>4 that door without a fob?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Once they'd gone through that door, could they come back</p> <p>7 through that door without a fob?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, if they come back, yes, but then if they want to</p> <p>9 get back in again, no.</p> <p>10 Q. We can see in this picture, just above where the</p> <p>11 firefighters and you are standing, there is a gallery,</p> <p>12 a mezzanine floor there.</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Would you need a fob key to get to that?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Could you point out on this photograph if you can --</p> <p>17 A. Yes, the one on top of where the firefighters are, just</p> <p>18 on top. This they need a key, and this is when I got</p> <p>19 into the stairs and opened that door for them, because</p> <p>20 otherwise they couldn't go in for the staircase.</p> <p>21 Q. What about the door on the right of the picture by the</p> <p>22 green wall that takes you to the foot of the stairs, do</p> <p>23 you need a fob to get through that door as well?</p> <p>24 A. That one here, the glass door?</p> <p>25 Q. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 A. Yes, you need a fob as well.</p> <p>2 Q. So all three doors we can see on this picture need</p> <p>3 a fob?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Your one fob works for all three doors, does it? Or</p> <p>6 did.</p> <p>7 A. Yes. Actually, it was the first time I used that glass</p> <p>8 door on that night.</p> <p>9 Q. Really?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Going ahead with CCTV, we then have a photo which is</p> <p>13 INQ00000400.</p> <p>14 This shows a time stamp, adjusted, of 01.01.55. So</p> <p>15 that's about a minute and five seconds after the last</p> <p>16 picture we've seen where you're helping the firefighters</p> <p>17 in through the door with your fob.</p> <p>18 Can you tell us what's happening in this picture?</p> <p>19 A. I was trying to listen to my husband answer the buzzer.</p> <p>20 Q. So we've got two pictures of you by the intercom: this</p> <p>21 one, timed at 01.01.55, as an adjusted time, and the</p> <p>22 earlier one we saw.</p> <p>23 A. Oh, so they are two different pictures?</p> <p>24 Q. Yes.</p> <p>25 A. Oh, I see.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 I think it was at the second time, I think it was at</p> <p>2 this time, because they were just spreading the hoses on</p> <p>3 the floor. And I said, "Is that safe to stay in the</p> <p>4 building?" And they said to me "No, you stay here".</p> <p>5 But then I said, "Yeah, but my husband and my children</p> <p>6 are upstairs in the flat." And he asked me, "Which</p> <p>7 floor?" I said 13. He said to me, "Tell them to stay</p> <p>8 in, close doors and windows and stay in." And it was</p> <p>9 probably when I tried to buzz my husband to say to stay</p> <p>10 inside.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you succeed in getting hold of Miguel?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. So he came down?</p> <p>14 A. Thank God, yeah. But he said to me even if I say to</p> <p>15 stay inside, he would come down.</p> <p>16 Q. Can I show you another CCTV image. This one is</p> <p>17 INQ00000402.</p> <p>18 This one has an adjusted time mark of 01.02.19, so</p> <p>19 this is about 25 seconds after the last one we've seen,</p> <p>20 where you were outside using the intercom, almost</p> <p>21 30 seconds later.</p> <p>22 Can you tell us what you're doing in that picture?</p> <p>23 A. I was going with the firefighters. I had the fob in my</p> <p>24 right hand. The blue thing is my fob.</p> <p>25 Q. That's it, is it, the blue thing?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 Q. Because the earlier one was timed at 00.59.53, so</p> <p>2 there's a good two minutes or so which separates these</p> <p>3 two pictures working on the adjusted times we've done.</p> <p>4 On the basis of that two minutes -- you can also see</p> <p>5 hoses there now in the picture.</p> <p>6 A. Yes, so probably after when I came down to open the door</p> <p>7 for the staircase, it was probably that when I buzz my</p> <p>8 husband.</p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 A. I don't know if it was for the second time, I can't</p> <p>11 remember.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay.</p> <p>13 A. Probably was.</p> <p>14 Q. Looking back at these pictures now, do you remember more</p> <p>15 clearly whether you had the conversation with the</p> <p>16 firefighters after the first time you try to speak to</p> <p>17 Miguel on the intercom or before?</p> <p>18 A. I think when I came down the first time and I reached</p> <p>19 the front door, I saw the first fire engine arrive, and</p> <p>20 then I thought, well, I'm going to wait here at the</p> <p>21 door, you know, to let them in.</p> <p>22 Then I asked them -- but I can't remember if it was</p> <p>23 at that point or after I went to open the door and then</p> <p>24 came back to the entrance again, I can't remember, but</p> <p>25 I remember to ask one of the firefighters.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. I was going to open the door for them at the top</p> <p>2 of the stairs, just next to the boxing club, you know,</p> <p>3 on the left.</p> <p>4 Q. I see. So before this, did you put the firefighters</p> <p>5 through the door into the lift lobby?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Were there other firefighters that you took through the</p> <p>8 glass door?</p> <p>9 A. Then I think I came again to the front door and then</p> <p>10 there was more firefighters, and then I opened the</p> <p>11 door -- they said they were going through the staircase,</p> <p>12 and then I opened the glass door at the ground floor,</p> <p>13 and then up the stairs.</p> <p>14 Q. Yes, I see. That's very clear.</p> <p>15 We can see two firefighters in there with you. Were</p> <p>16 there any others that we can't see, do you think?</p> <p>17 A. I don't remember.</p> <p>18 Q. Fair enough.</p> <p>19 So you had to use your fob key more than once to</p> <p>20 allow firefighters in?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Two batches effectively; is this right?