

<p>1 Wednesday, 31 October 2018</p> <p>2 (10.00 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to</p> <p>4 today's hearing.</p> <p>5 We are going to hear more evidence today from those</p> <p>6 who were present in the tower at the time of the fire.</p> <p>7 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Morning, Mr Chairman, yes. Our next witness is</p> <p>9 Mr Roy Smith. Can I please call Mr Smith.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>11 ROY SMITH (sworn)</p> <p>12 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Smith.</p> <p>14 Would you like to sit down and make yourself</p> <p>15 comfortable.</p> <p>16 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Good morning, Mr Smith.</p> <p>18 A. Good morning.</p> <p>19 Q. Can I please ask you to give the inquiry your full name?</p> <p>20 A. Roy Smith.</p> <p>21 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>22 First, I want to start by thanking you very much for</p> <p>23 coming here to the inquiry and helping us with our</p> <p>24 investigations. We very much appreciate it and we're</p> <p>25 extremely grateful to you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 up the passage you are going to be asked about.</p> <p>2 A. Okay, I'll use both if that's okay.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: See what you find best. All right?</p> <p>4 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>6 The first is IWS00000771.</p> <p>7 If you look at that on the screen, this is the first</p> <p>8 page of a witness statement. Is it your witness</p> <p>9 statement, your first statement?</p> <p>10 A. It is.</p> <p>11 Q. If we can go to the last page of the statement, please,</p> <p>12 at page 16, we can see that it carries a date of what</p> <p>13 looks like 25 June 2018; is that right?</p> <p>14 A. That's correct.</p> <p>15 Q. There's a signature just above the date, with the name</p> <p>16 Roy Smith underneath it. Is that your signature?</p> <p>17 A. It is.</p> <p>18 Q. Have you had an opportunity to read this statement</p> <p>19 recently?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Can you confirm that the contents of this statement are</p> <p>22 true?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. There's one exhibit, RS/1, and that has a reference</p> <p>25 IWS00000931. If we can just have that on the screen,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 I appreciate that it may be at times very difficult</p> <p>2 for you to relive the events of that night, which were</p> <p>3 heartbreaking and immensely distressing. If at any time</p> <p>4 during my questions you need a break, all you have to do</p> <p>5 is signal and we can take a break.</p> <p>6 A. Okay.</p> <p>7 Q. It's not a problem; there's no rush at all.</p> <p>8 Sometimes my questions may be a little difficult to</p> <p>9 understand or may just not be terribly good, so if at</p> <p>10 any point you want me to repeat the question, I'm happy</p> <p>11 to do that or put the question in a different way.</p> <p>12 A. Thank you.</p> <p>13 Q. Also, sometimes when you're answering, I may be looking</p> <p>14 at my screen or at my notes, but I am very much</p> <p>15 listening to what you're saying. So just because I'm</p> <p>16 not looking at you doesn't mean that I'm not taking on</p> <p>17 board what you're saying. Okay?</p> <p>18 A. Okay.</p> <p>19 Q. Can I start, then, please, by asking you to look at the</p> <p>20 first of the two witness statements that you've done for</p> <p>21 the inquiry. We'll look at those on the monitor on the</p> <p>22 desk on your right in front of you.</p> <p>23 A. Oh, sorry.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You can use the folder if you find</p> <p>25 it more convenient, but the monitor will sometimes blow</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 please.</p> <p>2 This is a floor plan of your flat, which was flat 95</p> <p>3 on the 12th floor of Grenfell Tower, and it's a plan</p> <p>4 which has been completed in manuscript.</p> <p>5 Is that your writing?</p> <p>6 A. That's not my writing, no.</p> <p>7 Q. But was this done under your instruction?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Does that accurately set out the layout of your flat --</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. -- as at the night of the fire?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. It does?</p> <p>14 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>15 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>16 You've also provided a supplementary statement,</p> <p>17 which is IWS00001169. If we can just have that, please.</p> <p>18 Is that the first page of your supplemental</p> <p>19 statement?</p> <p>20 A. It is.</p> <p>21 Q. If we go to the last page, page 3, it is dated</p> <p>22 19 October 2018 under a signature. Is that signature</p> <p>23 yours?</p> <p>24 A. It is.</p> <p>25 Q. Have you the had an opportunity to read that statement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 recently?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Can you please confirm that the contents of that</p> <p>4 statement are true?</p> <p>5 A. It's true.</p> <p>6 Q. According to your first statement, flat 95 on the</p> <p>7 12th floor of Grenfell Tower was your family home since</p> <p>8 2009.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. That's right, is it?</p> <p>11 A. Correct, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Can you tell us who you lived with during that period?</p> <p>13 You don't have to use the names if you don't want to.</p> <p>14 A. My partner and two children.</p> <p>15 Q. As at June 2017, I think you say that you were all in</p> <p>16 good health?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. When you moved in in 2009, how many bedrooms did the</p> <p>19 flat have?</p> <p>20 A. Two.</p> <p>21 Q. As at the night of the fire in June 2017, how many</p> <p>22 bedrooms did the flat have?</p> <p>23 A. Three.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you make the adaptations to the flat to create</p> <p>25 a third bedroom?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 Q. Was the opening like a doorway?</p> <p>2 A. No, it was like -- just an entrance.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay, I see.</p> <p>4 When you were sitting or standing in that third</p> <p>5 bedroom, could you clearly see the window in the</p> <p>6 next-door bedroom which adjoins it?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. You could?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Still on the subject of windows, can I ask you, please,</p> <p>11 to look at page 3 of your first statement and go to</p> <p>12 paragraph 10.</p> <p>13 You say there that the TMO installed new windows to</p> <p>14 the flat.</p> <p>15 Can you remember when they did that?</p> <p>16 A. I can't remember the exact date, no.</p> <p>17 Q. Was that during the refurbishment?</p> <p>18 A. Oh, yes, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. Then you go on to say Rydon came to the flat and</p> <p>20 measured the windows and you explain about the blinds.</p> <p>21 You go on to explain your experience with a window</p> <p>22 falling out, and that's paragraph 11.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Were all the windows in your flat replaced by Rydon?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 A. We did.</p> <p>2 Q. I think you describe a little bit in your statement</p> <p>3 about that.</p> <p>4 Did you make any other adaptations or changes to the</p> <p>5 flat, other than making a third bedroom?</p> <p>6 A. We put a breakfast bar in and a shower.</p> <p>7 Q. If we can just go back to the plan of the flat that we</p> <p>8 had a moment ago on the screen, which is RS/1,</p> <p>9 IWS00000931. Thank you.</p> <p>10 Could you just explain to us where -- we can see</p> <p>11 three bedrooms.</p> <p>12 A. A.</p> <p>13 Q. Could you just explain to us which the third bedroom is</p> <p>14 which you created?</p> <p>15 A. It's the first one as you come in the front door on the</p> <p>16 right.</p> <p>17 Q. I see.</p> <p>18 In your statement, you describe how that third</p> <p>19 bedroom had light coming into it from the bedroom in the</p> <p>20 top right-hand corner of the diagram?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, natural light, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. How did that come in? How was that access to the</p> <p>23 natural light?</p> <p>24 A. Cause we left an opening for the natural light to come</p> <p>25 into the main bedroom into the third bedroom.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 Q. Was that as part of the refurbishment?</p> <p>2 A. Mm-hm, yes, correct.</p> <p>3 Q. You describe them as very much smaller than the original</p> <p>4 windows.</p> <p>5 Did the size of the windows have any impact on the</p> <p>6 fitting of the frames into the wall?</p> <p>7 A. For the blinds?</p> <p>8 Q. For the windows themselves.</p> <p>9 A. Yeah, there was gaps everywhere.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 A. They was filled with some like white mastic or</p> <p>12 something.</p> <p>13 Q. Right, okay. I'll come to that in a bit more detail in</p> <p>14 a moment.</p> <p>15 At page 3 of your statement, paragraph 11, you</p> <p>16 describe in some detail an experience you had when the</p> <p>17 window fell in to your flat when you came back from work</p> <p>18 one day.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. You say at the top of page 4:</p> <p>21 "I went to have a look and saw that the window had</p> <p>22 come out of the frame and was lying on the floor."</p> <p>23 First of all, going back, if we can, to IWS00000931,</p> <p>24 which is the plan of your flat, Mr Smith, if we can just</p> <p>25 have that up again, can you show us or point to which</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

1 window you were referring to?

2 **A. The bedroom right in front of the front door.**

3 **SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like to get up and point**

4 **it out to us? That would be a help.**

5 MR MILLETT: We also have a red dot system. So the

6 bedroom --

7 **A. That's the window.**

8 MR MILLETT: -- window.

9 **A. (Indicates)**

10 **SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you very much.**

11 MR MILLETT: Right. So that's the north-facing bedroom --

12 **A. My children's bedroom.**

13 Q. Children's bedroom. Right.

14 **A. Well, my youngest.**

15 Q. You and your partner had the bedroom between the lounge

16 and that bedroom, did you?

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Okay.

19 When you describe the window falling out of the

20 frame, as you say in paragraph 11 of your statement, was

21 that only the glass or did it include the PVC frame?

22 **A. No, the whole frame. The whole frame came out.**

23 Q. The whole frame came out?

24 **A. Yes.**

25 Q. What was left behind?

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1 Q. "... the edges weren't sealed."

2 First of all, when you describe the gap there that

3 you could put your hand through, which windows in the

4 flat could you do that with?

5 **A. Mostly my bedroom, our bedroom, me and my partner's**

6 **bedroom. That's the one I pulled the foam out of in**

7 **that one, because it used to make a clacking noise every**

8 **night.**

9 Q. Right.

10 **A. It was loose and there was a big gap and you could see**

11 **the foam in it, so I actually pulled the foam out and**

12 **then called Lynda from Rydon and showed her the foam**

13 **I pulled out.**

14 Q. Whereabouts in the window frame could you see that?

15 **A. This is the window and then you have outside there the**

16 **ledge --**

17 Q. The witness is holding up a lever-arch file, just for

18 the transcript.

19 **A. Sorry, and then you had around it the cladding --**

20 **I mean, the frames around here, and like the ledge**

21 **there. There was a gap on the edges here (Indicates).**

22 Q. On the side edges --

23 **A. Like the windowsill outside, where it joined the other**

24 **panelling here, there was gaps on either side.**

25 Q. On the outside of the window?

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1 **A. The gap, the window, the space where the window should**

2 **be.**

3 Q. The space where the window should be?

4 **A. Yes.**

5 Q. Was that repaired?

6 **A. Yes.**

7 Q. Do you remember who repaired it?

8 **A. Rydon. Lynda Prentice came up the same day after**

9 **I called them.**

10 Q. Did she explain to you why the window had fallen in?

11 **A. She said they was putting so many windows in, this one**

12 **was probably -- a few bolts, a fury rivets, was not**

13 **replaced, not put in, which was an easy mistake to**

14 **happen with the amount of work they was doing.**

15 Q. Then you explain about letting the builders in.

16 You then say in paragraph 15:

17 "15. Once they had fitted the cladding, the gaps in

18 the cladding were obvious."

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. "From the inside of the flat it was possible to put your

21 hand out of the window, to reach into the cladding and

22 touch the foam inside the metal outer ..."

23 **A. Frame.**

24 Q. I was going to ask you, the frame.

25 **A. Yes.**

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1 **A. On the outside of the window.**

2 Q. Okay, I understand.

3 I wonder if you could be shown BLAR00000003,

4 page 47.

5 What I am going to show you, Mr Smith, is

6 a photograph of the outside of Grenfell Tower. It's

7 a window, it's not necessarily flat 95, but it's during

8 the construction process.

9 If we can just go to that page, please,

10 BLAR00000003, page 47.

11 (Pause)

12 Mr Smith, I'm so sorry about this, I just want to

13 make sure that we get the right page.

14 Yes, thank you very much.

15 So this is a photograph. I'm looking at figure 8.52

16 in Dr Barbara Lane's report, Mr Smith.

17 **A. Yes.**

18 Q. Just for our reference, this is under paragraph 8.10.6.

19 If we just have the uppermost photograph, which is

20 figure 8.52, expanded, we can see that Dr Lane has

21 identified several parts of the window structure.

22 Using this photograph, if you would, could you point

23 out or identify to us where the gaps were that you were

24 able to put your hand into?

25 **A. This is a sitting room window, so it was not the**

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3 (Pages 9 to 12)

<p>1 bedroom, because it was one window, but you had a gap 2 here and a gap here. 3 Q. So at the edges of the -- 4 A. Yeah, because in the bedroom, it had another panel, so 5 it would be here and here (Indicates). 6 Q. The witness is pointing out the edges of the rainscreen 7 where they slope away from the window frame on the 8 exterior below the window. That's right. 9 A. Yes. 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 11 MR MILLETT: You said you could put your hand in. In 12 centimetres terms, could you get your hand in easily or 13 did you have to shove it in? 14 A. No, I got my hand in like this and I pulled the foam 15 out, which was this long and about this thick 16 (Indicates). 17 Q. About a foot long and about 2 inches thick? 18 A. And I pulled it out, I pulled it out. 19 Q. Which was the worse affected window which had these 20 gaps, do you remember? 21 A. I think our bedroom was the worst, but there was gaps 22 throughout the property. But, yeah, in our bedroom was 23 the worst. 24 Q. Okay. I'll come back to what was done about that in 25 a moment, but in your statement you go on to say at the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 Q. Okay. You say "this thick". I can probably try and 2 estimate that in centimetres. 3 A. Yeah, like the gun that they use, and then they got like 4 a sponge and spread it across, but it was all the way 5 around. Unfortunately I don't have no pictures, but it 6 was in a terrible state, the way they left it, but we 7 thought it would help. But it didn't help at all. 8 Q. In what way didn't it help? 9 A. There was still air coming through. 10 Q. Where was the air coming through after -- 11 A. I presume from the same place because they put PVC 12 windowsills in the flat as well, so -- and at the edges 13 there, where they was cut off, I presume it was coming 14 through there. But you could just feel it. You could 15 put your hands on the window and just feel air, and 16 there was meant to be double glazing, but ... 17 Q. Was there any particular part of the window which let 18 air in the most? 19 A. In the lounge, the kitchen window, then the first lounge 20 window, then you have one in the corner, that was really 21 draughty, and if you put your hand near the windowsill, 22 then you could feel a really bad draught. And that was 23 after they filled it with the mastic. 24 Q. Did you go back to the TMO and tell them that even 25 though someone had come to do a repair, it was still</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 bottom of page 4: 2 "When it was windy you could hear the cladding 3 rattle." 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. And then in paragraph 16, you say: 6 "16. We were told that the cladding would keep the 7 temperature and heat in the building when it was cold, 8 and when it was warm it would cool the building." 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Taking those really together, my question is: did you 11 feel air from the outside coming into the flat through 12 these windows? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. First of all, which window was the worse offender? 15 A. Our bedroom. 16 Q. Your bedroom? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Where did the air come through? 19 A. From the sides, from around the whole frame. 20 Q. The whole frame? 21 A. Yes. When we made a complaint to Rydon, two gentlemen 22 came back up with some, like I said, mastic, and they 23 done it all the way around, but it was like this thick 24 (Indicates) all the way around. Then you'd still feel 25 the draught come through.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 letting air in? 2 A. Loads of times. 3 Q. What happened? 4 A. Nothing. We ended up buying a Dyson cold and hot heater 5 to make the sitting room warmer. 6 Q. You describe, as I've just shown you in paragraph 15, 7 that when it was windy you could hear the cladding 8 rattle. 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Is that the cladding on the outside of the building? 11 A. Yes, it was like a tin. 12 Q. Like a tin? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Outside which window? 15 A. Our bedroom window. 16 Q. Outside your bedroom window? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Did you actually see it, did you observe it rattling? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. What was rattling? 21 A. There was a frame at the side that came down and it was 22 just loose. 23 Q. Right. 24 A. When the wind blew, it would just rattle. And 25 especially at nighttime, when there's no other noises,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 you could hear it quite loud.</p> <p>2 Q. Did you take that up with the TMO?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. What happened?</p> <p>5 A. They came back and the gentleman replaced it by, believe</p> <p>6 it or not, bending it on his leg, bending it back into</p> <p>7 shape to make it tighter and replaced it.</p> <p>8 Q. You describe that in your statement at paragraph 15 in</p> <p>9 quite clear terms. You say, three lines down from the</p> <p>10 top of page 5:</p> <p>11 "He then took a loose section of the metal cladding</p> <p>12 off, put it over his knee, bent it to reshape it and</p> <p>13 then put it back onto the building."</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. I have detailed questions about that.</p> <p>16 How did he take this section of cladding off?</p> <p>17 A. It had, like, bends around it. So, for instance, again,</p> <p>18 it had, like, grips around it, and it was loose, that's</p> <p>19 what he said. So he took it off and bent it into shape</p> <p>20 on his knee like that fixed it back on, just like that.</p> <p>21 Just put it back into place like that, and that was it.</p> <p>22 Q. Did it help?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. How easy was it -- did he need tools to take it off?</p> <p>25 A. No, he used his bare hands and bent it with his knee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 inside and even pull it out."</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Did he say anything in response to you?</p> <p>4 A. No. Lynda Prentice did. She asked me why I took it</p> <p>5 out, why I pulled it out.</p> <p>6 Q. She was there with this man, was she?</p> <p>7 A. Yes. She was the one overseeing all the workers. She</p> <p>8 was the one with the white hat. She was the foreman,</p> <p>9 I suppose you can call her.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay. She asked you why you took the foam out, did she?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. What did you say?</p> <p>13 A. Just to show her how easy it was to take it out.</p> <p>14 Q. What did she say?</p> <p>15 A. Nothing. She said not to take it out. It was meant to</p> <p>16 keep the heat in and --</p> <p>17 Q. Did the man who effected the repair you describe say</p> <p>18 anything about the gaps that you pointed out?</p> <p>19 A. No, no.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 At paragraph 16 of your statement, you say in the</p> <p>22 third line:</p> <p>23 "We asked Claire Williams again and again if it was</p> <p>24 safe and we were told that it was."</p> <p>25 First of all, what was safe? The question is: what</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 Q. Could we just go back to BLAR00000003, page 47, and that</p> <p>2 photograph we looked at a minute ago, figure 8.52.</p> <p>3 Is the bit of cladding that the man took off and</p> <p>4 bent over his knee and replaced visible on that</p> <p>5 photograph?</p> <p>6 A. On the top one, no, it's not on there yet.</p> <p>7 Q. Can you tell us by reference to the bottom photograph,</p> <p>8 then, which is 8.53?</p> <p>9 A. Well, it was on the side here, on the side. They put</p> <p>10 a panel on the bedroom window which is not there -- but</p> <p>11 here, there was a panel up here (Indicates).</p> <p>12 Q. I see. So the right-hand side of your bedroom window?</p> <p>13 A. It was on the left-hand side of the bedroom window.</p> <p>14 Q. As you look out, the right-hand side?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, sorry.</p> <p>16 Q. What did he do to secure the cladding, this man -- it</p> <p>17 was a man, was it?</p> <p>18 A. It was a man, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. What did he do to secure the cladding when he replaced</p> <p>20 it?</p> <p>21 A. He just put it back on. It had like bends round the</p> <p>22 back, so he just forced it back on. That was it.</p> <p>23 Q. Then you say, still in paragraph 15:</p> <p>24 "I pointed out to him the gaps in the cladding,</p> <p>25 where it was joined, that you could touch the foam</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 were you asking her was safe?</p> <p>2 A. Our flat.</p> <p>3 Q. Your flat generally?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, generally, because we was going to have gas pipes</p> <p>5 put through the ceiling, through the front door, we was</p> <p>6 going to have a boiler put by the front door, which was</p> <p>7 the only way out, which was gas, so I wanted to know if</p> <p>8 everything was safe.</p> <p>9 Q. So was your question at all related to the cladding?</p> <p>10 A. Everything. The whole job, the whole works.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you specifically ask Claire Williams of the TMO if</p> <p>12 the cladding was safe?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. Going over the page in your statement, to paragraph 21,</p> <p>15 you deal with the question of the front door there and</p> <p>16 you say:</p> <p>17 "21. Rydon installed a new front door just before</p> <p>18 Christmas in 2016. It had a security chain and a</p> <p>19 spyhole; it also had a self closer mechanism. Shortly</p> <p>20 afterwards as I was opening or closing it I heard a</p> <p>21 crack and the weight and chain snapped and fell inside</p> <p>22 the door. After that the door no longer self closed."</p> <p>23 Where was the chain and weight, can you describe</p> <p>24 that for us?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, it was where the hinges are, the top hinge, the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

5 (Pages 17 to 20)

<p>1 bottom hinge, in the middle you had a chain on it. In</p> <p>2 fact, it was my partner that was opening the door, and</p> <p>3 then you heard bang, just an unbelievable noise, and</p> <p>4 then the chain had snapped and gone into the door</p> <p>5 itself.</p> <p>6 Q. Into the door, not the frame?</p> <p>7 A. Into the frame, sorry.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 A. Yes, so that was it. It just snapped, so we just left</p> <p>10 it like that.</p> <p>11 Q. I know you're not an expert on front doors, but where</p> <p>12 was the weight, did you think?</p> <p>13 A. I presumed it was in the door.</p> <p>14 Q. Within the door?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, to pull it. So whatever snapped, it must have</p> <p>16 went -- because afterwards we had a round hole in the</p> <p>17 door like that (Indicates).</p> <p>18 Q. Yes.</p> <p>19 A. The company that done the doors, they was on site</p> <p>20 I think for six weeks or something, so they was gone by</p> <p>21 then.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you report back to the TMO?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Did they send anyone to repair it?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 flat, RS/1. You I think referred in your last answer to</p> <p>2 outside the front door two panels, and where you made</p> <p>3 the other bedroom, you say there was a corner of the</p> <p>4 room cut off.</p> <p>5 A. Yes, these two here.</p> <p>6 Q. Can you point that out?</p> <p>7 A. This would be our flat and this would be our neighbour's</p> <p>8 flat (Indicates).</p> <p>9 Q. I see.</p> <p>10 A. That's where it used to come up from.</p> <p>11 Q. The corner cut off in the third bedroom --</p> <p>12 A. It was blocked off. It was there already, because this</p> <p>13 used to be a cupboard, and we opened up the cupboard, so</p> <p>14 you could hear it more now, but that's where it used to</p> <p>15 be, and on the other side, it would be on the other side</p> <p>16 of the flats on the opposite side.</p> <p>17 Q. Did that cut-off corner run from floor to ceiling?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, all the way up.</p> <p>19 Q. You also referred in that answer to a vent.</p> <p>20 Can I show you a photograph, please.</p> <p>21 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>22 Q. Which is BLA00002513 and BLA00002514.</p> <p>23 Before those go up on the screen, I should just make</p> <p>24 a small warning. This is going to be a photograph of</p> <p>25 the inside of the tower taken after the fire, so are you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 Q. Did you report it again, did you press the point?</p> <p>2 A. No, no, I didn't.</p> <p>3 Q. As at the night of the fire, was the door still in that</p> <p>4 non-self-closing state?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you remember whether there were any gaps around the</p> <p>7 front door?</p> <p>8 A. No, not around the front door.</p> <p>9 Q. Still sticking with page 6 of your first statement,</p> <p>10 Mr Smith, at paragraph 23, you say at the bottom of the</p> <p>11 page:</p> <p>12 "23. We used to hear the dry riser going off all</p> <p>13 the time."</p> <p>14 What do you mean by the dry riser?</p> <p>15 A. Well, there was an extractor fan outside your front</p> <p>16 door, there was two panels, and where we made the other</p> <p>17 bedroom, there was a -- I don't know how to explain</p> <p>18 it -- like a corner of the room cut off, and that's</p> <p>19 where this thing used to go on. It would be like -- it</p> <p>20 would go "Woo". So obviously it's like a smoke</p> <p>21 extractor, I believe. But downstairs where the main</p> <p>22 room was, it said on the door "Dry riser", so that's</p> <p>23 where I got dry riser from.</p> <p>24 Q. Unpicking that a bit, if I can just do that.</p> <p>25 First of all, could you go back to the plan of your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 comfortable that I should show you that?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay. These are photographs we've looking at with many</p> <p>4 other witnesses.</p> <p>5 These are photographs taken from floor 6, Mr Smith,</p> <p>6 so not your floor.</p> <p>7 Can you identify for us the vents that you're</p> <p>8 talking about?</p> <p>9 A. These. These here (Indicates).</p> <p>10 Q. Those.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And that's on the north side of the building?</p> <p>13 A. That would be my flat above.</p> <p>14 Q. Just next to your front door?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Your front door -- so we have this absolutely right --</p> <p>17 is to the left of that?</p> <p>18 A. To the left of that.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 I just want to ask you about the noise that you</p> <p>21 heard. You were describing it as a sort of "whoosh" or</p> <p>22 "woo".</p> <p>23 A. Yes, it was like a "whoosh". It would come gradually</p> <p>24 like they would -- because they would move, they would</p> <p>25 open, these silver things here. They would move, they</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

