

<p>1 Monday, 8 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, at which we are going to hear some more</p> <p>5 evidence from those who were in the tower at the time of</p> <p>6 the fire.</p> <p>7 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, good morning.</p> <p>9 I'm going to invite Mr Bilal Rawat to call the next</p> <p>10 witness.</p> <p>11 Before I do, there is a correction to the record</p> <p>12 that I must make.</p> <p>13 On Thursday morning, I read the witness statement of</p> <p>14 Mr Zaki Ahmed into the record. He is the son of</p> <p>15 Mr Shahid and Mrs Sayeda Ahmed of flat 156,</p> <p>16 Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>17 At page 61 of the transcript, I said that</p> <p>18 Mr Zaki Ahmed lived with his parents at Grenfell Tower</p> <p>19 until 2012. That was an error. I should have said that</p> <p>20 he lived there until April 2015, as his statement makes</p> <p>21 clear.</p> <p>22 That was my personal error, Mr Chairman, and</p> <p>23 I apologise sincerely to the Ahmed family for it.</p> <p>24 I know how much work has gone into these statements, and</p> <p>25 those who have provided them are entitled to have their</p> <p>Page 1</p>	<p>1 We all understand that it will be very difficult for</p> <p>2 you to have to go back to the heartbreaking events of</p> <p>3 that night. There is no rush, and if at any time you</p> <p>4 would like a break, please let us know and we will stop.</p> <p>5 If I ask you a question which you don't understand,</p> <p>6 then please tell me and I'll try to ask you the question</p> <p>7 in a different way.</p> <p>8 As with everyone from the tower who is coming to</p> <p>9 give evidence in the next few days and weeks, you've</p> <p>10 confirmed that your evidence will be limited to Phase 1</p> <p>11 of the inquiry, and that means that my questions today</p> <p>12 will focus on the night of the fire. I won't be asking</p> <p>13 you about what the inquiry has called Phase 2 issues.</p> <p>14 All right?</p> <p>15 Could we please have the first page of your</p> <p>16 statement, which is IWS00000683, page 1.</p> <p>17 Ms Jafari, if I explain, this is the first page of</p> <p>18 the statement that you've made for the inquiry. You can</p> <p>19 see that it has come up on the monitor that's on the</p> <p>20 table, but it's also on the large screen that you see</p> <p>21 there.</p> <p>22 If you're more comfortable with paper, you will also</p> <p>23 find a copy of the statement in the bundle in front of</p> <p>24 you. That's at tab 1. I think you've already got it;</p> <p>25 yes?</p> <p>Page 3</p>
<p>1 evidence presented accurately. So I wish that to be</p> <p>2 recorded formally in the record.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good. Thank you very much.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: I shall now invite Mr Rawat to call the next</p> <p>5 witness.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>7 Yes, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>8 MR RAWAT: Good morning, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>9 Can I call, please, Nadia Jafari.</p> <p>10 NADIA JAFARI (sworn)</p> <p>11 Questions by MR RAWAT</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. Sit down and</p> <p>13 make yourself comfortable, and then Mr Rawat will have</p> <p>14 some questions. All right?</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>17 MR RAWAT: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>18 Good morning, Ms Jafari.</p> <p>19 Can I begin by asking you to give the inquiry your</p> <p>20 full name, please?</p> <p>21 A. My name is Nadia Jafari.</p> <p>22 Q. First of all, I'd like to thank you not only for</p> <p>23 providing a written statement to the inquiry, but also</p> <p>24 for coming here today to give evidence to us. Your help</p> <p>25 is very much appreciated.</p> <p>Page 2</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>3 If we go to the last page of that statement, which</p> <p>4 is page 9, please, we can see that the statement is</p> <p>5 dated 1 June 2018, and it's signed.</p> <p>6 Can you confirm, please, that that is your</p> <p>7 signature?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Have you had a chance to go through your statement</p> <p>10 recently?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Are the contents of the statement true?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, except paragraph 5, there's a mistake.</p> <p>14 Q. All right. Well, let's bring up paragraph 5, please.</p> <p>15 That's on page 2.</p> <p>16 The paragraph concerns problems with the windows and</p> <p>17 we can see there that you say:</p> <p>18 "We complained many times to Notting Hill."</p> <p>19 Then you continue:</p> <p>20 "Each time they would come and fix it for that day,</p> <p>21 but then they would break again. You could hear</p> <p>22 everything outside."</p> <p>23 What correction would you like to make to</p> <p>24 paragraph 5?</p> <p>25 A. We made a complaint to Notting Hill, but the windows</p> <p>Page 4</p>

<p>1 responsibility was TMO, not Notting Hill.</p> <p>2 Q. So when you refer there to each time "they" --</p> <p>3 A. It's TMO.</p> <p>4 Q. So when you say "they", you're referring to the TMO; is</p> <p>5 that right?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>8 Subject to that correction, are the contents of your</p> <p>9 statement true?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 MR RAWAT: Before we go on and look further at the</p> <p>12 statement, I need to just put your exhibit into the</p> <p>13 record. It's your exhibit NJ/1. It's at IWS00000681.</p> <p>14 That's a plan that shows your family home in the tower.</p> <p>15 You should have that at the next tab.</p> <p>16 Mr Chairman, before I continue, can I also give</p> <p>17 a general warning to those present today. We are going</p> <p>18 to be looking at a number of CCTV stills and also at</p> <p>19 other photographs taken after the fire.</p> <p>20 I will give a specific warning when we get to the</p> <p>21 images concerned, but I want to mention it now because</p> <p>22 we're aware that images of this sort can be distressing</p> <p>23 to some.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course. Thank you.</p> <p>25 MR RAWAT: Ms Jafari, let's go back to the first page and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 parents, a room for yourself and a room for your sister,</p> <p>2 Maria.</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Then we had the living room.</p> <p>5 If you wanted to get to the living room, how could</p> <p>6 you get into it?</p> <p>7 A. You have to go through the kitchen, and there was</p> <p>8 a sliding door in between the kitchen and the living</p> <p>9 room.</p> <p>10 Q. So we can see that there's a wall, what looks like</p> <p>11 a wall, between the kitchen and the living room.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Was that where the sliding door was?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. I think in your statement you explain that that sliding</p> <p>16 door was always kept open; is that right?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. If you kept the door open, did you have anything over</p> <p>19 the doorway to separate the kitchen from the living</p> <p>20 room?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, a curtain. Net curtain.</p> <p>22 Q. We can see from that plan that the flat had seven</p> <p>23 windows.</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. We all know that there was a refurbishment of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 paragraph 2, please.</p> <p>2 You've explained in that paragraph that, in 2017,</p> <p>3 your family home was in flat 86 of Grenfell Tower; is</p> <p>4 that right?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. You lived there with your father, Ali Yawar Jafari.</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Your mother, Fatima.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. And your sister, Maria.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And that was on the 11th floor, wasn't it?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Can you remember what year you moved into flat 86?</p> <p>15 A. 2003.</p> <p>16 Q. Your landlord was the Notting Hill Housing Association;</p> <p>17 is that right?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Can we look at your plan, please, which is IWS000006812.</p> <p>20 This is the outline of your flat, flat 86. It was</p> <p>21 originally a two-bedroom flat, but the Notting Hill</p> <p>22 association turned it into a three-bedroom flat; is that</p> <p>23 right?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. So we can see there that there was a room for your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 Grenfell Tower; when that refurbishment took place, were</p> <p>2 all the windows replaced?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Can we go back, then, to your statement, IWS00000683,</p> <p>5 page 2, and paragraph 5, please.</p> <p>6 In your statement you have mentioned that your</p> <p>7 family had problems with two windows that didn't close</p> <p>8 properly. You discuss the first of these windows here</p> <p>9 in paragraph 5.</p> <p>10 I'll just read it out:</p> <p>11 "5. The first window was in the kitchen, this would</p> <p>12 not close properly and could be blown open by strong</p> <p>13 wind. The window would fall open up to twice a day when</p> <p>14 it was windy. In order to try and stop the draft in the</p> <p>15 kitchen, we put a big pot in front of the main kitchen</p> <p>16 window to try and stop it blowing open. We complained</p> <p>17 many times to Notting Hill. Each time they [your</p> <p>18 correction was that's the TMO] would come and would fix</p> <p>19 it for that day, but then they would break again. You</p> <p>20 could hear everything outside. The wind came in and</p> <p>21 even the rain would come inside through the window."</p> <p>22 Can we just be clear, because you've referred to</p> <p>23 "main kitchen window", was there just one kitchen window</p> <p>24 or were there two?</p> <p>25 A. Only one.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 Q. Was this window still causing problems in June 2017?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Where would the wind come in?</p> <p>4 A. It was like a two slides, so from the big one.</p> <p>5 Q. So the wind would push part of the window open; is that</p> <p>6 right?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. And then come in that way?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you ever feel the wind coming in around the window</p> <p>11 frame?</p> <p>12 A. When it was very windy, it would.</p> <p>13 Q. Would the rain come in through this window in the same</p> <p>14 way, because it would be pushed open and then the rain</p> <p>15 would come in that way?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. What you also say in your statement is that the kitchen</p> <p>18 window had a vent in it and also a fan.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Just so that we can be clear, were those two different</p> <p>21 things?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Can you describe the vent to us, please?</p> <p>24 A. It was kind of like plastic, made of.</p> <p>25 Q. And where was it located in the window?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 If we look at that, do you see where Maria's bedroom</p> <p>2 was, next door to the living room? There's one living</p> <p>3 room window there that faces north, in the same</p> <p>4 direction that Maria's window would face, and then there</p> <p>5 are two living room windows that would face east, in the</p> <p>6 same direction that the kitchen window would face.</p> <p>7 Can you identify which window was the one that was</p> <p>8 causing the problems?</p> <p>9 A. It was the north one, the -- Maria's room, the north</p> <p>10 side.</p> <p>11 Q. So the one that faced in the same direction as Maria's</p> <p>12 window?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. With that window, where would the water come in?</p> <p>15 A. Just below, just below the window, from underneath. So</p> <p>16 when you closed the window, just underneath. It</p> <p>17 wouldn't close properly.</p> <p>18 Q. So it would still come in through the frame, would it?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Was that still a problem in June 2017?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, the water only comes when it was very heavy rain</p> <p>22 and windy, that time.</p> <p>23 Q. Let's go back again to your statement, please -- same</p> <p>24 page, IWS00000683, page 2 -- and let's look at</p> <p>25 paragraph 7.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 A. It was just on the right side of the window. The top</p> <p>2 bit.</p> <p>3 Q. So there was a piece of plastic on the top left side of</p> <p>4 the window?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. What about the fan, can you describe that, please?</p> <p>7 A. It was just on the same place.</p> <p>8 Q. Was it an extractor fan?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Did it have wires leading to it?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Where did those wires go to?</p> <p>13 A. It was connected underneath the cupboards in the</p> <p>14 kitchen.</p> <p>15 Q. Was the extractor fan actually fixed into the window</p> <p>16 itself?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Can we look now at paragraph 6 on the same page, please.</p> <p>19 This is a second window that had problems.</p> <p>20 You say:</p> <p>21 "6. The second window that had problems was in the</p> <p>22 living room. That window would not close properly, and</p> <p>23 if it was raining, water would pour into the living room</p> <p>24 and we had to put towels to stop the water coming in."</p> <p>25 Let's go back to your plan, IWS00000681, page 2.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 The first sentence of that is:</p> <p>2 "7. When they fitted the new windows there were big</p> <p>3 problems as they did not seem to fit properly."</p> <p>4 Was this a problem with all of the windows that were</p> <p>5 fitted or just some of them?</p> <p>6 A. Some of them.</p> <p>7 Q. Which ones had that problem?</p> <p>8 A. The one in the living room and the one in the kitchen,</p> <p>9 and one was in the main bedroom.</p> <p>10 Q. In the main bedroom?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Is that your parents' bedroom?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. So just so that we are clear, it's the two windows that</p> <p>15 we've already looked at?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. The one which let in water when it rained heavily, the</p> <p>18 kitchen window and then the window in your parents'</p> <p>19 bedroom?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you have any problems because of the way these</p> <p>22 windows had been fitted?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you experience any draughts coming into the flat</p> <p>25 after the windows had been fitted?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. So when you say that they didn't seem to fit properly,</p> <p>3 what was the problem with the windows?</p> <p>4 A. We couldn't able to close it, and the one in the</p> <p>5 kitchen, it would come out of its frame, it would fall</p> <p>6 onto you. So when we tried to open it, it would fall</p> <p>7 onto you, backwards. So it would come out from its</p> <p>8 frame. It had a frame, so it would come out from it.</p> <p>9 Q. Was it still doing that in June 2017?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. So that's the kitchen window. Was that a problem with</p> <p>12 your parents' window?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. What problem was there with your parents' window?</p> <p>15 A. We couldn't able to close it properly, to shut it, like,</p> <p>16 fully hard. We couldn't able to do that.</p> <p>17 Q. The problem with the living room window was just water</p> <p>18 coming in, was it?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, water and the wind.</p> <p>20 Q. Sorry, did you say water and wind?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. So what happened when it was windy with that window?</p> <p>23 A. We could hear sounds of wind and wind would come inside</p> <p>24 the room.</p> <p>25 Q. Was it only through that window that wind was coming</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 they would send someone to fix it?</p> <p>2 A. I'm not sure which month was it, but it was in 2017.</p> <p>3 Q. So what would you have to do to make sure the door was</p> <p>4 closed properly?</p> <p>5 A. We had to push it hardly, and when the lock was clicked</p> <p>6 and we would confirm, like, it's been closed.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you remember if there were pipes in the corridor at</p> <p>8 all outside your flat?</p> <p>9 A. There was.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you have any concerns about those pipes?</p> <p>11 A. Me, myself, no, but my parents and my sister, they had.</p> <p>12 Q. What were those concerns?</p> <p>13 A. Because I think one of them was for the gas, I think,</p> <p>14 they changed it, and they had a concern why they are in</p> <p>15 the corridor.</p> <p>16 Q. When the refurbishment happened, do you remember whether</p> <p>17 a new boiler was fitted in your flat?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Where was that boiler placed?</p> <p>20 A. Just as you enter inside the house, in front door, it</p> <p>21 was just down there.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you remember whether the flat had any smoke alarms in</p> <p>23 it?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Can you remember where those smoke alarms were?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 inside the room?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Again, on the same page, could we look, please, at</p> <p>4 paragraph 8.</p> <p>5 In that paragraph, you say:</p> <p>6 "8. We also had problems with our front door which</p> <p>7 should have been self-closing but was not. Notting Hill</p> <p>8 Housing Association were supposed to come and fix it,</p> <p>9 but they didn't. Although most flat doors were changed</p> <p>10 during the refurbishment our door was not. It was a</p> <p>11 heavy wooden door and was not air tight. Before the</p> <p>12 fire we could sometimes smell other people's cooking,</p> <p>13 but we couldn't hear noise from other flats. To shut</p> <p>14 the door properly, you had to pull it very hard. When</p> <p>15 my father came home he would ask why the door would be</p> <p>16 open. Sometimes it would look like it was closed but</p> <p>17 not actually be closed. It would be possible to push it</p> <p>18 and open it."</p> <p>19 Did you know whether the door was supposed to be</p> <p>20 self-closing?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, because I think -- I don't remember when our</p> <p>22 housing officer, he came, and he also made the point,</p> <p>23 like, why the door is not closing itself. So he said he</p> <p>24 would send someone to fix it.</p> <p>25 Q. When was that? When was the last time someone told you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 A. Just in front of Maria's room.</p> <p>2 Q. So was that in the hallway?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, on the hallway, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Was that the only location of a smoke alarm?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you remember whether the smoke alarm was working</p> <p>7 in June 2017?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. What was it that makes you say that it was working</p> <p>10 in June?</p> <p>11 A. Sometimes, whenever we cook, it was kind of like smoky,</p> <p>12 so it would turn on.</p> <p>13 Q. I want now, if I may, to take you to 13 June, and the</p> <p>14 early part of the night.</p> <p>15 Could we look, please, at your statement. It's</p> <p>16 page 3, paragraph 10, please.</p> <p>17 Are you all right to go on, Ms Jafari? Are you</p> <p>18 happy to continue?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. You say in the first sentence that we can see:</p> <p>21 "On the night of the 13th of June I was at home and</p> <p>22 I was in the living room ... [redacted] ... at about</p> <p>23 9:30 pm with my family."</p> <p>24 Can you tell us, how did you know it was about 9.30</p> <p>25 in the evening?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 A. Because it was Ramadan and it was a few minutes before 2 breaking our fast. 3 Q. That's the Iftar meal, is it? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. What you go on to say is, "Shortly before that we could 6 smell smoke". 7 So was it as you were breaking your fast that you 8 began to smell smoke? 9 A. Before. 10 Q. "We checked everything in the flat to try and find what 11 was burning, but we couldn't see anything that was. At 12 that stage, I remember that my mother was sure that 13 something was burning. It was like a wire burning 14 smell, like something plastic. I checked everything but 15 there was nothing in our flat that was causing the 16 smell. My father said he felt cold, so we had to close 17 the windows." 18 Stop there, but I want to ask you this, please: when 19 you were checking inside your flat, did you actually see 20 any smoke? 21 A. Inside our flat? 22 Q. Yes. 23 A. No. 24 Q. You've described the smell as like a wire burning smell. 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 Q. Once it did, there were no other smells or any smoke or 2 anything after that, were there? 3 A. No. 4 Q. Thank you. 5 Can we on the same page, please, expand 6 paragraphs 11 to 12. 7 You've explained in your statement, Ms Jafari, that 8 that night you slept in your parents' room, and that was 9 because you'd had some surgery; is that right? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. You go on to say that you went to sleep and you woke up 12 about 12.55, when your sister, Maria, came into the room 13 and said there was a fire. 14 You say: 15 "I remember it was this time because I called my 16 brother Bashir around this time and I had checked my 17 phone for the time." 18 If we go, please, to paragraph 14, we can see there 19 that you say that as soon as Maria woke you up and told 20 you there was a fire, she left the room. You then 21 looked out of the window, which faces north, where the 22 school is. 23 Just so that we can be clear, is this the window of 24 your parents' bedroom that you were looking out of? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 Q. Like something plastic. Was it a very strong smell? 2 A. Not very much, but kind of. 3 Q. Whereabouts in the flat were you aware of that smell? 4 A. All around the flat. 5 Q. Did you check outside the front door of the flat to see 6 whether the smell was coming from the landing? 7 A. We checked the front window, which was the west one, 8 because the smell was coming from that side. 9 Q. So it wasn't coming from the landing side? 10 A. No. 11 Q. When you experienced the smell, were all the windows of 12 the flat closed? 13 A. A few of them were open. The kitchen one was closed but 14 the living room was open. 15 Q. Because your father felt cold, that's when you decided 16 to close it; is that right? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Were you able to find out at all where the smell was 19 coming from? 20 A. No. 21 Q. Did the smell disappear after a while or was it still 22 there when you went to bed that night? 23 A. It disappeared. 24 Q. Can you remember how long it took to disappear? 25 A. No, I can't remember.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 Q. You say: 2 "Before the refurbishment I would have been able to 3 look out of the window and look down and see things 4 outside easily. After the refurbishment I couldn't 5 because the windows were changed and it was hard to look 6 out and down. They were further out and now there was a 7 big ledge so that we could not look down the side of the 8 Tower." 9 So to look out of the window and down the tower, you 10 would have to lean out quite a bit; is that right? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. "I could see tiny sparks which were in the air and so 13 I realised that there was a fire." 14 Again, just so that we can be clear, these were tiny 15 sparks that you could see from your parents' bedroom 16 window? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Could you see any smoke at this time? 19 A. No. 20 Q. Did you have any idea of where there might be a fire? 21 A. No. 22 Q. Was your call to your brother Bashir before or after you 23 saw these sparks? 24 A. Before. 25 Q. What was the reason for your ringing Bashir?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>