</p> <p>23 A. Four doors, at least four doors to open. It was the</p> <p>24 front door, the main building door, and then the door</p> <p>25 leads into the lifts, and then there is the right glass</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 door, the glass door on my right, and then up the</p> <p>2 stairs, the top one to lead them into the staircase.</p> <p>3 Q. Yes, I see.</p> <p>4 After that, did you need to use your fob to let any</p> <p>5 more firefighters in?</p> <p>6 A. No, because when I came down, I went to the -- it was</p> <p>7 a couple with two -- I think it was two girls, and then</p> <p>8 they was sitting and the girls were shivering, and then</p> <p>9 I went to the garage to bring some clothes for them.</p> <p>10 You know, and then they left the doors open, I assume,</p> <p>11 and then they didn't let us go in, so they said just --</p> <p>12 and then I stayed outside.</p> <p>13 Q. Right. Let's go outside, then, if we can.</p> <p>14 You I think leave the tower and Miguel and the</p> <p>15 children come down.</p> <p>16 How long after, do you think, you had let the</p> <p>17 firefighters in for the second time, the second batch of</p> <p>18 firefighters, did Miguel, Tiago and Ines come down?</p> <p>19 A. I don't remember. I don't think it was too long.</p> <p>20 I don't know, maybe no more than 5 minutes. I have no</p> <p>21 idea, but I don't think it was more than -- I don't</p> <p>22 know, between 5 and 10. I have no idea.</p> <p>23 Q. In your statement, on page 5, if I can just show you</p> <p>24 paragraph 21, you describe there in some detail about</p> <p>25 your concerns about a neighbour, Joao.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 ring Joao and he didn't answer. I was ringing, ringing,</p> <p>2 ringing, and then he picked up the phone and I said,</p> <p>3 "Where are you?" He said, "I'm in bed." Because</p> <p>4 sometimes he's not staying in the flat, he was staying</p> <p>5 with other friends. Then I said, "Well, there's a fire</p> <p>6 in the building, get out."</p> <p>7 Q. You said, "Get out"?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, this was Joao, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. You said to him, "Get out"?</p> <p>10 A. Yes. Then he was panicking. I said to him, "You don't</p> <p>11 need to panic." He said, "Don't leave the phone,</p> <p>12 continue talking to me, because I'm" -- I said, "Don't</p> <p>13 panic."</p> <p>14 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>15 Can I ask you to look at paragraph 22. I'll read it</p> <p>16 all to you:</p> <p>17 "22. I looked up at the side of the Tower. The</p> <p>18 inside of Flat 16 was dark but I could see smoke. I saw</p> <p>19 more firefighters arrive and spread their hoses on the</p> <p>20 floor. They tested them briefly, then the family, who</p> <p>21 I gave the jumpers to the children, approached them.</p> <p>22 They were talking to them at the time the window fell</p> <p>23 from Flat 16. There was a sudden flash like</p> <p>24 lightening[sic]. I saw the window explode and the glass</p> <p>25 shatter. I saw flames shoot out of the window. It was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 A. Joao.</p> <p>2 Q. Joao.</p> <p>3 A. Joao, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. I am pleased to have got that right. Joao.</p> <p>5 He's a neighbour in flat 104?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. You hadn't seen him come out of the tower so you were</p> <p>8 concerned about him?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, because when my husband came down, he said he woke</p> <p>10 up all the neighbours, and I was trying to see if I knew</p> <p>11 all the neighbours from our floor coming out of the</p> <p>12 building. I remember to see the Spanish family, Dorinda</p> <p>13 and her husband, and I remember to see Adriana, her</p> <p>14 husband and the two children. And then I said to</p> <p>15 Miguel, "But, you know, the neighbour who lives on 101</p> <p>16 is not -- I didn't see him", and then my husband said,</p> <p>17 "He's on holiday." And then I say, "Well, I didn't see</p> <p>18 the family from 102", which is the Eritrean family, and</p> <p>19 then my husband said, "They left, I saw them out." Then</p> <p>20 I was thinking: is everybody out? So Joao is not here,</p> <p>21 and Miguel said, "I knock on the door and then I opened</p> <p>22 the door and I shout for him", and he said the bicycle</p> <p>23 from Francisco is not there, because Francisco is</p> <p>24 working in a hotel.</p> <p>25 Then I asked my husband for his phone and I tried to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 coming out and burning on to the outside cladding about</p> <p>2 three feet high. This must have been around 1:15am."</p> <p>3 You I think have marked on your map where you were</p> <p>4 at this time. Can we just have a look at that. It's</p> <p>5 IWS00000441, page 1. If we can just swivel that round.</p> <p>6 Can you just describe for us in a bit more detail,</p> <p>7 Mrs Alves, where you were standing when you saw the</p> <p>8 window explode.</p> <p>9 A. So Grenfell -- I was ... yes, where the cross.</p> <p>10 Q. Yes. So you were to the east or south-east of the</p> <p>11 tower.</p> <p>12 My question is: did you have a good view of the</p> <p>13 window?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I was just outside, facing the</p> <p>15 leisure centre.</p> <p>16 Q. You were standing on the grass?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. You were on the grass, not --</p> <p>19 A. Not on the grass. At that moment, I wasn't on the</p> <p>20 grass, I was on the pavement, because there was two like</p> <p>21 concrete stools, and this couple were there with the</p> <p>22 girls, and I was next to them.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay.</p> <p>24 You describe smoke here in the inside of flat 16.</p> <p>25 Could you see where that smoke was inside the flat?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 A. I don't know. I saw through the window but I can't -- 2 I remember seeing inside the window. 3 Q. At that moment, when you looked up and saw smoke, did 4 you see the exterior on fire? 5 A. No, there was no fire exterior. 