<p>1 would rotate up and down, so that's when the air would</p> <p>2 come up. But you would hear it in the flat regularly,</p> <p>3 in my eldest daughter's bedroom.</p> <p>4 Q. First of all, when did you first start hearing the</p> <p>5 ventilation shaft making those noises?</p> <p>6 A. Mostly after the refurbishment, after we done the</p> <p>7 bedroom, because there was no cupboard door to, you</p> <p>8 know -- before, it was a cupboard, our coats was in</p> <p>9 there, so maybe that might have just dampened the noise,</p> <p>10 but I heard it quite regular when we done the bedroom.</p> <p>11 Often as well.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you ever hear it when you were standing in the</p> <p>13 lobby, the communal lobby?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. When you did hear it operating in the communicate lobby,</p> <p>16 how loud was it?</p> <p>17 A. Just like a whirling noise, just "woo", just like that.</p> <p>18 Q. Can you compare it with a vacuum cleaner, louder or</p> <p>19 softer or the same?</p> <p>20 A. A vacuum cleaner, about the same.</p> <p>21 Q. About the same as a vacuum cleaner?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. How often would the ventilation system go on and work in</p> <p>24 that way?</p> <p>25 A. After the refurbishment, I heard it at least seven or</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 A. From the grilles, the same grilles here. When it used</p> <p>2 to open, you could feel air coming through.</p> <p>3 Q. Would it come in, the air?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. With how much force?</p> <p>6 A. Not much, just like a draught.</p> <p>7 Q. A draught?</p> <p>8 A. Mm.</p> <p>9 Q. When the vents were operating, do you remember whether</p> <p>10 anything else happened at the same time, mechanical?</p> <p>11 A. No, just that.</p> <p>12 Q. You didn't notice what happened with the lifts?</p> <p>13 A. No, no. If I was going to work and it would come on,</p> <p>14 the lifts would still be working, it wouldn't be out of</p> <p>15 service.</p> <p>16 A couple of times -- I forgot to add -- I came home</p> <p>17 from work and downstairs there was gentlemen in that</p> <p>18 room that said "Dry riser" working in there, so I don't</p> <p>19 know what they was doing to it. Because on the night of</p> <p>20 the fire I actually listened for it to come on while we</p> <p>21 made the phone call to the Fire Brigade. I actually</p> <p>22 listened to it thinking that's going to help a bit, but</p> <p>23 it didn't come on.</p> <p>24 Q. Didn't come on?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 eight times go off.</p> <p>2 Q. Was there anything that you recall which triggered it or</p> <p>3 any conditions which you could associate with it</p> <p>4 working?</p> <p>5 A. No, I assumed because there was people still in and out</p> <p>6 of the tower doing bits of work, they might have been</p> <p>7 testing it or -- sometimes of a nighttime I thought it</p> <p>8 was faulty. But then we just started to live with it.</p> <p>9 I thought that's how it worked, I thought that's what</p> <p>10 it's meant to do.</p> <p>11 Q. How long before the night of the fire do you remember</p> <p>12 hearing the ventilation system working?</p> <p>13 A. A couple of weeks.</p> <p>14 Q. You referred a minute ago to something moving on the</p> <p>15 outside of the vents when you were in the communal</p> <p>16 lobby.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you actually watch them or see them move?</p> <p>19 A. Yes. When I heard the noise, I went right up to the</p> <p>20 grill and looked through, yes, I did, to see what it</p> <p>21 was.</p> <p>22 Q. When it did operate in that way in the communal lobby,</p> <p>23 did you feel any movement of air?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Where was that coming from?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 Q. We'll come to the night of the fire and what you have</p> <p>2 just said in a moment.</p> <p>3 Did you notice any other effect when it was on?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Such as with your hot water?</p> <p>6 A. No. There was a lot of time we lost heating and hot</p> <p>7 water.</p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 A. But that was just -- I didn't put it down to that.</p> <p>10 Q. You didn't put it down to that?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>13 While we're still on this photograph, I asked you</p> <p>14 about the photograph on the left, which is looking to</p> <p>15 the north of the communal lobby.</p> <p>16 Looking at the second photograph, we can see similar</p> <p>17 vents towards the floor level at the south of the lobby.</p> <p>18 Did you ever hear the noise coming out of those?</p> <p>19 A. I didn't look, to be honest, just my ones, just mine and</p> <p>20 my neighbours.</p> <p>21 Q. What about air coming out, the same?</p> <p>22 A. I didn't notice. I presume they was the same.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay. Did you ever notice the flaps on those moving?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. I just want to ask you a few questions about your</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 awareness of what you should do in the event of a fire</p> <p>2 before the events of 14 June.</p> <p>3 First, can I ask that the witness please be shown</p> <p>4 INQ00000093.</p> <p>5 This is a photograph of a notice. Have you ever</p> <p>6 seen this before?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Where have you seen this before?</p> <p>9 A. Next to the lift on the wall.</p> <p>10 Q. How long before the fire was this notice by the lifts on</p> <p>11 the wall?</p> <p>12 A. I'm not 100 per cent sure, to be honest. I've never</p> <p>13 really noticed it before. Like in the previous picture</p> <p>14 I was going to ask as well, I saw a red thing next to</p> <p>15 the lift which looked like a fire extinguisher. Is that</p> <p>16 what that was? Because we never had that on our floor.</p> <p>17 Q. No, I am not sure I am able to answer your question</p> <p>18 about that either.</p> <p>19 A. Mm. But, yeah, I did see that, I did see that on the</p> <p>20 wall, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. You moved into Grenfell in 2009.</p> <p>22 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>23 Q. Was that notice there at that time?</p> <p>24 A. I can't be sure.</p> <p>25 Q. Anywhere in building?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 A. Stay indoors.</p> <p>2 Q. Stay indoors?</p> <p>3 A. Mm. Keep windows closed.</p> <p>4 Q. Apart from this notice and what you described about your</p> <p>5 discussion with Tony, did you ever get any information</p> <p>6 from any organisation or any individual about what to do</p> <p>7 in the event of a fire anywhere in the block?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Can I just ask you, did you understand as at the night</p> <p>10 of the fire that there was a general alarm in the block</p> <p>11 that would go off if there was a fire in the block?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. That wasn't your understanding?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Mr Smith, I'm now going to turn to the events of 13 and</p> <p>16 14 June 2017.</p> <p>17 On the evening of 13 June, I think you were at home</p> <p>18 with your two daughters.</p> <p>19 A. Correct.</p> <p>20 Q. I think your partner was out at work.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Let me summarise your evidence in your statement, if</p> <p>23 I can, and tell me if this is wrong, but you had</p> <p>24 an ordinary evening at home with your daughters and with</p> <p>25 Jessica Urbano, who was a friend of one of your</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 A. I can't be sure. No, I can't be sure.</p> <p>2 Q. Did you see this notice anywhere else in the building</p> <p>3 other than by the lifts on your floor?</p> <p>4 A. Just on my lift. You know, when you're waiting for the</p> <p>5 lifts, you see things in front of you. That's all</p> <p>6 I saw, yes.</p> <p>7 Q. There's a lot of detailed instruction in that.</p> <p>8 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>9 Q. Just turning away from it -- well, first question</p> <p>10 is: did you ever read it?</p> <p>11 A. I saw some of it, I read some of it. But I didn't</p> <p>12 really -- we was always told by previous -- there was</p> <p>13 a gentleman called Tony there before and there was</p> <p>14 a fire on the 6th floor, some dustbin bags were set on</p> <p>15 fire, and Tony said any fires in there, they're all</p> <p>16 self-contained flats. He said it's all solid concrete</p> <p>17 so, you know, once you're in there, you're in there. So</p> <p>18 I just presumed we were safe in there. I didn't really</p> <p>19 take much notice of that, no.</p> <p>20 I just knew you don't use a lift in the event of</p> <p>21 fire. I knew that.</p> <p>22 Q. So in general terms, if you could encapsulate your</p> <p>23 understanding of what to do in the event of a fire in</p> <p>24 the block very simply, what was it as at the night of</p> <p>25 the fire?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 daughters.</p> <p>2 A. [Redacted]'s friend, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. And Jessica went home, I think.</p> <p>4 A. They used to go to the gym together every night,</p> <p>5 [Redacted] and Jessica, yes, so she used to come up and</p> <p>6 go upstairs.</p> <p>7 Q. You I think went to bed after about 9.00 pm?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. When you went to bed, do you remember, were the windows</p> <p>10 in the flat open or closed?</p> <p>11 A. Closed.</p> <p>12 Q. Were they all closed?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Why was that?</p> <p>15 A. Just something I used to do, just close the windows,</p> <p>16 because especially from the kitchen, you had the A40, so</p> <p>17 you'd the cars, "woo, woo", like that kind of noise.</p> <p>18 Just something we done.</p> <p>19 Q. I think your partner returned home from work after you'd</p> <p>20 all gone to sleep; is that right?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Then you say in your statement she came to bed at about</p> <p>23 00.15.</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. That's paragraph 30 of your statement. We don't need to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 look at it.</p> <p>2 Apart from your daughters and your partner, was</p> <p>3 there anybody else in the flat after that time?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. You set out in your statement that the first time you</p> <p>6 noticed any signs of smoke or fire that night was when</p> <p>7 you woke up about 01.10 and you got up to go to the</p> <p>8 toilet?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. You say that at paragraph 31.</p> <p>11 You say:</p> <p>12 "I checked my phone and that is why I know what time</p> <p>13 it was."</p> <p>14 You say also, same paragraph, that you noticed</p> <p>15 a funny smell like burning plastic but quite faint.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you first notice the smell -- sorry to ask you</p> <p>18 this -- when you got up out of bed or when you were in</p> <p>19 the toilet?</p> <p>20 A. No, when I sat up. When I got out of bed, I sat on the</p> <p>21 edge of the bed first because I had just woken up, and</p> <p>22 straight away I smelt something funny. So I went to the</p> <p>23 toilet, used the toilet, went to the bathroom, washed my</p> <p>24 hands and smelt it faintly in the hallway, so I checked</p> <p>25 around. Every night when I used to go to the loo anyway</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 Q. Right.</p> <p>2 A. So at that stage I thought -- my first thought was it</p> <p>3 was the TV, I thought it was our TV, because that's the</p> <p>4 only electronic thing in the bedroom, so I presumed, as</p> <p>5 it was stronger in our room, it was that.</p> <p>6 Q. So it was stronger in your bedroom than in the hall?</p> <p>7 A. I'm talking about the hall outside the front door it was</p> <p>8 strong, but in our hallway it wasn't as strong as in our</p> <p>9 bedroom.</p> <p>10 Q. I follow.</p> <p>11 A. Yes, the communal hall.</p> <p>12 Q. So you get up again because the smell of the smoke is</p> <p>13 stronger.</p> <p>14 A. I just laid back down and I was sniffing and</p> <p>15 I thought: it's getting stronger. So I looked at the TV</p> <p>16 and I thought: it's got to be the TV. So I got back up</p> <p>17 and I put the light on, and it was like nothing much had</p> <p>18 changed, and then Kasia said, my partner said, "Get the</p> <p>19 girls", and I said to her, "Call the Fire Brigade". At</p> <p>20 this stage, I still thought it was our flat on fire, and</p> <p>21 that's when I opened the front door.</p> <p>22 Q. You say in the same paragraph you put the light on and</p> <p>23 you had three down-lighters --</p> <p>24 A. Three spotlights, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. -- in your bedroom, and you say in the second and third</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 I used to check my daughters, make sure they're okay,</p> <p>2 and then I went back to bed, and I said to my partner --</p> <p>3 I said can she smell it.</p> <p>4 Q. You first noticed the smell. You say it was faint.</p> <p>5 What was it a smell of?</p> <p>6 A. Just like plastic.</p> <p>7 Q. Plastic?</p> <p>8 A. Mm.</p> <p>9 Q. Burning plastic?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you turn any lights on?</p> <p>12 A. At one stage I did, yeah, because it started to get</p> <p>13 stronger in our bedroom, so I presumed it was in our</p> <p>14 flat. I thought it was our flat that was on fire.</p> <p>15 Q. Just taking it a little bit more in stages, you describe</p> <p>16 the smell and the smell being stronger in the hall. You</p> <p>17 checked the oven and then checked the girls.</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Then you say you went back to bed.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. At paragraph 32, you say:</p> <p>22 "32. I got up again and I put the light on in the</p> <p>23 bedroom."</p> <p>24 What made you get up again?</p> <p>25 A. Because it got stronger in our room.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 line you thought a bulb had gone but very quickly</p> <p>2 realised the room was full of smoke. It was like a fog</p> <p>3 or mist.</p> <p>4 Did it have the same smell --</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. -- as you just described?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, but that's why I thought it was in our flat because</p> <p>8 then, like I say, once I put the light on, I thought</p> <p>9 it's got to be in our flat because the smoke was in our</p> <p>10 room, so I thought it's our flat that's on fire.</p> <p>11 Q. Yes. You say you could just see the lights through the</p> <p>12 smoke.</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. You describe the smoke. How far away from the lights</p> <p>15 were you?</p> <p>16 A. I was by the bedroom door, so from here to say that</p> <p>17 screen, the big screen behind the judge (Indicates).</p> <p>18 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>19 You say in your statement at paragraph 32, three</p> <p>20 lines up from the end of that paragraph, "This was</p> <p>21 around 1.20 a.m", which would be 10 minutes after you</p> <p>22 first woke up.</p> <p>23 A. Yes. I'm assuming the time because I know I woke up at</p> <p>24 01.10, so I'm assuming it was around that time.</p> <p>25 Q. I was going to ask, how did you know it was 01.20?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

1 **A. Oh, I just assumed. I'm just going on the time I woke**
 2 **up. I know for a fact I woke up at 01.10, but the rest**
 3 **is just -- obviously things slow down in events like**
 4 **this, but in my mind I was thinking, like, minutes had**
 5 **passed. I assumed it was like 01.20. Like even on one**
 6 **of my calls to the Fire Brigade, it was totally the**
 7 **wrong time I presumed. You know, you don't think at the**
 8 **time in things like this, do you?**
 9 Q. I understand that entirely.
 10 So you're in your bedroom and there is this smoke or
 11 fog and mist-like smoke.
 12 **A. Mm-hm.**
 13 Q. Could you see where it was coming from?
 14 **A. No.**
 15 Q. Could you see any signs of fire at that stage?
 16 **A. No, no.**
 17 Q. Was the bedroom window in your bedroom still closed?
 18 **A. Yes. And we had perfect fit blinds, the ones that pull**
 19 **down, blackout blinds, so it was all closed.**
 20 Q. Did you go and check any of the other rooms?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. Which rooms did you check?
 23 **A. Kitchen and my daughters' bedrooms.**
 24 Q. Was there smoke in those rooms?
 25 **A. Not as much as -- a little, faint, but not as much as in**

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1 **our bedroom, that's why I presumed the main fire was in**
 2 **our bedroom, and that's why my partner said, "Get the**
 3 **girls, call the Fire Brigade", and we was going to exit**
 4 **the flat, until you open the front door and then realise**
 5 **it wasn't my flat, because the corridor, the landing**
 6 **outside, was full of smoke.**
 7 Q. Did you get a chance to look at the front door at that
 8 stage?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Did you see any signs of smoke coming from the front
 11 door?
 12 **A. No.**
 13 Q. At paragraph 36 on page 9 of your first statement you
 14 say:
 15 "36. We could hear our neighbour at flat 96,
 16 Mrs Lewis, screaming out that there was a fire in her
 17 kitchen ..."
 18 **A. Correct.**
 19 Q. "... that it was on fire."
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Could you actually hear her say --
 22 **A. I could hear her screaming. She ran outside and**
 23 **I opened the front door.**
 24 Q. So she opened her front door?
 25 **A. She opened her front door. We could hear the screaming**

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1 **I think at the time my partner was on the phone to the**
 2 **Fire Brigade, and we could hear her screaming that her**
 3 **flat was on fire. So I was going to tell her to come**
 4 **into my flat, because I thought at that stage maybe**
 5 **that's where the fire must have been coming from,**
 6 **because she's my next-door neighbour.**
 7 **So now I realised it wasn't my flat on fire. The**
 8 **landing was full of smoke outside and she started --**
 9 **I put two and two together and came up with five because**
 10 **I thought it was her flat.**
 11 Q. Where were you when you first heard her screaming?
 12 **A. I was in the hallway.**
 13 Q. So you heard her through your front door?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. Did you look out of the front door at that point?
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Through the spyhole?
 18 **A. No, I opened it.**
 19 Q. What were the smoke conditions like?
 20 **A. Darker grey.**
 21 Q. A darker grey?
 22 **A. Yes, than it was previously.**
 23 Q. Than it was previously when you'd seen it when?
 24 **A. The first time. When I first opened it the first time,**
 25 **it was like grey fog like in my bedroom, but a little**

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1 **bit darker. But when I opened it again, it was**
 2 **gradually -- it just got darker and darker.**
 3 Q. Okay. I will try and take this a little bit more in
 4 stages.
 5 How long after you got up the second time -- as you
 6 describe how you got up the first time at 01.10 and got
 7 up the second time and turned the lights on and saw the
 8 smoke -- did you first hear Mrs Lewis screaming?
 9 **A. Well, I thought it was like 20 minutes later, that's**
 10 **what I presumed, but I later found out it was 50 minutes**
 11 **later.**
 12 Q. When was the first time that you opened the front door
 13 into the communal lobby?
 14 **A. I thought it was 01.20 when I thought it was our flat**
 15 **and I thought we've got to get out. Because the**
 16 **stay-put advice was if it's anywhere else, you stay put,**
 17 **but I presumed it was in my flat, so we was going to**
 18 **leave. But then I realised it wasn't because the smoke**
 19 **wouldn't be more out in the communal part than it would**
 20 **be in our flat, because our hallway and the girls' room**
 21 **was not as full of smoke as our bedroom and the communal**
 22 **hallway.**
 23 Q. I see.
 24 **A. So I knew it wasn't our flat then. Then obviously when**
 25 **I heard Mrs Lewis, like I said, I thought it must be her**

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10 (Pages 37 to 40)

<p>1 flat because she's our neighbour.</p> <p>2 Q. Did you open the front door for the first time before</p> <p>3 you heard Mrs Lewis?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. I see.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. So when you heard Mrs Lewis, you then opened the front</p> <p>8 door a second time?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Roughly how long between those two door openings do you</p> <p>11 think elapsed?</p> <p>12 A. Like I said, I thought it was like 10 minutes, but</p> <p>13 it's -- I opened the first one probably -- I thought it</p> <p>14 was 01.20, but like I said, I can't remember the exact</p> <p>15 time. I thought that's about when we was going to</p> <p>16 leave. But I now know that Mrs Lewis left her flat at</p> <p>17 01.50.</p> <p>18 Q. You refer to a call to 999 that your partner made.</p> <p>19 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>20 Q. Can I just show you that. It's LFB00000309. I just</p> <p>21 want to have that on the screen.</p> <p>22 You also say in your statement, just to put this in</p> <p>23 some context, at paragraph 35, you say:</p> <p>24 "35. Kasia said 'Get the girls, I will call the</p> <p>25 fire brigade.'"</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 Q. That was your partner?</p> <p>2 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>3 Q. Then there's a discussion about Lancaster West, "yeah,</p> <p>4 we're already on our way".</p> <p>5 Then:</p> <p>6 "CALLER: Yes, but I need to know — I've got a</p> <p>7 (inaudible) because I heard that it's the floors below</p> <p>8 (inaudible) next door. My neighbour she's saying the</p> <p>9 fire in her kitchen already. I have two kids, we really</p> <p>10 don't know what to do."</p> <p>11 Was that you or your partner, do you think?</p> <p>12 A. That was my partner.</p> <p>13 Q. And then at the bottom of the page, question:</p> <p>14 "OPERATOR: Yeah. Have you got any smoke coming into</p> <p>15 your property?</p> <p>16 "CALLER: Yes, it's coming through the floor — from</p> <p>17 our main door because it's outside."</p> <p>18 Do you remember, was this call which your partner</p> <p>19 made before or after you looked into the communal</p> <p>20 landing for the first time?</p> <p>21 A. After.</p> <p>22 Q. After?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. It looks as if your partner knows by this stage that</p> <p>25 your neighbour, Mrs Lewis, is saying that there is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 So your partner said that:</p> <p>2 "Kasia rang the fire brigade (using our landline)</p> <p>3 and I went to wake the girls."</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Your partner passed the phone to you and you took over.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. That's how it worked?</p> <p>8 A. I believe -- yeah.</p> <p>9 Q. If I can then show you the transcript, you can see from</p> <p>10 the number to the left of the last number on the right</p> <p>11 it says 012658. That's the time of the call at</p> <p>12 01.26.58.</p> <p>13 A. Okay.</p> <p>14 Q. So your partner makes the call. How long is she on the</p> <p>15 phone for before she hands the phone to you, do you</p> <p>16 think?</p> <p>17 A. I'm not sure. I'm not sure.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay, let's just go through the transcript a little bit.</p> <p>19 Page 2, a third of the way down:</p> <p>20 "CALLER: We do having the fire in the building,</p> <p>21 we're living on the 12th floor. Can you please give me</p> <p>22 advice what shall we do because we can see the fire</p> <p>23 coming through the window."</p> <p>24 Do you think that was you or your partner?</p> <p>25 A. No, that was my partner.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 a fire in her kitchen already.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. So can you help us time that. Does that mean that you'd</p> <p>4 been out into the lobby the second time and seen her?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, it probably was. If you check the time of the Fire</p> <p>6 Brigade call -- because the first time I opened the</p> <p>7 door, like I said, there was smoke, so obviously some</p> <p>8 smoke must have come into our property. That's how</p> <p>9 I knew we couldn't leave.</p> <p>10 Then when the neighbour screamed, I think I might</p> <p>11 have took the phone from my partner then.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. So I'm just trying to time it because we know</p> <p>13 this call is at 01.26.58, it looks from this as if you</p> <p>14 or your partner know that your neighbour is saying the</p> <p>15 fire is in her kitchen already at that stage.</p> <p>16 A. So that must be the stage, because I know she exited the</p> <p>17 building at 01.50, so --</p> <p>18 Q. Just getting your recollection, do you think you heard</p> <p>19 Mrs Lewis screaming that the fire is in her kitchen</p> <p>20 before your partner made this call or ...?</p> <p>21 A. No, I think it was while she was on the phone.</p> <p>22 Q. While she was on the phone?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 You say also that the smoke was coming through the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p>

1 front door. At this stage, was it coming through the
 2 closed front door or was it coming through because the
 3 door had been opened?
 4 **A. Probably because it had been opened, because there was**
 5 **no smoke coming in while it was closed, no.**
 6 Q. When you closed the door again, it stayed outside, did
 7 it?
 8 **A. That's why I was told to put towels there, yes.**
 9 Q. When you looked into the communal landing -- I'll take
 10 it's two looks in order -- the first time, when you
 11 looked --
 12 **A. Mm-hm.**
 13 Q. -- did you open the door or did you look through the
 14 spyhole?
 15 **A. No, I opened the front door.**
 16 Q. Could you describe the conditions in the communal lobby
 17 at that stage?
 18 **A. Yes, it was smoky.**
 19 Q. Smoky?
 20 **A. Yeah, but not as dark as it got gradually. I'd say it**
 21 **was the same colour as our bedroom at that stage, the**
 22 **first time.**
 23 Q. Did you notice where the smoke was coming from?
 24 **A. No.**
 25 Q. Was it moving or was it static?

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1 **A. It was moving.**
 2 Q. It was moving?
 3 **A. Yes.**
 4 Q. Which direction was it moving in?
 5 **A. Just swirling.**
 6 Q. I think you said earlier you didn't notice that the air
 7 vents were working at that stage.
 8 **A. No. Like I say, I actively listened for them because**
 9 **I thought that would draw the smoke and then we could**
 10 **leave.**
 11 Q. Could you hear any particular noises or sounds at that
 12 stage, that first door-opening?
 13 **A. No.**
 14 Q. Turning to the second door-opening, what was the smoke
 15 then like?
 16 **A. It was dark.**
 17 Q. Dark.
 18 **A. Mm.**
 19 Q. When you say dark, I mean --
 20 **A. It was --**
 21 Q. Can you give it a colour or tone?
 22 **A. Yeah, it was like the floor.**
 23 Q. Right.
 24 **A. Grey like that.**
 25 Q. Could you smell it?

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. What did it smell like?
 3 **A. Still like plastic.**
 4 Q. Did it have any physical effect on you?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. What?
 7 **A. Took my breath away, it made you choke.**
 8 Q. Made you choke?
 9 **A. Mm.**
 10 Q. What about your eyes?
 11 **A. No, my eyes were fine. We just got towels after that,**
 12 **wet towels, and breathed through them.**
 13 Q. If you look back at your statement, at paragraph 38, you
 14 say:
 15 "38. As far as I can remember, the first time I
 16 opened the front door there was the Thai lady from Flat
 17 91 on the landing. She said the fire was on the fourth
 18 floor. She had already pressed the lift button. I said
 19 'Don't go in the lift.' But then the lift pinged, and
 20 the doors opened and she got in the lift."
 21 **A. Mm-hm.**
 22 Q. Did you see anybody else other than the Thai lady?
 23 **A. No, I saw her briefly and she said it was on the**
 24 **4th floor, but I assumed it was on our landing.**
 25 Q. She's given a witness statement to the inquiry and she

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1 said that there was no smoke in the lobby at that time.
 2 Can you comment on that?
 3 **A. No. Well, I saw smoke. I don't know how she missed it.**
 4 **I'm not going to say she's lying, but I saw smoke.**
 5 Q. You say that she told you there was a fire on the
 6 4th floor.
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. Did she tell you how she knew that?
 9 **A. No, no.**
 10 Q. Do you remember if both lifts were working?
 11 **A. I didn't look. I just heard the lift door and she just**
 12 **disappeared.**
 13 Q. Okay.
 14 **A. I didn't see her again until three months later in**
 15 **St Clement's Church, I saw her in there.**
 16 Q. When she got into the lift, do you remember seeing
 17 anybody else in the lift?
 18 **A. No, I closed the front door. I didn't go out.**
 19 Q. You didn't go out?
 20 **A. I closed the front door back.**
 21 Q. Where were you standing when you saw the lady from
 22 flat 91?
 23 **A. By my front door.**
 24 Q. By your front door?
 25 **A. Yes. I opened the door and I stepped out a bit to see,**

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12 (Pages 45 to 48)