5 (Pages 17 to 20)

<p>1 A. Because my sister and my mother, they went downstairs 2 and they said there is a fire. 3 Q. So if we just break that down a little bit, when Maria 4 came into your room to wake you, did she tell you that 5 she'd been outside the flat? 6 A. No, she said she's going. 7 Q. Can you just tell us a little bit more about what 8 conversation you had with your sister, Maria? 9 A. When my sister, she came to me and she said there is 10 a fire, I took her as a joke and I said to her, "Go 11 away". But later on, my mum, she quickly came and she 12 said, "I can see people outside and there's a Fire 13 Brigade car as well outside and people are outside 14 running". So my mum, she said, "I will go outside", and 15 my sister, she went with her. So my mum, she said to 16 me, "Be quick, get your father and come out". 17 Q. Did they just come into the bedroom where you were 18 sleeping to tell you all this? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Did you understand that what your mother and Maria were 21 going to do was to leave the flat and go outside? 22 A. Yes. I just thought they're going outside to check, but 23 the way my mum, she said to me, I realise there is 24 something serious, so I quickly got up. 25 Q. What did your mother want you to do for your father?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 A. No. 2 Q. He was awake? 3 A. No, he was half asleep, half awake, because he takes 4 medicine, so he didn't realise what my mum said to him, 5 so ... 6 Q. I understand. 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. What you say is: 9 "He was slower to wake up because he had taken some 10 medication before going to bed. My father was 82 years 11 old, had a heart problem and had diabetes. He had had a 12 stent fitted into his artery. I spoke to my father and 13 told him about the fire I had seen and he got up 14 quickly. We then both went into the living room and we 15 were standing near the middle window. We could feel the 16 heat, even though the window was closed. I looked 17 through the middle window, and the flame was just below 18 the window." 19 Can I just ask you some questions about that. 20 You went into the living room with your father. 21 Where were your sister, Maria, and your mother at that 22 point? 23 A. They went outside to the ground floor. 24 Q. So they had already left the flat? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 A. She said wake him up -- she already went to him to wake 2 him up, but he was in his room, but she came back to me 3 and said to me, "You get up and wake him up and come 4 outside". 5 Q. So your mother wanted you and your father to come down 6 as well? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. At that time, when you looked out of the window, you'd 9 had a conversation with your mother and your sister, 10 could you smell anything at all in the room? 11 A. No. 12 Q. Could you smell anything in the flat at all? 13 A. No, because my mum, she closed all the windows. 14 Q. If we go, please, to the next page and look at 15 paragraph 15, please. 16 You say there: 17 "I then went into the third bedroom ..." 18 On the plan, that's Maria's bedroom, is it? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. "... where my father was sleeping, which is the small 21 box room." 22 When you arrived in that room, was your father still 23 asleep or had he woken up? 24 A. He was waking up but he was lying on the bed. 25 Q. So he was just beginning to wake up, would that be --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 Q. You mentioned a few moments ago that your mother had 2 closed the windows, so were all the windows in the 3 living room closed? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Was there any smoke coming into the living room from 6 outside? 7 A. No. 8 Q. When you refer to the middle window -- we can look at 9 your plan if that will help you -- are you speaking of 10 one of the windows that faced in the same direction as 11 the kitchen window? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. That face east? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. You say at the last part of that paragraph that the 16 flame was just below the window. 17 Can you tell us a little bit more about what you 18 were able to see at that time? 19 A. Yes. I remember, me and my father, we bent ourselves on 20 the ledge of the window and we were trying to look 21 outside, but we couldn't able to see it. The window was 22 very hot, and as I touched it, it was hot, and I said to 23 my father, "I think the fire's just below the window". 24 I bent myself more further and I saw the fire was just 25 behind the window, underneath it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 Q. How close was it to the frame of the window?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Can you say how close it was, was it --</p> <p>4 A. 2 inches below the window, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Did you see actual flames?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you see any smoke?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. If we go now to paragraph 17 on the same page, please.</p> <p>10 If we just put that paragraph into context, what you</p> <p>11 say, Ms Jafari, is that you told your father to go to</p> <p>12 the washroom; is that right?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. You continue in this paragraph that whilst he was in the</p> <p>15 toilet, you noticed the fire was getting higher:</p> <p>16 "While I was standing near the kitchen window</p> <p>17 waiting for my father, the fire reached our flat."</p> <p>18 So whilst your father was in the bathroom or the</p> <p>19 toilet, you moved from the living room to the kitchen?</p> <p>20 A. Yes. I checked the windows and I saw the fire. So my</p> <p>21 mum's iPad was on the ledge of the window, so I picked</p> <p>22 that up and placed it on the sofa, and I went to the</p> <p>23 kitchen.</p> <p>24 Q. So when you first moved into the kitchen, was there any</p> <p>25 smoke coming into the kitchen at all?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 A. I can't remember, but it was something like plastic was</p> <p>2 burning.</p> <p>3 Q. Was it a strong smell or was it a light smell?</p> <p>4 A. Light.</p> <p>5 Q. Could you tell where it was coming from?</p> <p>6 A. From the kitchen window and from the vent and the fan.</p> <p>7 Q. So what were the flames doing to that vent?</p> <p>8 A. As it entered, it was like -- kind of like -- it blew</p> <p>9 it up, when the fire came around that fan, so that fan</p> <p>10 came out.</p> <p>11 Q. Again, I'll come back to the fan, if I may, but can you</p> <p>12 remember what happened to the vent? Because what you've</p> <p>13 said is that the fire came through the small circular</p> <p>14 vent.</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Can you just tell us -- help us, please -- what did the</p> <p>17 fire do to that small circular vent?</p> <p>18 A. It was kind of like pushing it inside the window. So it</p> <p>19 was very quick. So as I saw it, the fan, it came inside</p> <p>20 the kitchen, and around the frame of the window, it was</p> <p>21 fire, and the big side of the window, it blew up</p> <p>22 inside the kitchen.</p> <p>23 Q. Again, I'll come back to that in a moment, if I may, but</p> <p>24 can I ask you this.</p> <p>25 You've said that there was a smoke alarm outside</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Could you see the flames outside the kitchen window at</p> <p>3 all?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Again, so that we can be clear, was the kitchen window</p> <p>6 open or closed?</p> <p>7 A. It was closed.</p> <p>8 Q. You say in that sentence that the fire came through the</p> <p>9 small circular vent at the top of the window.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. When you say "fire", do you mean smoke or flames?</p> <p>12 A. Flames.</p> <p>13 Q. So was that the first thing that you saw coming in?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Can you remember seeing any smoke at all?</p> <p>16 A. Afterwards, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. So it was flames first?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, when they broke that fan.</p> <p>19 Q. I'll take it in stages and I'll ask you about the fan in</p> <p>20 a moment.</p> <p>21 When you saw the flames, could you smell anything at</p> <p>22 that time?</p> <p>23 A. Like wire burning, something like plastic burning.</p> <p>24 Q. Was it the same smell that you'd smelt earlier in the</p> <p>25 night? Was it a similar smell?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 Maria's bedroom.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. What was happening with that smoke alarm at this time?</p> <p>4 A. It wasn't on that time.</p> <p>5 Q. Can we look at the next paragraph, please, paragraph 18.</p> <p>6 You begin that paragraph, Ms Jafari, with the</p> <p>7 sentence:</p> <p>8 "I noticed the wires started to burn near to the fan</p> <p>9 in the kitchen window."</p> <p>10 I think you've told us already that the fan was</p> <p>11 something different to the vent, wasn't it?</p> <p>12 A. I think the fan and the vent both were together.</p> <p>13 I don't know how to explain that, but it was both of</p> <p>14 them stuck together.</p> <p>15 Q. Would it be fair to say that they were near each other</p> <p>16 in the window?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Did the flames reach the fan at the same time as they</p> <p>19 reached the vent?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. When you say that the wires started to burn near to the</p> <p>22 fan, can you remember, what was it that was causing the</p> <p>23 wires to burn?</p> <p>24 A. The fire, because when the fan was broken, so the wire</p> <p>25 would start to -- so it start to burn.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 Q. You continue in that paragraph:</p> <p>2 "I knocked on the toilet door and told my father</p> <p>3 that the fire was in the kitchen. My father came out</p> <p>4 quickly, and as he looked round the door, the glass in</p> <p>5 the kitchen window smashed from the fire and the flames</p> <p>6 then covered the entire window area. The whole window</p> <p>7 in the kitchen broke in two. The vent completely</p> <p>8 collapsed. I saw the glass break and the fire come</p> <p>9 through as I was standing there. The plastic around the</p> <p>10 window was burning."</p> <p>11 Then you continue, if I read a little further down:</p> <p>12 "The kitchen window also had curtains, and they</p> <p>13 caught fire. Where the sliding doors were we had fitted</p> <p>14 light curtains which also caught fire. Below the</p> <p>15 kitchen window we had a small fridge and a TV."</p> <p>16 Again, if I take that in stages, please.</p> <p>17 You obviously left the kitchen to go and get your</p> <p>18 father. Did the two of you just come and then stand at</p> <p>19 the doorway to the kitchen, looking in?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Was it after you had gone to get your father and come</p> <p>22 back that you saw the glass in the kitchen window smash?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Can you help us with this, please: how much time passed</p> <p>25 between your first noticing fire outside the kitchen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Where was the fire at the time in the kitchen?</p> <p>3 A. Around the window.</p> <p>4 Q. Had it got any further into the kitchen?</p> <p>5 A. Just the main doors sliding, the sliding door, because</p> <p>6 we had curtains and some decoration around the door, so</p> <p>7 those were on fire.</p> <p>8 Q. When was it that you noticed that the plastic around the</p> <p>9 window was burning?</p> <p>10 A. When I came back to the kitchen.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you see anything happen to the fridge or the</p> <p>12 television that were there?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 MR RAWAT: Sir, I'm getting to another topic now and</p> <p>15 I wondered, Ms Jafari has been giving evidence for</p> <p>16 40 minutes, whether she might welcome a break. If not,</p> <p>17 we can continue.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll ask her.</p> <p>19 Ms Jafari, would you like to have a break now or are</p> <p>20 you comfortable carrying on?</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: I'm fine.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you all right for a bit?</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, let's carry on for another 10</p> <p>25 or 15 minutes. We'll have a break before long anyway,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 window and the glass smashing?</p> <p>2 A. Not very much. Maybe 1 to 2 minutes.</p> <p>3 Q. What could you see outside the kitchen window just</p> <p>4 before the glass smashed?</p> <p>5 A. I didn't see anything. I just grabbed a few of the rugs</p> <p>6 from the floor and I just panicked.</p> <p>7 Q. When you say that the whole window broke in two, are you</p> <p>8 referring to the glass in the window?</p> <p>9 A. Actually, the whole frame, it fall out, normally which</p> <p>10 would open by the wind. So that whole frame came out.</p> <p>11 Q. Was it the frame coming out that caused the glass to</p> <p>12 break?</p> <p>13 A. I think so -- I didn't see how it breaks, because I went</p> <p>14 to my father, but when I came back to the kitchen, the</p> <p>15 frame was on the floor, in the shelf of the -- on the</p> <p>16 top work[sic].</p> <p>17 Q. So would it be fair to say that what you saw was the</p> <p>18 fire coming in through the vent?</p> <p>19 A. The vent and the fan, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. And the fan?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. You then went to get your father.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. And when you came back, the whole frame was on the</p> <p>25 floor?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 and if you need one, make it clear and you'll have one</p> <p>2 straight away. All right?</p> <p>3 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR RAWAT: Thank you very much, Ms Jafari.</p> <p>6 Could we look, then, please, at the next page,</p> <p>7 page 5, I think, and let's just look at paragraph 19.</p> <p>8 In this paragraph, Ms Jafari, if I summarise it, you</p> <p>9 describe leaving the flat and going into the lift area.</p> <p>10 Your father was there before you; is that right?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. When you got into the lift area, were the lights still</p> <p>13 on?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Could we look at your plan, please, just so that we can</p> <p>16 see the layout, IWS00000681, page 2.</p> <p>17 We can see that the entrance to the flat is just,</p> <p>18 I think, to what would be the left of the bathroom, but</p> <p>19 if you were standing outside your front door and you</p> <p>20 were in the lift area, would you be able to see into the</p> <p>21 kitchen of your home?</p> <p>22 A. In the lift area?</p> <p>23 Q. Yes. If you were outside the front door, would you be</p> <p>24 able to see what was going on in the kitchen if you were</p> <p>25 outside the flat?