6 Q. Did you see anything happen to the window frame before 7 the window fell? 8 A. I don't think so. 9 Q. You go on to say there was a sudden flash like 10 lightning. 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. What was the colour of the flash? 13 A. Orange, yellow, I believe it was that colour, yes. 14 Q. You say you saw the window explode and the glass 15 shatter. When you say it exploded, could you just 16 describe the explosion for us? 17 A. Yes, I heard a crack and then the window -- you know, 18 glass fell on the floor, and I assume it was the window, 19 the glass, or the whole frame of the window, but it was 20 the window. 21 Q. Then you say, "I saw flames shoot out of the window." 22 Did they come out of the window space where the 23 glass had been? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Or --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 how can I explain? -- yeah, it was the flames from the 2 fire inside the window, and then they were reaching up 3 and then I was waiting to see where is the, you know, 4 firefighters to tackle on the fire. And, yeah, but it 5 was quite high, the -- I don't know, maybe a metre high 6 or less, the flames, yes. 7 Q. After you saw the flames first coming out of the window, 8 what was the next thing that happened with the flames? 9 A. I remember seeing crackling, and I remember seeing, 10 like, droppings of melting plastic, dropping on the 11 floor. And I remember seeing a yellow bin, the big 12 yellow bin, and this, like, melting plastic was falling 13 on top of that bin. I said to Miguel, "If they don't 14 remove this bin, soon they're going to catch fire from 15 the ground up as well." 16 Yes, so it was like, you know, crackling and 17 droppings of melting plastic on flames. 18 Q. Really? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. When you looked up, could you see the fire starting to 21 burn the exterior, the cladding on the exterior of the 22 building? 23 A. I think so, I assume so, because it was a lot of flames. 24 And I remember seeing like it was pieces of paper 25 falling down like that. I didn't know, and then</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 A. You know, it was the window and then the flames was just 2 coming upwards. 3 Q. Right. Okay. 4 A. On top of the window. 5 Q. On top of the window? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Did you see fire coming out from anywhere else around 8 the window? 9 A. Fires? 10 Q. Flames, did you see flames coming out from anywhere else 11 around the window? 12 A. No, no, no. 13 Q. When you say the flames were shooting out of the window, 14 how far out of the window did the flames come? 15 A. How far? 16 Q. Yes. 17 A. Sorry, what do you mean, how far? 18 Q. What distance? You have the window here and the flames 19 came out of the window -- 20 A. No, it was not coming this way, it was coming up 21 (Demonstrated). 22 Q. How far upwards from the window do you think the flames 23 went when you first saw it? 24 A. I don't know, because at this point I think we couldn't 25 see too much flames outside. You know, I saw flames --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 I realised it was the cladding from outside. But it was 2 just flying like that, like a piece of paper on fire. 3 Q. Yes. 4 A. On the floor. 5 Q. What noise did it make, do you remember, the fire? 6 A. I don't know. I remember the crackling and, you know, 7 the noise of the fire. 8 MR MILLETT: Yes. 9 Mrs Alves, I've come to the end of the questions 10 I wanted to ask you, but there may be a few more which, 11 having looked at my notes again, I may want to ask you. 12 So I'm going to ask the chairman to take a short break, 13 if I can. 14 Mr Chairman, is that convenient? 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: How long would you like, 10 minutes? 16 MR MILLETT: 10 minutes, yes. 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mrs Alves, it does happen from 18 time to time that counsel finds there are more questions 19 he should have asked you. We'll have a break now. 20 Anyway, we've been running for an hour, so you'll 21 probably welcome a break anyway. When we come back, 22 we'll see if there really are more questions. 23 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you. 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll rise now and return at 3.05. 25 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I have to ask you not to talk to 2 anyone about your evidence while you're out of the room. 3 All right? 4 THE WITNESS: Yes. 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So if you would like to go with the 6 usher, she'll look after you. 7 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, 3.05, then, please. 9 (2.58 pm) 10 (A short break) 11 (3.08 pm) 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 13 Yes, Mr Millett. 14 MR MILLETT: Mrs Alves, thank you for coming back to us. 15 You'll be glad to know I don't have any further 16 questions for you and, therefore, it remains for me to 17 thank you very much for your assistance to the inquiry 18 today. It's very important that we get your evidence, 19 and you've given us a lot of useful and interesting 20 further evidence on top of your statement. 21 Before we let you go, I would like you, if you want 22 to, to tell the chairman whether there's anything else 23 about the night and the events of that night which you 24 can remember, in addition to your statement and what you 25 told us today, that you think it would be important for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, it's all important material, 2 so no need to rush it. 3 MR MILLETT: No, I'm grateful. 4 What I am going to do is to read the statement into 5 the record with a brief background summary, and then 6 give some context to what those witnesses tell us in 7 writing. 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 9 MR MILLETT: And also add to that by reading out parts of 10 the statement where they are particularly relevant or 11 particularly illuminating. 12 JAMIE MURRAY (evidence read into the record) 13 MR MILLETT: I'll start with Jamie Murray. That is inquiry 14 statement reference IWS00001008, with two exhibits JM/1, 15 IWS00001012, which is a fire and smoke description, and 16 JM/2, IWS00001014, a plan of the area around 17 Grenfell Tower. 