<p>1 because I didn't want to go into the smoke.</p> <p>2 Q. Could you see her quite clearly getting into the lift?</p> <p>3 A. No, not clearly.</p> <p>4 Q. I know your flat door is next to flat 96, Mrs Lewis's</p> <p>5 flat.</p> <p>6 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>7 Q. When you came out and saw the neighbour from 91 going</p> <p>8 into the lift, do you remember whether Mrs Lewis's flat</p> <p>9 front door was open or not?</p> <p>10 A. I don't know.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you see it or --</p> <p>12 A. No, I didn't look, no, no.</p> <p>13 Q. In your statement at paragraph 45, just moving ahead</p> <p>14 a bit, you say at page 10:</p> <p>15 "45. Later that night I heard my neighbour on my</p> <p>16 floor, Mrs Lewis screaming that her flat was on fire."</p> <p>17 First of all, that's the same occasion that you</p> <p>18 heard her screaming that her flat was on fire?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. It's not a separate occasion?</p> <p>21 A. No, no, she screamed that her kitchen flat was on fire,</p> <p>22 and she said, "My flat's on fire, my flat's on fire".</p> <p>23 Q. The reason I ask that question is because in the</p> <p>24 paragraphs before that, 41 and 43, you covered the later</p> <p>25 999 calls at 01.38 and 01.44. So I was just making sure</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, I saw her. Because when she screamed her flat was</p> <p>2 on fire, I opened the front door again. I opened my</p> <p>3 flat door on numerous occasions, as you can see from my</p> <p>4 statement.</p> <p>5 Q. How many times do you think you opened your front door</p> <p>6 to look out into the communal lobby before you saw her</p> <p>7 leave her flat?</p> <p>8 A. Twice.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you remember whether you saw her leave her flat</p> <p>10 before or after you saw the Thai lady from flat 91?</p> <p>11 A. After.</p> <p>12 Q. After?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Do you remember how long after, even roughly?</p> <p>15 A. 10 minutes, 15 minutes. She ran out, she ran.</p> <p>16 Q. When Mrs Lewis ran from her flat, did you actually see</p> <p>17 her moving out from her flat?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, I shouted, "Come in here, come in here".</p> <p>19 Q. Where did she go?</p> <p>20 A. Towards the lift. That's all I know, because by this</p> <p>21 time it was dark grey. She just disappeared. And then</p> <p>22 my partner, we thought -- later stage we had to find out</p> <p>23 she was alive, because she just disappeared. So we</p> <p>24 thought, you know ...</p> <p>25 Q. Did you see her go into the lift or into the stairs?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 that there was no further or later --</p> <p>2 A. No, no, no.</p> <p>3 Q. -- episode --</p> <p>4 A. She ran out after that.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. That's clear.</p> <p>6 You say at paragraph 45, in the second line:</p> <p>7 "At about 1.50am I saw her run to get into the lift</p> <p>8 and that was at about 1.50 a.m."</p> <p>9 That's what you say in your first statement. In</p> <p>10 your second statement you say that you've noted that her</p> <p>11 CCTV exit time was 1.28 am.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. You say that at paragraph 4 of your second statement.</p> <p>14 Tying those two together, trying to work out the</p> <p>15 order of events, are you sure that you saw Mrs Lewis --</p> <p>16 A. 100 per cent.</p> <p>17 Q. -- going to the lift at 01.50?</p> <p>18 A. I'm not sure of the time. I presumed it was because the</p> <p>19 time we was in there and the time was going -- things</p> <p>20 was moving and it just seemed forever. So I assumed it</p> <p>21 was at that time.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you --</p> <p>23 A. I've now found out she left at 01.50 out the building,</p> <p>24 so it could've been 01.45 maybe then.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you actually see Mrs Lewis leaving her flat?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 A. I saw her going towards the lift entrance and that was</p> <p>2 it, I didn't see her again.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you notice whether when she left her flat, her flat</p> <p>4 front door was open or closed?</p> <p>5 A. I don't know. I didn't. Like I said, I was scared, you</p> <p>6 know. I closed the door. I was just hoping someone was</p> <p>7 going to come and put the fire out and say everyone's</p> <p>8 going to be all right. At no stage did I know that</p> <p>9 anywhere else was on fire until my partner said to me</p> <p>10 it's spreading up the building. At that time I was</p> <p>11 concerned about getting my partner and my children out.</p> <p>12 So first of all I thought it was my flat, then</p> <p>13 I realised it wasn't. Then I thought it was 96, but</p> <p>14 then the lady said it was the 4th floor, and I thought:</p> <p>15 how can it be the 4th floor with the smoke up here?</p> <p>16 Everything was going through my mind at the same time,</p> <p>17 but I know we're on the 12th floor and I just want to</p> <p>18 get us all out to safety. So that's why my times are</p> <p>19 out. It just seemed forever. It just seemed forever in</p> <p>20 there.</p> <p>21 Q. No, I understand that.</p> <p>22 At the time when Mrs Lewis left her flat, can you</p> <p>23 tell us again what the conditions in the communal lobby</p> <p>24 were like?</p> <p>25 A. It was like this, dark grey.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 Q. The same as before?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. We've seen the first call to 999 at 01.26, which is the</p> <p>4 one made by your partner and then you took over. We've</p> <p>5 seen the transcript or some of the transcript of that</p> <p>6 call. If we can just go back to that. It's</p> <p>7 LFB00000309, if we can just have that on the screen.</p> <p>8 At the bottom of page 3, the caller says:</p> <p>9 "CALLER: It's it [sic] the normal the towels or the</p> <p>10 wet towels?"</p> <p>11 Was that you asking that question, do you think?</p> <p>12 A. No, it's not me.</p> <p>13 Q. Then onto page 4, the question is repeated, and the</p> <p>14 operator says:</p> <p>15 "OPERATOR: It doesn't say. It's at flat 16 in the</p> <p>16 Grenfell Towers.</p> <p>17 "CALLER: No, no, no, we're on the floor 12th, 12th.</p> <p>18 "OPERATOR: Yeah, but I'm telling you — listen, I'm</p> <p>19 just telling you where the actual fire is, okay, so it's</p> <p>20 flat 16.</p> <p>21 "CALLER: It's (inaudible) 16 but it already came to</p> <p>22 12th. She's saying that — she's telling that she was</p> <p>23 shouting that she's having the fire in the kitchen —</p> <p>24 "OPERATOR: Yeah, that's right and the fire brigade</p> <p>25 are on the scene, okay?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 about your evidence while you're out of the room.</p> <p>2 If you go with the usher, she'll look after you, and</p> <p>3 we'll resume at 11.15. Is that all right?</p> <p>4 MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>6 Right, 11.15, then, please.</p> <p>7 (11.05 am)</p> <p>8 (A short break)</p> <p>9 (11.15 am)</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Smith. Are you happy</p> <p>11 to carry on?</p> <p>12 MALE SPEAKER: Yes, I am.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>14 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>15 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Smith, thank you very much for coming</p> <p>16 back to us.</p> <p>17 Where we left off was that there were three further</p> <p>18 phone calls to 999 that were made from your flat,</p> <p>19 I think by you. Is that right? You made the three</p> <p>20 calls?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Just for the timings, so you have them in your head, the</p> <p>23 first one is at 01.38.37, which lasted for a minute and</p> <p>24 19 seconds, so 01.38; the second one at 01.44.33, which</p> <p>25 lasted for just a bit over three-and-a-half minutes, so</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 "CALLER: Okay.</p> <p>2 "OPERATOR: Okay, all right then. Thank you ..."</p> <p>3 The call then ends.</p> <p>4 Do you remember yourself telling the operator that</p> <p>5 the fire was on the 12th floor?</p> <p>6 A. 96, yes, but I'm not sure in this call.</p> <p>7 Q. Right. Was it possible that the entirety of this call</p> <p>8 was your partner?</p> <p>9 A. That's possible, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Did your partner tell you about what had happened on the</p> <p>11 call?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: After this call we know there are three further</p> <p>14 999 calls.</p> <p>15 Mr Chairman, I think we've been going for just about</p> <p>16 an hour now. It may be an appropriate moment to take</p> <p>17 a break.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I was going to ask you whether you</p> <p>19 have reached a convenient point. Have you?</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: Yes, that is convenient.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.</p> <p>22 Well, it's usually good for everyone to take a short</p> <p>23 break after about an hour or so, so we're going to stop</p> <p>24 now for 10 minutes or so.</p> <p>25 I'm going to ask you, please, not to talk to anyone</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 that's 01.44; then the last one at 01.54, which was</p> <p>2 a very long one. Do you remember that?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Which lasted 40 minutes and 50 seconds.</p> <p>5 You are finally recorded on the CCTV as leaving the</p> <p>6 building at 02.42 with your family.</p> <p>7 That's the time frame we're looking at.</p> <p>8 I want to ask you, first of all, some questions</p> <p>9 about the time you spent within the flat before you</p> <p>10 left.</p> <p>11 Looking at the floor plan, if we can, which is the</p> <p>12 exhibit to your statement, IWS00000932, if we can just</p> <p>13 have that back up on the screen, page 2, the plan</p> <p>14 appears there.</p> <p>15 Whereabouts did you spend most of the time in your</p> <p>16 flat after your partner had made the first of the 999</p> <p>17 calls?</p> <p>18 A. Here, and here, this space here (Indicates).</p> <p>19 Q. The kitchen and the lounge?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, that's where my family was based all of the time,</p> <p>21 but I would be from this window up and down the hallway</p> <p>22 to the front door.</p> <p>23 Q. Before you made your first call, but your family's</p> <p>24 second call, if you like, to 999, which we timed at</p> <p>25 01.38.37, can you remember what the conditions were like</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

1 within your flat at that time?
 2 **A. Yes, just darker grey, just smoke again. Just more**
 3 **smoke.**
 4 Q. More smoke?
 5 **A. Mm-hm. The sitting room started to get a bit smoky now**
 6 **because I closed the door in the bedroom when we left.**
 7 Q. Where were you, do you remember, when you made your 999
 8 call, the one at 01.38?
 9 **A. I was in the kitchen.**
 10 Q. Did you look out of the window?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. What could you see?
 13 **A. Loads of people down at the bottom of the tower.**
 14 Q. Could you see any signs of smoke?
 15 **A. No.**
 16 Q. Could you see any flames?
 17 **A. No, not at that time, no.**
 18 Q. Could you work out where the smoke in your flat was
 19 coming from at that stage?
 20 **A. My bedroom. That's why I closed the door.**
 21 **I presumed -- that was the most smoke, coming from**
 22 **there.**
 23 Q. At the time you made that 999 call, was the smoke worse
 24 in your bedroom than it had been when you first --
 25 **A. I'm not sure because I closed the door. I didn't go**

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1 **back in.**
 2 Q. Can I take you to the transcript of your 999 call at
 3 01.38.37, first of all, which is LFB00000318.
 4 I don't want to take you through it all, but you say
 5 at the beginning, top of page 2:
 6 "CALLER: Hello, love. There's a fire in Grenfell
 7 Tower, but it's spreading. I don't know what to do. Do
 8 we stay put? It's on our floor now.
 9 "OPERATOR: Are you -- what floor are you on?
 10 "CALLER: We're on the 12th.
 11 "OPERATOR: You're on the 12th? Okay.
 12 "CALLER: It's come through the next-door kitchen
 13 now.
 14 "OPERATOR: Okay. Well, I -- you're -- it's in the
 15 next-door kitchen?
 16 "CALLER: Yeah.
 17 "OPERATOR: Right. Well, can you get to some fresh
 18 air?
 19 "CALLER: No, because it's started on the 16th floor
 20 and it's just spreading -- all the stuff's flying out of
 21 the windows."
 22 When you say it started on the 16th floor, what was
 23 in your mind? What were you trying to --
 24 **A. My partner had received a message saying that there was**
 25 **a fire on the 16th floor of the block that we was living**

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1 **in.**
 2 Q. Right, okay.
 3 **A. So I dismissed it started on the 4th and I thought**
 4 **that's what happened.**
 5 Q. Yes. You say on page 3, if you go over the page:
 6 "OPERATOR: And if you can block it up in the
 7 meantime -- I mean, I presume it's not safe to go
 8 outside. So --
 9 "CALLER: No, it's all smoke ..."
 10 What were you referring to there?
 11 **A. Oh, the communal hall. The landing.**
 12 Q. At the end of that call, essentially you are given the
 13 advice on page 4, two-thirds of the way down:
 14 "OPERATOR: Try and keep calm, and if you can get to
 15 a window and get some fresh air and block up anywhere
 16 where the smoke's coming ...
 17 "CALLER: Okay.
 18 "OPERATOR: All right.
 19 "CALLER: Thanks, but make sure --
 20 "OPERATOR: Thank you.
 21 "CALLER: -- they check on me. Thank you.
 22 "OPERATOR: Yeah. Yeah ..."
 23 When that call ended, what did you expect would
 24 happen next?
 25 **A. I expected like in 5 or 10 minutes that the fireman was**

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1 **going to appear.**
 2 Q. Did you have any thoughts about evacuating?
 3 **A. Yeah.**
 4 Q. Why didn't you?
 5 **A. It was too dark. I couldn't risk losing my wife and my**
 6 **children.**
 7 Q. Too dark where?
 8 **A. In the communal -- in the common parts, yeah. It was**
 9 **smoky in our flat but it wasn't as dark in the hallway**
 10 **and the lounge as it was outside the front door, so ...**
 11 **I still thought it was safe at that point --**
 12 Q. Did you --
 13 **A. -- from the fire itself.**
 14 Q. Before you made this call, did you look again out of
 15 your front door and check the lobby conditions?
 16 **A. Yes, mm-hm.**
 17 Q. You did?
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. Was that before or after you think Mrs Lewis left her
 20 flat?
 21 **A. I looked again after.**
 22 Q. So this call is made after she leaves her flat, and
 23 after you've checked again?
 24 **A. Yes, I just kept checking to see if anyone was coming**
 25 **for us, and it was our only lifeline to get out, wasn't**

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15 (Pages 57 to 60)

<p>1 it? So I wanted to keep checking that there was no fire 2 on the landing, and that we weren't trapped permanently. 3 So I just kept checking, yes. 4 Q. The next call you make is about 6 minutes later at 5 01.44.33. That's LFB00000324, if we can just have the 6 first page of that. 7 Again, Mr Smith, at the top of the page you can see 8 the time of this call as the second set of figures from 9 the right, 014433. 10 The transcript of the call starts on page 2: 11 "OPERATOR: Fire Bridge. 12 "CALLER: We're stuck in the flat, in 95. 13 "OPERATOR: Okay. (overspeaking) 14 "CALLER: Please, help us. I've got two children. 15 "OPERATOR: All right. What floor are you on? 16 "CALLER: 12th. 17 "OPERATOR: The 12th. Right. You're well away from 18 the fire that's on the 4th floor. Okay. 19 "CALLER: Yeah, but it's starting -- 20 "OPERATOR: Is there any smoke in your flat? 21 "CALLER: Yeah, because the bits of ember have set a 22 fire in -- next to number 96, it's gone next door. 23 "OPERATOR: Sorry, say that again. 24 "CALLER: The fire embers have started a fire in the 25 flat next door as well. The front -- it's come up</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 below halfway, you say: 2 "CALLER: All the front doors with towels ..." 3 You're answering the question, "What have you 4 blocked it with?", and you say: 5 "CALLER: All the front doors with towels, but it's 6 coming in. Please get us out." 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. What was coming in? 9 A. Smoke. 10 Q. What are you referring to? 11 A. Smoke. 12 Q. Where was the smoke coming into your flat from at this 13 stage? 14 A. I don't know. It was just in the flat. I don't know 15 where it was -- I presume that it must have been through 16 the windows or -- because the front door was sealed up 17 with towels. Maybe when I was opening the door, but it 18 just started to creep in. 19 Q. Could you see any smoke coming through your windows or 20 around your windows? 21 A. No. 22 Q. You couldn't? 23 A. No, it was just the whole room. My eldest daughter, at 24 one stage, we put her under the kitchen bar, my 25 children, keep them low with the towels, and then she</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 through the windows, it's gone into number 96 Grenfell 2 Tower." 3 A. Mm-hm. 4 Q. And then you say at the top of the next page: 5 "OPERATOR: Right. And what's on fire next door? 6 "CALLER: The kitchen. 7 "OPERATOR: The kitch... -- right. What flat number 8 is that? 9 "CALLER: 96." 10 This is information that you had already given to 11 the control room, isn't it? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. So what were your thoughts at that time about whether or 14 not they had actually really understood what you were 15 doing or what the conditions were on your floor? 16 A. Well, there was no one on the landing putting out the 17 fire, so I just thought I'd tell them again, and 18 obviously after my partner had got a photo with 19 a message saying that it was on the 16th, I thought the 20 embers had fell down, until the operator told me it was 21 actually the 4th floor, that's when I said it must have 22 come up then. So I was just explaining to them it's in 23 the kitchen, so if they do come up, it's in the kitchen, 24 and it's, you know, close to us now, it's next door. 25 Q. A little bit further down page 3 of the transcript, just</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 said, "It's more smoky down here than it was up". 2 Q. So smokier lower down than higher up? 3 A. Yeah, that's what she said. She was sitting under the 4 breakfast bar. So I don't know if the smoke was getting 5 caught against the bar and rising, so we had to move 6 them from there, yes. 7 Q. Did you notice any smoke coming from around your front 8 door at that stage? 9 A. No. 10 Q. Going back to your first statement at paragraph 42, this 11 is before you made the call, this is page 10: 12 "42. I had a feeling that the fire fighters would 13 not get to us and that we would have to leave." 14 Why was that? Why did you have that feeling at that 15 stage? 16 A. Because I'd already told them about the kitchen. 17 Q. What made you think the firefighters wouldn't get to 18 you? 19 A. Well, they didn't manage to get up to put the fire out 20 in Mrs Lewis's flat, so if they was having problems 21 getting there, how was they going to get to us? And 22 plus they kept saying, "They're coming, they're coming", 23 but no one came. 24 Q. Going back to your call, you say at the bottom of page 3 25 of the transcript -- this is LFB00000324:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

16 (Pages 61 to 64)