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. If we see, there's a hallway running along there, past</p> <p>3 the bathroom. Is that where you would have to be to</p> <p>4 start seeing what was going on in the kitchen?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. If you wanted to know what was going on in the kitchen,</p> <p>7 where would you have to go?</p> <p>8 A. You have to go further, near Maria's bedroom, to see</p> <p>9 inside the kitchen.</p> <p>10 Q. Let's go back to paragraph 19, please.</p> <p>11 Just to orientate ourselves, you're outside the flat</p> <p>12 in the lift area. You say:</p> <p>13 "There was no smoke there. Our neighbour Natasha</p> <p>14 who lived in flat 82 was standing in the lobby. I told</p> <p>15 her there was a fire in our flat, and she came into our</p> <p>16 corridor and saw the flames."</p> <p>17 When you refer there to a corridor, which corridor</p> <p>18 are you thinking of?</p> <p>19 A. The main corridor in our flat.</p> <p>20 Q. Did you go with Natasha into that corridor?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, she went halfway, but she came out.</p> <p>22 Q. How far did you go?</p> <p>23 A. Just near to the toilet.</p> <p>24 Q. So you saw flames from that position, did you?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 Q. Was that smell similar to that which you had experienced</p> <p>2 earlier in the night?</p> <p>3 A. I can't remember because I didn't stay that much time</p> <p>4 because I was too scared. So as I went with Natasha,</p> <p>5 I quickly came out.</p> <p>6 Q. What you say is that:</p> <p>7 "[Natasha] went back into her flat for some reason.</p> <p>8 Natasha suggested that we go to her house and pulled my</p> <p>9 hand, but I said no and that we needed to go down and</p> <p>10 out of the building. I then went back into our flat to</p> <p>11 turn on the taps, but by now the flames had already</p> <p>12 reached the end of the kitchen corridor so I couldn't do</p> <p>13 this."</p> <p>14 Just so that we can be clear, how many times did you</p> <p>15 go back into your flat?</p> <p>16 A. Twice.</p> <p>17 Q. So the first time was with Natasha --</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. -- into the corridor.</p> <p>20 A. Just halfway, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Then you came out again --</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. -- and went back in a second time to try and turn the</p> <p>24 taps.</p> <p>25 A. Yes, because I explained to my father, I think the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 Q. Can you describe what you were seeing at that time?</p> <p>2 A. Because I closed the door, when I came out, before</p> <p>3 coming out, so I closed the kitchen door, it was a glass</p> <p>4 door, so I closed that, so I could see it was lighting</p> <p>5 up inside the kitchen.</p> <p>6 Q. So what you were able to look at was through the closed</p> <p>7 kitchen door, you were able to see what was still going</p> <p>8 on in the kitchen?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, it was fully bright, something like very bright.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you have a sense of any smoke at all?</p> <p>11 A. By that time, the alarm was on, and it was smoke.</p> <p>12 Q. Was there any smoke in the corridor where you were?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, a bit. Not much, but a bit.</p> <p>14 Q. Can you describe that smoke, please?</p> <p>15 A. It was kind of like plastic burning. Not very strong,</p> <p>16 it was very light, but the fire alarm was on.</p> <p>17 Q. What did the smoke look like?</p> <p>18 A. I couldn't able to see, because before leaving the flat,</p> <p>19 when I saw there was a fire around the windows, I went</p> <p>20 quickly to the main power, so I turned off all the</p> <p>21 electricity in the house.</p> <p>22 Q. So it was dark in the corridor?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. So what you had was a sense of a burning smell?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 fire -- at the first point, I said to him the fire won't</p> <p>2 enter the house because all the windows are double</p> <p>3 glazing, but when I saw the fire was already in the</p> <p>4 kitchen, I realised the living room is also -- there's</p> <p>5 a fire in the living room as well. So I thought the</p> <p>6 fire might come to the corridor, so I will go back to</p> <p>7 the bathroom and I turned on the tap water so water will</p> <p>8 fall all over, so it won't catch fire.</p> <p>9 Q. When you say that the flames had reached the end of the</p> <p>10 kitchen corridor, which corridor are you referring to?</p> <p>11 A. The main corridor, the one we had.</p> <p>12 Q. Can we look at your plan again, then, please,</p> <p>13 IWS00000682, page 2. Could we expand that a little bit,</p> <p>14 please.</p> <p>15 So I think the entrance into the flat is just next</p> <p>16 to the bathroom; is that right?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. So you had walked through that small area and then</p> <p>19 there's the hallway with doors that would open into the</p> <p>20 three bedrooms.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. When you're referring to the kitchen corridor, can you</p> <p>23 just point out what you mean by that?</p> <p>24 A. Just the walkway, where the doors open.</p> <p>25 Q. So the hallway that runs past the bedroom doors?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. And you said in your statement:</p> <p>3 "... the flames had already reached the end of the</p> <p>4 kitchen corridor ..."</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Which end are you thinking of?</p> <p>7 A. Just the door, just down there in front of Maria's room,</p> <p>8 around the frame. Just down there. That's the kitchen,</p> <p>9 so that's Maria room, just down there -- here</p> <p>10 (Indicates). I couldn't able to see -- that's the</p> <p>11 living room door, so just down there, on the right side.</p> <p>12 Q. If we see --</p> <p>13 A. Here.</p> <p>14 Q. Where it says "Maria", there's a door there --</p> <p>15 A. In front of Maria's room, yes. That's the kitchen door.</p> <p>16 Q. So were the flames still inside the kitchen or had they</p> <p>17 come out of the kitchen?</p> <p>18 A. Inside the kitchen.</p> <p>19 Q. Had any flames reached anywhere else in the flat that</p> <p>20 you were aware of?</p> <p>21 A. No, I didn't check, no.</p> <p>22 Q. But you didn't see flames in the hallway or near Maria's</p> <p>23 room?</p> <p>24 A. No, because I closed the kitchen door.</p> <p>25 Q. Can we go back, please, to the statement again, page 5,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 back into the flat to get it because of the fire. I was</p> <p>2 worried about whether my father could make it down the</p> <p>3 stairs. Around this time, my father asked me why we</p> <p>4 didn't close the front door to our flat. I hadn't</p> <p>5 closed it properly because we didn't have the key.</p> <p>6 I thought the keys were in the flat."</p> <p>7 Again, just so we can be clear, what did your father</p> <p>8 mean by closing the front door properly?</p> <p>9 A. That might someone go inside our flat.</p> <p>10 Q. Just to understand how the door worked, if you pulled it</p> <p>11 hard, it would shut?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. But what your father wanted you to do was to lock the</p> <p>14 door?</p> <p>15 A. Lock it, yes.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: When you left the flat, did you</p> <p>17 actually pull the door tight to or was it left partly</p> <p>18 open?</p> <p>19 A. Partly open.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Can you remember how far open?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Okay.</p> <p>23 Yes, Mr Rawat.</p> <p>24 MR RAWAT: You've told us, Ms Jafari, that you could hear</p> <p>25 the smoke alarm in the hallway of your flat.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 and let's look at paragraphs 20 and 21, please.</p> <p>2 What you say in paragraph 20, Ms Jafari, is you tell</p> <p>3 us that you and your father then knocked on neighbours'</p> <p>4 doors, and a neighbour, Youssef from flat 85, came out</p> <p>5 and looked through the front door of your flat.</p> <p>6 Did he get very far into the flat at all?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Were you with him when he was looking through the front</p> <p>9 door?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. What could you see at that time?</p> <p>12 A. I didn't look inside the flat. I was just at the door.</p> <p>13 Q. Well, were you aware of any smoke in the corridor or in</p> <p>14 the hallway of your flat at all at that time?</p> <p>15 A. I can't remember, no.</p> <p>16 Q. Could you feel any heat at all from inside the flat?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. If we look at paragraph 21, and I'll read it, if I may:</p> <p>19 "21. I remember that my father was panicking and</p> <p>20 sweating. His hands were shaking. Normally at such</p> <p>21 times he would take a spray that helps with the heart's</p> <p>22 blood flow. This could be needed at any time for my</p> <p>23 father and so both Maria and I kept a spray in our bags</p> <p>24 in case my father needed it. I didn't have the spray on</p> <p>25 me because I had ran out of the flat and I couldn't go</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Whilst you were in the area of the lift, could you hear</p> <p>3 smoke alarms from anywhere else?</p> <p>4 A. I can't remember, no.</p> <p>5 Q. In the time that you were in that area, did you have any</p> <p>6 sense of there being smoke in the lift area or on the</p> <p>7 landing at all?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Sorry, my question was: was there any smoke at all that</p> <p>10 you could see on the landing and the lift area?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Could you smell anything whilst you were there?</p> <p>13 A. I can't remember, no.</p> <p>14 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, that may be a convenient time.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would that suit you?</p> <p>16 MR RAWAT: Yes, please.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think we'd all benefit from</p> <p>18 a short break now, Ms Jafari, so we'll break for</p> <p>19 10 minutes.</p> <p>20 I'm going to ask you to go with the usher in</p> <p>21 a moment. Please don't talk to anyone about your</p> <p>22 evidence while you're out of the room, all right? We'll</p> <p>23 come back at 11.05.</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like to go with the usher</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 now, thank you. 2 (10.55 am) 3 (A short break) 4 (11.05 am) 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Ms Jafari? Sit down and 6 make yourself comfortable. Are you happy to carry on 7 now? 8 THE WITNESS: Yes. 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 10 Yes, Mr Rawat. 11 MR RAWAT: Thank you, Mr Chairman. 12 Ms Jafari, before I move on with your evidence, 13 I just want to take you back to the questions I was 14 asking you about the kitchen window, and I want to do 15 that by showing you a photograph. 16 For those in the chamber, can I just say that this 17 is a photograph that appears in Dr Barbara Lane's 18 report, and it is a photograph that was taken from the 19 interior of one of the flats in the tower after the 20 fire. 21 So I think I'll just pause briefly, Mr Chairman, if 22 I may, if anybody wants to leave the hearing room. 23 I don't think it looks as if -- 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think we're all right, yes. 25 MR RAWAT: It's reference BLAR00000003, and internal</p> <p>Page 41</p>	<p>1 in paragraph 23 that you were also worried about 2 yourself. 3 You say: 4 "Because of my recent surgery I was in a lot of pain 5 and I was not strong enough to be able to help him down 6 the stairs." 7 If we look at paragraph 24, please, what you do in 8 this paragraph is to describe the lift arriving on your 9 floor. 10 You say: 11 "24. That night, only one of the lifts was working. 12 The other one was out of service. It was the life on 13 the right-side, as you look at the lifts, that was 14 working. The lift door opened and there were a few 15 people standing inside. There must have been about six 16 people in the lift but I don't remember who the people 17 were or exactly how many." 18 First question about the lift, please: can you 19 remember if the lift came down from a higher floor or 20 whether it came up from a lower floor? 21 A. No, because we can't see from where it would come. It 22 didn't have any sign. Because normally in lifts they 23 have sign, like the lift is on the 10th floor, but 24 I didn't see that. 25 Q. So you can't help with where it came from?</p> <p>Page 43</p>
<p>1 page 23, please. 2 Could we just expand the image, if we can. 3 Ms Jafari, if I explain, this isn't a photograph 4 taken of your flat, but it's a photograph taken from 5 flat 13 and it shows a kitchen window. 6 Did your kitchen window look like that? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. We see at the top there that there looks to be what 9 appears to be a plastic panel with a fan in the middle 10 of it. Is that what the fan and the vent looked like in 11 your flat? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. So when you said earlier they were part of the same 14 thing, is that what you meant, that they were together 15 in that way? 16 A. Yes, yes, because I was a bit confused, the vent and the 17 fan were both together, they were not separate. 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It's all part of the same fitting. 19 A. Yes, yes. 20 MR RAWAT: Thank you very much. 21 Could we go back, please, to your statement, and 22 it's IWS00000683, page 6, at paragraphs 23 and 24. 23 Ms Jafari, you explained before the short break that 24 you were worried about your father and his ability to 25 walk down the stairs because of his health. You tell us</p> <p>Page 42</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Is that right, you can't help with that? 3 A. I can't remember, but -- I didn't see, because I didn't 4 press the button for the lift. It was another lady, she 5 came from the stairways, and she was kind of like 6 panicked. So she was the one, she pressed the lift, and 7 she was waiting for the lift to come. So I wasn't -- at 8 that time, I was knocking on my neighbours' door. 9 Q. So this lady came onto your floor; is that right? 10 A. Yes, she came to the 11th floor, yes. 11 Q. Where had she come from? 12 A. I don't know. 13 Q. Did she come through from the stairwell? 14 A. Yes, because my father, was standing on the stairwell, 15 so she just passed my father as she came and she pressed 16 the button for the lift. 17 Q. Do you know what happened to that lady? 18 A. No. She came out with me on the ground floor. 19 Q. So do you remember her getting into the lift with you at 20 the same time? 21 A. She was the one -- she said to me, "Let's go by the 22 lift". 23 Q. Thinking about it today, do you have a clearer idea of 24 how many people were in the lift when you got into it? 25 A. Well, I'm not sure because at that time I was very</p> <p>Page 44</p>