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 19 MR MILLETT: She lived in flat 15 on floor 4 with her 20 husband, Mahad Egal, who has also given a statement and 21 their young children Vega-Lilly and Zakariya. 22 To give some context to that, I am going to read 23 some parts of the statement. 24 They were all at home in their flat on the night of 25 the fire. The children were asleep in bed. Mrs Murray</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 the chairman to know. 2 A. The people's lives could be saved, if they were 3 evacuated. Yes. 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mrs Alves, we're all very 5 grateful to you for coming along to tell us about your 6 experience. It's only from people like you who were 7 present at the time that we can really find out what the 8 conditions were like inside the building. So, as I say, 9 it's very valuable evidence and we're very grateful to 10 you for coming along. 11 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It helped us a lot. 13 Thank you very much indeed. You are free to go, if 14 you would like to go with the usher, she'll look after 15 you. 16 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much. 17 (The witness withdrew) 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett. 19 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, there are now some statements 20 I need to read into the record. 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 22 MR MILLETT: Which follow on from the witnesses we've heard 23 today already. 24 This won't take too long, but it isn't 25 an instantaneous exercise.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 had just finished her dinner with her husband when they 2 heard a banging on the door. Mr Egal answered the door 3 and then told her that there was a fire. He gave her 4 a wet towel. They went to pick up their children, as 5 they did, and they carried them out to safety. 6 Can I read from paragraph 19 of Jamie Murray's 7 statement. I'll read paragraphs 19 and 20 and a part of 8 21 and 26. 9 She says: 10 "19. When we stepped into the 4th floor hallway, 11 I could see smoke. I remember that the lights were on 12 and I could see OK, but that there was light grey smoke 13 hazing throughout the corridor. There was a strong 14 smell of smoke, but I didn't have any difficulty 15 breathing and I was taking fast, panicked breaths. 16 I have been shown a smoke and fire descriptor chart by 17 my solicitor, which I exhibit as JM1 and the state of 18 the smoke was somewhere between pictures 'B' and 'C'. 19 "20. I remember looking to my right, towards flat 20 14 and seeing that the door was shut and Abdul was 21 standing outside. He was looking panicked but I can't 22 remember him saying anything. When I looked the other 23 way, I could see that the door to Flat 16 was open and 24 smoke was coming out. All you could see in the doorway 25 of Flat 16 was light grey smoke billowing out and moving</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

<p>1 quickly as though there was a draught. From the moment 2 I turned away from Flat 16, I remember just focusing on 3 Mahad's back and I didn't see anyone else. 4 "21. As we left the 4th floor hallway and went out 5 into the stairwell there was much less smoke, but 6 I remember the smoke coming out behind us in draughts 7 every time we opened a door and went into a new area. 8 We went down the stairs and I remember it felt draughty 9 and light smoke was blowing behind us. It had always 10 been draughty on the stairwell and when it was windy 11 outside you could hear the wind howling on the 12 stairwell." 13 Then at paragraph 26 she says: 14 "26. When we got to the lobby part, I could see 15 firefighters were entering the main door. I cannot 16 recall how many, I just felt relieved because they were 17 there. We went past them and as we were leaving, one of 18 the firefighters requested a key fob. Mahad gave them 19 his fob. I remember Mahad saying to the firefighter 20 'Remember me, I'm the young [redacted] man, those are my 21 keys!'" 22 There's a word redacted between "young" and "man" as 23 we can see. 24 Her statement is dated 10 August 2018, and is, as 25 always, provided under a statement of truth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 to the main entrance. I cannot remember why I didn't 2 exit through the fire door but in general residents 3 would never use that door, so it may have been that it 4 didn't occur to me in the panic of the moment. To get 5 out through the glass doors, however, you need a fob and 6 I remember some moments of panic when I thought we were 7 trapped until I found my fob in the pocket of my 8 trousers. 9 "33. Once we got into the main lobby area, I could 10 see that there were 4 firefighters there. They were 11 carrying a big red object between them. As we went out 12 through the door, I remember that one of the 13 firefighters, who I assumed was senior because he had a 14 silver insignia on his shoulder was asking in a general 15 way if anyone had a key they could give him. I gave him 16 my key and I remember telling him to remember to give 17 the key back to me and to remember that the key belongs 18 to a young [redacted] man. At this point, I was 19 expecting that the fire would be put out soon and we 20 would have to get back in using our key. To the best of 21 my recollection, at this point the senior firefighter 22 was just outside the main door." 23 Mr Egal exited the tower at the same time as his 24 wife and children at 00.59.48. 25 His statement is dated 10 August also, with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And in common with other statements, 2 the whole of the statement will form part of the 3 evidence and will be taken into consideration. 4 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, absolutely. 5 I should just finish by saying that she is seen on 6 the CCTV to have exited the tower at 00.59.48, as 7 adjusted. 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 9 MAHAD EGAL (evidence read into the record) 10 MR MILLETT: The next statement I would wish to read into 11 the record is that of her husband, Mahad Egal. 12 He, like her, was a resident of flat 15 on the 13 4th floor at the time of the fire. 14 His statement is IWS00001010, and he has provided 15 three exhibits, ME/1, IWS00001013; ME/2, IWS00001009; 16 and ME/3, IWS00001011. 