<p>1 "CALLER: Yeah, it's coming from everywhere." 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. It's clear in the context that's a reference to the 4 smoke. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. When you said "everywhere", what did you mean? 7 A. Well, all the rooms that we was told to stay in, that's 8 what -- it was coming from everywhere, it was in the 9 lounge, it was in the sitting room, the kitchen, it was 10 in the hallway. 11 Q. If you go on to page 4, a little bit later in the call, 12 at the bottom of the page, you can see that the operator 13 says: 14 "OPERATOR: Is there smoke coming in through the 15 window? 16 "CALLER: Yeah." 17 A. Mm-hm. 18 Q. Then at the top of the next page she says: 19 "OPERATOR: Okay. Right. Well, you need to keep -- 20 "CALLER: It's blowing, it's all around." 21 When you answered her question that the smoke was 22 coming in through the window -- 23 A. I presumed, because it was not coming through the front 24 door, it had to be coming from somewhere, and the only 25 place we knew we had gaps was the windows. And like</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 the kitchen window to get some fresh air just quickly, 2 and then I could hear all the noise. Then I closed it 3 back and that's when I said to her, and she said 4 something about not to jump on the 14th floor or 5 something. 6 Q. She does, we'll come to that, that's exactly what she 7 says, but my question really is: the everyone, is that 8 everyone you could hear down below at ground level? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Not people ringing you? 11 A. No, no, no, no. 12 Q. Then the operator says: 13 "OPERATOR: Well, you can't jump from the 14th 14 floor." 15 A. Yes, yes. 16 Q. You say: 17 "CALLER: No, 12th, 12th. 18 "OPERATOR: 12th floor. Yeah. You can't jump from 19 that. 20 "CALLER: No. 21 "OPERATOR: Okay. But we'll get somebody to you as 22 soon as we can. Okay? 23 "CALLER: Okay." 24 A. But she didn't know what floor we was on, that's what 25 I mean. She was going to get someone to us, but she's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 I said, it was swirling, so it was like it was being 2 blown. It wasn't just rising, it was moving around. 3 Q. Was it moving around in the living room? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. As well as the kitchen? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Could you see where the smoke was being moved from, 8 where the draught -- 9 A. No. It was like a cloud. It was just moving. Because 10 we didn't have a door on our kitchen, didn't separate 11 from the lounge. Like I said, I made it into 12 a breakfast bar. So the whole two rooms was open plan. 13 Q. Moving on in the transcript of that call to page 7, you 14 are given some advice halfway down. The operator says: 15 "OPERATOR: And if it gets any worse, call us back. 16 Okay? 17 "CALLER: It's worse -- how worse can it be, 18 everyone's telling people to jump and that. I need to 19 get out." 20 Just pausing there, when you say "everyone's telling 21 people to jump and that", what were you referring to? 22 A. Well, I could hear people screaming, possibly saying, 23 "Don't jump", but it sounded to me at the time to get 24 out, "Jump, jump". But it's probably saying, "Don't 25 jump". But I could hear -- at one stage I had to open</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 still saying the 14th floor. It was mayhem that night, 2 wasn't it? There was a lot going on, so ... 3 Q. So when she said 14th and you said, "No, 12th, 12th", 4 what did you think? 5 A. I just thought, like I said, we're not going to get out. 6 Q. The operator continues at the top of page 8: 7 "OPERATOR: Thank you. Call us back if it gets 8 worse, okay. 9 "CALLER: Someone, someone -- do you know someone's 10 trapped on the 11th floor now ..." 11 What were you referring to there? 12 A. Another message that one of our neighbours was trapped. 13 Q. How did you get that message? 14 A. Someone sent a message to my partner. 15 Q. "OPERATOR: Yeah. We've got people all over, and we've 16 got people coming to get them. Okay? 17 "CALLER: Okay. 18 "OPERATOR: All right. Thank you now. All right. 19 "CALLER: Goodbye." 20 After that call ended, what impression were you left 21 with about what your choices were? 22 A. Either stay or leave on our own. 23 Q. Who would make that decision, did you think? 24 A. Me. 25 Q. How would you make that decision, how would you go about</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 it?</p> <p>2 A. I made it, I just said, "We've got to go."</p> <p>3 Q. Then we have the next call which starts at 01.54, that's</p> <p>4 LFB00000332, which I'll come to in a moment.</p> <p>5 Before we do so, did the smoke conditions in your</p> <p>6 flat then get worse after this call that we've just</p> <p>7 looked at?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, it got worse. I could actually feel the wall was</p> <p>9 hot now, because obviously the fire must have spread</p> <p>10 from the kitchen next door, and where I was up and down</p> <p>11 the hallway, my daughter's bedroom was there and the</p> <p>12 other one was behind the hallway that we'd built, where</p> <p>13 the extractor was. So I'd keep going in and out and</p> <p>14 I felt the wall and I could feel the heat. The wall was</p> <p>15 hot.</p> <p>16 Q. Can I ask you to look back at your plan at IWS00000931,</p> <p>17 which is the plan you exhibited as RS/1 to your</p> <p>18 statement, and just see if we can identify the hot wall.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. There's the plan on the screen. Can you just tell us</p> <p>21 which wall you felt getting hot?</p> <p>22 A. This wall here (Indicates).</p> <p>23 Q. So the wall --</p> <p>24 A. Yes, here, in this bedroom, and here, adjacent to my</p> <p>25 neighbours.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 A. Just that horrible smell, a horrible smell.</p> <p>2 Q. Did it have a physical effect on you?</p> <p>3 A. Yes. We was coughing. Like I said, we got wet towels,</p> <p>4 but ...</p> <p>5 Q. What about your family?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, exactly the same.</p> <p>7 Q. Before you made this call, did you see any signs of fire</p> <p>8 in your flat?</p> <p>9 A. Not at that time, not in the flat. The windows did set</p> <p>10 on fire in the end, yeah, before we was gone. My</p> <p>11 daughter's bedroom there, the flames had spread and the</p> <p>12 fire was here actually on the window frame outside</p> <p>13 (Indicates), and like the whole thing was burning.</p> <p>14 Q. Did any flame come through the windows?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. I think in your statement you say that there were fire</p> <p>17 embers coming through the window. That's paragraph 51</p> <p>18 of your statement. Perhaps we could just look at that.</p> <p>19 It's at page 11 of your statement.</p> <p>20 You say:</p> <p>21 "51. I told him [this is during the call] that the</p> <p>22 fire was coming into the flats, bits of ember were</p> <p>23 coming through the air vents."</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. What do you mean when you refer to air vents there?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 Q. Adjacent to the neighbours.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. When you say hot, you put your hand on it, did you?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, but it was like a radiator. It was hot.</p> <p>5 Q. Like a radiator?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, it was hot. It was hot.</p> <p>7 Q. Hot enough to keep your hand on or so hot you had to</p> <p>8 take your hand away?</p> <p>9 A. I touched it, it was hot, and I knew -- I was panicking</p> <p>10 it would come through the wall. In that situation,</p> <p>11 I didn't know if the fire was going to come through,</p> <p>12 I didn't know, so I just touched it and I said, "Oh, no,</p> <p>13 it's near now, it's going to be in our flat within</p> <p>14 minutes."</p> <p>15 Q. While you were in the flat before this final call at</p> <p>16 01.54, had the smoke changed at all?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. You said it got worse.</p> <p>19 A. It got a lot worse. It got a lot worse. It was not as</p> <p>20 dark as that but it was dark.</p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 A. It was darker than it was previously.</p> <p>23 Q. What did it smell like?</p> <p>24 A. Plastic.</p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 A. Well, they put air vents in the kitchen. In the</p> <p>2 kitchens, they put vents in the window.</p> <p>3 Q. So that's the automatic extractor fan for the kitchen?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, yes. So that's why I said it's come into flats.</p> <p>5 I didn't say our flat, I said into flats, because that's</p> <p>6 why I thought it was spreading, because at one stage me</p> <p>7 and my partner actually saw a flame go right across the</p> <p>8 window, just shoot up like a -- like when you light</p> <p>9 a fuse on a dynamite stick, right past our window.</p> <p>10 Q. Just to be clear, you didn't see any embers or flames in</p> <p>11 your flat before making this long last call?</p> <p>12 A. No, no.</p> <p>13 Q. That's clear.</p> <p>14 We then have your 999 call at 01.54.14. That's</p> <p>15 LFB00000332, and it starts on page 2 at the top.</p> <p>16 "OPERATOR 1: Fire Brigade.</p> <p>17 "CALLER: Sir, please help us. It's getting worse.</p> <p>18 We're in the 95s, people are (inaudible) on the</p> <p>19 landings, I don't know what to do, I've got two young</p> <p>20 children in here.</p> <p>21 "OPERATOR 1: Right. You're on the 12th floor?</p> <p>22 "CALLER: Yes. Please send ..."</p> <p>23 That's you making this call, is it?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, that's me.</p> <p>25 Q. Just picking up a few points from it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 Still on page 2, you say halfway down the page:</p> <p>2 "CALLER: Yeah. Can you tell them to come for me</p> <p>3 now? Because everyone is leaving, it's getting -- it's</p> <p>4 banging and everything, it's com... I can hear it on my</p> <p>5 wall next door, please. I can hear the fire on the wall</p> <p>6 next door from the kitchen."</p> <p>7 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>8 Q. What could you hear?</p> <p>9 A. I could hear roaring, like "woo, woo", like that.</p> <p>10 Q. Through the wall?</p> <p>11 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>12 Q. Where could you hear that roaring?</p> <p>13 A. In my daughter's bedroom that I made.</p> <p>14 Q. On page 4 of this transcript, you say at the bottom of</p> <p>15 the page:</p> <p>16 "CALLER: It's outside. Please, please, it's outside</p> <p>17 my door. Please."</p> <p>18 Over the top of page 5:</p> <p>19 "OPERATOR 1: Right. The fire is outside your door</p> <p>20 now?</p> <p>21 "CALLER: Yes, yes, please."</p> <p>22 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you actually see fire in the communal lobby?</p> <p>24 A. No, no. I presumed because of the noise, where my</p> <p>25 daughter's room was that I made, it was near the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 clearly, I wasn't opening the front door, I thought</p> <p>2 maybe it's at my front door.</p> <p>3 Q. Right, I see.</p> <p>4 A. That's why I'm saying, "Look, I need to get out, I need</p> <p>5 to get out", because I thought they wouldn't get to us</p> <p>6 now.</p> <p>7 Q. Going on to page 29 of the transcript, at the bottom of</p> <p>8 the page, last third of the page, you say:</p> <p>9 "CALLER: Okay. Are you okay, love? Yes? Where are</p> <p>10 you, darling? They should be here now."</p> <p>11 Were you speaking to your family at that stage?</p> <p>12 A. Mm.</p> <p>13 Q. I'm assuming that you were?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. "I've closed all the doors, it's not helping."</p> <p>16 You're speaking back to the operator.</p> <p>17 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. "If the one on the landing -- otherwise, I'd run to the</p> <p>19 stairs. No, I can't get through that. What would be</p> <p>20 burning on the landing? Oh, all the bloody -"</p> <p>21 When you said "I can't get through that", what were</p> <p>22 you referring to?</p> <p>23 A. I thought if it spread onto the landing, then obviously</p> <p>24 there's pipes running through, gas pipes. So I thought</p> <p>25 if we run through that then there's -- the chances of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 extractor fan that was next door to my neighbour's. So</p> <p>2 that was -- the walls were plasterboard.</p> <p>3 Q. Yes.</p> <p>4 A. The concrete was the shell. So because I could hear it,</p> <p>5 I presumed it's come through that vent now and it's</p> <p>6 spread outside.</p> <p>7 Q. I see.</p> <p>8 A. So that's when I thought: now we're trapped. And like</p> <p>9 I said, the children's window frames was burning, so</p> <p>10 I presumed it's all around us now, and that's when</p> <p>11 I made the decision that we was going to go. That's</p> <p>12 when I was saying to them, "Please come and get us</p> <p>13 because otherwise we're going to be trapped."</p> <p>14 Q. Jumping ahead in the call to page 26 of the transcript,</p> <p>15 if we can, please. This is some time into the call.</p> <p>16 You say at the top of the page, page 26:</p> <p>17 "OPERATOR 1: What, what's happening there?"</p> <p>18 "CALLER: The fire's been spreading on the landing.</p> <p>19 Oh, the door --</p> <p>20 "OPERATOR 1: (overspeaking)</p> <p>21 "CALLER: I need to get out, I need to get out."</p> <p>22 When you said "spreading on the landing", what were</p> <p>23 you referring to there?</p> <p>24 A. The same I said. I thought it had come through and</p> <p>25 then, because of the noise was so -- you could clear it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 getting out are still going to be thin, but it's --</p> <p>2 I don't know, in my mind, I still said to my partner,</p> <p>3 "We've got to go".</p> <p>4 Q. So when you say, "What would be burning on the landing?"</p> <p>5 were you asking the operator or asking yourself?</p> <p>6 A. Asking myself.</p> <p>7 Q. And, "Oh, all the bloody"?</p> <p>8 A. Pipes. Just come to me, must be the pipes, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. I see. So that's a question and answer to yourself.</p> <p>10 A. Yes, because I was panicking.</p> <p>11 Q. And then:</p> <p>12 "OPERATOR 1: Okay. What is it you can see out</p> <p>13 there? Can you see anything at all?</p> <p>14 "CALLER: Just dark and yellow."</p> <p>15 The dark I understand. The yellow -- can you help</p> <p>16 me, what was yellow?</p> <p>17 A. I've no idea. I looked through the spyhole. I didn't</p> <p>18 open the door at this stage, and maybe my mind's eye, it</p> <p>19 looked yellow because I could just see dark and like</p> <p>20 light bits, so I just assumed it was the fire.</p> <p>21 Q. Could you see any lights coming from the communal lobby?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. You could?</p> <p>24 A. Mm. That's what must have been the yellow light, it</p> <p>25 must have been something, because when I looked through</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 the spyhole, there was something bright.</p> <p>2 Q. Had you ever seen a yellow light before when you looked</p> <p>3 through the spyhole?</p> <p>4 A. Never. I presumed it was the fire. I did presume it</p> <p>5 was the fire, I really did.</p> <p>6 Q. So you thought that was flames?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, I thought maybe she left the door open when she ran</p> <p>8 away, Mrs Lewis, but I didn't know for sure. I didn't</p> <p>9 know if it had spread. I could hear the roaring.</p> <p>10 Q. If I can just jump back a little bit, you say at</p> <p>11 page 18 -- I'm sorry to take you back in the</p> <p>12 transcript -- you say at the bottom of the page:</p> <p>13 "CALLER: Yeah, it's on the landing. It's ... Oh,</p> <p>14 our windows, our windows are on fire now. Please, the</p> <p>15 officers must be able to see this from outside, I'm</p> <p>16 begging you, Sir. It's -- there's no way out."</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. When you said the windows were on fire, which windows</p> <p>19 were you referring to?</p> <p>20 A. My youngest daughter's bedroom window.</p> <p>21 Q. So at this stage in the call -- is this right? -- the</p> <p>22 fire had now started to come through your flat windows?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, my windows was on fire, and when I looked at it, it</p> <p>24 looked like the glass was burning also, which I thought</p> <p>25 was strange. But the whole window entrance was burning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 Q. That's the bedroom with the external window.</p> <p>2 A. Yes, the external window, outside.</p> <p>3 Q. Can you describe for us what it looked like when fire</p> <p>4 was coming through the windows?</p> <p>5 A. It was on fire. There was just flames. It was on fire.</p> <p>6 Q. Were the flames inside your flat?</p> <p>7 A. No, no, no, no. As I said it, was external burning, but</p> <p>8 the glass was burning, but it looked like it, so I knew</p> <p>9 as normal things glass should do, next minute it's going</p> <p>10 to shatter, explode, and be in the flat.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 A. So the only other option to do now is close the door and</p> <p>13 hope someone -- you know, trying to say "Please, please,</p> <p>14 please, come now, before it's too late."</p> <p>15 Q. Did there come a point when you did see fire coming</p> <p>16 through the window?</p> <p>17 A. Not into the house, no. Not into the flat.</p> <p>18 Q. Just to pick up where we were on this same page, there's</p> <p>19 a reference here to Michelle. You've explained in your</p> <p>20 second statement to the inquiry that this is actually</p> <p>21 your sister --</p> <p>22 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>23 Q. -- who is called Sharon.</p> <p>24 A. Mm-hm, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. We have a reference for that in your statement of you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 Q. On page 20 you say:</p> <p>2 "OPERATOR 1: Yeah, flat 95. There's fire coming in</p> <p>3 the windows, (inaudible) a couple of times."</p> <p>4 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>5 Q. That looks like operator 1, but who was speaking then,</p> <p>6 can you help me with that?</p> <p>7 A. Who was speaking to me?</p> <p>8 Q. Well, I'll just give you some context. Operator 1 says:</p> <p>9 "OPERATOR 1: The fire is in your window. Can you</p> <p>10 move away from the window?</p> <p>11 "CALLER: Yeah, 'Michelle ..."</p> <p>12 I think you've explained in your second statement</p> <p>13 what that's about:</p> <p>14 "... no, stay down there. Don't -- send the firemen</p> <p>15 up (inaudible)."</p> <p>16 "OPERATOR 1: Yeah, flat 95. There's fire coming in</p> <p>17 the windows, (inaudible) a couple of times."</p> <p>18 Who is saying that there's fire coming in the</p> <p>19 windows?</p> <p>20 A. Me.</p> <p>21 Q. You?</p> <p>22 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>23 Q. When you saw fire coming in the windows, you've said</p> <p>24 just a minute ago that was in your daughter's bedroom?</p> <p>25 A. Mm-hm, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 first calling her at 01.49.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. That's paragraph 47 of your statement. We don't need to</p> <p>4 look at that.</p> <p>5 How had she learnt about the fire, do you know?</p> <p>6 A. I told her. My partner called her parents to say</p> <p>7 goodbye if anything happens, you've got to talk to -- so</p> <p>8 I called my sister to say if we don't make it out, to</p> <p>9 say goodbye to everyone.</p> <p>10 Q. While you were on this call to 999, Mr Smith, were you</p> <p>11 also on your mobile phone to Sharon?</p> <p>12 A. Mm-hm, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. What phone did you use to speak to the 999 operator?</p> <p>14 A. The landline.</p> <p>15 Q. We know the first call was made on the landline, so were</p> <p>16 all the calls to 999 made on your landline?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. When you were speaking to Sharon, do you know whether</p> <p>19 she was speaking to anybody on the ground at the time?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, she spoke to someone, to a couple of firemen.</p> <p>21 Q. Firemen?</p> <p>22 A. Yes. She said to me, "They'll be coming for you."</p> <p>23 Q. Did Sharon pass on any advice from the firefighters on</p> <p>24 the ground to you that she'd received?</p> <p>25 A. No, just to say that they was going to come for us.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 They're coming, not to give up.</p> <p>2 Q. Just moving forward then in the transcript to page 39,</p> <p>3 halfway down the page, caller says:</p> <p>4 "CALLER: Oh, listen, there's explosions.</p> <p>5 "OPERATOR 1: Yeah. What? You can hear explosions?</p> <p>6 "CALLER: Yes, yes, Sir. Can't your hear them?</p> <p>7 "OPERATOR 1: Okay."</p> <p>8 What were you referring to? What could you hear?</p> <p>9 A. I could hear bangs.</p> <p>10 Q. Bangs?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Inside the flat or outside?</p> <p>13 A. Outside.</p> <p>14 Q. On this call, we can hear repeated statements from the</p> <p>15 control room operator to the effect that the</p> <p>16 firefighters will come and rescue you. So just for</p> <p>17 example, while we're on page 39, you can see a third of</p> <p>18 the way down:</p> <p>19 "OPERATOR 1: Yeah, we're gonna get you out. Okay.</p> <p>20 We're gonna get to you."</p> <p>21 Just a second or two later at the bottom of the</p> <p>22 page:</p> <p>23 "OPERATOR 1: Right. Well, we are coming to you as</p> <p>24 quick as we can. There's a lot coming towards you now,</p> <p>25 okay, they know exactly where you are.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 staircase as well, you're not going to be able to see</p> <p>2 what you're going ...</p> <p>3 "CALLER: No. Well, can they put the fire out in 96</p> <p>4 then, because it's, it's really bad."</p> <p>5 What advice at this stage did you understand that</p> <p>6 you were being given?</p> <p>7 A. To stay.</p> <p>8 Q. To stay?</p> <p>9 A. But I thought if we got to the staircase, it would be</p> <p>10 clear. Because it was the fire exit, I presumed that</p> <p>11 all the smoke had been gathering on the landing and the</p> <p>12 flat and then the stairs would be -- that's why I said</p> <p>13 for the fresh air, I thought it would be clear.</p> <p>14 Q. Then at page 10, just picking up on that last answer,</p> <p>15 you say -- this is two-thirds of the way down that page:</p> <p>16 "CALLER: Are we safe in here though?</p> <p>17 "OPERATOR 1: Look, as safe as you can be, yes.</p> <p>18 We're going to get to you as soon as we can?"</p> <p>19 What was your understanding at that stage of the</p> <p>20 call represented your only chance of survival?</p> <p>21 A. That was the only chance of survival, for someone to</p> <p>22 come for us.</p> <p>23 Q. So stay and be rescued?</p> <p>24 A. Mm, because we left it too long, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Because you left it too long.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 "CALLER: Please. Okay."</p> <p>2 That is the kind of thing that is repeated.</p> <p>3 Did that influence what you did next or what you did</p> <p>4 during the call and after the call?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. In what way?</p> <p>7 A. Well, we was going to leave and then my partner didn't</p> <p>8 want us to leave. She didn't want us to lose our</p> <p>9 children in the stairs, or if we lost one another. So</p> <p>10 she said, "Let's stay where we are so when they find us</p> <p>11 eventually, they'll know that we're a family."</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you all right to keep going?</p> <p>13 A. (Nodded assent)</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: If I can just take you back a little bit in the</p> <p>15 call -- I'm sorry to keep dotting around in it, but it</p> <p>16 covers lots of different ideas in different places.</p> <p>17 If you go back, please, to page 9. At the top of</p> <p>18 the page -- so this is quite early on, and just to give</p> <p>19 it a time, it's shortly after 01.54, maybe a minute or</p> <p>20 two later than that -- you say:</p> <p>21 "CALLER: No, no. We just have to get to that</p> <p>22 staircase, I need oxygen masks. (inaudible) to put this</p> <p>23 fire out and we'll get down the stairs. Because it's</p> <p>24 meant to be facing the staircase they say.</p> <p>25 "OPERATOR 1: Okay. But if there's smoke in the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 Moving ahead to towards the end of the call, we</p> <p>2 start at page 42, two-thirds of the way down the page,</p> <p>3 and you say:</p> <p>4 "CALLER: Hold on. Oh no, my -- it's on fire</p> <p>5 outside, on my window. We've got to get out of here.</p> <p>6 Now, we've got to get out. Please. Kath ring</p> <p>7 (inaudible), tell them to come -- we've got to make a</p> <p>8 move. I've got to get out."</p> <p>9 I know it's difficult because this is a long call,</p> <p>10 but was there a change in the conditions, fire or smoke,</p> <p>11 that led to you --</p> <p>12 A. There was things falling now from above. Loads of stuff</p> <p>13 was just falling, going past the windows.</p> <p>14 Q. When you say "it's on fire outside, on my window", what</p> <p>15 was --</p> <p>16 A. Outside.</p> <p>17 Q. What was on fire?</p> <p>18 A. The window outside.</p> <p>19 Q. The window outside?</p> <p>20 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>21 Q. I know it's difficult to be specific in these terrible</p> <p>22 circumstances, but could you actually see what it was</p> <p>23 that was burning outside your window?</p> <p>24 A. The whole thing.</p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 A. Even, like I said ten times, the glass looked like it 2 was burning, it didn't break. The whole thing looked 3 like it was on fire. 4 Q. Then turning the page to page 43, just before halfway 5 down, you're asked: 6 "OPERATOR 1: Right. Can you see the flames at your 7 door? 8 "CALLER: Yeah. Not at the door, on, on the -- it's 9 like a, it's like a little bit, maybe it's debris, it's 10 just -- but it's high. It's high. Oh (inaudible), my 11 chest is hurting again. There's smoke all over this 12 place. Wet the towels, girls. How far as they? 13 "OPERATOR 1: Right. Just stay, stay with me. Okay? 14 I'm just talking with people. 15 "CALLER: Get us out of here, Michelle. Are they 16 coming?" 17 Et cetera. 18 When the operator says "I'm just talking with 19 people", could you hear him talking in the background to 20 somebody else in the control room? 21 A. I can't remember. 22 Q. Just after you say "Get us out of here, Michelle" and 23 say what you say there, do you see: 24 "OPERATOR 1: Right. We're gonna tell you to leave, 25 okay. But you need to --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Why were you asking him that? 3 A. I wanted to make sure he knew what we was walking out 4 into, if they had reports back that it was safe for us 5 to leave. Because all the way through they'd been 6 telling us to stay, that we was safe there. 7 Q. At that stage, what influence did the change in advice 8 from the operator have on what you would do next? 9 A. Well, like I said, I wanted to go from earlier on. But 10 I talked to my partner. I thought we should still 11 chance it and go, but I also took into account what my 12 partner had said, that if one of us makes it out and the 13 rest don't -- you know, so I thought about all that in 14 the time, like the consequences, if I -- you know. If 15 I was to leave and I got out and my wife and children 16 died ... So it was just the time just to stay now. 17 What would be would have to be. 18 Q. Then you see that operator 1 gives you some advice about 19 towels. 20 "OPERATOR 1: ... Get your wife and your children, 21 everybody holding hands and make your way to the 22 stairwell and make your way downstairs. Okay? 23 "CALLER: Oh no, no. The man's told us to leave. 24 The man's told us to leave. The fireman, love, on the 25 phone. She doesn't want to leave on the phone."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 "CALLER: Huh? 2 "OPERATOR 1: You're gonna have to leave the flat, 3 okay. But you have to stay on the phone with me." 4 What did you think about that at that moment? 5 A. I thought: why are they telling me that now? Why didn't 6 they say that on the first call I made, to leave? It's 7 harder to leave now. 8 Q. That change that we've seen, did that represent a change 9 in your mind as to what you should do now? 10 A. Well, yes, if they're not coming and she's telling me 11 we've got to leave, I know they're not coming now. So 12 now is the time, isn't it? 13 Q. Over the top of page 44, you say: 14 "CALLER: Oh, we've got to leave the flat?" 15 Why did you ask that question? 16 A. I don't know. Because maybe I asked -- maybe, "So 17 they're not coming then?" It's like, "So they're not 18 coming? So we've got to leave on our own?" 19 Q. Then operator 1 says: 20 "OPERATOR 1: Yeah. Get all the towels you can, 21 okay -- 22 "CALLER: Yeah, but they said -- the man on the phone 23 is telling -- erm, do we leave, really? 24 "OPERATOR 1: Yeah. Okay. 25 "CALLER: Are you sure, sir?"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 A. That was my partner, she didn't want to leave. 2 Q. And then operator says: 3 "OPERATOR 1: Sorry? 4 "CALLER: Oh, here they are, here they are." 5 What happened at that moment? 6 A. A fireman appeared. 7 Q. Did they knock on the door? 8 A. I can't remember. They said they did, but I can't 9 remember. I thought I opened the door to look out when 10 they said, "You've got to leave". I thought I opened 11 the door to see what the conditions were, but the 12 gentleman said he knocked. But I thought the door was 13 open. 14 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, we have a few more questions -- 15 not that much more to cover, actually -- but we have 16 been going for 50 minutes or so. 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I was wondering about that. 18 MR MILLETT: It might be appropriate now to take the break. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 20 MR MILLETT: And if anybody has any extra questions that 21 they think I should be asking -- 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: This would be a good time. 23 MR MILLETT: -- this would be a good time to do it. 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think it would be good for us all 25 to have a short break again now, so if you would like to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 go with the usher, no talking about your evidence, 2 please, we'll resume at 12.10. All right? Thank you. 3 All right 12.10, please. 4 (12.00 pm) 5 (A short break) 6 (12.10 pm). 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Smith? 8 THE WITNESS: Yes. 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Happy to carry on? 10 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. 12 Mr Millett. 13 MR MILLETT: Mr Smith, thank you for coming back to us. 14 A. Thank you. 15 Q. Can I just go back, then, to the transcript of the 999 16 call, the last one you made, just before the 17 firefighters arrived. Page 44 of the transcript, 18 please. LFB00000332, page 44. 19 On that page you can see that halfway down the 20 operator says: 21 "OPERATOR 1: Get all the towels you can ..." 22 This is after you've been told to leave. 23 A. Mm-hm. 24 Q. "OPERATOR 1: Get all the towels you can, cover them in 25 water. Right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 A. To take a breath of the oxygen and then just keep going 2 down. There would be more firemen on their way up. 3 Q. Takes a breath of oxygen from what? 4 A. From him. 5 Q. From his mask. Did he give each of you a blast from 6 your mask? 7 A. Yes, he did, but he missed my partner, I later found 8 out. 9 Q. How did you find your way across the communal lobby once 10 you left your flat? 11 A. How? Oh, feeling the wall and from living in there, 12 knowing the way. So I just felt the wall, so you didn't 13 hit into the wall, it was right outside the door, and 14 then once you was past that wall, you knew it was just 15 straight to the left, keep going that way and you was 16 there. 17 Q. Do you have any recollection of whether when you left 18 your flat you shut the front door behind you? 19 A. Yes, my partner did. 20 Q. When you were travelling across the communal lobby, did 21 the firefighter have a torch or some way of illuminating 22 your passage? 23 A. No, not that I remember. I think he had something on 24 his coat here (Indicates) with a light on it, but not in 25 his hand, no.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 "CALLER: Oh no. Yeah. 2 "OPERATOR 1: Okay. You need to wrap them around 3 you. Okay. Get your wife and your children, everybody 4 holding hands and make your way to the stairwell and 5 make your way downstairs. Okay?" 6 My question is: did you find that advice of 7 assistance? 8 A. No. 9 Q. In what way? 10 A. It was too late. 11 Q. In terms of wet towels, did you think that was -- 12 A. Oh, the towels yeah but we'd been doing that anyway from 13 the -- they told us to do it at the beginning. 14 Q. You then leave with the firefighters. Can you remember 15 how many firefighters came into your flat? 16 A. One, I believe. 17 Q. Did you go out with that firefighter? 18 A. No, he walked in front of us and stopped by the fire 19 exit door, the staircase door. 20 Q. Were there other firefighters with him? 21 A. No. 22 Q. Did he give you any instructions as to what you should 23 do? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. What instructions did he give you?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 Q. How were you able to follow him? 2 A. Just followed the way towards the fire exit door. 3 Q. Can you describe the conditions in the lobby at that 4 stage? 5 A. It was black. Thick, black smoke. Just horrible smell. 6 Q. How did it compare with the conditions on the last 7 occasion that you looked out of your front door? 8 A. 100 times worse. 9 Q. 100 times worse? 10 A. Mm. 11 Q. Did you have a wet towel over your face? 12 A. At the beginning I did, yes. 13 Q. Did the smoke have any physical effect on you at that 14 point? 15 A. No, not until we got in the stairs. 16 Q. What about your family? 17 A. Well, we all had towels at that time, until we got into 18 the stairs. 19 Q. Do you remember anything particular about the 20 temperature in the lobby? 21 A. It was hot. 22 Q. It was hot? 23 A. Yes, it was hot. 24 Q. Can you tell us -- I know it's difficult -- but how hot? 25 Compare it with something you've experienced before.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 A. Just hot, really hot. Hot that I started sweating 2 straight away. 3 Q. Really? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. So hotter than a summer's day? 6 A. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah. 7 Q. You then go into the stairwell. Do you remember who 8 opened the stair door? 9 A. The fireman. 10 Q. Was it closed before he did that? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. Did he hold the door open for you and your family to 13 pass? 14 A. No. 15 Q. Or did he go through it and you followed him? 16 A. He went through, yes. 17 Q. Do you remember touching the door into the stairwell and 18 pushing it at all yourself? 19 A. I think I done it with my foot. 20 Q. Foot? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Did you notice any particular pressure back against you? 23 A. No. 24 Q. In your statement -- this is paragraph 67, it's on 25 page 14, your first statement -- you describe the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 Q. You say you couldn't see anything. 2 A. Yeah. My eldest daughter kept hers closed all the way, 3 but I had mine open. 4 Q. Could you see any lights at all? 5 A. No. 6 Q. Could you smell the smoke? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. Was the smoke -- I suppose if it's dark it's 9 difficult -- but could you compare the darkness or 10 thickness of the smoke that you saw in the stairwell 11 when you first got into it with the smoke in the lobby 12 as you crossed it? 13 A. It was similar. It was very similar. 14 Q. Could you smell it? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. What did it smell of? 17 A. Burning, plastics, the same as before. But this time it 18 had an effect, like -- because eventually I lost my 19 towel and then I could obviously -- I could feel my 20 nostrils, I could feel like it was burning my nose. It 21 went like -- it was going up, the smell was burning. 22 Q. You mentioned your nose, any other part of your -- 23 A. Oh, yeah, my throat. 24 Q. Your throat? 25 A. Mm. Because I lost my towel because obviously my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 conditions in the stairs. Can we just go to that. 2 You say: 3 "When we pushed the staircase door open it was 4 roasting, it was so hot." 5 Was the temperature in the stairwell hotter than in 6 the lobby? 7 A. Yes, it seemed hotter. 8 Q. It seemed hotter? 9 A. Yes, because it was more narrow and it did seem a lot 10 hotter, yes. It seemed like you had been hit with the 11 first of a fire. Just hot, yeah. It was hot, yeah. 12 Q. You say you could not see anything on the stairs. 13 A. No. 14 Q. Was the towel covering your head or could you actually 15 see? 16 A. Like this, round my face, my mouth (Indicates). 17 Q. Hand over the mouth with the towel? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Did the smoke affect your eyes in any way? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. In what way? 22 A. Well, it's stinging because it was so hot and it was 23 just like -- 24 Q. Could you open your eyes? 25 A. Yeah, yeah, I kept them open, yeah.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 youngest daughter, she burnt her throat, she wanted to 2 go back upstairs. So, you know, I had to lift her up 3 and carry her, so I couldn't do that with the towel. 4 She lost her towel, I lost mine, so we was just going 5 down blindly and obviously breathing it all in. 6 Q. As you went down the stairs, do you remember the order 7 in which you went? 8 A. No, I know [redacted] was at the front because I think 9 the fireman took her, and then I'm not -- I remember at 10 one stage, I remember Kasia was behind me, my partner 11 was behind me. I lifted up my daughter. But then 12 I thought she went past me, but I can't remember. 13 I can't remember. 14 Q. As you went down the stairs, do you remember whether 15 there was any change in the smoke conditions? 16 A. Yes, it got hotter, a lot hotter, and a little bit 17 brighter. I got a bit lower and I thought there was 18 a fire on one of the landings, because when we was 19 coming down, it got bright like a glow. 20 Q. Where could you see the glow coming from? 21 A. Through one of the fire doors. So in my mind I presume, 22 well, that must be the 4th floor, but maybe it wasn't. 23 I just presumed because -- but now I know the fire was 24 everywhere. I presumed we must be getting lower to the 25 ground.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

24 (Pages 93 to 96)

<p>1 I don't remember really much after. I remember 2 asking for oxygen and my daughter. I remember getting 3 a bit lower down -- I remember someone taking my 4 daughter off of me, I remember a weight being lifted off 5 of me. And then I remember a fireman, he poured water 6 over my face. 7 And then I was in the lobby, asking where everyone 8 was, and then a police officer took me out and showed me 9 my eldest daughter. And then I asked where my wife and 10 my other child was, and I said, "I'm not leaving without 11 them". He said they're around the other side. Then he 12 took us round there and they was on a big green mat. 13 There was two mats, a red one and a green one. 14 And then that was it. We was taken to hospital. 15 Q. When you first saw this glow coming through one of the 16 doors into the stairwell -- 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. -- was that door open? 19 A. No, it was closed. There was glass on it, but it's 20 like -- so I just thought -- I presumed it was on the 21 4th, because it looked like a fire, it looked orange. 22 And the rest all the way down was just dark. 23 Q. Right. 24 A. So in my mind I just thought, oh, it must be the 4th so 25 we haven't got far to go.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 Q. In the staircase? 2 A. Mm. 3 Q. As you came down the stairwell, do you remember any 4 doors to the stairs being held open or being open? 5 A. I don't recall that, no. 6 Q. Do you remember seeing any numbering on the -- 7 A. No, no. 8 Q. -- stair walls at all? 9 A. Couldn't see numbers. Couldn't even see in front of 10 your face. I had my daughter over my shoulder and I was 11 trying to feel the railings to know, but the railings 12 were hot, so I'd keep doing it, touching it, and then -- 13 because you didn't know when the stairs was going to 14 end. 15 Q. Did you speak at all during your descent? 16 A. Yeah. 17 Q. Who were you speaking to? 18 A. I was shouting to someone to help my children, give us 19 oxygen. 20 Q. Did you find it easy to speak? 21 A. No. 22 Q. You I think come out, according to the CCTV picture, of 23 the building at 02.42.17. 24 Do you remember roughly how long it took you to come 25 down from the 12th floor?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 Q. Did the smoke conditions change as you got lower? 2 A. Yes, it got a little bit thinner, I'd say than it was at 3 the beginning. But by this time I'd already breathed in 4 so much, I don't really know, but it did seem a little 5 bit not as dark, the lower you got down. 6 Q. Did there come a time when the smoke thinned out that 7 you could see the lights in the stairwell? 8 A. When I was dragged into the lobby, there was some stairs 9 that go to the lobby. I remember three firemen was 10 holding me, helping me out. I think then it was light, 11 yeah, it was light. You took a breath and it was just 12 fresh air and you just ... yes, it was different then. 13 Q. Just looking at the question of the temperature, during 14 your descent, you say it started off and it was a lot 15 hotter than it was in the lobby you'd come across -- 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. -- on your floor. Did it get hotter as you went down? 18 A. It's hard to say because I was sweating anyway, and with 19 carrying my child, I was hot already, so I didn't really 20 notice the change. Plus the fireman, one of the 21 firemen, poured water over me, which cooled me down 22 a lot. I can't really say if the heat changed lower, 23 no. 24 Q. Where did the fireman pour water over you? 25 A. In the staircase.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 A. No idea. 2 Q. You described in your answers just a little bit ago this 3 morning about your treatment. 4 Where did you receive treatment once you got outside 5 the tower? 6 A. Round by the Kensington New Pools -- by the Kensington 7 centre, health centre. They had two big mats and they 8 treated me there, and then they put us in an ambulance 9 and took us to hospital, Chelsea and Westminster. 10 Q. Were you all taken to the same hospital? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. Can I just go back to ask you a more general question 13 about your flat. 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. If you can please be shown the plan, RS/1, which is at 16 IWS00000931. 17 I should have asked you this earlier. We looked at 18 this before. 19 On the right-hand side of the plan you see that 20 somebody's written, "Smoke alarms installed by Roy 21 Smith". 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. And then "Smoke alarm installed by Rydon". 24 A. Mm-hm. 25 Q. Can you just tell us first of all where the smoke alarms</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>

1 you installed were?