<p>1 scared and panicked and -- but I remember there was</p> <p>2 a man in the lift when the lift came. I remember there</p> <p>3 was a man.</p> <p>4 Q. So if we look at paragraph 24 and you say, "There must</p> <p>5 have been about six people in the lift" --</p> <p>6 A. With us together.</p> <p>7 Q. So the people who got in at the 11th floor was</p> <p>8 yourself --</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. -- your father --</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. -- and the woman who had pressed the button?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Of the people that were in that lift when it arrived,</p> <p>15 the one memory you have is that one of them was a man?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Can you remember anything else about what that man</p> <p>18 looked like?</p> <p>19 A. He was not old. A tall and healthy person.</p> <p>20 Q. Sorry, I didn't catch your last answer.</p> <p>21 A. He was a healthy and muscular man, something like that,</p> <p>22 I would say.</p> <p>23 Q. Can you remember what ethnicity he was?</p> <p>24 A. No, I can't remember.</p> <p>25 Q. Do you remember what anybody else who was in the lift</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 pushing the buttons. Eventually the doors opened.</p> <p>2 I tried to get out but it was difficult. I realised</p> <p>3 that there was someone behind me who was holding on to</p> <p>4 me. I couldn't see who it was because it was so dark.</p> <p>5 I kept asking them to stop but she was clinging to me</p> <p>6 and holding my legs."</p> <p>7 If I read a part of paragraph 26:</p> <p>8 "26. It was terrifying, and the smoke was horrible.</p> <p>9 There was a strong and bitter chemical smell. I tried</p> <p>10 to speak, but it was too hard because of the smoke.</p> <p>11 There was a man banging on the door very heavily with</p> <p>12 his legs. He was pushing with both his legs. The only</p> <p>13 thing that I heard my father say in the lift was to tell</p> <p>14 me I should cover my mouth with my scarf."</p> <p>15 When the lift reached the 10th floor and stopped, do</p> <p>16 you remember if the doors opened straight away?</p> <p>17 A. No. It was closed for a few minutes. Not much, maybe</p> <p>18 1 to 2 minutes.</p> <p>19 Q. Did the smoke that you described in paragraph 25 start</p> <p>20 coming into the lift before the doors had opened?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Can you remember how the smoke was getting into the</p> <p>23 lift?</p> <p>24 A. From the door, I think.</p> <p>25 Q. So was it around the edges of the door?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 when it arrived on your floor was wearing?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you remember if there was anybody in the lift who had</p> <p>4 their head covered?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. If we look, please, now, at paragraphs 25 and 26.</p> <p>7 This begins:</p> <p>8 "We got into the lift and it started to go down ..."</p> <p>9 So you've told us that there were three of you that</p> <p>10 got into the lift on the 11th floor.</p> <p>11 Was it quite crowded in the lift by the time you'd</p> <p>12 all got into it?</p> <p>13 A. Not crowded, but it was kind of, like, looked full to</p> <p>14 me. I can't remember. Because the lift was quite huge</p> <p>15 and it had, like, capacity for 12 people.</p> <p>16 Q. When the lift arrived and stopped on your floor, was</p> <p>17 there any smoke in the lift or was it completely clear</p> <p>18 when you got into it?</p> <p>19 A. It was completely clear.</p> <p>20 Q. Let's look a little more at paragraph 25.</p> <p>21 You say:</p> <p>22 "25. We got into the lift and it started to go</p> <p>23 down, but the lift reached only the 10th floor before it</p> <p>24 got stuck. The lights went off and dark smoke began to</p> <p>25 come into the lift. People began to panic and kept</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. We know that there are two doors in the lift that meet</p> <p>3 in the middle.</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Was it coming through the gap between the two doors?</p> <p>6 A. I didn't see, but it was from the door.</p> <p>7 Q. You've described the smoke as dark and with a strong and</p> <p>8 bitter chemical smell. Can you remember anything else</p> <p>9 about the smoke at all?</p> <p>10 A. No, that's it.</p> <p>11 Q. How quickly did the smoke get into the lift?</p> <p>12 A. It was very fast. It was very quick.</p> <p>13 Q. The lights were already off in the lift by then, were</p> <p>14 they?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, even the buttons of the lift. It had lighting, but</p> <p>16 it went off.</p> <p>17 Q. What physical effect did that smoke have on you?</p> <p>18 A. I couldn't able to breathe up and I couldn't able to</p> <p>19 see, so I closed my eyes, and I was coughing and I feel</p> <p>20 like to vomit.</p> <p>21 Q. How quickly did that happen?</p> <p>22 A. After 1/2 minutes.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you hear what effect it was having on others in the</p> <p>24 lift?</p> <p>25 A. Yes. They were shouting and coughing badly. And one --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 I think it was a man, I'm not sure, but someone went to 2 the ground, he was on the floor. 3 Q. When the lift doors opened, could you see into floor 10 4 at all? 5 A. No, it was fully dark. 6 Q. What sense did you have of the conditions on floor 10? 7 A. It was full of smoke and dark. 8 Q. Was it the same type of smoke as had come into the lift? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. You described trying to get out but that someone was 11 holding onto you, and you say, if we look at it, the 12 last sentence of paragraph 25: 13 "... she was clinging to me and holding my legs." 14 How did you know that this person was a woman? 15 A. I'm not sure, because there was a woman, she was just 16 right behind me or by my side, and someone was holding 17 on my leg, I don't know. I couldn't able to see 18 properly, but I think it's her or maybe that man, but 19 that man was a bit far, just a bit close to the door, 20 but she was just next to me. 21 Q. Was this the same woman who was on your floor when the 22 lift had arrived? 23 A. I think so, yeah, because I think she was the only woman 24 with me. 25 Q. What you do remember as well in paragraph 26 is that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 to now show Ms Jafari a number of CCTV images taken from 2 a camera which filmed the ground-floor lobby. 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 4 MR RAWAT: Again, they may be distressing images for some 5 who are here, so I will pause briefly just to see if 6 anybody does need to leave. I think the position is 7 that no one wants to do so. 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No one is moving at the moment, 9 I think you can take it that they are willing to see 10 them. 11 MR RAWAT: Ms Jafari, what I want to do now is to show you 12 some CCTV images. Are you all right to view those 13 images? 14 A. Yes. 15 MR RAWAT: If you need to look at them, you'll find them at 16 tab 3 of the bundle that's in front of you. 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Just so that you know, they're 18 pictures of you leaving the building through the lobby. 19 A. Yes. 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? 21 A. Yes. 22 MR RAWAT: What I'm going to do is, before I ask any 23 questions about these images, I'm going to show you some 24 of them in sequence, and they start with a picture 25 that's taken before the lift arrives on the ground</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 there was a man banging on the door very heavily. 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Do you remember who that man was? 4 A. No. 5 Q. Was he the same person that you'd seen when the lift 6 arrived on floor 11? 7 A. I'm not sure. 8 Q. If we look now, please, at paragraph 27. 9 You explain there that the lift doors then closed, 10 and the lift began going down again. 11 You say: 12 "The lift was very dark and there was still some 13 smoke in the lift. Finally the door opened on the 14 ground floor and everyone ran out. I ran out of the 15 lift." 16 As the lift was going down from the 10th floor, did 17 it stop at any other floors on the way down? 18 A. No. 19 Q. You say there was still some smoke in the lift; can you 20 give us a sense of how much smoke there was in the lift? 21 A. It was packed with smoke. It was lots of smoke in the 22 lift. But as it was going down, some of the smoke -- it 23 was getting a bit less than before. I was able to open 24 my eyes. 25 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, if I can now give a warning. I want</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 floor. 2 As we go through these images, I'm going to be 3 giving what we're calling the adjusted time. To explain 4 to you and to others here, what that is the best 5 estimate that the inquiry can give, with the assistance 6 of our experts, for the real time that appears for that 7 image. 8 So I'm not going to ask you questions, but I'll just 9 take you through them. 10 So can we first of all have INQ00000423, please. 11 So that, again, just to explain it, this is the 12 first image: the lobby before the lift arrives. 13 The adjusted time for this image is 01.26.24. 14 Could we have INQ00000424, please. Adjusted time is 15 01.26.26. 16 INQ00000425. Adjusted time: 01.26.29. 17 INQ00000426, please. Adjusted time: 01.26.30. 18 INQ00000427. Adjusted time: 01.26.32. 19 INQ00000428, please. Adjusted time: 01.26.35. 20 INQ00000429. Adjusted time: 01.26.36. 21 INQ00000430. Adjusted time: 01.26.36. 22 INQ00000431, please. Adjusted time: 01.26.40. 23 Ms Jafari, that sequence of stills shows the lift 24 arriving, your leaving the lift and then your leaving 25 the building.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p>

1 I'm not going to take you through them all again,
 2 but I just want to take you back to some of those images
 3 to ask you some questions.
 4 Are you happy to continue?
 5 **A. Yes.**
 6 Q. Thank you very much.
 7 If we go back, please, to INQ00000424, please.
 8 This is the second image that we looked at, and we
 9 can see that a woman is seen coming out of the lift, and
 10 we can also see black smoke.
 11 We have to do this, but just to confirm for the
 12 record, that person is not you, is it?
 13 **A. No.**
 14 Q. You've described seeing a woman who came to the
 15 11th floor and pressed the lift button.
 16 Does that picture help you at all as to whether that
 17 was the person that you saw on the 11th floor?
 18 **A. I'm not sure, but maybe.**
 19 Q. Looking at that image, does that help you recalling that
 20 person being in the lift with you?
 21 **A. Kind of, yes. But I'm not sure. But there was a lady,**
 22 **yes.**
 23 Q. If we go to INQ00000425, please.
 24 This is the next person to come out of the lift, and
 25 someone wearing a shawl around their head. Can you

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1 confirm if that person is you?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Can you tell us what was happening there?
 4 **A. I came out, I double checked if someone is inside the**
 5 **lift.**
 6 Q. Do you remember whether you could see anyone else inside
 7 the lift at that time?
 8 **A. No.**
 9 Q. So there was no one in the lift?
 10 **A. No.**
 11 Q. We can see, if we look at that image, that there's black
 12 smoke at the top and also smoke lower down. Can you see
 13 that?
 14 **A. Yes.**
 15 Q. Was that what the smoke was like when you were in the
 16 lift?
 17 **A. Yes, but much more thicker.**
 18 Q. Let me take that in stages.
 19 You say the smoke was thicker; was it much thicker
 20 when it first started coming into the lift?
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. You've told us there was still some smoke as the lift
 23 came down from the 10th floor.
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. When you think of that smoke, is it still much thicker

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1 than we can see there?
 2 **A. Because that time, when I was on the 10th floor, there**
 3 **was a lot more smoke, but as it came down, it got**
 4 **less -- I could able to breathe enough, I could able to**
 5 **open my eyes. But on the 10th floor, I couldn't able**
 6 **to.**
 7 Q. When you say that you were able to open your eyes, did
 8 the smoke have any effect on your eyes?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. What did it do?
 11 **A. It was kind of like itchy and I couldn't able to open**
 12 **it, it was kind of like burning something into my eyes.**
 13 Q. Did that last?
 14 **A. A bit when I came out.**
 15 Q. So when we see you in that image, was the smoke still
 16 affecting your eyes?
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. What was it doing to your breathing?
 19 **A. I was coughing and I feel like to vomit.**
 20 Q. If we go, please, to INQ00000426.
 21 What we can see there, Ms Jafari, that's you, and
 22 you appear to be following the lady and walking towards
 23 the door; is that right?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 Q. What were you wanting to do at that time?

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1 **A. I wanted to go outside to check if my father came before**
 2 **me, maybe I didn't see him when the lift was open. So**
 3 **I thought he came out before me, and he went out, so**
 4 **I went to see outside if he's outside.**
 5 Q. Could we now look, please, at INQ00000429.
 6 That's you now on the other side of the door.
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. In the main lobby of the tower; is that right?
 9 **A. Yes.**
 10 Q. Is it possible for us to just expand that image so that
 11 we can see Ms Jafari a little more clearly, please.
 12 You appear, when we enlarge the image, to have
 13 something on your face. Can you describe what was on
 14 your face at that time?
 15 **A. I was crying and shouting and calling for my father.**
 16 Q. And were there any marks of the smoke on you?
 17 **A. Yes, as you can see, my face was full of marks of the**
 18 **smoke and it was black.**
 19 Q. So --
 20 **A. And even inside my mouth.**
 21 Q. And what about your clothes?
 22 **A. They were a bit smoky from the smoke.**
 23 Q. If we go now, please, to INQ00000431.
 24 I think this is the main entrance to the tower,
 25 isn't it?