17 I just want to read two paragraphs from that 18 statement, if I may, paragraphs 32 and 33. 19 He says: 20 "32. When you get to the bottom of the stairs, 21 there are two doors. One is a fire exit door to the 22 right and this leads straight outside. I have had sight 23 of a CCTV still, which I exhibit as ME2 and this shows 24 the door to the right. The other door is to the left 25 and leads into a glass panelled area which in turn leads</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 a statement of truth, and like that of Jamie Murray, all 2 of it will stand as evidence to the inquiry and, 3 Mr Chairman, will be taken into account. 4 ALISON MOSES (evidence read into the record) 5 MR MILLETT: The next statement is that of Alison Moses, she 6 lived alone in flat 11 on floor 4. She exited the tower 7 at 01.07.45. 8 Her inquiry witness statement is IWS00000301. 9 To put it a little bit into context, she had lived 10 in flat 11 on the 4th floor of Grenfell Tower for some 11 13 years. She was at home alone on the night of the 12 fire when she heard some banging on her front door. 13 I can pick it up at paragraph 9 of her statement and 14 just read a few paragraphs, 9 to 14, which provide some 15 useful information: 16 "9. I was wearing a t-shirt so I fetched my 17 dressing gown and put this on. I opened my front door 18 and saw my neighbour from flat 16 who was banging on 19 flat 12 and then started banging on other doors on the 20 fourth floor. 21 "10. He looked at me and said that there had been 22 a fire. He was frantic, distraught and panicky which 23 I thought was normal behaviour for a fire. I did not 24 smell anything and did not see any signs of a fire. 25 "11. I walked back into my flat to get my keys.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 I already had my mobile phone on me. I walked straight 2 into the sitting room and only when I walked back into 3 the sitting room could I smell smoke but it was not 4 enough to worry me at the time. My kitchen window and 5 living room window were open, I thought about closing 6 them but because they can be difficult to close 7 I decided not to.</p> <p>8 "12. I returned to the communal landing of the 9 floor and my neighbour David, from flat 12 was there. 10 I told him that there had been a fire and that he needs 11 to wake his partner, Zoe, as she has to come out. I did 12 not see anyone else on the landing. The lights on the 13 landing were on at the time and I could still not smell 14 smoke.</p> <p>15 "13. I closed the door to my flat behind me and 16 pulled the handle up which locks the door. I made my 17 way to the stairwell as I knew not to take the lift when 18 there is a fire. The door to the stairs was ajar and it 19 did not shut behind me after I had gone through it.</p> <p>20 "14. In early 2017 the spring to this door broke 21 and it would make a loud banging sound every time 22 someone used it. I reported this to the TMO at the time 23 who fixed it. I am not sure what they did to the door. 24 The slamming stopped but the door was always ajar and 25 never shut after that."</p> <p>Page 133</p>	<p>1 forefront of your mind, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>2 She says:</p> <p>3 "47. Around 1am I woke up to someone banging on our 4 front door; I did not know who it was, but I now know it 5 was Mahad from Flat 15.</p> <p>6 "48. David and I both got up and went to the front 7 door to see what was happening. David looked out of the 8 spyhole and saw two people running down the communal 9 stairwell. He did not recognise them.</p> <p>10 "49. We opened the door and I saw my neighbour 11 Alison from Flat 11, who was standing in the landing. 12 She said that 'there been a fire babe.' I think she 13 said that the fire was in Flat 16. At this point, 14 I could not see or smell smoke, but I thought I could 15 smell gas. I did not see anyone else in the communal 16 area at this time.</p> <p>17 "50. I shut the front door and walked into the 18 kitchen area. I remembered the notices around the 19 building saying if there was a fire in the building to 20 stay in your flat, so I thought that was the best thing 21 to do.</p> <p>22 "51. When I was smoking at the kitchen window, 23 I saw my neighbour Mahad who lives at Flat 15. He was 24 walking across the grass towards the Leisure Centre with 25 his children. I could not see his wife, but I knew she</p> <p>Page 135</p>
<p>1 Her statement is dated, as we can see from the last 2 page, 18 May 2018 under a statement of truth. Again, 3 Mr Chairman, her statement will stand in full as 4 evidence to the inquiry and be taken into account in 5 full.</p> <p>6 ZOE DAINTON (evidence read into the record) 7 MR MILLETT: The next statement I would wish to read into 8 the record is that of Zoe Dainton.</p> <p>9 She lived in the tower in flat 12 on the 4th floor 10 with her mother, Jenny Dainton, and her sister, 11 Leah Weekes.</p> <p>12 On the night of the fire she was in the flat with 13 her boyfriend, David Benjamin. Her mother and her 14 sister were visiting her grandmother nearby. Zoe left 15 the tower at 01.13.37.</p> <p>16 Her statement is IWS00000806.</p> <p>17 There are five exhibits, ZLD/1 to 5 respectively, 18 which have an inquiry reference of IWS00000800, 19 IWS00000801, IWS00000802, IWS00000803 and IWS00000804.</p> <p>20 Zoe had lived in flat 12 on the 4th floor since she 21 was 4 or 5 years old, and that's what she says at 22 paragraph 25 of her statement.</p> <p>23 I will just read paragraph 47 of her statement into 24 the record, and I'm going to read down to paragraph 58, 25 which is quite a passage, but worth you having at the</p> <p>Page 134</p>	<p>1 would be with him and the kids. There were also a few 2 other people outside. At this time, I did not see any 3 evidence of a fire or any smoke from my window. I did 4 not hear anyone screaming to get out or any other 5 commotion.