2 **A. Oh, my one was in between the bathroom and the toilet.**

3 **It was a battery-operated one.**

4 Q. Between the bathroom and the toilet?

5 **A. Yes.**

6 Q. Okay. You say between those two?

7 **A. Yes, yes.**

8 Q. In the hall or in the --

9 **A. In the hall.**

10 Q. In the hall. There?

11 **A. Right here it was (Indicates).**

12 Q. There, very good.

13 What about the smoke alarm installed by Rydon?

14 **A. We had one by the front door here, one in the kitchen**

15 **(Indicates).**

16 Q. Do you remember whether you installed your smoke alarm

17 before or after Rydon installed theirs?

18 **A. Before.**

19 Q. Do you know why Rydon installed a smoke alarm in the

20 hall by the front door?

21 **A. No.**

22 Q. Did you have a discussion with the London Fire Brigade

23 about your smoke alarms?

24 **A. No.**

25 Q. Did those smoke alarms go off on the night?

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1 **A. Mine did when we opened the front door the final time.**

2 Q. Which one?

3 **A. The one by the front door.**

4 Q. Mr Smith, I'm very grateful to you for your patience in

5 answering all my questions this morning. You'll be glad

6 to know I don't have any more questions for you.

7 There may be one that may be being brought to me.

8 **A. Okay.**

9 Q. I do have a final question for you, Mr Smith.

10 In addition to your two written witness statements,

11 and in addition to everything you've told us this

12 morning, is there anything else about what you saw or

13 heard or felt or smelt yourself on the night of the fire

14 which you think it's important for the chairman to know?

15 **A. Well, I heard screams. I heard people screaming. The**

16 **noise, you know, you knew there was other people on the**

17 **stairs. Don't know if they were in front or behind you,**

18 **but you knew there was other people in there with you.**

19 **It was just something that no one should ever have**

20 **to go through again. We went through it, which we**

21 **shouldn't have had to do. But it was something that's**

22 **going to live with me forever. I'm sure a lot of people**

23 **that was residents also.**

24 MR MILLETT: Mr Smith, thank you very much for coming here

25 today and assisting us with our investigations. We're

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1 extremely grateful. Your evidence has been very helpful

2 to us. It just remains for me to thank you and your

3 family for assisting us.

4 THE WITNESS: You're welcome, thank you very much.

5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Smith, I would like to add my

6 thanks.

7 You clearly had a terrifying experience, and I'm

8 sorry that we have had to ask you to relive it in such

9 detail today. But I do want you to understand that it's

10 really very important to us to hear what you have to

11 tell us.

12 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I do.

13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm sorry if it's been a difficult

14 experience for you, but you have contributed very much

15 to the investigation, so thank you very much indeed.

16 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.

17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You are free to go now. Would you

18 like to go with the usher, she'll look after you.

19 (The witness withdrew)

20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.

21 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, we now have a little bit of time

22 before the customary lunch break which, with your

23 permission, I would like to use, if I can, by catching

24 up on some of the reading deficit.

25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.

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1 MR MILLETT: So if you would allow me to do that --

2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.

3 MR MILLETT: -- I will then change files as elegantly as

4 I can.

5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you planning to catch up on some

6 of the reading you failed to do yesterday or the day

7 before, or to do some of the reading you planned to do

8 today?

9 MR MILLETT: Not the latter.

10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Ah, right. In that case I'll have

11 to pay particular attention since I left yesterday's

12 reading upstairs.

13 MR MILLETT: Right.

14 (Pause)

15 So we are in slight deficit in the reading that

16 we've had because of the witnesses who have come to give

17 evidence.

18 What I wanted to do was to start by reading the rest

19 of the Monday reads that we didn't do.

20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.

21 SAWSAN CHOUCAIR (evidence read into the record)

22 MR MILLETT: I can start with Sawsan Choucair and her

23 statement, if I may.

24 This is a statement given to us by Sawsan Choucair

25 dated 12 September 2018. It's IWS00001080.

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26 (Pages 101 to 104)

<p>1 (Handed)</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much whoever has</p> <p>3 provided me with the spare.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I'm sorry, I should have asked you</p> <p>5 if you had it, but I'm glad you do. It's on the screen</p> <p>6 as well.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: The statement of truth, Mr Chairman, is at</p> <p>9 page 12 of the statement over the signature of Sawsan</p> <p>10 Choucair.</p> <p>11 I should just explain for those who aren't familiar</p> <p>12 with the relationships, that Sawsan Choucair is the</p> <p>13 sister of Nabil, Hisam and Nadia and they share</p> <p>14 a mother, or shared a mother, Sirria, they're four</p> <p>15 siblings. So you'll hear a little bit more about that</p> <p>16 relationship when we come to some more or the Choucair</p> <p>17 statements in a moment.</p> <p>18 She gives evidence about flat 191 on the 22nd floor</p> <p>19 and she says at paragraph 2 -- she wasn't present on the</p> <p>20 night of the fire -- but she says:</p> <p>21 "2. I make this statement on behalf of myself and</p> <p>22 all of my family and close friends that I lost to the</p> <p>23 fire. The immediate family members who I lost in the</p> <p>24 fire were my mother, Sirria Choucair, who I had lived</p> <p>25 with since 2012 at Flat 191, and living at Flat 193,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 the tape in front of us. I told them my family were in</p> <p>2 there on the 22nd floor. They asked me who was in there</p> <p>3 and I told them. The fireman or the policeman I was</p> <p>4 talking to asked me which flat number, what floor, and</p> <p>5 my families names. I provided all of this information.</p> <p>6 The policeman took down the details on his note pad but</p> <p>7 I didn't see him call or contact anyone. It was</p> <p>8 sometime after 3am when I spoke to them.</p> <p>9 "19. I also told them that on the 21st floor my</p> <p>10 friend Helen Gebremeskel was trapped with her daughter</p> <p>11 and with a family with a pregnant woman.</p> <p>12 "20. At the same time I was telling this</p> <p>13 information to them I was still trying to get through to</p> <p>14 my sister. Her phone would pick up but I could not hear</p> <p>15 what was being said or who was answering it. The</p> <p>16 policeman told me not to shout. I told him 'my whole</p> <p>17 family is in there'. I was shouting down the phone to</p> <p>18 my sister to 'get out, get to the stairs'. The</p> <p>19 policeman told me to tell my sister to put a wet towel</p> <p>20 by the door. However, I couldn't hear any voice on the</p> <p>21 other end of my sister's phone but it had been picked up</p> <p>22 by the looks of it. I was shouting I then lost</p> <p>23 connection. I kept on trying to call and it looked like</p> <p>24 it was being picked up but I couldn't hear anything.</p> <p>25 The policeman wrote down my family's details.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 just across from us, my sister, Nadia Choucair, her</p> <p>2 husband Bassem and their three children, Mierna, Fatima</p> <p>3 and Zainab. All of my family who lived in the Tower</p> <p>4 died that night and I only didn't die because I was out</p> <p>5 that night, otherwise I would not be here but would have</p> <p>6 been burnt to death."</p> <p>7 Then if I can pick it up at paragraph 17 on page 4.</p> <p>8 She says:</p> <p>9 "17. After speaking to one of my brothers, I headed</p> <p>10 to the Tower. I arrived no later than 3am but I cannot</p> <p>11 be certain of the exact time. When I arrived, the Tower</p> <p>12 was completely ablaze. The flames were covering the</p> <p>13 whole Tower and seemed to be getting worse and worse.</p> <p>14 The place was full of police and firemen. I was</p> <p>15 standing at the back near the church and the area was</p> <p>16 sealed off, so I couldn't get any closer. All I could</p> <p>17 do was keep calling my family, but the phones were</p> <p>18 ringing and when they did pick up I couldn't hear what</p> <p>19 they were saying.</p> <p>20 "18. As I couldn't do anything I just stood there.</p> <p>21 It was terrible to be standing watching the Tower on</p> <p>22 fire knowing that your family are in there probably</p> <p>23 burning to death. Near where I was standing close to</p> <p>24 the church with my mums friends son, next to the Tower</p> <p>25 there was a policeman and fireman on the other side of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 "21. I think my last contact with my sister was on</p> <p>2 WhatsApp at 2.46 am.</p> <p>3 "22. I understand that my sister Nadia was also</p> <p>4 talking to Helen on the floor below and Helen was saying</p> <p>5 they were trying to get out. She was with the</p> <p>6 Portuguese family on the 21st floor. The woman who was</p> <p>7 pregnant worked as a receptionist in Helen's hair salon.</p> <p>8 "23. I remained near the Tower throughout the early</p> <p>9 hours of the morning, in fact until about 9 am. My</p> <p>10 brothers and their families arrived but I am not sure at</p> <p>11 what time. We were just looking at the Tower on fire</p> <p>12 and my flat and my sister's flat here we knew our family</p> <p>13 had been. Both my flat and my sister's flat were</p> <p>14 ablaze, and I just prayed that my family had all got</p> <p>15 out. While we were watching the fire and praying our</p> <p>16 family had escaped, we were asking anyone that we could</p> <p>17 if they knew anything about our family."</p> <p>18 Then at page 11 of her statement she gives some</p> <p>19 additional information.</p> <p>20 I can just pick that up, if I may, Mr Chairman, at</p> <p>21 paragraph 60. She says:</p> <p>22 "60. I never received any information - nor did my</p> <p>23 mum as far as I am aware — about fire safety (including</p> <p>24 what to do in the event of a fire), either at the time</p> <p>25 of moving in or at any time after. I am not aware of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

27 (Pages 105 to 108)

<p>1 any checks carried at the Tower out by the London Fire 2 Brigade at any time prior to the fire. 3 "61. Prior to the night of the fire I believed that 4 if there was ever a fire in the Tower we should leave 5 the flat as soon as possible. The reason for thinking 6 this was from the fire training I received at work and I 7 believe it is just common sense. Irrespective of where 8 the fire would be my gut feeling would be to get out as 9 soon as possible. 10 "62. In addition to the smoke alarms in our own 11 flat, I believe that I had seen smoke alarms on the 12 ceilings in the Tower communal areas. We had a smoke 13 alarm in our own kitchen, but I do not know if anyone 14 ever came to check it, as my mum was the only one home 15 in the day, as I would be in work. 16 "63. Our front door had an automatic closing device 17 and as far as I am aware it was not working fully 18 including probably on the day of the fire. It would 19 pull the door to the frame but did not have the power to 20 fully close it past the latch and to click shut. 21 "64. The door was not changed during my time in the 22 Tower and no repairs or modifications had been carried 23 out on the door during my time living in the Tower. I 24 am not aware of any electrical installations being 25 carried out in our flat, but I would be at work during</p> <p>Page 109</p>	<p>1 Sawsan and Nadia. 2 Mrs Choucair was also married to Bassem Choukair, 3 who was Nadia's husband, Nadia being the youngest of the 4 siblings. 5 She explains in paragraph 2, she says: 6 "I was born in [redacted] and moved to the UK when 7 I married Nabil [redacted]. My brother Bassem was 8 married to Nabil's sister Nadia. Nabil and I have three 9 children ..." 10 She explains the ages. 11 They were not living in Grenfell Tower at the time 12 of the fire. 13 Then at paragraph 3 she explains a little bit about 14 the family habits and relationships they had. 15 Just three paragraphs or so from the second page of 16 the statement she says under the title "Leading up to 17 the fire and the fire 14th June 2017": 18 " 4. That night, I remember the call from Sawsan, 19 Nabil's sister ...[redacted]... Minutes before the 20 phone call. It was around 3:00am when Nabil received 21 the I was awake around 5 telephone call, I was shocked 22 at who would ring at this time. 23 "5. I remember Nabil screaming and he turned the 24 television on to watch the news. He told me to look at 25 the televisions and I knew straight away it was the</p> <p>Page 111</p>
<p>1 the day, so my mum may have known of such works." 2 And she talks about the extractor fan and the lifts 3 as well. 4 Then in paragraph 67: 5 "67. With regard to concerns about fire safety in 6 the Tower generally, my mum and sister would deal with 7 these things as they were at home in the day and I would 8 be in work." 9 Like all the other statements, Mr Chairman, Sawsan 10 Choucair's statement will be read in full into the 11 record and will be taken into account in full as 12 evidence to the inquiry. 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 14 MALAK CHOUCAIR (evidence read into the record) 15 MR MILLETT: We then come to the next witness statement, 16 which is IWS00001070, which is the statement of 17 Mrs Malak Choucair. 18 It's dated 12 September 2018. It has a statement of 19 truth at page 3, just above the signature of 20 Mrs Choucair on that page, Mr Chairman. 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mm-hm. 22 MR MILLETT: Again, just to put the family relationships in 23 a bit of context, Mrs Malak Choucair is married to 24 Mr Nabil Choucair, the eldest of the four Choucair 25 siblings, Sawsan being Nabil's elder sister of the two,</p> <p>Page 110</p>	<p>1 Grenfell Tower on fire. He said he had to go there, he 2 was screaming and looking for his car keys. 3 "6. The children were asleep so I could not go with 4 him. I kept calling Nadia and Bassem on their phones 5 but they did not answer. It was around 3:00am. I sent 6 them text messages and whatsapp messages but I could see 7 they were not online. I kept trying for one hour. I 8 was screaming and crying all the time." 9 She also explains a little bit about the rest of the 10 night and the day after and the aftermath of the fire. 11 Like all the statements Malak Choucair's statement 12 will be read in full into the record and be fully taken 13 into account by the inquiry as evidence to the inquiry. 14 NABIL CHOUCAIR (evidence read into the record) 15 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, the next statement I wish to read 16 into the record is IWS00001069. That's the statement of 17 Mr Nabil Choucair. 18 It's dated 11 September 2018 and has a statement of 19 truth at page 8 above that date and above the signature. 20 As I've explained, Nabil Choucair is the eldest of 21 the four siblings, and he, as we've seen, is married to 22 Malak. 23 I think I may have said that Malak Choucair was the 24 brother of Bassem; that's obviously not the case, she 25 was his sister, and Bassem was Nadia Choucair's husband.</p> <p>Page 112</p>

<p>1 I think I have explained that.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: His statement explains the family history.</p> <p>4 And at paragraph 4 he explains:</p> <p>5 "4. Nadia married Malak's brother, Bassem and they</p> <p>6 also stayed in south west London. They did temporarily</p> <p>7 move to north London but then came back to Kensington</p> <p>8 and Chelsea and moved into Flat 193 on the the 22nd</p> <p>9 floor of the Grenfell Tower with her husband and their</p> <p>10 three children, my nieces: Mierna (13 years), Fatima (11</p> <p>11 years) and Zainab Choucair (3 years).</p> <p>12 "5. My mother, Sirria Choucair had mobility issues</p> <p>13 as she was incapacitated with arthritic pain and she</p> <p>14 also had high blood pressure. She was prescribed strong</p> <p>15 pain killers for the arthritic pain as it was extremely</p> <p>16 debilitating for her. She had acquired tenancy on the</p> <p>17 same floor in Flat 191 with my sister Sawsan who was not</p> <p>18 at home on the night of the fire. They moved in maybe 3</p> <p>19 or 4 years after Nadia."</p> <p>20 Then there are some further paragraphs I just wish</p> <p>21 to read into the record about the concerns about the</p> <p>22 building prior to 14 June 2017.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: Picking it up, if I can, at paragraph 7:</p> <p>25 "7. A few months before the fire Nadia had said</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 window would keep the external noise levels down, but it</p> <p>2 was so noisy; you could hear the wind howling and feel</p> <p>3 the wind. In the winter, the heating would have been</p> <p>4 kept on for longer in order to keep the chill out</p> <p>5 through the gaps and the flats lost so much unnecessary</p> <p>6 heat.</p> <p>7 "10. The new front door was another issue.</p> <p>8 Sometimes it would just slam shut such was the draft</p> <p>9 from inside and it was almost frightening. Again, the</p> <p>10 new front door did not fit the old frame and there was a</p> <p>11 huge draft that came from under the door. Bassem had to</p> <p>12 fit draft stoppers to my mother's front door as well as</p> <p>13 theirs flat as it was very drafty, and also because my</p> <p>14 sister had a fear of mice coming into their home. The</p> <p>15 gap was so big you could squeeze your fingers between</p> <p>16 the bottom of the door and the floor."</p> <p>17 Then he continues to deal with the boilers and the</p> <p>18 lifts.</p> <p>19 Paragraph 13, he says:</p> <p>20 "13. The hallways were always extremely noisy, this</p> <p>21 is due to the extractor fans. Whenever it was windy you</p> <p>22 could hear a howling noise in the communal areas it was</p> <p>23 like a horror movie."</p> <p>24 Then at paragraph 17, if we pick it up a paragraph</p> <p>25 in to his evidence about the night of the fire itself,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 that there were problems with the electrical equipment</p> <p>2 in the kitchen and their kitchen appliances packed in</p> <p>3 due to faulty electrical works. She had to buy a new</p> <p>4 washing machine and fridge about four months prior to</p> <p>5 the fire due to these issues as electrical problems</p> <p>6 which would render the appliances unworkable. I think</p> <p>7 this was something to do with the power surges after the</p> <p>8 refurbishment works.</p> <p>9 "8. I know there were also problems with the water</p> <p>10 pressure which was very very weak in all the taps.</p> <p>11 There simply wasn't enough of a flow and Nadia and my</p> <p>12 mum had to report and complain about this issue.</p> <p>13 Eventually they had water pressure motors fitted under</p> <p>14 the bath tubs, to bring a better flow of water through</p> <p>15 the taps. This was also around the time of the</p> <p>16 refurbishment works although again, I cannot narrow down</p> <p>17 the dates.</p> <p>18 "9. There was a serious issue with the new windows</p> <p>19 fitted as part of the renovation works. It was clearly</p> <p>20 noticeable that they had not been fitted to a</p> <p>21 satisfactory standard and I would describe that job as</p> <p>22 'shabby.' I noticed the job was not done properly and I</p> <p>23 recall seeing screws missing. It looked like a rushed</p> <p>24 job. There were gaps in the window frames and they were</p> <p>25 very drafty. You would assume that a double glazed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 page 5:</p> <p>2 "17. I was asleep on the night of the 13th June</p> <p>3 when my sister Sawsan rang me to say there was a fire in</p> <p>4 the Grenfell Tower it was roughly somewhere between</p> <p>5 2:30am — 2:40am. I just did not believe her and so I</p> <p>6 turned on the television and the news channels were</p> <p>7 televising the inferno.</p> <p>8 "18. I tried phoning Nadia but the phone just kept</p> <p>9 ringing and ringing. I called my brother Hisam to tell</p> <p>10 him what had happened and to meet me at the tower. I</p> <p>11 told Malak to keep trying Nadia and her brother Baseem</p> <p>12 who were inside the tower and I then left home and left</p> <p>13 Nadia with our three children at home.</p> <p>14 "19. I then rushed down to the tower.</p> <p>15 Coincidentally both my brother Hisam and I both arrived</p> <p>16 at about the same point in time and I parked under the</p> <p>17 Westway Sports Centre.</p> <p>18 "20. I immediately saw the tower on fire; the</p> <p>19 flames had fully engulfed the upper floors. My brother</p> <p>20 Hisam and I devised a plan to separate and to go</p> <p>21 opposite ways around the tower in order to increase our</p> <p>22 chances of getting into the building to save our family</p> <p>23 members. Our plan was to go in and rescue them. I</p> <p>24 think this would have been around 3:15am — 3:40am.</p> <p>25 "21. It was total chaos and pandemonium. The fire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 brigade were everywhere and kept coming in, everything</p> <p>2 was cordoned off and the police were shouting at</p> <p>3 everyone.</p> <p>4 "22. When I tried to get round them they threatened</p> <p>5 me with arrest. We just wanted to get in and save them.</p> <p>6 At the time, it felt that we got so close but in</p> <p>7 hindsight we must have been about 100 metres away.</p> <p>8 Nevertheless you could see the fire and you could feel</p> <p>9 the heat.</p> <p>10 "23. Although I did not see my family at the time,</p> <p>11 I later saw the images in the newspaper of Nadia</p> <p>12 desperately waving a makeshift flag from her window near</p> <p>13 the top of the Grenfell Tower. She epitomised the</p> <p>14 indescribable desperation that residents had to be</p> <p>15 rescued. On the night. I did see their flat up in</p> <p>16 flames.</p> <p>17 "24. I kept ringing and ringing their phones but to</p> <p>18 no avail I did not get through to them.</p> <p>19 "25. The darkness turned into daylight and we heard</p> <p>20 that local buildings such as the Rugby Club and the</p> <p>21 Portobello Road Club were opening as contact centres.</p> <p>22 We searched those centres for any trace of our loved</p> <p>23 ones and when we did not find them we reported them as</p> <p>24 missing. We were hopeful they had left the building and</p> <p>25 they would be found. Every time we heard of a new</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 a statement of truth at page 9.</p> <p>2 It is, as it says at paragraph 2, a translation into</p> <p>3 English by a translator from an original statement that</p> <p>4 was made in Arabic.</p> <p>5 She explains in paragraph 3 that she lived at</p> <p>6 Hurstway Walk as a council tenant and had lived in her</p> <p>7 property from 2005.</p> <p>8 She explains in detail the Grenfell community at</p> <p>9 paragraphs 4 through to 9 and deals with the night of</p> <p>10 the fire from paragraphs 10 onwards.</p> <p>11 There are one or two paragraphs I just want to read</p> <p>12 from that.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: Paragraph 11, Mr Chairman, at page 2, she says:</p> <p>15 "... I heard a noise coming from outside which</p> <p>16 sounded like fizzing and crackling. Our living room</p> <p>17 opens out onto a balcony and I went onto the balcony to</p> <p>18 see what was going on. I could see a little bit of</p> <p>19 smoke coming from behind the Tower. I am not sure what</p> <p>20 time it was, but I think it was about 1.30am as my</p> <p>21 daughter took a video shortly afterwards which has a</p> <p>22 time on it and it is timed at 1.38am."</p> <p>23 Then she explains she wasn't worried, she stayed on</p> <p>24 the balcony for a little bit.</p> <p>25 At paragraph 14 she says:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 centre opening we would go and do the same.</p> <p>2 "26. We heard that there was a telephone helpline</p> <p>3 and so we started to call that from 9:00am although it</p> <p>4 took a while for that service to initiate and we finally</p> <p>5 got through at around 9:30am. We registered our family</p> <p>6 members as missing once again.</p> <p>7 "27. The tower was still ablaze when we decided to</p> <p>8 go to the hospitals and in turn both my brother and I</p> <p>9 attended all the local Accident and Emergency</p> <p>10 departments:-</p> <p>11 "a. St Charles</p> <p>12 "b. Chelsea and Westminster</p> <p>13 "c. Hammersmith and St Thomas' hospital</p> <p>14 "28. When we left them we continued to telephone</p> <p>15 the list of hospitals every couple of hours for any new</p> <p>16 admissions of the Choucair family. We went back and</p> <p>17 searched the centres."</p> <p>18 Like all the other statements, Mr Choucair's will</p> <p>19 stand in its entirety as evidence to the inquiry and be</p> <p>20 taken into account in full.</p> <p>21 NADIA ELBOUTI (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: I have two statements now a walkways resident</p> <p>23 Ms Nadia Elbouti. The first one is IWS00000947, and the</p> <p>24 second one is IWS00001129.</p> <p>25 The first of those is dated 10 July 2018 and has</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 "14. I woke up my daughter and told her there was a</p> <p>2 fire in Grenfell Tower. She came out onto the balcony</p> <p>3 with me, and started filming the Tower on her phone,</p> <p>4 which is the video I mentioned above. The fire was</p> <p>5 still small at that point compared to what it became</p> <p>6 later on, but we were worried about it by then as it</p> <p>7 seemed to be growing. It was shooting up the cladding</p> <p>8 in a straight line.</p> <p>9 "15. I do not speak English very well so my</p> <p>10 daughter called the fire brigade. They said that the</p> <p>11 fire had already been reported and that they were on</p> <p>12 their way.</p> <p>13 "16. My daughter's best friend, Mierna Choucair,</p> <p>14 lived in the Tower with her family on the 22nd floor. I</p> <p>15 was also good friends with her parents, Nadia and</p> <p>16 Baseem. After calling the fire brigade, my daughter</p> <p>17 tried to call Mierna. She did not pick up the calls at</p> <p>18 first. She was probably asleep at this time.</p> <p>19 "17. My daughter kept trying to call her and</p> <p>20 eventually Mierna picked up her phone. Mierna told my</p> <p>21 daughter that the family were asleep. She said that</p> <p>22 they did not know what was happening. My daughter told</p> <p>23 her friend that there was a fire in Grenfell Tower and</p> <p>24 they should get out. Her friend said that she needed to</p> <p>25 go to the next door flat to help her grandmother who</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 needed a stick to walk with. I knew that her 2 grandmother needed a walking stick and that her little 3 sister, Zaynab, had asthma, so I was concerned about how 4 they would get downstairs. 5 "18. My daughter was extremely distressed. She was 6 worried about her friend. I did not know how to comfort 7 her as I was also very scared about what was going to 8 happen to them. We were watching the fire growing and 9 it was clearly becoming extremely dangerous. 10 "19. My daughter made another video on her phone at 11 1.43am and in the video she is crying because she is so 12 scared for her friend. I could see that the fire was 13 spreading across the building and it was starting to 14 spread around the corner of the block. I did not think 15 that the firefighters would be able to control the fire 16 now. It was just spreading too much. 17 "20. At about 1.55am my daughter and I decided to 18 go down to the Tower to try to help people getting out 19 or to find people we knew. We grabbed our jackets and 20 ran out of the house and down the Walkway." 21 Then picking it up at paragraph 22: 22 "22. At that point the fire was only on one side of 23 the Tower, on the north side, but the fire was spreading 24 up the building in a massive line from the bottom of the 25 Tower to nearly the top, which is the 23rd floor. We</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 for example the El-Wahabi family. I was trying to call 2 them on my phone but I could not get through to them, 3 and we were running around in the dark shouting people's 4 names and trying to see people's faces." 5 Then at the foot of the same page at paragraph 33, 6 she says this: 7 "33. My daughter spoke to Mierna again at about 8 3.30am. Mierna told that their flat was really hot and 9 full of smoke and that she did not think they could get 10 out. When my daughter got off the phone to Mierna, she 11 told me that the whole family was crying so much. That 12 was the last time my daughter spoke to Mierna and the 13 family. The two of us were both crying uncontrollably 14 now." 15 The rest of the statement, Mr Chairman, will stand, 16 as the others, and be taken into account in full. 17 The second statement I have given the reference for. 18 It's IWS00001129, dated 9 October 2018. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 20 MR MILLETT: With a signature on page 2, under a statement 21 of truth. It exhibits various exhibits. 22 Mr Chairman, that concludes the reads that were left 23 over from Monday this week. 24 There are a couple more I can I think manage to do 25 without rushing them before 1 o'clock, if I may, to use</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 were standing on the north side, at the base of the 2 Tower on the green. At first the fire went straight up 3 and down and then it started spreading outwards and 4 round the corners of the Tower. The flames coming out 5 of some of the flats seemed to be blue. The flames on 6 the building were mainly orange. I thought that the 7 blue flames were burning gas. I could feel the heat 8 from the Tower — my daughter was so hot she took off her 9 jacket. I could see debris falling from the Tower — I 10 think it was the cladding. It was landing near where we 11 were standing. 12 "23. I saw a fire truck but we could not see any 13 firefighters where we were standing — I think maybe they 14 had gone round to the entrance. I could hear people 15 screaming from the Tower, saying 'help me, help me.' My 16 daughter was crying. It was so upsetting to see. 17 "24. My daughter called Mierna again and tried to 18 tell her to get out. Mierna said her flat was full of 19 smoke and too hot to get out. My daughter sent her a 20 picture on WhatsApp at 2.40am of the fire outside the 21 Tower so she could see what was happening. She tried to 22 tell her friend how serious the fire was and that she 23 needed to try to escape." 24 At paragraph 29 on page 6 she says: 25 "29. There were a couple of other families we knew,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 the time. 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you think there is sufficient 3 time, yes. 4 MR MILLETT: I am actually not confident about that. 5 I would rather take them as a single chunk because they 6 are relevant to a different floor. 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Then it would be better to rise. 8 MR MILLETT: I think I would ask you to do that, 9 Mr Chairman, instead. 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Before you do, I think it right that 11 I should express my thanks to those who have taken the 12 time and trouble to make the statements you've just been 13 reading. 14 MR MILLETT: Yes. 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: They are all of value and they will 16 all be taken into account in full as part of the 17 evidence before the inquiry, as you have made clear. 18 MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Chairman. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 20 So that's probably a convenient point. We'll break 21 there and resume at 2 o'clock. 22 MR MILLETT: 2 o'clock. 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, good, thank you very much. 24 (12.55 pm) 25 (The short adjournment)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 (2.00 pm)</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, before we turn to the next matter,</p> <p>4 and before we even turn to that, there's an important</p> <p>5 very, very short correction I need to make to my reading</p> <p>6 of paragraph 18 of Mr Nabil Choucair's witness statement</p> <p>7 that I read this morning at IWS00001069.</p> <p>8 The correction I should make is at paragraph 18,</p> <p>9 where the statement refers in the last line of that</p> <p>10 paragraph on page 5 to Nadia and it should be to Malak.</p> <p>11 That's a correction that needs to be made for the record</p> <p>12 so that when people read that statement, they will</p> <p>13 understand.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>15 Yes. Now, then.</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, there's now a matter that, before</p> <p>17 we are able to call our next witness, you need to hear</p> <p>18 about. There is, as I understand it, an application to</p> <p>19 be made to you by the Metropolitan Police.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right. Thank you. So is someone</p> <p>21 here for the police?</p> <p>22 Ms Clarke, I suggest you come and use this bench</p> <p>23 here. It's probably going to be more convenient.</p> <p>24 Application on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service</p> <p>25 by MS CLARKE</p> <p>Page 125</p>	<p>1 application, now is the time to do it.</p> <p>2 MS CLARKE: Mr Chairman, I'm in some difficulty fully</p> <p>3 articulating my application in public because of the</p> <p>4 nature of the application itself without any reporting</p> <p>5 restrictions being in place.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: The most I was thinking of was</p> <p>7 making a reporting restriction on the application</p> <p>8 itself, all right?</p> <p>9 MS CLARKE: I'm grateful, sir.</p> <p>10 Well, that preliminary stage of requiring</p> <p>11 a reporting restriction, perhaps I can outline</p> <p>12 generically what the character of the application is.</p> <p>13 Sir, we are due this afternoon to hear from</p> <p>14 Ms Wahabi, who of course has important evidence to give</p> <p>15 to this inquiry. A risk has arisen in respect of the</p> <p>16 timing of Ms Wahabi's evidence running before criminal</p> <p>17 proceedings that are due to take place next week.</p> <p>18 The application is for a reporting restriction in</p> <p>19 respect of her evidence only until the conclusion of</p> <p>20 those discrete criminal proceedings. So the totality of</p> <p>21 the restriction that's proposed is until 12 November.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Assuming the trial goes to a</p> <p>23 conclusion --</p> <p>24 MS CLARKE: Assuming the trial goes ahead as planned, yes.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>Page 127</p>
<p>1 MS CLARKE: Sir, are you content for me to sit while</p> <p>2 I address you?</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course, yes. Now, then.</p> <p>4 MS CLARKE: Mr Chairman, I think I ought to start by</p> <p>5 outlining the application that I've made in writing</p> <p>6 because we are, of course, at a public hearing. The</p> <p>7 Metropolitan Police Service have today made a written</p> <p>8 application --</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We are in public, you know that?</p> <p>10 There are no reporting restrictions.</p> <p>11 MS CLARKE: I do know that. There are no reporting</p> <p>12 restrictions.</p> <p>13 The Metropolitan Police Service this afternoon have</p> <p>14 made an application that I am seeking to address you</p> <p>15 about this afternoon. There are no reporting</p> <p>16 restrictions in place. The application is about</p> <p>17 an application for reporting restrictions.</p> <p>18 I gather, sir, that you wish to hear from me in</p> <p>19 public before you made any determination of that</p> <p>20 application.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, it seemed to me right that we</p> <p>22 should sit in public unless and until anyone applied for</p> <p>23 any form of restriction at all.</p> <p>24 MS CLARKE: Yes.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So if you wish to make any such</p> <p>Page 126</p>	<p>1 MS CLARKE: Yes.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>3 MS CLARKE: Sir, if the reporting restrictions are in place,</p> <p>4 about my -- I'm not quite sure where the boundaries lie</p> <p>5 about what there may be a reporting restriction in place</p> <p>6 for at this particular juncture.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, at this juncture there are no</p> <p>8 reporting restrictions.</p> <p>9 MS CLARKE: No, sir. Sir, you've read the content of my</p> <p>10 written application.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I've seen your application, yes.</p> <p>12 MS CLARKE: Yes.</p> <p>13 Sir, I have to ask that before I make any further</p> <p>14 representations, this matter is heard in private rather</p> <p>15 than in public because of the nature of the concern that</p> <p>16 the Metropolitan Police have. I can't meaningfully</p> <p>17 assist any further without being able to address you</p> <p>18 fully.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, when you say sit in private,</p> <p>20 I think what you're really asking me to do is to direct</p> <p>21 that there be no reporting of the proceedings relating</p> <p>22 to this application until some date in the future which</p> <p>23 I will have to identify, or until further order, maybe.</p> <p>24 MS CLARKE: Sir, may I take instructions about that?</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course. You could have your</p> <p>Page 128</p>