Page 56

14 (Pages 53 to 56)

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. That's you going through that entrance; is that right?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. So you've come out of the lift, you've come through the</p> <p>5 foyer and you're going out through the main entrance.</p> <p>6 What were you thinking of doing at that time?</p> <p>7 A. The first point, it was in my head to search for my</p> <p>8 father and my sister and my mother, because they were</p> <p>9 already outside, but when I didn't see both of them and</p> <p>10 my father, I went back inside to go back to the</p> <p>11 10th floor.</p> <p>12 MR RAWAT: I'll show you another CCTV still.</p> <p>13 Mr Chairman, of course, the previous warning that we</p> <p>14 gave stands, but I think we can carry on.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>16 MR RAWAT: I think it's a new CCTV still, not one of the</p> <p>17 ones we've shown you before, Ms Jafari, but it's</p> <p>18 INQ00000433, and the adjusted time for this is 01.26.59.</p> <p>19 So if I just explain, just to help you, Ms Jafari, it's</p> <p>20 19 seconds after the last image that we looked at.</p> <p>21 It's you coming back into the tower; is that right?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Again, just to help us, what were you going to do at</p> <p>24 this time?</p> <p>25 A. I wanted to go back to the lift and go back to the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 Q. Was it after that second time that you left that you</p> <p>2 were able to find your sister, Maria, and your mother?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, she was just outside the building.</p> <p>4 Q. When you came out of the tower, did anyone ask you what</p> <p>5 flat you'd come from?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Can we go back, please, to your witness statement,</p> <p>8 IWS00000683, page 7, paragraph 31.</p> <p>9 You say there, Ms Jafari:</p> <p>10 "31. When I came out, my mother and Maria were</p> <p>11 standing there. Maria didn't have the key fob for the</p> <p>12 stairs as she had given it to the firemen, and the</p> <p>13 policeman would not let me go back inside. We argued</p> <p>14 with the policeman about this but he wouldn't let us</p> <p>15 in."</p> <p>16 Just again so that we can understand your evidence</p> <p>17 better, was it one policeman that you were arguing with?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, just in front of the main front door.</p> <p>19 Q. Did that policeman give you any information about what</p> <p>20 was happening to the fire inside the tower?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you remember giving any information to that policeman</p> <p>23 about your father?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, I said to him, "I want to go back because my</p> <p>25 father's inside".</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 10th floor.</p> <p>2 Q. If we look, please, at INQ00000435, another new image.</p> <p>3 For the record, the adjusted time is 01.27.06.</p> <p>4 Ms Jafari, again, I think we see you there, but can</p> <p>5 you tell us what's happening in this picture?</p> <p>6 A. Because I didn't have the key to open the door, I need</p> <p>7 the fob. So I didn't have that. So I'm just</p> <p>8 shouting -- I don't know whom I'm calling, I can't</p> <p>9 remember, but I was asking for a fob.</p> <p>10 Q. Because it's only with a fob key that you can get</p> <p>11 through the lift; is that right?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Before we leave that image, if we look towards the right</p> <p>14 of it, you can see that there's just on the other side</p> <p>15 of the glass a woman there with a dressing gown. Do you</p> <p>16 remember seeing her?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. Just two more CCTV images to show you, please.</p> <p>19 INQ00000436. Adjusted time: 01.27.09.</p> <p>20 And then INQ00000437, please. Adjusted time:</p> <p>21 01.27.11.</p> <p>22 So this is you now going back out --</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- of the tower for a second time, isn't it?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 Q. But did you tell him where your father might be?</p> <p>2 A. Not to him, no.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you tell him what flat you had left?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. But you're clear in your recollection that it was a male</p> <p>6 police officer; is that right?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Can we stay on the same page, please, and just look at</p> <p>9 paragraphs 32 to 34.</p> <p>10 I just draw your attention, Ms Jafari, to</p> <p>11 paragraph 32, first.</p> <p>12 "32. I was feeling very sick by now because of all</p> <p>13 the smoke I had inhaled and because of the effects of</p> <p>14 the operation. I sat down under the walkway to Barandon</p> <p>15 Walk for a few minutes. There is a small garden area</p> <p>16 with a place where you can sit, and I stayed there."</p> <p>17 Then you describe your brother Farid and his wife</p> <p>18 coming.</p> <p>19 And then the paragraph finishes:</p> <p>20 "I was just sitting for a time and then the police</p> <p>21 came and they pushed us on further away from the Tower."</p> <p>22 You go on in paragraph 33 to say that you were</p> <p>23 searching outside for your father, and then if we look</p> <p>24 at paragraph 34:</p> <p>25 "34. I was feeling worse and worse. I was sick,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 and after one hour I started to lose feeling in my feet. 2 My hands and feet turned blue. I was out of breath. 3 I couldn't feel my hands, and I couldn't breathe 4 properly. I also had a sharp pain in my legs. Maria 5 brought two people to see me and they put special 6 aluminium plastic down for people to lie on. I was cold 7 and shaking, and they said that I needed to go to the 8 hospital. The ambulance was very far away though and 9 I needed to walk to it. I remember that Maria said, 10 'don't close your eyes', but they kept closing." 11 You say in paragraph 34 that you started to lose 12 feeling in your feet, but can we just take it in stages, 13 please. 14 How soon after leaving the tower did you start 15 feeling unwell? 16 A. I can't remember exactly what time, but it was 17 sunrise -- before sunrise. So in June, normally sunrise 18 come up around 3 o'clock in the morning, so I came out 19 at 01.30, so maybe 03.00. So maybe after two or one 20 hour, so ... 21 Q. Was that when your hands and feet started turning blue 22 and you started feeling out of breath? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. So up until then, had you been okay? 25 A. Yeah, we went back -- it was in front of the sports</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 those two men? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. And were they wearing uniforms? 4 A. I can't remember, I didn't see. 5 Q. If we go, please, now, just to the next page in the 6 statement and just take a look at paragraph 36. 7 I just want to pick up on the first sentence of that 8 paragraph, please, Ms Jafari. What you have said is 9 when you went to hospital, "there was smoke in my 10 throat". 11 Can you just explain a little bit further, please, 12 what you mean by smoke in your throat? 13 A. Because the doctor said that he can see, because he put 14 kind of like a camera through my nostrils, and he said, 15 "There is kind of like smoke in your throat but not 16 inside your chest". 17 Q. Did he tell you what he could see? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Did he describe the smoke? What did he say? 20 A. He said, "It's only really your throat and the pipeline, 21 that's it", and he said he's going to give me 22 an injection, that's it. I had oxygen for maybe an hour 23 and after that they took it off. 24 Q. Up until you had had oxygen at the hospital, what was 25 your breathing like?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 centre, so some people, our neighbours, they brought 2 chairs and something -- yeah, it was chairs, and my mum, 3 she was with me, so I was sitting there, because 4 I couldn't able to walk. So they provide some chairs 5 for us, and water. 6 Q. You say you were out of breath. Can you describe how 7 difficult it was or how you were finding it difficult to 8 breathe? 9 A. I don't know. All of a sudden, I couldn't able to 10 stand, because I was, like, trying to go and look for my 11 father, because my sister and my brother, they were all 12 going around the building. But I was with my mother, 13 and I was standing -- because the police wouldn't let us 14 to go near the building, so I said to my sister, 15 "I don't feel my feet anymore" and I couldn't able to 16 breathe. 17 Q. When you first started feeling unwell, which I think 18 your evidence now is possibly about 3 o'clock in the 19 morning, was there anyone offering medical treatment to 20 people who were coming out of the tower? 21 A. The people of the tower, or the ambulance? I don't 22 know, there was two men, I remember they came, and 23 I think they were from the team of ambulance, I don't 24 know. But they took me to the ambulance. 25 Q. So the two people that you describe Maria bringing, were</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 A. It was kind of like -- because I was feeling like to 2 vomit, so they had to control that. 3 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, I've reached the end of my 4 questions, but if I could just ask for a short pause 5 because I'm sure there might be some additional 6 questions that others might wish me to ask. 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course. 8 Well, Mr Rawat thinks he has finished asking 9 questions, but we're going to have a short break so that 10 he can check. So I am going to ask you to leave us for 11 about 5 minutes so that he can check whether there are 12 more questions he needs to ask you, and then we'll come 13 back and see how things go. All right? 14 THE WITNESS: Okay. 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Don't talk to anyone, please, about 16 your evidence while you're out of the room. 17 THE WITNESS: Okay. 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? So you go with the usher 19 and we'll come back at 11.45, is that going to be all 20 right? 21 MR RAWAT: Yes. Well, can I ask for 10 minutes? 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Okay, 11.50. A 10-minute break. 23 All right? If you would like to go with the usher, 24 please. 25 All right, 11.50, then, please.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 MR RAWAT: Thank you, sir. 2 (11.40 am) 3 (A short break) 4 (11.50 am) 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, do sit down. I think 6 there are a few more questions. All right? 7 Yes, Mr Rawat. 8 MR RAWAT: Thank you, Mr Chairman. 9 Ms Jafari, I just have four things to ask you about. 10 The first thing is you mentioned that your door did 11 not have a self-closing mechanism. Do you remember 12 that? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. You told us that a housing officer had visited you in 15 2017. 16 Did anyone come to fix the door at any time in 2017 17 before the fire? 18 A. No. 19 Q. My next question is about the lift. 20 We know, you've told us, that you got in on the 21 11th floor and then you got out on the ground floor. 22 We've seen that. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Did you get in on the same side and get out on the same 25 side? Were the doors on the same side, do you remember?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 A. I don't think so, no. 2 MR RAWAT: Well, then, Ms Jafari, all that remains is for me 3 to thank you once again for coming to give evidence to 4 the inquiry today. It has been enormously helpful to 5 us. 6 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I would add my thanks to those of 8 Mr Rawat. It really is very important for us to hear 9 what went on inside the tower during the fire. Your 10 evidence is very valuable. 11 It was obviously a very frightening and distressing 12 experience for you, made even worse, of course, by the 13 loss of your father. So I'm sorry we've had to ask you 14 to come and tell us about it again, but it is very 15 useful. So thank you very much indeed. 16 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? 18 THE WITNESS: Yes. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like to go with the usher 20 now, please. 21 (The witness withdrew) 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. 23 MARIA JAFARI (evidence read into the record) 24 MR RAWAT: Mr Chairman, having now heard the evidence of 25 Nadia Jafari, I would like to put into the record the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 A. You mean the lift? 2 Q. Yes, the lift doors. You would have come into the lift 3 through one set of lift doors and then you would have 4 left on the ground floor. Did you leave on the same 5 side of the lift as you got in on? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. You've also told us that you remember a woman coming 8 onto the 11th floor and pressing the button for the 9 lift, and she got into the lift with you; is that right? 10 A. Yes, yes. 11 Q. Can you help us at all any more with what that woman 12 looked like? 13 A. I can't remember. 14 Q. Do you remember whether or not she was wearing a hijab 15 or had her head covered at all? 16 A. She didn't have a hijab. She didn't have any cover. 17 Q. So you could see her hair; do you remember that? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. My last question is this. 20 You've given us a written witness statement, you've 21 answered all of my questions today. 22 Above what you've put in your witness statement and 23 what you've said today, is there anything else about the 24 events of that night that you think it important for the 25 chairman to know?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 inquiry witness statement of her sister, Maria Jafari, 2 who, as we heard, left shortly before Nadia left the 3 family home. 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 5 MR RAWAT: I am going to draw your attention to some parts 6 of that statement. But, as was explained last week -- 7 and it's a point that relates to the witness statements 8 that are going to be read into the record this 9 afternoon -- the statement in its entirety goes into the 10 record and will be considered as part of the evidence 11 before the inquiry in its entirety. 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 13 MR RAWAT: The statement of Maria Jafari, if we deal with 14 the formalities, is at IWS00000744. 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 16 MR RAWAT: At page 8 of that, if we go to that, we can see, 17 Mr Chairman, it's dated 1 June 2018, and signed with 18 a statement of truth. There are no exhibits to the 19 statement. 20 Maria Jafari, as will be clear, lived at flat 86 21 with her parents, Ali Yawar Jafari and Fatima Jafari, 22 and her sister, Nadia. 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 24 MR RAWAT: Their flat was owned by the Notting Hill Housing 25 Trust.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 Can I take us back, please, to the first page, and 2 if I could just draw your attention, Mr Chairman, to 3 paragraph 3, first of all. 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you. 5 MR RAWAT: Maria says this about flat 86: 6 "3. My room was the most beautiful room in the 7 flat. Nadia had decorated the walls with pictures of 8 butterflies and flowers. Whenever guests came to stay 9 they had their photographs taken in my room. Although 10 it was beautiful, it was small because it was made up of 11 part of the original living room. Our landlord had 12 separated half of the living room off to make an extra 13 bedroom and there was a long radiator that was half in 14 my bedroom and half in the living room, with a gap in 15 the wall separating the two rooms for the radiator to 16 fit through." 17 Can I move on in the statement and pick it up, 18 please, at the next page, paragraphs 7 and 8. 19 I don't need to say very much about paragraph 7, but 20 if we just note that it begins: 21 "7. In the afternoon on the 13 June I had been 22 shopping." 23 Then if I continue, Mr Chairman, from paragraph 8. 24 Maria writes: 25 "8. I remember that my father was very happy that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 opened it to see what was happening. 2 "12. I went and joined my mother and looked out of 3 the living room window. When the new windows had been 4 installed they had made them with window sills that were 5 much wider and so we couldn't see down the side of the 6 building easily, but I could see the shadow of the fire 7 on a tree. It was like lightening. There were a few 8 people around but not many. As I looked further down 9 I could see the lights and two fire engines next to 10 Barandon Walk. At that time it was about 00:45. 11 "13. My mother said we should go downstairs. At 12 first I said that I didn't want to because I thought it 13 was just a small fire, but I agreed to go with her 14 because she insisted. We closed all the windows in the 15 flat. I went into my room where my father was half 16 asleep and I got my coat, but I didn't say anything to 17 my father because I thought he might panic and I did not 18 think that the fire was serious. I went to Nadia's room 19 to wake her. She was annoyed that I woke her and told 20 me to go away and that she didn't care about the fire. 21 She had recently had surgery and was recovering. 22 "14. I left with my mother. We took the keys from 23 my father's coat pocket next to the door. I went 24 outside and waited while my mother went back into the 25 flat to wake up my father again. While waiting for my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 evening. He really enjoyed the food and ate two plates 2 of rice. Usually lie ate only one plate. Often I would 3 say that he should not eat too much because of his 4 diabetes, but on that evening he was so happy and 5 I thought that maybe he was supposed to eat more. After 6 eating we ... [redacted] ... drank tea and started to 7 watch TV. 8 "9. After we finished eating, my father was lying 9 down on the floor and watching television. At about 10 midnight he took all of his medication and then went to 11 lie down in the bedroom. His medication made him very 12 tired as one of the pills he took was supposed to help 13 him sleep. Nadia was sleeping in my parent's room 14 because she was unwell and so my father went to sleep in 15 my room." 16 The beginning of paragraph 10 is redacted but it 17 continues: 18 "I was also going to go to lie down but my mother 19 said not to go to sleep ... [redacted] ... I took my 20 phone and I laid down on the bed in Nadia's room for an 21 hour ... [redacted] ... My mother stayed in the living 22 room and turned off the TV. 23 "11. Maybe five or ten minutes later my mother came 24 to me and said that she could hear things outside. The 25 windows were closed but my mother went to the window and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 mother to come back I pressed the button to call the 2 lift and I opened the door to the stairs. There were a 3 few people running down the stairs. I spoke to a man 4 who I know. He asked me what was happening downstairs. 5 I said I didn't know, just that there was a fire. He 6 had two children with him and his wife and he was 7 carrying nappies because his baby was small. I went 8 back onto the landing and shouted to my mother to ask if 9 she was going to come and suggested that I could go 10 alone. She said to wait for her and that she would come 11 with me. 12 "15. On the landing I also saw someone I did not 13 know come from our neighbour Natasha's flat. I now know 14 that the man is Natasha's boyfriend. He asked me what 15 was happening. I explained that we had seen a fire and 16 he just laughed and went back into his flat. No one 17 knew at that time that it was as serious as it was. 18 "16. When my mother came out onto the landing again 19 the lift was open. I said that we should go by the 20 stairs, but she needed to go by the lift because it was 21 difficult for her to go down the stairs. Inside the 22 lift, there was an old lady and a young boy from the top 23 floor who I recognised but did not know. He wasn't 24 worried or anything. No one was panicking and 25 I couldn't smell or see any smoke.