</p> <p>6 "52. I called Alison a few minutes later on her 7 phone. She answered and said that she was already 8 outside and told me to get out. I walked to the front 9 door and opened it for the second time to see what was 10 happening. When I did I saw two male firefighters 11 standing in the communal area, I think they were trying 12 to access the dry riser and either there was not any 13 water or they could not access it. They just looked at 14 me but did not say anything, but we made eye contact. 15 I saw a red heavy looking object with them, but I do not 16 know what this was. I could smell and see a thin layer 17 of smoke above head height in the communal area; it was 18 like cigarette smoke.</p> <p>19 "53. I was surprised that the firefighters did not 20 say anything to me. I closed the front door and decided 21 that we should leave immediately. I grabbed my phone 22 and door keys and David took his phone and his bankcard. 23 I was in my pyjamas and put on a dressing gown and the 24 first pair of shoes that I could find - my Nike sandals. 25 At this point, I did not think we would be outside for</p> <p>Page 136</p>

<p>1 more than half an hour. There was no smoke in our flat.</p> <p>2 "54. When we opened the front door for the third</p> <p>3 time to leave, I could now see that the landing was full</p> <p>4 of thick black smoke. It had only been a few minutes</p> <p>5 since we had last opened the front door. I was shocked</p> <p>6 how quickly this had happened. I could not see my hands</p> <p>7 in front of me let alone the fire door. I could only</p> <p>8 just see the communal lighting. I did not see the</p> <p>9 firemen, who I had seen by the dry riser before. I was</p> <p>10 very scared. The smoke alarm by Leah's room started to</p> <p>11 go off.</p> <p>12 "55. David went in front of me and I closed the</p> <p>13 front door before heading to the fire door using my</p> <p>14 memory. This was located on the right about 4 or 5</p> <p>15 steps away from my front door. I knew not to use the</p> <p>16 lifts in an event of a fire.</p> <p>17 "56. My eyes were stinging and I inhaled some smoke</p> <p>18 when we were leaving the flat, which left a horrible</p> <p>19 taste in my mouth. It was difficult to breathe, so I</p> <p>20 put my dressing gown over my mouth and nose. I heard</p> <p>21 crackling sounds in the communal area; it was like</p> <p>22 popcorn or a campfire with crackling wood. I could not</p> <p>23 hear or see anyone else on the landing. I was scared</p> <p>24 and alarmed by all the smoke. The communal area was</p> <p>25 hot.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 up, if I may, to read out aloud.</p> <p>2 At paragraph 14, in a passage which starts at</p> <p>3 paragraph 11, under the heading "The flat", he describes</p> <p>4 the flat and he says this at paragraph 14:</p> <p>5 "14. The front door was replaced, but I do not</p> <p>6 remember when, but it was before the cladding, window</p> <p>7 replacement and gas supply works. The new door was not</p> <p>8 self closing and you would have to pull it shut. The</p> <p>9 new door felt light compared to my own flat door. The</p> <p>10 letterbox would snap back when opened and had brushes</p> <p>11 inside. I was not aware of any damage to the front door</p> <p>12 prior to the fire."</p> <p>13 Then at paragraph 21, he says:</p> <p>14 "21. There were no sprinklers. The fire</p> <p>15 extinguishers, which used to be next to the dry riser in</p> <p>16 the communal landing, were removed during the recent</p> <p>17 refurbishment. I do not know why."</p> <p>18 At 26, he says:</p> <p>19 "26. Before the last refurbishment, there used to</p> <p>20 be concierge downstairs in the lobby, but this</p> <p>21 disappeared, which was a real shame."</p> <p>22 Then he expresses an opinion about that which</p> <p>23 I don't need to read.</p> <p>24 I'll read 64 to 67 inclusively. In describing his</p> <p>25 exit, he says:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 "57. When we opened the door to the communal</p> <p>2 stairwell, there was a fireman with a hose. I don't</p> <p>3 know where the hose came from. I told him to check that</p> <p>4 I had closed my front door. He acknowledged my comment,</p> <p>5 but did not say anything.</p> <p>6 "58. The stairwell was completely clear from smoke</p> <p>7 and it was not hot. I could still smell the smoke, but</p> <p>8 I couldn't see it. I couldn't smell gas anymore either.</p> <p>9 However, I just wanted to get out of the building as</p> <p>10 quickly as possible."</p> <p>11 As I say, they left the tower at 01.13.37.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.</p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: Her statement will also stand, of course, as</p> <p>14 evidence to the inquiry in full, and it stands under</p> <p>15 a statement of truth dated 1 July 2018, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>17 DAVID ANDREW BENJAMIN (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: The next statement is that of David Andrew</p> <p>19 Benjamin. As you probably just heard, he's the</p> <p>20 boyfriend of Zoe Dainton, who lived in flat 12 on the</p> <p>21 4th floor. He visited the tower often and was present</p> <p>22 in the flat on 14 June with Zoe on that night.</p> <p>23 The reference to his statement is IWS00000876.</p> <p>24 He evacuated with her at the same time, at 01.13.34.</p> <p>25 There are just one or two paragraphs I want to pick</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 "64. I went to the front door with Zoe behind and</p> <p>2 opened it the slightest bit. There was thick black</p> <p>3 smoke everywhere (Diagram E of Smoke Picture</p> <p>4 Descriptors). My initial thought was that the fire must</p> <p>5 have spread. I slammed the door shut and got my hoody</p> <p>6 and trainers on. Zoe put on her dressing gown and flip</p> <p>7 flops. We then left with just the clothes that we were</p> <p>8 wearing and our phones — nothing else.</p> <p>9 "65. The smoke in the communal landing was thick</p> <p>10 and black. This meant I could not see anything in front</p> <p>11 of me, including my hands or feet. I could not breathe.</p> <p>12 "66. I was shocked how rapidly things had changed</p> <p>13 in such a short space of time, it must have only been</p> <p>14 about 10-15 minutes since we had been woken up by loud</p> <p>15 banging on our door. It was incredibly scary.