<p>1 solicitor sitting somewhere nearer to you for that 2 purpose. 3 (Pause) 4 Now, Ms Clarke, where are we going with this? 5 MS CLARKE: Sir, I do apologise. I'm trying not to be 6 evasive about what I can say at this particular 7 juncture, and I do appreciate the last-minute nature of 8 this application. 9 The difficulty with reporting restrictions and the 10 nature of this particular application is that the 11 content of the application contains information that is 12 not directly relevant to the public inquiry and to these 13 proceedings but relevant to the other criminal matters, 14 and are details that are sensitive to those matters. 15 I'm in some difficulty, Mr Chairman, agreeing to 16 simply reporting restrictions being imposed. In fact, 17 I would invite you to consider whether perhaps those who 18 have a direct interest in the application are permitted 19 to stay in the hearing room. 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I need to be clear about what 21 you're asking me to do. I thought at one point, as you 22 were making those submissions, you were asking me to 23 clear the room and sit in private in the literal sense. 24 Is that what you're asking me to do? 25 MS CLARKE: Sir, I am asking you to hear the application</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 If there's a case for it being heard in private, and 2 that means without anybody present, in the interests of 3 fairness, then so be it. But I am concerned that the 4 application is being made in private by one core 5 participant in the absence of all the others. There are 6 many people who may not necessarily understand what that 7 means. 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Stein, are you representing 9 Ms Wahabi? 10 MR MANSFIELD: I am. 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Oh, you are. I'm so sorry, of 12 course, that's why you're sitting there. 13 MR MANSFIELD: That's why I went over there. 14 MR STEIN: May I put a marker down, we do represent 15 an individual to whom this may have some relationship, 16 the application, and we have had no sight of any 17 application. I have, though, had a brief word with 18 counsel who is currently before the inquiry in relation 19 to the application. So there are issues that may well 20 affect us and we would ask, first of all, to see the 21 written application. 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Presumably no one else has 23 seen this application? 24 MS CLARKE: No, sir. 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 with a limited amount of people in the room. 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well -- 3 MS CLARKE: Limited to those -- 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No, no, come on, that would be very 5 difficult because that would mean I would have to vet 6 everybody in the room to decide whether they should stay 7 or go, wouldn't it? 8 MS CLARKE: For example, those representatives of Ms Wahabi 9 may well wish to be in the room while I make that 10 application. 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, all right. But are you asking 12 me to sit in private in the conventional sense? 13 MS CLARKE: I am, sir. 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. 15 Mr Millett, did you want to say anything about that? 16 MR MILLETT: I don't want to get in the way, and I would 17 just remind you of your duty of fairness under the 18 statute, but I am concerned about the due process here 19 because, of course, Ms Clarke acts for a core 20 participant, and it is in the interests of the inquiry 21 to get on and hear all the evidence. There seems to us 22 to be some degree of difficulty in her position in being 23 able to do that. 24 That said, anything that would help you to determine 25 the application as soon as possible, we would welcome.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 (Pause) 2 Can copies of the application -- well, you have 3 difficulties showing that too, haven't you? 4 MS CLARKE: Well, I'm in less difficulty if the legal 5 representatives of those who represent Ms Wahabi wanted 6 to see the application. 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, we don't know -- Mr Mansfield, 8 have you seen any of this yet? 9 MR MANSFIELD: No, no, we haven't. We've had conversations 10 about it but we don't know exactly what's in it. 11 I think I would certainly on behalf of Ms Wahabi will be 12 happy for there to be a hearing in which we are involved 13 and Mr Stein is involved but the public at large are 14 not, and the type of hearing you've already had really, 15 and that's on the cards, so ... 16 MR FRIEDMAN: Can I add to this? I don't know what the 17 application is about. But obviously Ms Wahabi has some 18 important evidence to give in relation to flat 102, and 19 I do on behalf of Bindmans represent Menana Jebari and 20 Aicha Jniah, Farah Jniah and Monir Rami, who are 21 connected to that family via the wife and mother who are 22 deceased, and on behalf of Hodge Jones & Allen, I 23 represent Amina Chaer-Yemlahi, who is the sister of 24 Abdulaziz El-Wahabi. 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Does anybody else want to be heard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 on the question as to whether I should hear this</p> <p>2 application in private?</p> <p>3 MR WEATHERBY: Can I very briefly just add that I've had no</p> <p>4 notice of this at all. I've picked up from Mr Stein as</p> <p>5 we started, but I've had no notice about this at all</p> <p>6 about what it's about and that concerns me. Beyond</p> <p>7 that, I may well be in agreement with what has been</p> <p>8 said.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.</p> <p>10 MR WEATHERBY: It would help if notice was given.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: What about other core participants?</p> <p>12 Does anyone -- yes, Mr Thomas.</p> <p>13 MR THOMAS: I have observations. What essentially has been</p> <p>14 asked for is for you to sit in closed session, but I'm</p> <p>15 not too sure my learned friend has properly set out</p> <p>16 within the boundaries of the public hearing, and without</p> <p>17 revealing if she's got sensitive information on behalf</p> <p>18 of the core participant that she represents, a proper</p> <p>19 legal basis for you to sit in closed session.</p> <p>20 The fundamental starting point must be that this is</p> <p>21 a public inquiry. I don't mean to cause difficulty to</p> <p>22 my learned friend, but that's your starting point:</p> <p>23 public inquiry. If there is a proper and legitimate</p> <p>24 need for there to be a closed session, what normally</p> <p>25 happens is, firstly, the core participants are given</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 to leave the room other than the legal representatives</p> <p>2 of the BSR core participants.</p> <p>3 Would that trouble you?</p> <p>4 MS CLARKE: Sir, I will need to just turn my back briefly</p> <p>5 and take instructions.</p> <p>6 (Pause)</p> <p>7 Sir, we would be entirely content for that course.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You are happy for that?</p> <p>9 MS CLARKE: Yes.</p> <p>10 May I also make it clear I do have in mind the</p> <p>11 statutory basis for the application for you to exclude</p> <p>12 certain people from the proceedings.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We will come to all that in</p> <p>14 a minute.</p> <p>15 MS CLARKE: I'm grateful.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right. Well, I am going to direct,</p> <p>17 then, that this application be heard in private subject</p> <p>18 to the attendance of the legal representatives for the</p> <p>19 BSR core participants.</p> <p>20 I am going to direct that the proceedings be</p> <p>21 recorded as they would ordinarily in terms of video and</p> <p>22 oral recording and a transcript taken of the</p> <p>23 proceedings, but that there be no publication of the</p> <p>24 proceedings until further order.</p> <p>25 Before I actually make that order, one of the things</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 notification of that, all of us, and we are given</p> <p>2 an opportunity to be heard on that.</p> <p>3 Sometimes what happens is without revealing the</p> <p>4 sensitive nature of the material, just as a matter of</p> <p>5 respect, a gist of what the issue may well be without</p> <p>6 compromising sensitivity is given to the core</p> <p>7 participants.</p> <p>8 Sir, none of that has happened.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No. Well, for better or worse --</p> <p>10 worse, I suppose -- this has all blown up at very much</p> <p>11 the last minute. I have seen the basis of the</p> <p>12 application, and it's for that reason that I jogged</p> <p>13 Ms Clarke's elbow by reminding her that we were</p> <p>14 currently sitting in public in case she wanted to apply</p> <p>15 for any other course to be taken.</p> <p>16 MR THOMAS: She is applying for some kind of special</p> <p>17 measure, and for her application to be heard in closed</p> <p>18 session. All I am saying, sir, is: there is a process.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Well, the fact of the matter</p> <p>20 may be that the process has to be telescoped for reasons</p> <p>21 which in due course you'll discover. Does anybody else</p> <p>22 want to say anything about conducting this application</p> <p>23 in private?</p> <p>24 What's passing through my mind -- I say this for</p> <p>25 your benefit, Ms Clarke -- is that I should ask everyone</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 that troubles me about all this is that the press ought</p> <p>2 to have a chance to be heard on any order restricting</p> <p>3 publication. Is there any representatives of the press</p> <p>4 in the room?</p> <p>5 MS CREW: Sir, we would request --</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like to come forward?</p> <p>7 It's rather hard to hear you without a microphone at</p> <p>8 that distance.</p> <p>9 MS CREW: We want to have at least one person in the room</p> <p>10 during proceedings, recognising that we wouldn't be</p> <p>11 participating in the proceedings.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm sorry. I am having real</p> <p>13 difficulty in hearing you. It's not your fault; it's</p> <p>14 a big room with a lot of people to soak up the sound.</p> <p>15 MS CREW: We would request that we have one reporter in the</p> <p>16 room while proceedings are sitting.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: But without --</p> <p>18 MS CREW: Without reporting.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- any reporting until the</p> <p>20 restrictions are lifted?</p> <p>21 MS CREW: Yes.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Can you argue with that?</p> <p>23 MS CLARKE: Sir, I think I've said all I can about that.</p> <p>24 Certainly my application would be for the legal</p> <p>25 representatives of the BSRs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Anything you want to say, 2 Mr Millett? 3 MR MILLETT: I just wanted to know who is making the 4 representation on behalf of "the press", as it were. 5 MS CREW: Gemma from the Press Association. 6 MR MILLETT: Right, I'm content with that. 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I am content for you to stay 8 in the room. 9 Could I trouble everyone else, then, to leave the 10 room? 11 MR STEIN: I am going to raise one matter, which is this: 12 Mr Gomes, who is the individual that we represent and 13 who potentially may be affected by this application, is 14 with us and in the room at the moment. We would ask 15 that he remain. We see no reason in principle why he 16 should not. Anything that is said within these rooms, 17 unless you make a very extraordinary order, we would be 18 entitled to speak to him about. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I suppose the same would go for 20 Mrs Wahabi, wouldn't it? 21 MR MANSFIELD: Could I add one matter to that as well, and 22 that is that Ms Wahabi is also in the room as well. 23 May I also point out that this is most unfortunate 24 because it's been known for a long time -- 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Mansfield, I agree with you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 sorry that I had to ask many of you to leave the room 2 while I dealt with the other matter. 3 I think all I can tell you by way of explanation is 4 that I had to consider a matter on the basis that 5 certain aspects of the proceedings of the inquiry might 6 have a prejudicial effect on proceedings elsewhere, and 7 I've made an order restricting reporting of the matters 8 we've just been discussing in your absence until further 9 notice. 10 Right, now we'll get on with the business of the 11 inquiry. 12 Yes, Mr Rawat. 13 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, what I would propose to do now is to 14 read into the record two statements that link to 15 evidence that you heard yesterday from Mr Paulos Tekle. 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you. 17 GENET SHAWO (evidence read into the record) 18 MR RAWAT: The first statement that we put into the record, 19 Mr Chairman, is that of Genet Shawo, the partner of 20 Mr Tekle. The reference for that is at IWS00001050. 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you. 22 MR RAWAT: It is the statement of Genet Grebremaiam Shawo. 23 If we go, please, to page 16, the statement is dated 24 4 September 2018, and it is signed with a statement of 25 truth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 entirely, but there's not much we can do about that now. 2 MR MANSFIELD: There is one thing, and that is that the 3 witness is reassured at the moment because, as you know, 4 she's in an adjoining room. 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think steps have been taken to 6 explain to her what is going on, but you are quite 7 right, she does need to be aware of what's happening. 8 I am going to say that Mr Gomes and Mrs Wahabi be 9 permitted to remain. Otherwise, I am afraid I am going 10 to ask everyone other than the BSR legal representatives 11 to leave the room. 12 MR FRIEDMAN: I have been informed by the extended family 13 that they apprehend what the application is about. 14 I don't want to hold it up now by mentioning the names 15 of the extended family, but it may be I will want to 16 address you once we're in session -- 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Let's see how we go, shall we? 18 MR FRIEDMAN: Yes. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm sorry to those of you sitting in 20 the public seating over here. I'm afraid for legal 21 reasons I am going to have to ask you to leave the room. 22 (2.25 pm) 23 (Application heard in private) 24 (3.20 pm) 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, ladies and gentlemen, I'm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 There are, Mr Chairman, five exhibits that accompany 2 the statement, which have been identified as GS/1 to 3 GS/5, and they are pages 17 to 21 in the same document. 4 If I may, I propose just to read out some extracts 5 from the statement, but as we have made clear, I hope, 6 with all other statements that we've put into the record 7 so far, the statement goes into the record in its 8 entirety and is considered in its entirety. 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 10 MR RAWAT: As you will have heard from Mr Tekle himself, 11 Genet is his partner, the mother of his two sons, and 12 she was present in flat 153 on 14 June 2017. 13 In her statement she explains that she moved into 14 flat 153 in June 2016, where she was living with her two 15 boys. 16 If I take you, Mr Chairman, to page 3. 17 I just want to read paragraph 7: 18 "7. I moved in after the refurbishment had been 19 carried out. In the flat there were problems with the 20 windows. They were not airtight and had a draft coming 21 through them. The windows in the lounge and bedrooms 22 were especially bad in cold weather and we put towels by 23 them to try and restrict the drafts. I reported this a 24 number of times; I went personally to the TMO office and 25 also I reported it in writing. I was never given an</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 answer. Two of the lounge windows were not working 2 properly and did not open. When I reported this someone 3 was sent to fix it but they couldn't, I was told that 4 someone else would come to fix it and although I 5 repeatedly asked I was never given an answer and no one 6 came." 7 If I move forward in the statement, please, to 8 paragraph 11 on page 4, Ms Shawo there says: 9 "11. On the Saturday before the fire I was at home 10 in the flat with [redacted] and Isaac. I was expecting 11 a friend to come by and there was a knock on the door. 12 Isaac ran to open the door and it was a fireman who 13 wanted to test the smoke alarms in the lobby. He walked 14 into the flat and right by the front door there is a 15 fire alarm. He pressed the button and he said 'it's 16 working' and he stepped back out the door again. It 17 worked but it was no louder than a mobile phone. There 18 was also a smoke alarm in the kitchen but he did not 19 test that. Since the time I moved into the Tower I was 20 never given any information about fire safety." 21 Mr Chairman, if I may now just turn to Ms Shawo's 22 account of the fire itself and the night of the fire. 23 As I explained, and as you will remember from Mr Tekle's 24 evidence, the family came back home that night and were 25 together and put the children to bed that evening.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 rang her on her son's Yayah's phone. The first time I 2 called no one picked up but on a second call at 01.43 I 3 spoke to Hashim and told him it was Genet. He asked me 4 how I was and he said that they were in their house as 5 well. He said that he had phoned the emergency services 6 and they told him to wait and not to leave the flat. He 7 said that he was sitting together with his children and 8 he advised me to do the same with my children and that 9 the emergency services would come and take us out and 10 rescue us. I tried to call Nura again at 01.49 but got 11 no answer. 12 "26. We then opened the door again to our flat to 13 see what it was like. There was more smoke than on the 14 previous occasion. I saw the man Yehalashet[sic] Enyew 15 who lived in Brikti's[sic] flat 155. He was in the 16 lobby area and asked if he could come into our flat. I 17 asked him where is Brikti and Buruk[sic] and he said, 18 they had left. I said yes and he came in. We went into 19 the living room. He said that there was a huge fire and 20 we were talking about we should do. At this stage it 21 was smoky outside the flat. There was no smoke in the 22 flat. 23 "27. There was a knock on the door around 2am. 24 Yehalashet Enyew who had come into our house ran to the 25 door with us following him. When the door was opened</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 If we go, please, to page 7, paragraph 22 in the 2 statement, Ms Shawo explains: 3 "22. I stayed up did some housework, prepared some 4 homework for the children and got their clothes ready 5 for the following day and I went to bed at about 12 6 midnight. I went to sleep but was later woken by Paulos 7 who asked me if I heard noises and shouting. 8 "23. When we heard the noises we looked out of the 9 door. We went together and looked outside. We saw our 10 neighbour from flat 152. She was there with her 11 children. I could see her clearly though we could see 12 smoke. I could smell smoke. But we could see each 13 other clearly. I asked her what was going on and she 14 told me that there was a fire in the building. When I 15 finished talking to her, I went back inside to the 16 living room. I know that Paulos made the first call, a 17 999 call, from my phone." 18 If I move forward to paragraph 25, Ms Shawo 19 continues: 20 "25. Between 1:32 and 2:54 am we were calling our 21 friends from the Tower or they were calling us. On my 22 phone log I can see a call at 01.32 to Abraham, Isaac 23 friend's dad from the 7th floor. Paulos made this call 24 from my phone. At 01.39 I tried to phone Nura on the 25 22nd floor but her phone was busy. Because of this I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 there was a Firefighter in uniform. Paulos told the 2 firefighter that there were three adults and two 3 children in the flat and asked what we should do. I 4 believed he had come to rescue us. He said to stay in 5 the flat and put a blanket around the door and cover 6 every hole to stop the smoke coming in. And he said 7 'you're safe.' Of course I believed him. We thought 8 the fire must be somewhere in the building but it was 9 not coming up. We could not see flames on our side of 10 the building. I could see flames if I looked out 11 sideways out of the window on the other side. So I 12 believed the fireman at this point." 13 The statement continues: 14 "... I don't remember a female firefighter being at 15 the door, only a male. We were all standing at the door 16 waiting to be rescued. I would confirm that the 17 conversation with the firefighter took longer than 20 18 seconds as he was giving us instructions to block the 19 door with towels to stop the smoke coming in." 20 If I could move forward in the statement to 21 paragraph 32 on page 10, please. 22 It continues: 23 "32. We closed the door and we covered the post-box 24 with a plastic bag which we stuck down with plasters and 25 we then covered the door with a blanket. We then sat</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 down to wait because we trusted the advice the 2 firefighter had given us. We felt a bit more at peace 3 and a bit calmer because he told us it was safe. We 4 kept ringing friends or they were calling us, and they 5 were telling us to leave. We thought that we were going 6 to be rescued as the firefighter had told us we were 7 safe. So we stayed where we were. But as time went on 8 we started to become more and more scared. Isaac was 9 crying. [Redacted] was crying. They were scared. 10 "33. After some time, there was a knock on the door 11 again. We thought it was the firefighter coming back 12 but when I opened the door it was my neighbour from flat 13 152 with her three children. She asked if she could 14 come in. She said that the fire was in her kitchen. I 15 told her to come in and she came in with her children. 16 We were all making calls to friends outside the Tower. 17 Paulos was calling 999 and calling friends. I was 18 speaking to my friend Adiam and told her to call the 19 emergency services and tell them we were in flat 153 and 20 we were there with children. I told her to keep calling 21 them." 22 If I move forward to paragraph 35, it continues: 23 "35. We had our mobile phone lights on and we were 24 shining it through the window and shouting 'help, help' 25 through the window. The fire was increasing. I opened</p> <p>Page 145</p>	<p>1 had said that we had to leave now. I didn't hear the 2 phone conversation but it was what Paulos told me. He 3 said that we had to get towels, wet it and put it in our 4 mouth and get out. I arranged this for everyone in the 5 house. I went to the bedroom and got towels and 6 bedsheets from under the bed. I wet them in the bath. 7 The water was not coming out of the taps very fast. I 8 sorted out towels for everyone in the house and as I was 9 preparing mine the man who had come into the house, 10 Yehalashet Enyew, was standing at the door. I told him 11 not to open the door until we were all together by it 12 and I was ready otherwise the smoke would overcome us. 13 "41. I was not ready I didn't even have anything on 14 my feet. But he opened the door any way and he was 15 repeatedly saying who should he look after who should he 16 hold (referring to the children). This conversation was 17 in a loud voice. [redacted] was crying and screaming on 18 the floor. I was shouting about the door being open and 19 the smoke, Yehalashet Enyew was shouting loudly 'which 20 one do you want me to hold', so there was a lot of 21 commotion with the door open and a firefighter was 22 standing outside on the lobby a few feet away from the 23 door. 24 "42. Paulos tried to give [redacted] to Yehalashet 25 Enyew but [redacted] refused to go out with him and was</p> <p>Page 147</p>
<p>1 the kitchen window and smoke started coming in. I 2 checked the gas and the water which we normally shut off 3 at night. 4 "36. The fire was increasing and Paulos said that 5 we should leave that he would take Isaac and I would 6 take [redacted] and we should jump out of the window so 7 at least our bodies would be found and our bodies would 8 not be burnt. He was by the open window in the living 9 room. I find it very distressing to talk about this 10 part. 11 "37. Paulos made a further call to the emergency 12 services and we were told to wait. We were still hoping 13 to be rescued but we were becoming desperate. 14 "38. Paulos spoke to Abraham again. After Paulos 15 finished talking to Abraham, Paulos told me that Abraham 16 had said the fire is very bad and you have to come down. 17 You have to get out. 18 "39. At 2:51 Adiam called me again and told me that 19 she had phoned the emergency service and the operator 20 was crying and said they could not control the fire. 21 They had told Adiam to tell us to get out and take our 22 chances. The phone log that I have been sent is not 23 complete. 24 "40. Paulos had another call with the emergency 25 services around the same time and he told us that they</p> <p>Page 146</p>	<p>1 rolling around on the floor and as I was looking after 2 [redacted] the man still kept repeating saying who shall 3 I hold for you who shall I hold for you so we gave him 4 Isaac and Paulos managed to pick up [redacted]. 5 "43. The firefighter had a light but it was not 6 very bright. Isaac and Yehalashet Enyew went out first 7 and we all followed. I was the last one to go out. I 8 had no shoes on. I had no wet towel. 9 "44. The firefighter never spoke to any of us. He 10 did not tell you how to hold on or what to do or what to 11 expect. He did not offer to take any of the children. 12 The smoke was overwhelming. We could not see each 13 other; no one could see each other. The door to the 14 stairs was already open when I got there I don't 15 remember opening it. I only know that I reached the 16 stairs not anything else. The smoke was overwhelming. 17 I was about to fall down on a few occasions. I was 18 trying to hold on to the rail. I tried to hold on to 19 the firefighter he was ahead of me. But I could not 20 reach him. He was not carrying any of the children. He 21 was just going down on his own. I was struggling for 22 breath it was disorienting and confusing. It was very 23 difficult and I do not wish to go into too much detail 24 here as it is very distressing. 25 "45. When I got down to the lower floors I could</p> <p>Page 148</p>