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 "17. The lift was working normally and it stopped 2 on the third floor where there was an Iranian lady who 3 was panicking and was saying, 'fire, fire' and was 4 closing her flat door. Still though there was no smoke. 5 No one got into the lift on the third floor and the door 6 opened again on the ground floor. I understand that 7 I am recorded on CCTV as leaving the lift area at around 8 01:20." 9 Mr Chairman, that's all I propose to read from that 10 statement, but, as I've said, it goes into the record in 11 its entirety. 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you. 13 MR RAWAT: I think we've gone a little faster this morning 14 than we expected, and that is the evidence for this 15 morning. There will be a further witness who is coming 16 to give evidence this afternoon. 17 So if you are content, Mr Chairman, if I could ask 18 that we could just rise now -- "content" might not be 19 the right word -- and start again at 2 o'clock with that 20 witness. 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Well, I'm sure people can use 22 the extra hour doing other things. If the next witness 23 has been asked to be here for 2 o'clock, I think it 24 would be a good thing, whether she's here or not, to 25 break now.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 Q. Can I also say, it may be very difficult for you to give 2 evidence and to relive the events of the night, and 3 I want to say how sorry I am for the terrible loss of 4 your dear friend Rania Ibrahim. I know you were very 5 close to her. 6 If you need a break at any time, we can take 7 a break. It's not a problem, take as long as you like. 8 If I ask questions which you can't understand, it's 9 normally because they're not very good questions, and 10 all you have to do is just say, "Please repeat the 11 question", and I can put the question in a different 12 way. Okay? 13 Also, I should just say that when you're answering 14 a question, I am listening. The most important thing 15 that is happening is that you're answering the question. 16 But if I'm not looking at you, it's normally because I'm 17 either looking at my notes or at the screen in front of 18 me which has what you are saying being written down. 19 Now, I'm going to focus pretty much on the events of 20 the night, just so you know what we're doing. 21 You've provided a witness statement to the inquiry, 22 and I'll just say the name of the statement aloud: it's 23 IWS00000776. 24 Can I ask you to look at that. It's on the screen. 25 You can either look at it on the desk or on the screen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 So I will rise now and we'll resume with the witness 2 at 2 o'clock. 3 MR RAWAT: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, thank you very much. 5 (12.00 pm) 6 (The short adjournment) 7 (2.00 pm) 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett. 9 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, good afternoon. I'll now call our 10 next witness, Ms Munira Mahmud. 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, thank you. 12 MUNIRA MAHMUD (sworn) 13 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. Sit down and 15 make yourself comfortable. All right? 16 Now, Mr Millett is going to ask you some questions. 17 Yes, Mr Millett. 18 MR MILLETT: Ms Mahmud, can I please ask you to give the 19 inquiry your full name. 20 A. Munira Mahmud. 21 Q. Can I say, first of all, a very big thank you to you for 22 coming along here and assisting the inquiry with our 23 investigations. It's very important that we hear from 24 you and we're very grateful to you. 25 A. My pleasure.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 at the back of the hall, if you want. 2 Is that the first page of your statement? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Can I ask you to be shown page 11 of that statement. 5 You can see that it's got a date at the bottom, 6 6 June 2017, and a signature. 7 Can you confirm that that's your signature? 8 A. Yes, I do. 9 Q. Have you had a chance to read the statement recently? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. Can you confirm that the contents are true? 12 A. Yes, I do. 13 Q. I'm going to read into the record the exhibits that 14 you've given us. They are exhibit MM/1, which 15 IWS00000777, page 2, and MM/2, which is IWS00000777, 16 page 4. Those are a plan of floor 5 and a map of the 17 Grenfell Tower area generally. 18 I am just going to make a general warning that we 19 will be looking -- this is for everybody's benefit -- at 20 a number of images, including photographs of the 21 building taken after the fire, and we'll give a specific 22 warning as we go along, but we just want to highlight 23 that now because some people might find that 24 distressing. If they do, they will be invited to either 25 look away or leave the room.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 Can I ask you some background questions, Mrs Mahmud, 2 first of all. 3 In June 2017, can you tell us where you were living? 4 A. 25 Grenfell Tower. 5 Q. In June 2017, who was living in flat 25, Grenfell Tower, 6 with you? 7 A. Myself, my husband, my father-in-law and my two 8 children. 9 Q. By June 2017, do you remember how long you'd been living 10 in Grenfell Tower? 11 A. Nearly nine years. 12 Q. How old were your two children at the time of the fire? 13 A. My son was five and my daughter was one and a half. 14 Q. Were you all in good health at the time of the fire? 15 A. In a way, yes, because me and my husband were in good 16 health, and my son. My daughter has sickle cell, my 17 father-in-law has got dementia, heart problem, high 18 blood pressure, diabetes and many more medical problems. 19 Q. Were you a tenant of flat 25? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Do you know who you rented the flat from? 22 A. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the 23 council. 24 Q. Right. 25 Let's look at your first exhibit, if we can,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 Q. What was the sliding door made of, do you remember? 2 A. Wood. 3 Q. Looking at your living room, you've got windows on the 4 west side, and also windows on the north side, looking 5 towards the top of the diagram. 6 What did the windows on the north side look onto? 7 A. The station. 8 Q. You've also got two bedrooms, I think, marked "AB" and 9 "MB". Did they look the same way, those two bedrooms? 10 A. Yes, the two bedrooms did. 11 Q. Do you remember whether you experienced, after 2016, any 12 problems with the windows? 13 A. They did fix new windows and we had the problem, the 14 draught would come through. The quality was not good, 15 it was not closing properly. 16 Q. Right. You said the draught would come through. 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Do you remember where the draught came through the 19 windows? 20 A. They didn't seal it properly. They didn't seal the 21 windows on the sill board, so -- 22 Q. So was it at the bottom of the windows? 23 A. Yes. On the side as well. 24 Q. Which windows in your flat do you think the draught came 25 through?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 Mrs Mahmud. It's MM/1, so it's IWS00000777, page 2. 2 That is a plan of floor 5 in Grenfell Tower. 3 If we look at this plan, are you able to point out 4 where your flat is? 5 A. The top left. 6 Q. So that's facing north and west. 7 On this plan here, you've marked "K" as I think your 8 kitchen. 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Can you tell us what the window of your kitchen looked 11 out on to? 12 A. Towards the station, facing the station, Latimer Road 13 station. 14 Q. Immediately below? 15 A. There is a playground and a community centre which 16 became the reception for the Grenfell Tower. 17 Q. On the same plan we can see that you've marked a room 18 "L". What is that room? 19 A. Living room. 20 Q. Was there a door between the living room and the 21 kitchen? 22 A. Yes, there was. 23 Q. What sort of door was it, was it an opening door or 24 a sliding door? 25 A. Sliding door.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 A. The bedroom. The two bedroom windows. 2 Q. What, the ones you've marked "AB" and "MB"? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. What about the living room? 5 A. We didn't spend much time at night in the living room so 6 it was okay. 7 Q. I see. 8 Did you notice draught coming through into the 9 kitchen? 10 A. Well, the kitchen window is always open. 11 Q. Did those problems with draughts coming through the 12 windows that you've described exist at the time of the 13 fire in June 2017? 14 A. I didn't pay attention to it because that time, the 15 window's already open. It was a hot summer day, so ... 16 Q. Did you ask for somebody to come and fix the draught 17 coming through the windows in the bedrooms? 18 A. We did, yes. 19 Q. Were they fixed? 20 A. No. 21 Q. If we look at the plan, we can see that your front 22 door -- is this right? Tell me if this is right -- 23 opened up onto the lobby area by the lifts? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember whether you had any difficulties opening</p> <p>3 and shutting the front door?</p> <p>4 A. Well, I don't know if it's the safety lock that in 2011,</p> <p>5 2012 -- I don't remember properly -- we broke the -- was</p> <p>6 it the safety hinge? Because we were locked in and</p> <p>7 I was pregnant, expecting the baby at any time, and no</p> <p>8 one from RBKC or TMO came to repair the door since. So</p> <p>9 there was no difficulties at all opening or closing the</p> <p>10 door.</p> <p>11 Q. So at the time of the fire, did the door self-close or</p> <p>12 did you have to close the door in order to shut it?</p> <p>13 A. Yeah, we had to do it manually.</p> <p>14 Q. You had to do it manually?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Can I ask you to be shown, please, paragraph 14 of your</p> <p>17 statement. You say there that on 13 June:</p> <p>18 "14. On the day of the fire I dropped my two</p> <p>19 children to school in the morning with Rania Ibrahim and</p> <p>20 her children."</p> <p>21 You explain that Rania lived at flat 203 on the</p> <p>22 22nd floor and you were very close friends.</p> <p>23 My question is: did you spend the rest of the day at</p> <p>24 home on that day?</p> <p>25 A. Not most of the day, no. We were out shopping and then,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 they didn't want to go back upstairs. They were begging</p> <p>2 their mum to stay for a bit longer. And she's like,</p> <p>3 "Come back, we'll play tomorrow after school".</p> <p>4 She went upstairs. We used to take in turns</p> <p>5 cooking. It was her day, but she was getting ready for</p> <p>6 her husband coming. I said I'll cook. I cooked the</p> <p>7 food, took for her upstairs at 9.30, and the kids were</p> <p>8 already sleeping.</p> <p>9 She looked at me, smiling, not knowing it's the last</p> <p>10 smile I'm getting from her.</p> <p>11 We stood outside the lift for some time. I was</p> <p>12 telling her, "Go back in, eat", and she was telling me,</p> <p>13 "No, you go downstairs". We were just messing around</p> <p>14 like kids.</p> <p>15 Q. Sure.</p> <p>16 A. Not knowing I'm losing my sister in the next few hours.</p> <p>17 My friend. My daughter.</p> <p>18 She used to live on the 23rd floor, not 22nd.</p> <p>19 Then I went downstairs. My daughter was very</p> <p>20 restless and kept praying. You know when you have the</p> <p>21 feeling something bad is going to happen, and I'm not</p> <p>22 expecting that.</p> <p>23 It's not only one person you're going to lose;</p> <p>24 you're going to lose everyone.</p> <p>25 My daughter fell asleep around 11 o'clock. My</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 as usual, we went to pick up the kids. We planned to go</p> <p>2 to the library to get the theory book because we were</p> <p>3 planning to start driving, and then we met downstairs at</p> <p>4 the bottom of the building.</p> <p>5 She took my daughter, and her older daughter,</p> <p>6 Fethia, to the swimming pool. I had my son and her</p> <p>7 youngest.</p> <p>8 (Pause)</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Just take a moment --</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Take your time.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- to calm down a bit.</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: Take your time, there's plenty of time.</p> <p>13 (Pause)</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like to sit next to her?</p> <p>15 MR RASOUL: Is that okay?</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: Yes, that would be a good idea.</p> <p>17 (Pause)</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You take whatever time you need and</p> <p>19 we'll go on when you're ready.</p> <p>20 (Pause)</p> <p>21 A. So I took the two kids upstairs and she went to the</p> <p>22 leisure centre just across, swimming lessons for her</p> <p>23 daughter. My youngest daughter was in the flat playing</p> <p>24 with my son, eating.</p> <p>25 Then she came at 6.45. She took her daughters and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 husband was sleeping in the living room, and my</p> <p>2 father-in-law was in his room.</p> <p>3 As far as I remember, it was 12.30 when I heard him</p> <p>4 trying to open the chain on the door that he's going</p> <p>5 home. I said, "Baba, go back to bed". He said, "No,</p> <p>6 I want to go home". I heard a man's phone saying,</p> <p>7 "Baba, go to bed". I assumed it was my husband, but</p> <p>8 normally we go and check if the door is secure or not.</p> <p>9 The door was locked. My husband was half asleep.</p> <p>10 Going back to my bedroom, I saw my father-in-law</p> <p>11 looking at the window outside. He was very confused.</p> <p>12 And then I went to the bedroom window. I heard people</p> <p>13 shouting, screaming, "Get out, fire! Fire! Fire!" And</p> <p>14 I could see on my right the flames coming through.</p> <p>15 I told my husband. I went back to the living room,</p> <p>16 I told him, "Wake up, there's fire in the building". He</p> <p>17 said, "It's okay, they haven't told us to evacuate".</p> <p>18 I thought, let me see what's happening outside on</p> <p>19 the landing.</p> <p>20 There were two firefighters on the floor, on the</p> <p>21 5th floor. One of them had a mask and the hose, the</p> <p>22 water hose. He told me, "There is fire, you have to</p> <p>23 leave".</p> <p>24 I told my husband straight away, "We have to leave",</p> <p>25 and then when I put my baby in the buggy. He said, "You</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 only have two seconds".</p> <p>2 That two seconds is ending everything. We were</p> <p>3 lucky that two seconds saved us. But those who didn't</p> <p>4 have the chance for two seconds, it's completely gone.</p> <p>5 He told me there's no time for buggy. Grabbed my</p> <p>6 kids, without shoes. We were only in our pyjamas. We</p> <p>7 went down the stairs. People are rushing up and down.</p> <p>8 And my question was: if it started on one flat, why wait</p> <p>9 for the whole building to be burnt down before they can</p> <p>10 turn off the fire?</p> <p>11 But people are talking around and saying there's no</p> <p>12 water. We had firefighters coming around without water.</p> <p>13 Q. Take your time. No rush to have any of this.</p> <p>14 Can I ask a couple more questions? You've got</p> <p>15 an amazing memory of the detail of the night, and that's</p> <p>16 amazing. There's some very interesting things I just</p> <p>17 want to ask you about. You told us a lot.</p> <p>18 Can I start by asking you -- it sounds like a funny</p> <p>19 thing, but you might remember it -- about the</p> <p>20 temperature in the communal area on the landing during</p> <p>21 the day before the fire. Did you notice anything about</p> <p>22 it, whether it was hot or cold?</p> <p>23 A. Before the fire?</p> <p>24 Q. Yes.</p> <p>25 A. It was a hot day. Hot summer day.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 You can see from it -- if you've never seen it</p> <p>2 before, then it will come as news to you, I suppose --</p> <p>3 did anybody ever explain to you what "stay put" meant in</p> <p>4 the event of a fire?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you ever get any advice from anybody about what to</p> <p>7 do in the event of a fire in the building?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. On the night of the fire, thinking about that night,</p> <p>10 what was your understanding about what you as a resident</p> <p>11 of the building should do if there was a fire in the</p> <p>12 building?</p> <p>13 A. Normally just think, you know, lock the door, just go in</p> <p>14 a safer place in the flat. And the other side is -- you</p> <p>15 look for the safest place to go, the fire assembly</p> <p>16 point, which is outside the building.</p> <p>17 Q. Just so I am clear in my mind, does that mean on the</p> <p>18 night of the fire you thought the safest thing would be</p> <p>19 to leave the building if there was a fire in it?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>22 Can I ask you to look at paragraph 9 of your</p> <p>23 statement, which is on the next page.</p> <p>24 You say:</p> <p>25 "9. I knew that if there was a fire then the only</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 Q. Do you remember hearing any noise or fans or anything</p> <p>2 like that in the communal area?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. In your statement -- in fact, I'll show it to you, if</p> <p>5 that's okay -- paragraph 8, you can see that you've</p> <p>6 referred to a sign. You say in the second line:</p> <p>7 "There was a fire health and safety sign somewhere</p> <p>8 in the Tower which stated what to do in the event of</p> <p>9 a fire in the building."</p> <p>10 I just want to ask you about that.</p> <p>11 We have a picture, and I wonder whether you can</p> <p>12 identify it. It's BLA00002416.</p> <p>13 Is that the fire health and safety sign that you're</p> <p>14 talking about in your statement?</p> <p>15 A. The one I remember was just basic, "In case of fire do</p> <p>16 not use lift".</p> <p>17 Q. Oh, right. So not this?</p> <p>18 A. No, there is no -- I can't remember seeing that.</p> <p>19 Doesn't say assembly point, what happens in case of</p> <p>20 fire.</p> <p>21 Q. No. Okay. You have never seen a sign like this inside</p> <p>22 Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>23 A. The one I saw is just saying do not use the lift in case</p> <p>24 of fire.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 way out was down the stairs. Each floor was numbered,</p> <p>2 so you knew where you were. Though the staircase was</p> <p>3 far too narrow for emergencies like this. There wasn't</p> <p>4 enough space for people to get down quickly."</p> <p>5 When you say that each floor was numbered, do you</p> <p>6 remember how easy it was to be able to see each number</p> <p>7 for each floor?</p> <p>8 A. Not at that time, when you're panicking. You only know</p> <p>9 it's easy because you're living there. But if you had</p> <p>10 guests, if you had people who cannot read English and</p> <p>11 cannot recognise the numbers -- and at that time</p> <p>12 nobody's looking at numbers, everyone is running for</p> <p>13 safety.</p> <p>14 Q. Did you ever get a chance to look at the numbering in</p> <p>15 the stairs on different floors?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, I did.