</p> <p>16 "67. There did not appear to be any firefighters on</p> <p>17 the landing, although I would not have been able to have</p> <p>18 seen them because of the smoke. It was incredibly hot,</p> <p>19 so I assumed that the fire must have spread onto the</p> <p>20 landing."</p> <p>21 Mr Chairman, that statement will also in full stand</p> <p>22 as evidence to the inquiry in its entirety to be taken</p> <p>23 into account.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: It stands under a statement of truth provided</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 on 29 June 2018, as we can see from page 18 of that 2 statement. 3 JENNY DANTON (evidence read into the record) 4 MR MILLETT: The next statement I wish to read into the 5 record is that of Jenny Dainton. 6 She is a resident of flat 12, Grenfell Tower, on the 7 4th floor. She had lived there for some 25 years prior 8 to the fire. She lived there with Zoe Dainton and 9 Leah Weekes. She was staying with her mother and her 10 daughter Leah Weekes in the area on the night of the 11 fire and returned after the fire had started. 12 Her statement to the inquiry is IWS00000939, which 13 I read into the record. She's provided two exhibits, 14 JD/1 and JD/2 under reference IWS00000936, and 15 IWS00000937, respectively. 16 Perhaps paragraph 37 is worth just picking out. 17 Under the heading "Fire safety", she says: 18 "37. Despite living at Grenfell Tower for 25 years, 19 I was never given any fire safety information from 20 either RBKC or the TMO on what to do in the event of a 21 fire. I did not know where any assembly points were and 22 we never had a fire drill. To my knowledge there was no 23 communal fire alarm or pre-recorded message to warn 24 residents about a fire. There were no sprinklers. I 25 often wondered what we were supposed to do in the event</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 I say, and was supported by other residents. 2 I now want to put into the record his inquiry 3 statement, which is IWS00000989. 4 He has four exhibits to that: EZ/1, 2, 3, and 4 5 respectively at IWS00000978, IWS00000979, IWS00000980 6 and IWS00000982. 7 His statement is provided under a statement of 8 truth, which is dated 19 July 2018. 9 Again, Mr Chairman, his statement will stand in its 10 entirety as evidence to the inquiry. 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 12 MR MILLETT: I just noted that there is actually something 13 in the statement I just want to read aloud into the 14 record, if I may. That's at paragraph 30. 15 At the very end, after having described the vents 16 that existed inside the building prior to the 17 refurbishment, he says halfway down: 18 "This was the main ventilation vent for the 19 stairway. The stairway was always drafty and cool, even 20 in summer it was concrete cool. When it was windy you 21 could hear a howl in the staircase. I remember people 22 smoking cigarettes on the stairway and the smoke would 23 just disappear. After the refurbishment that all 24 changed. The vent was covered over when the new flats 25 were built. The stairways became hot, stuffy and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 of a fire because we had never been told. 2 "38. I am also not aware of any fire checks being 3 undertaken by the London Fire Brigade at Grenfell Tower. 4 "39. During the refurbishment, I believe a new sign 5 appeared telling you to stay put in the event of a fire. 6 It was located by the lifts in the main foyer at ground 7 level, but I do not remember seeing this sign on the 8 fourth floor. In any event, I would not have personally 9 followed this advice." 10 Her statement stands to the inquiry again in its 11 entirety and will be taken into account in full, 12 Mr Chairman. It's dated 16 July 2018 under a statement 13 of truth. 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you. 15 EAMON ZADA (evidence read into the record) 16 MR MILLETT: Then, finally, Mr Chairman, we have the 17 statement from Eamon Zada. 18 He lived alone in flat 54 on floor 8 of 19 Grenfell Tower. He's 36 years old or was at the time he 20 made his statement, and Grenfell Tower had always been 21 his home until the night of the fire. 22 When he was 10, his parents separated and his mum 23 left, and he became a young carer for his dad after his 24 dad had a stroke. His father died when he was 15 years 25 old in 1997. He has always lived in the tower, as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 airless. If someone had a cigarette the smoke would 2 stay and linger." 3 I'm asked by Mr Rawat just to pick up the fact that 4 he lived in flat 54 and then moved to flat 53 when he 5 was a year old. So I think I started by saying he lived 6 in flat 54; he had done, but only for a year of his life 7 before moving to flat 53. So it's flat 53 that's the 8 focus of his statement. 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 10 MR MILLETT: He left the building at 01.12.29. 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right. 12 MR MILLETT: I want to offer my thanks to all of those 13 residents who have provided those detailed and very 14 useful statements, and I commend them to you, sir. 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Well, they are all important 16 and contain important evidence which we shall consider 17 together with all the other evidence before the inquiry. 18 MR MILLETT: I am grateful. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I am, as you say, grateful to those 20 who have taken the trouble to make these statements. 21 Housekeeping 22 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, there are two other matters of 23 housekeeping that I should cover now, if I may, and that 24 will close the business for the day. 25 The first relates to our witness timetable for this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 week.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: The fourth witness whom we were due to hear</p> <p>4 tomorrow afternoon, Hanan Wahabi, for good reasons is</p> <p>5 unable to give evidence tomorrow, unfortunately.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: We only found out about that very recently. We</p> <p>8 will call her to give evidence at a later date in the</p> <p>9 programme.