<p>1 see there was a light. I saw Paulos was slumped on the 2 floor holding on to [redacted]. He couldn't get up. I 3 took [redacted] from him and we met a firefighter and he 4 took [redacted] from me in the lobby."</p> <p>5 Mr Chairman, I propose to end there but, as I said, 6 the entirety of the statement goes into the record.</p> <p>7 YEHUALASHET ENYEW (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>8 MR RAWAT: Can I read now into the record a statement from 9 Yehualashet Enyew. It's dated 17 July 2017, and it is 10 a statement made by Mr Enyew to the police. So whilst 11 it doesn't carry a statement of truth, it carries the 12 statement at the top that it's "true to the best of my 13 knowledge and belief".</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>15 MR RAWAT: So that statement the reference is at 16 MET00007347, and it's a 3-page statement.</p> <p>17 Again, the entirety of that statement goes into the 18 record, but I wish to read some extracts from it.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>20 MR RAWAT: These extracts relate to the events of the night. 21 On page 1, the statement reads: 22 "I was in my bedroom at flat 155 Grenfell Tower at 23 about 0115 hours I woke up. I could smell smoke. My 24 window was open. I could see sparks of light and smoke 25 outside my window. As a result I realised the building</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 flat. We went inside. Inside flat 153 we could see 2 lots of people outside. We were shouting 'Help us!' At 3 this point we could see lots of firemen but no fire 4 engines. At this point I had not yet called 999. We 5 stayed in the flat until about 0200 hours a fireman with 6 breathing apparatus knocked at the door. I asked him 7 'Are we safe in here?' He nodded his head as if to say 8 yes. I then said 'Have you controlled the fire?' He 9 nodded his head again as if to say 'yes.' The fireman 10 said to me, 'Open the windows get fresh air, close the 11 door and prevent smoke coming in.' A short while later a 12 lady from flat 152 came to flat 153 with her 3 children, 13 a girl aged about 12 years old, a girl aged 8 and a boy 14 aged 6. They appeared to be [redacted] maybe 15 [redacted], I do not know their names. I called police 16 at 0231 hours I said there was a fire 'We are on the 17 18th floor we need help.' The lady from flat 152 said 18 her flat was caught on fire. We started to notice that 19 the fire was coming from flat 152 on the outside of the 20 building. We closed the window on the south side of 21 flat 153 and moved to the window on the west side of the 22 flat. By this time the children were shouting and 23 screaming. It was like hell.</p> <p>24 "At about 0330 hrs there was another knock at the 25 door and the husband from flat 153 said to us 'lets get</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 was on fire. As soon as I realised I came out of my 2 room and shouted to Berkti HAFTOM[sic] 'Fire', fire', 3 Berkti fire!'"</p> <p>4 If we go over, Mr Chairman, to the second page, and 5 just picking it up from the second paragraph, which 6 begins "Going back to the incident". The statement 7 reads: 8 "Going back to the incident I was looking for my 9 trousers and my passport. Berkti was shouting to me 10 'Come out! come out!' By now it was about 0120 hours. I 11 heard her voice in the doorway of the flat and the front 12 door slam. I was now beginning to panic I had two pairs 13 of trousers on. I left the flat a few minutes later, 14 with my passport, birth certificate, and important 15 documents in a folder, in the communal area. I saw a 16 lady I have met before called Genet she is about 17 [redacted] years old and lives at flat 153 with her 18 husband about the same ages and her two children aged 19 about 5 and 3 years old, both boys. Flat 153 is 20 directly opposite flat 155 I was living at as per my 21 sketch plan. I walked towards the communal stairway and 22 opened the door, it was filled with thick, choking 23 smoke. I thought it would be best to stay on the 18th 24 floor and wait to be rescued. I went with Genet to flat 25 153. By this time her husband was just outside the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 some clothes and soak them in water', he said 'The 2 firefighters are outside the door.' We all assembled by 3 the door. I had the 5 year old child on my right hand. 4 The husband had the three year old. I went outside I 5 grabbed a fireman with my left hand. I had the boy in 6 my right hand. The others were behind me. There was 7 thick black choking smoke. You could hardly see. 8 There was more than one fireman. There was confusion. 9 I said to the fireman, 'Go!, go!' I was hoping to be 10 lead to safety. The fireman was leading me down the 11 stairs. My left hand was tucked into the right arm of 12 the fireman. As we went down it became harder and 13 harder. We were choking on thick black smoke, we were 14 becoming exhausted and confused. At about halfway down 15 the building I realised the 5 year old boy was no longer 16 with me. I was beginning to lose consciousness. I was 17 mentally exhausted from the trauma. The fireman was 18 still with me, I was leaning on him. Without the 19 fireman helping me I could have not made it out of the 20 building.</p> <p>21 "As I exited the building I was given oxygen by the 22 firemen."</p> <p>23 Mr Chairman, that's all I propose to read from that 24 statement.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 MR RAWAT: I will just hand over to Mr Millett.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you very much.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I propose to take over the reading</p> <p>4 and read the statements relating to the evidence that</p> <p>5 you heard yesterday afternoon from Rabia Yahya --</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: -- relating to her floor. Much of this comes</p> <p>8 from friends and family who were in contact with her on</p> <p>9 that night.</p> <p>10 KHADIJA YAHYA (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: Can we start, please, with the statement of</p> <p>12 Khadija Yahya. She Rabia's mother.</p> <p>13 The statement is dated 1 June 2018 and there's</p> <p>14 a statement of truth at page 11 of that statement.</p> <p>15 The reference is IWS00000664.</p> <p>16 She explains that she had moved into Grenfell Tower,</p> <p>17 into flat 42, with her husband, Mohamed, in around 1986,</p> <p>18 after the birth of her first child. Prior to the</p> <p>19 refurbishment, it was the 4th floor. Then they moved to</p> <p>20 Barandon Walk and had been living there for over</p> <p>21 20 years before the night of the fire. Their flat is in</p> <p>22 the middle of Barandon Walk.</p> <p>23 In addition to Rabia, there are other daughters she</p> <p>24 has, and she's explained who they are in her statement.</p> <p>25 She says, as we know, that Rabia lived at 152</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 police started to push us back, which is when the debris</p> <p>2 apparently started to fall. I don't remember seeing any</p> <p>3 debris; I just remember focusing on the fire and smoke.</p> <p>4 The police pushed us back to Avondale Park Road where we</p> <p>5 congregated. We were stood on the corner by number</p> <p>6 forty, where the road meets Threshers Place.</p> <p>7 "25. Tension was mounting as we were watching the</p> <p>8 fire spread. Within ten minutes of being outside the</p> <p>9 fire shot up the right hand column of the east facade</p> <p>10 (Exhibit KY-1). I think this would have been</p> <p>11 1:15am-1:45am. It seemed like there was a pipe that the</p> <p>12 fire spread up. It shot up as fast as you can imagine.</p> <p>13 It was like switching on a torch. It looked like petrol</p> <p>14 or gas had been sprayed on the pipe. I didn't feel like</p> <p>15 I could be any more panicked but when I saw how quickly</p> <p>16 it spread I felt completely helpless and more</p> <p>17 overwhelmed than I could cope with. I felt hysterical.</p> <p>18 "26. The fire seemed to veer round towards the</p> <p>19 north facade across the top of the Tower and then come</p> <p>20 back round the east facade and head towards the south</p> <p>21 facade. As it started to come back round the building</p> <p>22 towards the south facade it was heading towards Rabia's</p> <p>23 flat.</p> <p>24 "27. I was in sheer panic and could not bear to</p> <p>25 look at the devastation unfolding before my eyes, but my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>2 She describes the night of the fire in some detail.</p> <p>3 Can I pick it up at paragraph 23 of her statement on</p> <p>4 page 5 of that statement.</p> <p>5 She explains that she had gone to the tower and she</p> <p>6 says in the second sentence:</p> <p>7 "I remember my brother and my sisters running over</p> <p>8 to me. There were a lot of other people surrounding the</p> <p>9 building as well. I think it was around 1am to 1:15am.</p> <p>10 I remember looking up to the Tower and seeing people</p> <p>11 above the flames on the same side of the building,</p> <p>12 screaming, crying and waving for help. There were a lot</p> <p>13 of people around me on the grass who were also crying</p> <p>14 and screaming for help. I remember seeing a lot of</p> <p>15 familiar faces but not really acknowledging anyone. I</p> <p>16 think I may have seen some of the El Wahabi family, who</p> <p>17 are close friends of ours, but I cannot recall exactly</p> <p>18 who. Everyone seemed to be desperate to help. Some,</p> <p>19 particularly the younger ones, wanted to go in. My</p> <p>20 son-in-law's brother, Ubaida got into a fight with a</p> <p>21 policeman because we could see pools of firefighters</p> <p>22 congregating on the grass verge but doing nothing. It</p> <p>23 just seemed to fuel everyone's frustration.</p> <p>24 "24. The smoke started to become overbearing from</p> <p>25 where we were stood underneath the sports centre. The</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 head was unable to move. There was a constant</p> <p>2 background noise of people screaming but my eyes were</p> <p>3 fixated on Rabia's flat. I knew she was in there and I</p> <p>4 knew I couldn't help her.</p> <p>5 "28. My sister covered my face with her scarf so I</p> <p>6 couldn't see how the fire was developing. I remember</p> <p>7 collapsing. I don't remember what I was saying but I</p> <p>8 remember being absolutely hysterical. My sister and my</p> <p>9 sister-in-law were trying to lift me back to my feet;</p> <p>10 each of them held me underneath my arms but I had no</p> <p>11 strength. I was inconsolable and my legs would not</p> <p>12 work.</p> <p>13 "29. I am unsure of timings but it may have been</p> <p>14 around the 2am mark when the fire reached Rabia's flat.</p> <p>15 I think this because I vaguely remember my brother</p> <p>16 encouraging people to drink water. It would have been</p> <p>17 the last opportunity for the day. However, I was unable</p> <p>18 to concentrate on anything but Rabia's safety.</p> <p>19 "30. At some point during the course of the evening</p> <p>20 my son had returned to the flat to collect our phones.</p> <p>21 Rabia called and was initially speaking to Mohamed. He</p> <p>22 put her on speaker phone and someone passed the phone to</p> <p>23 me. She was saying her goodbyes. She was very calm but</p> <p>24 telling me she loved me and asking me to let her dad</p> <p>25 know that she loves him very dearly. She said she was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

<p>1 going to pray and would call back. I knew these could</p> <p>2 potentially be her final moments.</p> <p>3 "31. I was still on the floor at this point unable</p> <p>4 to comprehend the gravity of what was going on. I</p> <p>5 remember a few minutes later Rabia calling back. She</p> <p>6 was on Naila's phone and told us that the fire had hit</p> <p>7 her flat. She had gone to her neighbours to take</p> <p>8 shelter but the fire was worse at his and he was trying</p> <p>9 to jump from the window. Mohamed and my brother were</p> <p>10 demanding her to leave. They were pleading with her and</p> <p>11 telling her to get wet towels to cover their faces. She</p> <p>12 said the smoke was too bad but thank God, she eventually</p> <p>13 agreed to try.</p> <p>14 "32. Rabia stayed on the line as she tried to</p> <p>15 escape but didn't talk. We could hear their footsteps</p> <p>16 running down the stairs and other people's screams then</p> <p>17 suddenly, nothing. I truly believed she had died. I</p> <p>18 was completely inconsolable and think I fainted.</p> <p>19 Everything is a blur from here onwards.</p> <p>20 "33. I remember coming round and hearing someone</p> <p>21 who sounded really far away saying 'I can hear</p> <p>22 footsteps. She is coming. She is alive. Wake up'.</p> <p>23 Someone was trying to rouse me with the reassurance that</p> <p>24 Rabia was alive."</p> <p>25 Then she continues with the rest of the description</p> <p>Page 157</p>	<p>1 to go help her. I wanted to go in and help."</p> <p>2 Then he describes how the fire spread, and at</p> <p>3 paragraph 26 he says:</p> <p>4 "26. The fire was bright red at this time, and</p> <p>5 there was it was covering the whole east side of the</p> <p>6 building. I could see people in their windows with</p> <p>7 lights on. This can be seen in the video I took of this</p> <p>8 at 2am when I was standing on Grenfell Road."</p> <p>9 Then at paragraph 28 he says:</p> <p>10 "28. Bilal's family and I wanted to get closer to</p> <p>11 the Tower to help and know what was going on because</p> <p>12 Rabia's phone had stopped working. We decided to go</p> <p>13 inside Barandon Walk through the middle door and up to</p> <p>14 the door on the north of the Walk by the Tower and</p> <p>15 Grenfell Walk. We opened the door. At this time, the</p> <p>16 fire was everywhere, it was covering three sides of the</p> <p>17 Tower. It was a red fire with a lot of thick smoke. It</p> <p>18 was extremely hot, and we found ourselves being unable</p> <p>19 to move forward because of the heat. At this time two</p> <p>20 police officers came, and I started recording — this</p> <p>21 video was taken at exactly 3am. In this video you can</p> <p>22 see the fire on the building and the police. The police</p> <p>23 man was speaking to Bilal's family and said, "do not go</p> <p>24 there, you will kill yourself you cannot stay here</p> <p>25 because of the heat'. I spoke to Bilal's family and</p> <p>Page 159</p>
<p>1 of the night and how she was reunited with her</p> <p>2 daughter's family.</p> <p>3 Like all these statements, Mr Chairman, that</p> <p>4 statement in its entirety will stand in the record and</p> <p>5 be taken into account in its entirety.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>7 MOHAMED MRIMOU (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: The next statement is the statement of</p> <p>9 Mr Mohamed Mrimou, which has a reference of IWS00001172.</p> <p>10 He is a friend of Rabia's, and he describes, from</p> <p>11 paragraph 19, his arrival at the fire and his first</p> <p>12 observations.</p> <p>13 He has exhibited a number of videos which are also</p> <p>14 part of this statement, and can be found in a number of</p> <p>15 exhibit numbers which I shall read into the record now:</p> <p>16 IWS00000196, IWS00000189, IWS00000195, IWS00000188,</p> <p>17 IWS00000194, IWS00000190, IWS00000191 and IWS00000187.</p> <p>18 At paragraph 22, just reading that, he says:</p> <p>19 "22. I had a friend who lived in the Tower, on the</p> <p>20 18th floor. His name is Bilal. He was not there on the</p> <p>21 night of the Fire. However, he had a wife called Rabia</p> <p>22 and children who lived with him. I knew Bilal and his</p> <p>23 dad Ahmed since 2005, ...[redacted]... I called Ahmed</p> <p>24 and asked him to call Rabia to see if she was in the</p> <p>25 flat. He never called back. I thought I had a chance</p> <p>Page 158</p>	<p>1 told them to stop and think how to help. From here I</p> <p>2 could see firefighters on the balcony on the Tower and</p> <p>3 there were two firefighters who were closer using a hose</p> <p>4 to try and put out the fire. This can be seen in the</p> <p>5 video. I decided to leave."</p> <p>6 Then at paragraph 38 on page 8 of the statement, he</p> <p>7 says:</p> <p>8 "38. I went to my wife and children and said let's</p> <p>9 go to your sisters, it was now morning time about</p> <p>10 4:30/5am. I took a video at 4:33 which shows that the</p> <p>11 fire was everywhere, it was a dusty red colour. I was</p> <p>12 standing by Avondale School which is near [redacted].</p> <p>13 Everyone I saw was upset and crying - Somalians,</p> <p>14 Sudanese, Moroccan — all communities. One of my</p> <p>15 neighbours from the black community was crying near the</p> <p>16 church. I encouraged him to pray. I went with Layla to</p> <p>17 her sisters and sat there with my children, all the</p> <p>18 children were panicking and thinking about people who</p> <p>19 had died. I was shocked, I couldn't stop thinking about</p> <p>20 the fire. I couldn't stop thinking.</p> <p>21 "39. I went back again to see if I could help</p> <p>22 anyone. I saw a fireman and he was very tired, in a van</p> <p>23 close to Barandon Walk. I asked him about those who</p> <p>24 died and he said that there was many and he had not seen</p> <p>25 something like this before. I saw then that he was</p> <p>Page 160</p>

<p>1 physically and emotionally exhausted. I started 2 helping, giving people water and blankets and other 3 things. I went back to Avondale school and made a 4 video. This video was taken at 5:04am. The video shows 5 that the fire had gone throughout the building and there 6 was a lot of smoke. The fire can still be seen from the 7 inside." 8 Like all the other statements, again, that statement 9 will stand in its entirety as evidence in the inquiry 10 and be taken into account accordingly. 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 12 LAYLA RAIHANI (evidence read into the record) 13 MR MILLETT: The next statement, Mr Chairman, is from 14 Layla Raihani [IWS00000180], the wife of Mohamed Mrimou, 15 and that has a statement of truth at page 10, dated 16 18 May 2018. 17 In fact, I say that, I don't think it does have 18 a statement of truth on that page. Nevertheless, 19 I shall read it in. 20 She describes her experiences of the night from 21 paragraph 21 onwards, and her first observation of the 22 fire at 28 and 29. At 45 to 48, she describes what she 23 saw by way of fire spread. 24 She says at paragraph 45 at page 7 of the statement: 25 "45. The fire moved up and up and up. It reached the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 "8. Berikti and Biruk were very happy in Grenfell 2 Tower, but my sister raised many concerns with regards 3 to the refurbishment that recently happened as her 4 radiator was always leaking and the flat had become very 5 cold. You could physically feel the wind blowing from 6 underneath the windowsill and you could see it, as it 7 blew the curtains that covered the window. I am aware 8 that my sister made complaints to the TMO, but believe 9 that her concerns were never properly answered." 10 I'll just read paragraphs 10 to 14. She says: 11 "10. On the morning of 14 June 2017. I was 12 sleeping at my home al Ladbroke Grove and my sister's 13 boyfriend Miki, called at my house. He told me that 14 something was wrong with Grenfell Tower and that we 15 should go there immediately. I therefore ran to 16 Grenfell Tower and it seemed everywhere that I went was 17 blocked by police and fire brigade. I met with my 18 sister Negeste and we frantically ran around the area 19 outside of the tower trying to find the whereabouts of 20 my sister and nephew. As we looked up at the building, 21 we could see how intense the fire was and how red the 22 flames were. There was also an acrid smell in the air 23 from the smoke and I was so worried and concerned for 24 the safety of my sister and nephew. 25 "11. As we frantically searched for our family, we</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 sides, but I do not remember how it spread to the sides 2 I just remember it going up high. It looked as if had 3 the fire had 100 floors to travel it would have carried 4 on and taken over all 100 floors. 5 "46. The Tower was making a weird squeaky and 6 crackling noise. 7 "47. There was cladding falling off the Tower onto 8 the ground in front onto the grass. It was so red in 9 colour, bright red. 10 "48. The fire was spitting out from the Tower." 11 Again, that statement will stand as evidence into 12 the record and be taken into account accordingly, 13 subject to my properly identifying the statement of 14 truth, which is actually on page 10 of that statement. 15 SELAMAWIT TEGGAY (evidence read into the record) 16 MR MILLETT: The next statement Mr Chairman is a statement 17 from Selamawit Teggay. That is IWS00000955. 18 There's a statement of truth on page 3 of that 19 statement, and it's dated 18 May 2018. 20 Ms Teggay is the sister of Berkti Haftom and the 21 aunt of Biruk Haftom, about whom you've heard a little 22 bit, of flat 155 on the 18th floor of Grenfell Tower. 23 She says that she lost her sister Berkti and her nephew 24 Biruk on the night of the fire. 25 She says at paragraph 8 of the statement on page 2:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 came across Genet (who was from [redacted] and lived on 2 the same floor as my sister) and this gave me hope that 3 they had escaped, The lodger who lived in my sister's 4 flat was also with them and he had advised us that my 5 sister and nephew had left the flat before he did and 6 therefore they must be out. 7 "12. Tragically I understand that rather than 8 coming down the stairs, my sister and Biruk went 9 upstairs, which unfortunately was the wrong decision. 10 "13. As the night became daytime, we moved our 11 search from Grenfell Tower to the hospitals that the 12 injured had been moved to. As we went to the various 13 hospitals around London, we were given no information as 14 to whether our family were in there and it wasn't until 15 a few days later that we were told to give up hope, as 16 clearly they had been lost in the fire 17 "14. It also saddens me that Berkti died when she 18 was pregnant, having had it confirmed by her GP and it 19 would have been a further addition to our loving family 20 in London." 21 Again, Mr Chairman, that statement will stand as 22 evidence in its entirety in the record and be taken into 23 account. 24 ARSIEMA ALULA (evidence read into the record) 25 MR MILLETT: The next statement is IWS00001115, a statement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 from Arsiema Alula, the sister of Berkti Haftom the aunt 2 of Biruk. It carries the statement of truth on page 3 3 above the signature and is dated 20 May 2018. 4 She says at paragraph 9 of the statement: 5 "9. When reflecting upon the flat that my sister 6 and nephew lived in, I remember Berikti complaining 7 about the refurbishment and how much colder her flat 8 was. I personally remember the plastic around the 9 windows and finding that rather odd. To me it seemed 10 that there was too much wind that was blowing around the 11 flat, which caused concern." 12 At paragraph 11 onwards, she describes the morning 13 of 14 June. I'll just read paragraphs 11 to 13. She 14 says: 15 "11. I was in bed when I got a call from my 16 sister's boyfriend at about 1:30am and he told me that 17 there was a problem at Grenfell Tower and that it was on 18 fire. I woke up my two boys and I put them in the car 19 and drove to Ladbroke Grove and on the way, I was 20 calling my sister but she was not picking up. I also 21 tried my nephew's phone and did not get through. When 22 we got to the tower, it was ablaze and it frightened me. 23 I was calling 'Where is my sister?' and 'Where is my 24 son?' (I refer to Biruk as my son at times). Given that 25 my children were with me, I had to calm myself down and</p> <p>Page 165</p>	<p>1 "14. There was a whistling sound from the windows. 2 "15. I was able to open the window in the front room 3 of my sisters flat and be able to put my hand down in 4 between the window sill and the outside cladding. There 5 was no cap on the cladding and it seemed strange to me 6 that it had been left this way. 7 "16. My sister was concerned about the work that 8 had been completed as she had signed a petition that the 9 residents had put together to complain about the way the 10 building was after the refurbishment." 11 Then she describes at paragraph 18 onwards her 12 experience of the fire, and I'll pick this up, if I can, 13 at paragraph 22: 14 "22. The lodger told us that he was woken by the 15 smoke and went and knocked on the bedroom doors of 16 Birikti and Biruk. He told them that they must leave 17 the flat immediately. He decided that he would change 18 out of his pyjamas before leaving and thus went back 19 into his bedroom. Fle told us that our sister and 20 nephew therefore left the flat before him. 21 "23. When he told us this we therefore had hope 22 that if he was able to escape the building then surely 23 they must have done so too as they left before him. 24 "24. We kept trying Birikti's mobile number but we 25 were unable to get through to her.</p> <p>Page 167</p>
<p>1 eventually I found my sisters Selamawit and Negeste. 2 "12. I remember the dark smoke that was emanating 3 from the building and there was a real acrid smell in 4 the air. 5 "13. We could see people in the building calling 6 out for help, but it seemed that we could do nothing. 7 We just spent the night crying." 8 Again, that statement will stand in its entirety as 9 evidence to the inquiry, Mr Chairman, and will be taken 10 into account accordingly. 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 12 NEGESTE SEMRA (evidence read into the record) 13 MR MILLETT: The next statement is the statement of Negeste 14 Semra, IWS00000954. Negeste Semra is the other sister 15 of Berkti Haftom, about whom you've heard. 16 The statement is dated 18 May 2018, and it stands 17 under a statement of truth on page 5 over that date. 18 She says at pages 2 to 3, paragraphs 12 to 15: 19 "... after the refurbishment." 20 She says at paragraph 11: 21 "12. The flat was very cold." 22 She goes on: 23 "13. Despite the windows being closed, there was 24 always a breeze in the flat. The curtains would blow in 25 the breeze.</p> <p>Page 166</p>	<p>1 "25. Her phone went dead around 7am. 2 "26. By morning we decided that we must now start 3 searching the hospitals to find them. We spent the next 4 5 days going from one hospital to the next in the hope 5 that they made it out. By the fifth day we gave up hope. 6 "27. We lost our beautiful sister and our beautiful 7 Buruk[sic]. 8 "28. We have subsequently found out that when Biruk 9 and Birikti left their flat they took the decision to go 10 upstairs rather than to come down. Buruk's friend 11 Jessica (she was the same age as Buruk, 12 years old) 12 had borrowed Birikti's phone and had been talking with 13 her mother for 55 mins before they lost communication 14 with her. Jessica. Buruk and Birikti died together on 15 one of the floors above the 18th floor where she lived." 16 That statement, like all the others, will stand in 17 its entirety in the record and be taken into account in 18 full. 19 NAHOM TEFAY GEBREEGZIABHER (evidence read into the record) 20 MR MILLETT: The next statement is IWS00001086. This is the 21 statement from Nahom Tesfay Gebreegzabher. It is dated 22 9 August 2018 -- or rather it's signed on that day, if 23 one looks at page 2 -- and there is a statement of truth 24 on page 2. 25 He describes himself as the son of Berkti Haftom and</p> <p>Page 168</p>