</p> <p>17 Q. What was it like?</p> <p>18 A. It was crazy. It was easy to read, but we only had the</p> <p>19 chance to do that when they're doing the renovation of</p> <p>20 the building. The lifts are breaking all the time, so</p> <p>21 we had to use the stairs.</p> <p>22 Q. I see.</p> <p>23 When you used the stairs at that time, did the</p> <p>24 numbering help you to know where you were in the</p> <p>25 building?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. In paragraph 11 of your statement, you say:</p> <p>3 "11. I had never seen any smoke alarms in the</p> <p>4 communal areas of the Tower. There used to be a fire</p> <p>5 extinguisher on the ground floor of the Tower but this</p> <p>6 was removed at the beginning of the refurbishment and</p> <p>7 was never replaced. I was not aware of any fire</p> <p>8 sprinklers in the Tower either."</p> <p>9 You say you can't remember smoke alarms in the</p> <p>10 communal area.</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. I just want to clarify to see if I understand that.</p> <p>13 Do you mean that you knew there weren't any or you</p> <p>14 thought there were?</p> <p>15 A. No, we knew there wasn't any.</p> <p>16 Q. You knew there weren't?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. You mentioned a fire extinguisher on the ground floor.</p> <p>19 Can you remember where it was kept?</p> <p>20 A. Next to the reception. The old reception was</p> <p>21 downstairs. So before you go into the second door</p> <p>22 towards the lift, it used to be there.</p> <p>23 Q. You say it was removed at the beginning of the</p> <p>24 refurbishment.</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 Q. In paragraphs 18 and 19 of your statement, you describe</p> <p>2 how you moved from your bedroom to the living room, and</p> <p>3 then to your father-in-law's bedroom.</p> <p>4 Can I just ask you, while you were doing that,</p> <p>5 moving around the flat, could you smell anything?</p> <p>6 A. No, not at that point, no.</p> <p>7 Q. Were you aware of smoke in the air at all?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 A. Not in the flat, no.</p> <p>11 Q. In paragraph 19 of your statement, if you just look at</p> <p>12 that, you say you looked outside the window to try to</p> <p>13 find out what was going on, and you describe somebody</p> <p>14 shouting "Get out! Get out! Fire! Fire!" as you told</p> <p>15 us today as well.</p> <p>16 Did you have to lean out of the window to see what</p> <p>17 was going on?</p> <p>18 A. Sorry?</p> <p>19 Q. Did you have to lean out of the window in order to see</p> <p>20 what was going on or could you see it from where you</p> <p>21 were standing?</p> <p>22 A. I was close enough to see. I didn't have to lean far.</p> <p>23 Q. When you looked out, could you see or smell smoke?</p> <p>24 A. I just saw the flame.</p> <p>25 Q. Reflected in the academy?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 Q. How do you know that?</p> <p>2 A. Because it wasn't there anymore.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay.</p> <p>4 Can I ask you to look at paragraph 16 of your</p> <p>5 statement, just moving on a page.</p> <p>6 You've told us already today a lot about the night,</p> <p>7 so I'm going to keep the questions quite short.</p> <p>8 You say that you fell asleep shortly after 11 pm.</p> <p>9 Do you remember whether any windows were left open</p> <p>10 in the flat when you went to sleep that night?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember which ones?</p> <p>13 A. All the bedroom windows and the living room windows were</p> <p>14 halfway open.</p> <p>15 Q. In paragraph 17, you say:</p> <p>16 "I suddenly woke up at around 12.30am because</p> <p>17 I could hear my father-in-law walking around the flat."</p> <p>18 You say you remember it was around this time because</p> <p>19 you looked at a clock in your bedroom.</p> <p>20 Do you remember, how long after waking up and seeing</p> <p>21 the clock did you wake up your husband?</p> <p>22 A. Less than a minute.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember whether that was before you'd looked out</p> <p>24 and seen the fire or after?</p> <p>25 A. It was before.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. How did it look to you at the time?</p> <p>3 A. It was orange. Burning orange colour.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 At paragraph 20, you describe waking up Mohammed.</p> <p>6 You say:</p> <p>7 "He was already awake. I told him that there was a</p> <p>8 fire and that people were shouting at us from outside</p> <p>9 telling us to get out. He was confused and looked</p> <p>10 slightly nervous but remained calm. He explained to me</p> <p>11 that we didn't need to evacuate the building or from our</p> <p>12 flat because no one had told us to do that. I couldn't</p> <p>13 understand why no one had woken us up or knocked on our</p> <p>14 door to tell us to leave the Tower as people were</p> <p>15 screaming from outside telling us to get out."</p> <p>16 Did your husband tell you who was supposed to come</p> <p>17 and knock on your door?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Who did you think was supposed to come, do you remember?</p> <p>20 Did you have any thoughts about who might come and knock</p> <p>21 on your door?</p> <p>22 A. Apart from the firefighters, the neighbours.</p> <p>23 Q. Did anybody come and knock on your door?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. At the end of that paragraph, you say:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 "There was no smoke in our flat at this point or 2 flames on the outside of our building." 3 Then you say in the beginning of the next paragraph: 4 "21. I was really worried so I rushed towards the 5 front door and opened it to find out what was going on. 6 When I opened the front door, I could see smoke all 7 around in the communal area. It was a dark smoke. It 8 was not very thick when I first opened the door but it 9 was starting to build up. I could still see through the 10 smoke." 11 First of all, do you remember whether there was any 12 smoke coming through your front door when you moved down 13 your hall towards the front door to open it? 14 A. Not in the flat, no. 15 Q. Not in the flat? 16 A. No. 17 Q. Do you remember how much time had passed between your 18 waking up at 12.30 and moving towards the front door to 19 open it? 20 A. It wasn't long. 2.5/3 minutes. 21 Q. Did you go along to the front door or was somebody with 22 you? 23 A. By the time I got there, Mohammed was behind me, my 24 husband was behind me. 25 Q. Right. So he was behind you, was he?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 the smoke, but was it closer to the ceiling or did it go 2 all the way down to the floor, do you remember? 3 A. No, it's not all the way down to the floor. 4 Q. Not on the floor -- 5 A. No. 6 Q. -- of the lobby? 7 A. Yes, just the top, not down. 8 Q. Did the smoke, when you looked at it, have any physical 9 effect on you? 10 A. No. 11 Q. Can we look at MM/1 again, please, the exhibit, which 12 you've marked on the plan of the building. 13 Using this plan, if we can, Mrs Mahmud, when you 14 look into the lobby from your front door, could you see 15 the front doors of the other flats, do you thank? 16 A. Sorry? 17 Q. Could you see the front doors of the other flats? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Do you remember whether they were open or closed? 20 A. All closed. 21 Q. Did you get any sense or idea of where the smoke that 22 you could see in the lobby was coming from? 23 A. If I'm not mistaken, maybe number 24 -- 26, sorry. 24 I can't remember, no. 25 Q. So from another flat?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. When you opened the front door, you've described what 3 you see, and you say it was a dark smoke. Can you tell 4 us any more about the colour? 5 A. As I said, it was dark, but you could still see through. 6 I can't remember the smell. 7 Q. Could you still see the electric lights in the lobby? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. You could? 10 A. Yes, you could still see someone in front of you. 11 Q. Could you smell the smoke? 12 A. No. 13 Q. I know it's difficult to remember exactly, but how far 14 do you think you could see through the smoke when you 15 opened the front door? 16 A. You could see the opposite side. 17 Q. You could see the opposite side? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Was anybody in the lobby when you opened the door? 20 A. There were two firefighters. 21 Q. Apart from the two -- right. 22 A. No. 23 Q. Nobody else? 24 A. No one else, no. 25 Q. I'm sorry to keep asking these detailed questions about</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 A. Maybe, maybe 26. 2 Q. You think so? 3 A. Maybe. 4 Q. Why do you think that? What did you see that made you 5 think that? 6 A. Because when the fire started, it was right below 26, 7 which was 16. 8 Q. Could you see smoke coming from the door of 26? 9 A. I can't remember; I was rushing out. 10 Q. In your statement, if we can go back to it -- are you 11 okay to carry on, do you think? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Okay. 14 Paragraph 21, you go on to say -- if you just go 15 back to that paragraph: 16 "There were fire hoses on the floor in the communal 17 area too. There were two fire fighters in the communal 18 area and they started pulling the hoses to connect them 19 to the dry riser. One firefighter was pulling the hose 20 and the other was banging on the other flat doors 21 telling people to leave. They both had masks on. It 22 was clear that the hoses were not working. I assumed 23 they were already connected to the dry risers at this 24 point but I could not see properly." 25 Were you able to see the dry riser from where you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 were standing when you opened the front door?</p> <p>2 A. Sorry ...</p> <p>3 Q. You don't remember?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. When you opened the front door, do you remember what the</p> <p>6 temperature in the lobby was like outside your flat?</p> <p>7 A. It was hot.</p> <p>8 Q. It was hot?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Was it hotter than it would normally be for --</p> <p>11 A. Slightly, I wouldn't say more, but slightly hot. Hotter</p> <p>12 than normal, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you hear the noise of a fan or smoke extraction</p> <p>14 system or something like that?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. You then say at the bottom of the paragraph, three lines</p> <p>17 up from the end:</p> <p>18 "There were no fire alarms going off in the communal</p> <p>19 areas. I would have expected them to go off as there</p> <p>20 was smoke in the communal area."</p> <p>21 Did you think that there were fire alarms in the</p> <p>22 communal area?</p> <p>23 A. No, there was not.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. Because you say in your statement you would've</p> <p>25 expected the fire alarms to go off because there was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 I think we'll take a short break. It's hard work for</p> <p>2 you, I think, and for us as well. So maybe a 10-minute</p> <p>3 break would be good.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Just tell me how you are getting on.</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: I'm doing very well, Mr Chairman, but we have</p> <p>6 more detailed questions to look at.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It would be good to have a break at</p> <p>8 this point.</p> <p>9 We'll stop until 2.55, and I am going to ask you to</p> <p>10 go with the usher in a moment. I have to ask you not to</p> <p>11 talk to anyone about your evidence while you're out of</p> <p>12 the room. All right? And you go with her.</p> <p>13 MR RASOUL: Thank you.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, just go with the usher, she'll</p> <p>15 take you out.</p> <p>16 All right, 2.55, then, please.</p> <p>17 (2.45 pm)</p> <p>18 (A short break)</p> <p>19 (2.55 pm)</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you all right? Ready to carry</p> <p>21 on?</p> <p>22 THE WITNESS: Yes, please. Thank you.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, thank you.</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: Mrs Mahmud, thank you for coming back to us.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 smoke.</p> <p>2 A. If there was.</p> <p>3 Q. Oh, I see. So if there had been, you would've expected</p> <p>4 them to work?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 You told us this afternoon, and in your statement as</p> <p>8 well at paragraph 22, that the firefighter told you you</p> <p>9 had two seconds to get out.</p> <p>10 I know they were both wearing full breathing</p> <p>11 apparatus, but do you remember whether it was the</p> <p>12 firefighter pulling the hose or the firefighter knocking</p> <p>13 on the doors that told you that?</p> <p>14 A. The one knocking on the doors.</p> <p>15 Q. I think you went back into your flat after that, as you</p> <p>16 told us.</p> <p>17 How much time do you think passed between you going</p> <p>18 back into the flat, after the firefighter had told you</p> <p>19 to leave, and you actually leaving your flat?</p> <p>20 A. It was not long. Less than a minute or so. Because</p> <p>21 I just grabbed my daughter, put her in the buggy -- the</p> <p>22 buggy's right next to the door, and the distance from</p> <p>23 the door to the bedroom is two steps, three steps.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p>25 Mr Chairman, Mrs Mahmud, if this is all right,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 A. Thank you.</p> <p>2 Q. I want to ask you now about the moment when you left</p> <p>3 your flat with your family.</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. When you left your flat, do you remember whether there</p> <p>6 was any smoke beginning to come into it?</p> <p>7 A. No. In the flat, no.</p> <p>8 Q. Then you went into the lobby outside your flat.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. In your statement at paragraph 23, you say:</p> <p>11 "23. I agreed and walked with my children towards</p> <p>12 the fire door to the stairwell. The smoke in the lobby</p> <p>13 was getting thicker and the firemen were still knocking</p> <p>14 on my neighbours doors on our floor."</p> <p>15 I want to ask you about the smoke getting thicker in</p> <p>16 the lobby.</p> <p>17 Do you remember how much thicker it was when you</p> <p>18 went out into it, having left your flat, than when you</p> <p>19 first saw it?</p> <p>20 A. When I saw it, the smoke was there, but when I say it's</p> <p>21 thicker, you could tell, you know, there is more smoke</p> <p>22 coming through now and it's getting darker and darker.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 A. But it was 10 seconds from the door to the stairs, and</p> <p>25 my mind, my intention, was to get downstairs and get my</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 kids to safety.</p> <p>2 Q. Yes, of course.</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Did you notice whether it was still less thick towards</p> <p>5 the floor?</p> <p>6 A. On the stairs down, yes, it was getting thicker.</p> <p>7 Q. In the lobby, though.</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. In the lobby area outside your flat, was it less thick</p> <p>10 towards the floor?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, it was.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you notice then, at that time, when you were</p> <p>13 crossing the lobby to go to the stairs, where the smoke</p> <p>14 was coming from?</p> <p>15 A. No. I mean, maybe it was, as I said, 26, because on the</p> <p>16 other side there was nothing.</p> <p>17 Q. I see.</p> <p>18 Did you see any residents or other people in the</p> <p>19 lobby outside your flat when you went across?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. You say in the same paragraph, three lines down:</p> <p>22 "I opened the fire door and started walking down the</p> <p>23 stairs as quick as I could. The door did not</p> <p>24 automatically shut behind me and was left open."</p> <p>25 Could you just tell us what you mean by "fire door".</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember whether it would automatically shut when</p> <p>3 you used it?</p> <p>4 A. No, you'd just push it and then pull it to close it</p> <p>5 behind us when you're going up or down.</p> <p>6 Q. This is the door into the stairs?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. You'd have to close it behind you, would you?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. So it didn't automatically swing shut?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>13 When you're in the stairwell, and you're walking</p> <p>14 down, did you feel any change in temperature, in the</p> <p>15 air?</p> <p>16 A. No, not as such, no. Not too much. Slightly, but no.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you feel any sensation of air blowing against you,</p> <p>18 on your face?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. You say in the same paragraph, paragraph 23:</p> <p>21 "The light were on in the stairwell and I remember</p> <p>22 seeing smoke in the stairs."</p> <p>23 Can you describe for us where the smoke was in the</p> <p>24 stairs?</p> <p>25 A. It was on the 4th floor, but when we went down, there's</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 Could you describe the fire door that you're referring</p> <p>2 to?</p> <p>3 A. As far as my understanding, fire door is -- it</p> <p>4 doesn't -- it stays easily accessible. You open it and</p> <p>5 it just swings, it doesn't lock. But then this was just</p> <p>6 stuck to the wall and people were just coming up.</p> <p>7 Q. So this is the door into the stairs?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Was it open?</p> <p>10 A. It was open, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. You say it "did not automatically shut behind me and was</p> <p>12 left open".</p> <p>13 Was there something preventing it from shutting or</p> <p>14 was it just hanging open?</p> <p>15 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you notice anything on the floor that was keeping</p> <p>17 the door open?</p> <p>18 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>19 Q. Normally, do you remember whether the door would be open</p> <p>20 or shut?</p> <p>21 A. It used to be shut.</p> <p>22 Q. Usually shut?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Do you remember ever using that door into the stairs</p> <p>25 before the fire?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 nothing.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. So you came down from above.</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. So did it get thicker -- well, you tell me. So --</p> <p>5 A. So from the 5th floor downwards until the 4th floor,</p> <p>6 there was smoke. But then the 3rd floor it was less,</p> <p>7 2nd floor, 1st floor, ground floor, nothing.</p> <p>8 Q. Do you remember where the smoke was? Was it higher up</p> <p>9 or lower down?</p> <p>10 A. It was just in the air. Not as much, but it was in the</p> <p>11 air.</p> <p>12 Q. Did it have a colour?</p> <p>13 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>14 Q. Could you breathe okay?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Did it make you cough at all?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 When you were in the stairs, do you remember hearing</p> <p>20 like a fan noise or vent or anything like that?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. If you go to paragraph 24, you say in the second and</p> <p>23 third lines:</p> <p>24 "I saw a lot of other residents from the Tower</p> <p>25 walking past me. A lot of them looked quite concerned</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p>