</p> <p>10 The result of that is that there will only be one</p> <p>11 witness tomorrow, who will be Miguel Alves, the husband</p> <p>12 of Fatima Alves, from whom you heard this afternoon.</p> <p>13 He'll come tomorrow morning. But we will use some of</p> <p>14 the time tomorrow to put further written statements into</p> <p>15 the record as I've done this afternoon.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: So, Mr Chairman, a 10 o'clock start is</p> <p>18 something that I think we can live with.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Well, uncharacteristically,</p> <p>20 you're not inviting me to do anything else.</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: No, not on this occasion.</p> <p>22 The other thing I should do is just bring people up</p> <p>23 to date very briefly with disclosure.</p> <p>24 Phase 1 disclosure, first of all, the position is</p> <p>25 this: excluding technical duplicates identified by our</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 the police and from bereaved, survivors and residents on</p> <p>2 a rolling basis. On receipt of that disclosure, the</p> <p>3 inquiry processes those materials for relevance, we do</p> <p>4 redaction reviews and we do subsequent disclosure as</p> <p>5 fast as we possibly can. But it's inevitable, I'm</p> <p>6 afraid, that there will be late receipt of material</p> <p>7 which results in later disclosure to core participants</p> <p>8 at a later stage. That's just unavoidable.</p> <p>9 That then leaves 344,294 documents which don't</p> <p>10 relate to Phase 1. The scale of the inquiry's</p> <p>11 disclosure exercise relating to Phase 2 is significantly</p> <p>12 larger than Phase 1.</p> <p>13 There are some examples I can give of the scale of</p> <p>14 the disclosure provided to the inquiry relating to</p> <p>15 Phase 2.</p> <p>16 As I'm presently advised, Rydon have provided 64,246</p> <p>17 documents; Studio E, 11,790; Max Fordham, 10,464; RBKC,</p> <p>18 27,930; Secretary of State for the Home Department,</p> <p>19 45,922; the Department for Communities and Local</p> <p>20 Government, or the Ministry of Housing, Communities and</p> <p>21 Local Government, as it now is, 18,410. That disclosure</p> <p>22 is being monitored closely and examined closely for</p> <p>23 further documents or categories of documents as we go,</p> <p>24 so it's a rolling programme.</p> <p>25 The inquiry's second level review of Phase 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 technical advisers, the inquiry currently has 370,268</p> <p>2 documents, those are Phase 1, Phase 2 and expert</p> <p>3 reports.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: We have 25,974 documents relating to Phase 1</p> <p>6 and expert materials, of which 19,006 documents have</p> <p>7 been disclosed to core participants, equating to some</p> <p>8 73 per cent of the Phase 1 documents.</p> <p>9 It's important to bear in mind that many of the</p> <p>10 Phase 1 documents held by the inquiry are duplicates,</p> <p>11 which are those not previously identified by our</p> <p>12 technical advisers, or they've been assessed by the</p> <p>13 inquiry as not relevant or probative to Phase 1, or else</p> <p>14 have been determined as relevant to Phase 2 and they</p> <p>15 will be disclosed as part of Phase 2, subject to further</p> <p>16 relevance tests.</p> <p>17 We have currently 343 Phase 1 items yet to be</p> <p>18 disclosed, 1 per cent or so of Phase 1 disclosure, all</p> <p>19 of which are presently proceeding through the inquiry's</p> <p>20 usual processes of redaction and MPS approval or</p> <p>21 non-veto, as it were, where necessary.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: The majority of those are BSR statements and</p> <p>24 accompanying exhibits, which are still coming through.</p> <p>25 We continue to receive disclosure from the LFB, from</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 documents has started in earnest. Good progress is</p> <p>2 being made on the construction documents and the</p> <p>3 aftermath documents.</p> <p>4 You'll remember, Mr Chairman, that we previously</p> <p>5 indicated that Phase 2 disclosure will commence after</p> <p>6 the rule 9 witness statements are received from those</p> <p>7 from whom we have requested them. We remain on track to</p> <p>8 release the first tranches of Phase 2 documents</p> <p>9 during October, and disclosure will continue thereafter</p> <p>10 on a rolling basis for the rest of the year and into</p> <p>11 2019.</p> <p>12 We aim to produce a disclosure update in more detail</p> <p>13 later this month -- as soon as possible, I hope -- with</p> <p>14 further details on progress made on document review and</p> <p>15 an update on document requests made.</p> <p>16 So I hope that gives you and everybody else</p> <p>17 something of a flavour of what we're doing behind the</p> <p>18 scenes on documents.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's very helpful. I think</p> <p>20 everyone is aware that the volume of material disclosed</p> <p>21 in relation to Phase 2 is enormous. I hope, having</p> <p>22 heard those figures, that there are quite a lot of</p> <p>23 duplicates. But even if there are, there are going to</p> <p>24 be a large amount to assimilate, so it just takes time.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: That's right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p>

1 I should also add, because I know people have asked
2 about it, that the relevance test being applied is the
3 test in our documents protocol and is being applied
4 assiduously at both level 1 and level 2 reviews.
5 Mr Chairman, that concludes the business for the
6 day, I'm glad to say, and with that, I can ask you to
7 close proceedings for the day.
8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.
9 Well, there it is. We shall break now and resume
10 tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, when we look forward to
11 hearing from another witness.
12 MR MILLETT: Thank you.
13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: 10 o'clock tomorrow, then, please.
14 (3.40 pm)
15 (The hearing adjourned until Thursday, 4 October 2018
16 at 10.00 am)
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