<p>1 the half-brother of Biruk Haftom, about whom you've</p> <p>2 heard. He explains the relationship that he had with</p> <p>3 his family and he says at paragraph 9:</p> <p>4 "9. I just wish to tell the Inquiry that I have</p> <p>5 been robbed of a life of getting to know my mother and</p> <p>6 brother, on account of the fire that took place in</p> <p>7 Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017."</p> <p>8 Again, that statement will stand in its entirety as</p> <p>9 evidence in the record.</p> <p>10 MICHELE CHIAPETTO (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: Finally, Mr Chairman, this afternoon I come to</p> <p>12 IWS00000679, which is a statement of Michele Chiapetto,</p> <p>13 who was Berkti's partner. That is dated 4 June 2018 and</p> <p>14 stands under a statement of truth on page 5 of the</p> <p>15 statement.</p> <p>16 He explains how he met Berkti first of all in London</p> <p>17 in 2011 and his relationship with her and how they</p> <p>18 lived, and from paragraph 9 onwards, his experiences of</p> <p>19 the night of 14 June 2017.</p> <p>20 I'll just pick it up at paragraph 15 and 16. At 15</p> <p>21 he says:</p> <p>22 "15. I thought that Berkti might have been in touch</p> <p>23 with Selam Tsegay[sic], who lives near by and I was</p> <p>24 trying to get as many people as possible to look for</p> <p>25 Berkti. I managed to meet with Selam at her place.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, that's all I was proposing myself</p> <p>2 to read this afternoon from evidence relating to that</p> <p>3 flat and that floor.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. I think, again, it's</p> <p>5 right that I should express our thanks to all those who</p> <p>6 took time and trouble to make these statements, and they</p> <p>7 will be taken into consideration in full as part of the</p> <p>8 evidence before the inquiry.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I'm now going to hand back to</p> <p>12 Mr Rawat, who has a further set of statements to read</p> <p>13 for the rest of the afternoon.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, thank you.</p> <p>15 Yes, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>16 MR RAWAT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>17 At this point I will put into the record statements</p> <p>18 from three members of the Kedir family. You may</p> <p>19 remember that on 9 October you heard oral evidence from</p> <p>20 Maher Khoudair.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>22 MR RAWAT: His wife and two of his daughters have made</p> <p>23 statements to the inquiry. If I put the three of them</p> <p>24 into the record formally first.</p> <p>25 The first statement is at IWS00000205.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 With others we spread out to continue looking for Berkti</p> <p>2 and Biruk. At this time I didn't doubt that they had</p> <p>3 got out of the building but I was worried that they</p> <p>4 might be injured. I knew that Berkti's instinct would</p> <p>5 have been to get out of the building as soon as</p> <p>6 possible. It would have been common sense to get out of</p> <p>7 the building.</p> <p>8 "16. We were looking continuously. At about 3am a</p> <p>9 friend of Berkti's saw the lodger, Yewshet[sic]. He</p> <p>10 said that Berkti had left the flat before him and he had</p> <p>11 remained behind to change his pyjamas. He told us that</p> <p>12 by the time he left the flat the curtains were on fire.</p> <p>13 He also said that after leaving he spent time in another</p> <p>14 flat across the landing. The information he gave was</p> <p>15 very confusing.</p> <p>16 "17. All through the night we were trying to Ball</p> <p>17 Berkti. Her phone was ringing until 7am when it</p> <p>18 stopped. I noticed that at 6:40am Berkti had logged</p> <p>19 into the messaging app Viber. Now I am confused by how</p> <p>20 this can have been possible."</p> <p>21 He explains what he did after the fire.</p> <p>22 Again, Mr Chairman, that statement will be taken</p> <p>23 into account in its entirety and stand as evidence in</p> <p>24 the record.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 That is the statement of Mr Khoudair's wife, Iman</p> <p>2 Alkuedi.</p> <p>3 If we go, please, to the tenth page, we see that</p> <p>4 there is a statement of truth. It's dated 18 May 2018</p> <p>5 and signed.</p> <p>6 There are no exhibits that accompany that statement.</p> <p>7 WALA KHDEIR (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>8 MR RAWAT: The second statement is of a daughter of Maher</p> <p>9 Khoudair, Wala Khdier, and her statement is referenced</p> <p>10 at IWS00000208, please.</p> <p>11 The last page is again signed with the statement of</p> <p>12 truth and dated 18 May 2018.</p> <p>13 Again, the statement is not accompanied by any</p> <p>14 exhibits.</p> <p>15 RAWAN KHDIER (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>16 MR RAWAT: The third of this trio of statements is the</p> <p>17 statement of Rawan Khdier, also a daughter of Maher.</p> <p>18 Her statement is IWS00000204.</p> <p>19 The ninth page has the statement of truth, signed</p> <p>20 and with a date of 18 May 2018.</p> <p>21 Again, this statement has no accompanying exhibits.</p> <p>22 As you may remember, Mr Chairman, Mr Khoudair's</p> <p>23 evidence was that he was living in June 2017 in flat 64</p> <p>24 on the 9th floor with his wife and three daughters, two</p> <p>25 of whom are Rawan and Wala. Mrs Alkuedi and the three</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p>

<p>1 girls had moved into the flat a few months before the 2 fire. Mr Khoudair himself had lived there for a number 3 of years. But as he told you, on the night of the fire, 4 all five members of the family were at home. The girls 5 themselves slept in the living room.</p> <p>6 To give an indication of the experience that they 7 went through on the night itself, I propose to read 8 an extract from the statement of Rawan.</p> <p>9 Again, if I could take you please to IWS00000204, 10 and if we go to paragraph 11, please. This is Rawan's 11 account of the night.</p> <p>12 Paragraph 11 on page 3.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>14 MR RAWAT: So as I've explained, the family were at home and 15 in this part of Rawan's statement she explains two 16 windows were slightly open:</p> <p>17 "11. Two windows were slightly open. My sister 18 [redacted] smelt a burning smell, then she said I think 19 there's something burning. I just remembered when she 20 said that I thought someone maybe cooking, so I shut 21 both windows as they were slightly open. Although I 22 shut the windows, about 20-30 minutes later this burning 23 smell intensified. We got suspicious. [Redacted] was 24 leaning her arm on the wall and it was getting really 25 hot. [Redacted] could hear a crackling noise as if</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 opened the bedroom door and let dad get out of the door 2 first. They both looked through the window and saw the 3 glow of the fire. He said 'it's the tower, our tower is 4 on fire. As soon as dad said, 'it's the tower that's on 5 fire', we were all over the place and panicked more. 6 Dad was trying to calm us down as we were panicking. He 7 said I think the firemen will come and put it out and 8 take care of it. Just thinking about it now is giving 9 me heart palpitations.</p> <p>10 The statement continues:</p> <p>11 "Dad got worried and went to the front door and he 12 looked and there was a lot of black smoke. The smoke 13 started to get into our flat. Dad said, 'Oh there is 14 black smoke'. 'Dad said 'yes your right, we must go'. 15 I remember I had my mobile phone in my hand as before 16 all this happened I was chatting on whats app to my 17 friend. My phone was still in my hand and dad said 'we 18 must go. I texted Dania, my friend to say, 'our 19 building is on fire'. By the time we got out my friend 20 was saying, 'OK'. She was waiting for a reply and 21 saying 'where are you, why don't you answer, are you ok? 22 My friend was in Syria at the time. Everybody was 23 panicking. Dad said, 'let's go'. 24 "So, we put our scarfs on our head and left with our 25 pyjamas on. Everyone just rushed. We were able to see</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 something like burning wood. Then Walaa stood up and 2 looked through the window, though the window was shut, 3 she wanted to check where the burning smell was coming 4 from.</p> <p>5 "First Observation of the Fire</p> <p>6 "12. We both stood up and opened the window. Walaa 7 stood first then I followed. We saw a fire coming from 8 the right side of the building. It was huge and scary. 9 There was burning and black smoke. This was about 1 — 10 1.30am. I cannot remember the time, but the smoke was 11 apparent. We left the window open. I don't think we 12 closed it. Lulu (my sisters nickname for Walaa) said 13 could it be the next door building, 'could it be the 14 school adjacent'. We were unsure where the fire was 15 coming from. We didn't think it was the tower itself as 16 we were inside. The fire was all around from the other 17 side."</p> <p>18 If I go to the next page, the statement continues: 19 "We went to my parents bedroom out of panic. All 20 three of us ran towards my parents door. Lulu said, 21 'dad wake up, get up' yelling 'next door building is on 22 fire'. Both my parents were asleep, and they suddenly 23 woke up shocked and said, 'what's going on'. Dad said 24 'hand me my crutches'. They both got up and went to the 25 window and looked through the windows. Mum got up and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 but the smoke was there. Dad wanted to make sure that 2 we all left before him. He was on crutches, so he was 3 too slow. So, he said 'you go ahead'. There was panic. 4 My younger sister [redacted] didn't have time for a 5 scarf so she grabbed a hat. Walaa and [redacted] went 6 ahead of all of us then my mum and I followed. I cannot 7 remember whether the windows were opened or shut when we 8 left. Once we left my mum shut the door of the flat. 9 Dad was the last person. He was taking his time on his 10 crutches. We headed straight to the communal door there 11 was a sign written on it 'Fire Exit' when you push the 12 door you end up on the stairs to save yourself from the 13 fire. I cannot describe this door because I always use 14 the lift to get to the flat. I did not see any of the 15 residents on the landing."</p> <p>16 The statement continues: 17 "There was a lot of grey smoke on the stairs, an 18 awful burning smell like an ash/plastic smell. I 19 couldn't taste anything. I heard like a burning wood 20 noise. My front door was wooden. The smoke was 21 intensive, we could barely see the steps. The smoke was 22 dark grey just above my head. I have been shown a 23 diagram called Fire and Smoke Picture Descriptors. I 24 would describe the smoke as picture C which states 'the 25 smoke had formed a thin layer under the ceiling, down to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 just above head height. It was difficult to breathe.</p> <p>2 The smoke was grey when we left the flat. I was quite</p> <p>3 worried about my dad, wondering if he will make it. I</p> <p>4 had to stop every moment or so to look back. I looked</p> <p>5 back twice at different moments to keep an eye on him.</p> <p>6 I barely managed to see him, but then I was unable to</p> <p>7 see him any longer because dad was unwell and disabled,</p> <p>8 I was extremely worried and panicking. I wish I could</p> <p>9 meet someone on the way to carry him to help him make it</p> <p>10 out.</p> <p>11 "The stair way was quite narrow, but two people</p> <p>12 could fit, but it was squashed. My mum and I tried to</p> <p>13 rush down. We carried on down the stairs. It looked</p> <p>14 like we were one of the last that managed to walk down</p> <p>15 the stairs as we didn't see anyone. It could have been</p> <p>16 that some were unable to leave their flats, some [might]</p> <p>17 have died as they couldn't leave. It felt like the</p> <p>18 stairs were away from the building as if they were not</p> <p>19 part of the tower. The reason being normally when you</p> <p>20 come down the stairs, you would see the doors to each</p> <p>21 floor. There were no doors to the floors. There were</p> <p>22 many flights of stairs from where we lived, but I didn't</p> <p>23 see any doors, it was getting worse.</p> <p>24 "By the time we got to the ground floor, I saw 4 or</p> <p>25 5 men. Whether they were police, I don't know, I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 a statement of truth, is dated 28 June 2018, and is</p> <p>2 signed.</p> <p>3 There are two exhibits, EI/1 and EI/2, and their</p> <p>4 references are IWS00000827 and IWS00000828.</p> <p>5 WESLEY IGNACIO (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>6 MR RAWAT: I put the statement of Wesley Ignacio into the</p> <p>7 record. That statement is at IWS00000826, and as we see</p> <p>8 on the last page, page 17 --</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm not sure we have it yet.</p> <p>10 MR RAWAT: It's not come up yet, no.</p> <p>11 (Pause)</p> <p>12 The statement carries the date 27 June and it's</p> <p>13 signed and accompanied by a statement of truth.</p> <p>14 There is one exhibit, the reference of which is</p> <p>15 IWS00000824.</p> <p>16 To give some background, Mr Chairman, Mrs Ignacio</p> <p>17 lived in flat 62 with her husband, Eduardo, and their</p> <p>18 son, Wesley, and his wife and daughter.</p> <p>19 Mr and Mrs Ignacio had moved into Grenfell Tower in</p> <p>20 1983. They had a tenancy with RBKC.</p> <p>21 Eduardo Ignacio was not present on the night of the</p> <p>22 fire but the rest of the family were at home.</p> <p>23 If I could go back, please, to Erlinda Ignacio's</p> <p>24 statement and just put into the record certain extracts</p> <p>25 of that statement. If I go to IWS00000830, page 6, and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 couldn't tell. My mother was crying uncontrollably. I</p> <p>2 was crying. I said to a firefighter, 'please help my</p> <p>3 dad, he can't walk'. My mum said, 'my husband is</p> <p>4 disabled' and she repeated it over and over again. The</p> <p>5 firefighter said, 'which floor'. I kept saying either</p> <p>6 64 or 46 as I couldn't make my head round it. They gave</p> <p>7 me a pen and there was nothing to write on, so I wrote</p> <p>8 on the wall 64. I pointed to the firemen. I pointed up</p> <p>9 saying 'nine floor'. We decided to wait to see what</p> <p>10 they would do. We must have waited a few minutes. The</p> <p>11 fireman went upstairs, I could not see him afterwards.</p> <p>12 Then we saw our dad coming, taking his time. By the</p> <p>13 time he got down there was less smoke to the ground</p> <p>14 floor. We met him, we were relieved. We were able to</p> <p>15 breathe. We then saw so many people, crowds of people</p> <p>16 outside."</p> <p>17 That's as far as I propose to read from that</p> <p>18 statement, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>19 ERLINDA IGNACIO (evidence read into the record)</p> <p>20 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, the last two statements I would ask</p> <p>21 to put into the record this afternoon are the statement</p> <p>22 of Erlinda Ignacio and Wesley Ignacio of flat 62 on the</p> <p>23 9th floor. Erlinda's statement is found at IWS00000830.</p> <p>24 We have the last page up on the screen, that's</p> <p>25 page 12 of the statement. It shows that it carries</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 pick it up at paragraph 30.</p> <p>2 Mrs Ignacio says this:</p> <p>3 "30. Prior to the refurbishment, I remember seeing</p> <p>4 fire extinguishers in Grenfell Tower, but these</p> <p>5 disappeared afterwards. There was a fire extinguisher</p> <p>6 on our landing stored behind glass that you would have</p> <p>7 to break to access. There used to be one on the ground</p> <p>8 floor just before the lifts. I do not know if there</p> <p>9 were any on other floors. There were no sprinklers.</p> <p>10 "31. There used to be a main fire alarm at the</p> <p>11 Tower. I remember one time when this went off and we</p> <p>12 all had to leave the building. I am not sure if this</p> <p>13 was for a fire drill or if there was an actual fire, but</p> <p>14 we all left the building and assembled on the grass area</p> <p>15 between the Tower and the Leisure Centre. I think this</p> <p>16 happened before the recent refurbishment; it may have</p> <p>17 been around 2015, but I am not sure.</p> <p>18 "32. The only guidance I was aware of on what to do</p> <p>19 in the event of a fire came from a sign that was on the</p> <p>20 ground floor near the lifts. It said that you should</p> <p>21 not use the lifts in the event of a fire, but you should</p> <p>22 go into your flat, close the door and put sheets around</p> <p>23 the edge of your door to stop smoke coming in. As a</p> <p>24 result of this sign, I was aware there was a policy to</p> <p>25 'stay put' in the event of a fire. However, my thought</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 180</p>

<p>1 would always have been to leave the building in the 2 event of a fire as was the case on 14 June 2017."</p> <p>3 Mr Chairman, if I take you now to Mrs Ignacio's 4 account and her description of the events of 2017. If 5 I go, please, to page 8 and paragraph 42.</p> <p>6 Again, to just put what I am about to read into some 7 context, on the night of 14 June 2017, Mrs Ignacio was 8 in bed with her granddaughter. Her son and his wife 9 were in the second bedroom in the flat. She recalls 10 being awake around 12.30 am and tossing and turning 11 until around 1.00 am.</p> <p>12 If I pick it up from paragraph 42:</p> <p>13 "42. My bedroom window was open and I was 14 struggling to sleep properly. I was disturbed by a 15 banging noise that sounded like bin men. I thought it 16 must have been morning and wondered why the bin men had 17 to come so early. I could also hear muffled voices and 18 thought a couple was arguing.</p> <p>19 "43. Ordinarily I would have brushed this aside and 20 tried to get back to sleep, but something told me to get 21 up. I looked out of my bedroom window, which is south 22 facing. I could not see anything, so I went to the 23 kitchen window, which is east facing and was already 24 open. As I looked out the window I saw a crowd of 25 people staring up at the Tower and I could hear the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 any smoke in the communal area, I was not paying close 2 attention as I was anxious to get out of the building.</p> <p>3 Wesley left first, carrying [redacted] in his arms and 4 Madylyn followed. I was the last to leave. On the way 5 out, I went to grab my bag, but Wesley told me to leave 6 it. I shut the front door behind me, which I had to 7 physically close, otherwise it would have stayed open.</p> <p>8 "48. We headed straight to the communal stairwell, 9 which is the only way out of the building. I do not 10 remember seeing or hearing any of our neighbours at this 11 time. I knew not to use the lifts in a fire because of 12 the signs by the lifts on the ground floor. The 13 communal lighting was working on the ninth floor landing 14 and in the communal stairwell.</p> <p>15 "49. When we opened the door to the communal 16 stairwell, it automatically shut behind us. Initially I 17 do not remember there being any smoke in the stairway. 18 I did not see any neighbours on the stairs. We walked 19 quickly down the stairs. We did not run. Wesley was in 20 front with [redacted], Madylyn and I were a few steps 21 behind. I was at the back.</p> <p>22 "50. We sped up as we got closer to the fourth 23 floor. This was when I started to see smoke. 24 Visibility was deteriorating and there was a haze of 25 white/grey smoke. It was everywhere but you could still</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 commotion outside. I could also smell smoke.</p> <p>2 "44. As I started to close the kitchen window, I 3 saw a flamed piece of material fall from above the flat 4 and towards the ground. I knew we had to get out of the 5 building and started to panic.</p> <p>6 "45. I ran into my son's room. Wesley was fast 7 asleep and snoring. I shouted that we needed to leave 8 as the building was on fire. He looked confused and 9 disorientated as he had been woken up; but he soon 10 noticed that his mobile phone, which was on silent, was 11 actually ringing. Wesley answered and it was Rhian, who 12 I call Hazel. She is my goddaughter and lives on 13 Barandon Walk. She had been trying to call us both 14 about the fire. Hazel told Wesley to get out of the 15 building as it was on fire.</p> <p>16 "46. I ran to grab my keys, phone and a coat in 17 case it was cold outside. Wesley wrapped his daughter, 18 who was still asleep, in a blanket that was on my bed. 19 After we put our shoes on, we all left together. We 20 left so quickly that I was still in my nightdress. I 21 think it took no more than five minutes for us to leave 22 the flat after I woke Wesley. At no point did any of 23 our smoke alarms go off whilst we were in the flat.</p> <p>24 "47. I opened the flat door to discover the 25 communal area was empty. I do not remember there being</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 see through it. My main focus was just getting out of 2 the building.</p> <p>3 "51. I started coughing and there was a bad smell. 4 You could really smell the smoke and I had a funny taste 5 in my mouth. We continued through the smoke and by the 6 third floor it started to clear, which was a massive 7 relief. I do not remember any smoke after the second 8 floor.</p> <p>9 "52. I thought there would be a stampede of people 10 leaving the building, but in fact we saw almost no one 11 on the communal stairwell. This is surprising given it 12 was the only way in and out of the Tower and the number 13 of people in the Tower.</p> <p>14 "53. The only person I saw on the stairs was the 15 man with crutches, who lived on our floor. I do not 16 remember seeing any firefighters until we reached the 17 bottom. The stairs were not slippery or wet and there 18 were no obvious obstructions.</p> <p>19 "54. I estimate it took us around seven-ten minutes 20 to reach the bottom of Grenfell Tower. When we reached 21 ground level there was a couple leaving just in front of 22 us. We were ushered out by police officers, who kept 23 shouting, 'keep going and get out!.'</p> <p>24 That's as far as I propose to read from that 25 statement, Mr Chairman, but if I could just read a short</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 184</p>

46 (Pages 181 to 184)

<p>1 extract from the statement of Wesley Ignacio, please.</p> <p>2 If I take you to the reference is IWS00000826,</p> <p>3 page 11, please.</p> <p>4 From paragraph 64, Wesley begins:</p> <p>5 "64. I had my daughter in my arms and opened the</p> <p>6 front door of our flat. There was a burning smell from</p> <p>7 the moment I left my front door. I saw smoke in the</p> <p>8 lobby area, but it was not thick at the time. I could</p> <p>9 see the stairwell door. The smoke was at head high and</p> <p>10 light grey in colour. I did not hear any fire alarm and</p> <p>11 saw the smoke drifting towards the left hand side of the</p> <p>12 lobby. I did not see any of our neighbours.</p> <p>13 "65. We all left the flat together and I closed the</p> <p>14 front door behind us. We did not use the lift. We</p> <p>15 turned left and then immediately right opening the fire</p> <p>16 door onto the communal stairwell, which was located a</p> <p>17 few metres from our flat. I did not see any of my</p> <p>18 neighbours in the lobby area.</p> <p>19 "66. The fire door shut behind us and we entered</p> <p>20 the stairwell. The communal lights were on. I could</p> <p>21 see smoke in the stairwell, but it was not thick. It</p> <p>22 was at head height. If I held out my hand in front of</p> <p>23 me, I would still be able to see it. I could also see</p> <p>24 the handrail. We all quickly started walking down the</p> <p>25 stairs and maintained the same pace throughout. We did</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 shouting, but I do not know what or to whom. I assumed</p> <p>2 he was shouting at other firefighters, but I did not see</p> <p>3 anyone else. This fireman did not talk or engage with</p> <p>4 me. This was the first firefighter that I had seen</p> <p>5 since leaving the flat.</p> <p>6 "73. I saw a hose on the stairs, but I cannot</p> <p>7 remember where. The stairs was not slippery and I could</p> <p>8 not see any debris. We continued walking quickly down</p> <p>9 the stairs to the bottom. We did not stop.</p> <p>10 "74. Just before we reached the foyer, there was</p> <p>11 another fireman, who told us to keep going. We headed</p> <p>12 into the foyer and towards the exit. I passed Mo, who</p> <p>13 was with his dad. I understand that the CCTV footage</p> <p>14 captures us all leaving the tower via the main entrance</p> <p>15 at 1:34am. I was first with my daughter followed by my</p> <p>16 wife and mum. I estimate it took us around 10 minutes</p> <p>17 to get to the ground floor from the ninth floor.</p> <p>18 "75. As we finally made it out of Grenfell Tower,</p> <p>19 firefighters just outside directed us to the other side</p> <p>20 of the road to Kensington Leisure Centre. There were</p> <p>21 more firefighters on Grenfell Road."</p> <p>22 Mr Chairman, that's where I propose to stop with</p> <p>23 that statement, and also that is the last statement we</p> <p>24 propose to read into the record today.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. Well, again, we're very</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 not run.</p> <p>2 "67. As we got down the stairs the smoke became</p> <p>3 thicker, but I would still be able to see my hand if I</p> <p>4 stuck it out in front of me. I did not see any flames</p> <p>5 until I exited the Tower.</p> <p>6 "68. I was panicking and felt nervous, but tried to</p> <p>7 stay calm for my family. You could just feel that</p> <p>8 something was terribly wrong. I kept checking on my</p> <p>9 family. I told them to keep going and that everything</p> <p>10 was going to be fine. My wife held tightly onto me.</p> <p>11 "69. At around the sixth or seventh floor, the</p> <p>12 smoke started getting thicker like a fog and darker, but</p> <p>13 I could still see my feet and my family. I was really</p> <p>14 worried for my daughter. She was only seven months and</p> <p>15 the smoke was obviously affecting her. I was worried</p> <p>16 because she was so small.</p> <p>17 "70. When we got to the sixth floor, I could feel</p> <p>18 the heat of the fire. It got hotter the lower down we</p> <p>19 went. I just wanted to get out. I was really scared;</p> <p>20 my adrenaline was pumping.</p> <p>21 "71. We passed my neighbours from Flat 64 walking</p> <p>22 down the stairs on his crutches around the fifth floor.</p> <p>23 I did not speak to him and we carried on.</p> <p>24 "72. As we got to the third or fourth floor, I saw</p> <p>25 a fireman. He was stationary on the stairwell and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 grateful to those people who have provided the</p> <p>2 statements that you've been reading from, and they will</p> <p>3 of course all be taken into consideration. Thank you</p> <p>4 very much.</p> <p>5 So is that it for the day?</p> <p>6 MR RAWAT: Yes.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, and we resume tomorrow with</p> <p>8 another live witness.</p> <p>9 MR RAWAT: Yes.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good. Thank you very much.</p> <p>11 10 o'clock.</p> <p>12 Thank you, 10 o'clock tomorrow, then, please.</p> <p>13 (4.30 pm)</p> <p>14 (The hearing adjourned until Thursday, 1 November 2018</p> <p>15 at 10.00 am)</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 188</p>

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