26 (Pages 101 to 104)

<p>1 and worried but I did not recognise any of them."</p> <p>2 Can you remember roughly how many residents you saw</p> <p>3 in the stairs at that time?</p> <p>4 A. 10/11, just people just coming down --</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 A. -- as quick as they could, so ...</p> <p>7 Q. Were they coming down from above you?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you talk to them?</p> <p>10 A. No. Everyone was rushing down.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you recognise any of them?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you know which floors they'd come down from?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Did they have any difficulty breathing or were they</p> <p>16 coughing?</p> <p>17 A. I can't tell. I couldn't see that. All just rushing</p> <p>18 down.</p> <p>19 Q. Did they slow you down?</p> <p>20 A. Well, I was carrying my daughter and holding my son, so,</p> <p>21 yeah, I was slower than them.</p> <p>22 Q. But did they slow you down?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Do you remember whether you saw any firefighters in the</p> <p>25 stairs?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Was --</p> <p>3 A. You did, before the fire, yes, but then that time the</p> <p>4 door was already open.</p> <p>5 Q. Of course.</p> <p>6 When you got into the lobby, do you remember hearing</p> <p>7 the noise of a fan or vent or something like that?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. What was the temperature in the main lobby like, do you</p> <p>10 remember, at that time?</p> <p>11 A. It was hot, but I can't tell the temperature. It was</p> <p>12 hotter than usual.</p> <p>13 Q. Was it hotter than before?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. The same evening?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. So just so I'm clear, it was hotter than it was earlier</p> <p>18 on in the same night?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. When you left the tower, did anybody tell you where to</p> <p>21 go and wait?</p> <p>22 A. It's just the residents were helping, telling us to go</p> <p>23 round to meet by the leisure centre.</p> <p>24 Q. Did anybody ask you to confirm your flat number and how</p> <p>25 many people you had with you?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. At paragraph 25 of your statement, you say in the fourth</p> <p>3 line:</p> <p>4 "I tried to walk out of the side entrance but I was</p> <p>5 told to walk out of the main entrance to exit the tower</p> <p>6 with my two children."</p> <p>7 Do you remember who told you to go out of the main</p> <p>8 entrance?</p> <p>9 A. There was residents -- one of them was on the 1st-floor</p> <p>10 landing and then just beside the stairs, and her mum was</p> <p>11 next to the main entrance.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you normally use the side entrance?</p> <p>13 A. Well, the problem was very confusing. When they put the</p> <p>14 two doors, sometimes you go to use the main door, they</p> <p>15 tell you use the side door. Sometimes you use the side</p> <p>16 door, they tell you use the main door. So I thought it</p> <p>17 was easy just to turn on my left to go through the side</p> <p>18 door.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 A. That's when the woman told me, "This way, this way, the</p> <p>21 main door".</p> <p>22 Q. Did you have to go through the glass door at the foot of</p> <p>23 the stairs to get into the lobby?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you need a fob to get out, a key fob?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Did anybody ask you whether you'd left anybody behind in</p> <p>3 the flat?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. I'm going to ask you some questions next about your</p> <p>6 contact on that night with your very dear friend Rania</p> <p>7 after you came out of the tower.</p> <p>8 Is that okay?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay. We'll see how we go.</p> <p>11 If you need a break, again, we can take another</p> <p>12 break.</p> <p>13 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>14 Q. Now, you've explained in your statement --</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. -- that you left your phone behind and your husband</p> <p>17 didn't have Rania's number.</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. So you had to call other friends to get the number.</p> <p>20 Can I go to paragraph 35 of your statement.</p> <p>21 You say:</p> <p>22 "35. I called Rania at around 3am outside my</p> <p>23 friend's house."</p> <p>24 How do you remember that it was 03.00 am?</p> <p>25 A. It was just roughly because we hanged around for quite</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 some time since we left the tower. So that was my rough</p> <p>2 estimate of timing.</p> <p>3 Q. All right.</p> <p>4 You go on to describe your conversation, and in the</p> <p>5 fourth line of your statement, you say:</p> <p>6 "She said to me 'thank God you're alive.' I asked</p> <p>7 her what was going on and she told me it was very dark."</p> <p>8 Did she tell you what was dark?</p> <p>9 A. So there was no light and there's smoke.</p> <p>10 Q. In her flat?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Did she tell you what else was happening in her flat?</p> <p>13 A. It was a quick call. I didn't want to keep her down on</p> <p>14 the phone, all I wanted was her to come down. I was</p> <p>15 responsible for her, as my daughter, and her kids as my</p> <p>16 children. So when she was happy I was alive, I was</p> <p>17 thinking, "Come down, let's both be alive". She said</p> <p>18 no. They told her to stay, the help is coming. When</p> <p>19 she heard the helicopter, we all assumed they are there</p> <p>20 to help them. Could hear the people in the background,</p> <p>21 her neighbours. But Rania being Rania, she would</p> <p>22 believe anyone.</p> <p>23 She would have come down, because I believe there</p> <p>24 were some people who survived after 03.00 am. But she</p> <p>25 didn't. She respected and trusted and believed that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 Q. Right.</p> <p>2 A. Because nobody could get access on top of the roof.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Mrs Mahmud, I have no further questions for</p> <p>4 you. There may be other questions my team might want me</p> <p>5 to ask you, or other lawyers in the room might want me</p> <p>6 to ask you as well.</p> <p>7 So I am going to ask, if it's okay, the chairman to</p> <p>8 take another break for a few minutes and then come back.</p> <p>9 Is that all right?</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Is 5 minutes likely to be enough?</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like to go with the usher.</p> <p>13 You can have a 5-minute break.</p> <p>14 All right, 3.20, then, please.</p> <p>15 (3.15 pm)</p> <p>16 (A short break)</p> <p>17 (3.20 pm)</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think Mr Millett has a couple of</p> <p>19 questions if you're all right to carry on for a bit?</p> <p>20 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Not very long, I think.</p> <p>22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Mrs Mahmud, thank you for coming back to us.</p> <p>24 I just have one or two questions for you.</p> <p>25 You mentioned that Rania didn't cook on the night of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 they're coming to rescue them. And that rescue never</p> <p>2 come.</p> <p>3 Q. You --</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Let's just take a moment.</p> <p>5 (Pause)</p> <p>6 Are you all right to carry on?</p> <p>7 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: I just have one more question, Mrs Mahmud.</p> <p>10 It's on the same paragraph.</p> <p>11 Halfway down your paragraph, you say:</p> <p>12 "She told me that the roof door was locked ..."</p> <p>13 It's about just below halfway down the paragraph,</p> <p>14 paragraph 35, just below the 999 number.</p> <p>15 "... and that they were sending help as she could</p> <p>16 see a helicopter."</p> <p>17 I want to ask you one question about that.</p> <p>18 Do you remember her telling you how she knew the</p> <p>19 door to the roof was locked?</p> <p>20 A. No, I didn't ask her how. Maybe people went up there</p> <p>21 and they didn't succeed, they came back down.</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 A. Because we used to have a lot of teenage boys coming,</p> <p>24 some homeless people coming there seeking shelter in the</p> <p>25 stairs, the homeless people. So it was always locked.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 the fire because her husband was returning the next day.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you know where he was returning from?</p> <p>4 A. From Egypt.</p> <p>5 Q. From Egypt?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you know what he was doing in Egypt?</p> <p>8 A. He had some family issues there.</p> <p>9 Q. I understand.</p> <p>10 You've been very helpful indeed in your written</p> <p>11 witness statement and in your evidence to the chairman</p> <p>12 today and we're all extremely grateful.</p> <p>13 A. Thank you.</p> <p>14 Q. Can I ask a general question.</p> <p>15 Is there anything further, additional, that you</p> <p>16 would wish to tell the chairman about the events of that</p> <p>17 night which you think that it's important for the</p> <p>18 chairman to know?</p> <p>19 A. I don't know.</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: That's okay.</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Well, you've told us</p> <p>23 a great deal and we are grateful.</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 Well, Mrs Mahmud, can I express our gratitude on my</p> <p>2 behalf and on behalf of the entire inquiry team for your</p> <p>3 coming here today and assisting us with our</p> <p>4 investigations. We do hugely appreciate it, so thank</p> <p>5 you very much indeed.</p> <p>6 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, as Mr Millett said, it is very</p> <p>8 helpful and we are very grateful. You had an awful</p> <p>9 experience and a very distressing time, and I think it's</p> <p>10 still very distressing for you, and I think we all</p> <p>11 understand how difficult it has been for you to come and</p> <p>12 talk about these things. So we are particularly</p> <p>13 grateful because your evidence is really valuable to us,</p> <p>14 and we thank you very much for coming.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: Justice. I hope we get the justice for the</p> <p>16 72-plus people. This is for them and no one else.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course.</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: Every single day, until the last minute, we're</p> <p>19 fighting for justice, because all those innocent people,</p> <p>20 my children -- Rania's children are my children.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, you certainly helped everybody</p> <p>22 by coming to give us your evidence.</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: I hope, I hope it's going to go further.</p> <p>24 Thank you, thank you very much.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, thank you very much.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I'm sorry we can't take any</p> <p>3 further evidence this afternoon. But we'll resume</p> <p>4 tomorrow with another witness from the tower, and we'll</p> <p>5 do that at 10 o'clock, then, please.</p> <p>6 Thank you very much. 10 o'clock tomorrow.</p> <p>7 (3.30 pm)</p> <p>8 (The hearing adjourned until Tuesday, 9 October 2018 at</p> <p>9 10.00 am)</p> <p>10 I N D E X</p> <p>11 NADIA JAFARI (sworn)2</p> <p>Questions by MR RAWAT2</p> <p>12</p> <p>MARIA JAFARI (evidence read into the67</p> <p>13 record)</p> <p>14 MUNIRA MAHMUD (sworn)74</p> <p>Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY74</p> <p>15</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: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 Would you like to go with the usher. She'll look</p> <p>2 after you now. Thank you very much.</p> <p>3 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: Well, now, Mr Chairman, we were going to spend</p> <p>6 the rest of the afternoon reading some statements from</p> <p>7 witnesses who provided extremely helpful and valuable</p> <p>8 witness statements.</p> <p>9 For reasons I need not go into now, I'm afraid we're</p> <p>10 not able to do that. I'll be able to update you and</p> <p>11 everybody else in this room I hope very shortly, but</p> <p>12 something arose after hours on Friday night which has</p> <p>13 meant that that would be an unwise course to follow</p> <p>14 today.</p> <p>15 So I hope to be able to provide some further updates</p> <p>16 about what we propose to do about statements such as</p> <p>17 those during tomorrow, if possible.</p> <p>18 We will then continue, if we may, tomorrow morning</p> <p>19 with our next oral witness, who is Meron Mekonnen, and</p> <p>20 who I think Mr Rawat will take during tomorrow morning.</p> <p>21 I will be back tomorrow afternoon for the oral</p> <p>22 witnesses.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So we'll break now and resume at --</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: At 10 o'clock.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	

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