

<p>1 Thursday, 15 November 2018</p> <p>2 (9.30 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to</p> <p>4 today's hearing.</p> <p>5 Today we are going to hear from some other people</p> <p>6 who were within the cordon during the fire.</p> <p>7 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Good morning, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>9 May I now please call Mr Nickolas Layton of RBKC.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>11 NICKOLAS LAYTON (sworn)</p> <p>12 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Layton.</p> <p>14 Sit down and make yourself comfortable. All right?</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Mr Layton, good morning.</p> <p>18 Can I ask you, please, to give the chairman your</p> <p>19 full name.</p> <p>20 <b>A. Nickolas James Layton.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Can I start by thanking you very much for attending</p> <p>22 today and giving evidence to the inquiry and assisting</p> <p>23 us in our investigations. We very much appreciate it.</p> <p>24 If at any stage you feel you need a break, please</p> <p>25 let us know and we can take a short break. It's never</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 under Rule 9 dated 11 September 2018, and that is</p> <p>2 RBK00029034, if we can please have that up on the</p> <p>3 screen. There it is.</p> <p>4 Is that your statement to the inquiry, or the first</p> <p>5 page of it?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes, it is.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Can I ask you to turn, please, to the last page of that</p> <p>8 statement, which is page 13 in the Relativity reference.</p> <p>9 You'll see that there is a statement of truth there</p> <p>10 with the signature underneath it.</p> <p>11 Is that your signature?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Have you had an opportunity to read both of these</p> <p>14 statements, your police statement and your inquiry</p> <p>15 statement, recently?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Can you confirm that they are true to the best of your</p> <p>18 knowledge and recollection?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Are you happy for these to be taken, subject to what</p> <p>21 you're going to tell us this morning, as your evidence</p> <p>22 to the inquiry?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You've also produced a number of exhibits to your</p> <p>25 inquiry statement, and I'll just read those formally</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 a difficulty. I do aim to take a break after about an</p> <p>2 hour anyway, but as I say, if you need a break at any</p> <p>3 time before that, all you have to do is indicate.</p> <p>4 I'll try and keep my questions as short and simple</p> <p>5 as possible. If you don't understand a question I've</p> <p>6 asked or you want me to put the question in a different</p> <p>7 way, I'm very happy to do that as well.</p> <p>8 <b>A. Thank you.</b></p> <p>9 Q. You've provided two witness statements. The first is</p> <p>10 your statement that you gave to the police on</p> <p>11 20 September 2017, and that is MET00007967. I'll just</p> <p>12 read that formally into the record.</p> <p>13 If you could identify that as your statement.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes, it is.</b></p> <p>15 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You are very welcome to use the big</b></p> <p>16 <b>screen. It ought to come up on the monitor in front of</b></p> <p>17 <b>you as well, which you might find less tiring on the</b></p> <p>18 <b>neck.</b></p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: Yes. I should also say, Mr Layton, that in</p> <p>20 front of you on the desk there is a blue file with the</p> <p>21 hard copy documents in it that I'm going to refer to, so</p> <p>22 you can look at that as well, but most witnesses tend to</p> <p>23 find it easier to use the monitor on the desk.</p> <p>24 So there's your Met statement of 20 September 2017.</p> <p>25 You've also provided a statement to the inquiry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 into the record.</p> <p>2 There's NL/1, which is your LALO log, RBK00029036;</p> <p>3 NL/2, your duty officer manual 2017 RBK00029035; NL/3,</p> <p>4 your major incident contact sheet, RBK00029032; and NL/4</p> <p>5 the RBK SMG incident logbook, RBK00029033.</p> <p>6 I've now read those formally into the record so that</p> <p>7 they are there.</p> <p>8 I'm going to ask you questions this morning focusing</p> <p>9 on the events which took place within the cordon on the</p> <p>10 night of the fire up until about 8.00 am that morning.</p> <p>11 There will of course be other questions that will</p> <p>12 arise which will form part of Phase 2 of this inquiry,</p> <p>13 including things like the aftermath of the fire and</p> <p>14 events later on, on 14 June.</p> <p>15 Can I start, then, by asking you some questions</p> <p>16 about your position and your career.</p> <p>17 You are I think currently a security officer</p> <p>18 employed by Amey plc.</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes, sir.</b></p> <p>20 Q. They've got the facilities contract with RBKC; is that</p> <p>21 right?</p> <p>22 <b>A. That is correct.</b></p> <p>23 Q. I think you joined the borough in October 1995.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Prior to your current role, I think you worked as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 a customer services officer and a security officer and</p> <p>2 then a hall keeper.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes, sir, that's correct.</b></p> <p>4 Q. In addition to those roles, I think you work for the</p> <p>5 borough now as an on-call borough duty officer.</p> <p>6 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>7 Q. That's sometimes referred to as a BDO; is that right?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, that is correct.</b></p> <p>9 Q. And also as a local authority liaison officer, or LALO.</p> <p>10 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>11 Q. How long have you been a LALO for?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Approximately 2002 I started.</b></p> <p>13 Q. 2002?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. So up to the night of the fire, you had been a LALO for</p> <p>16 some 15 years or so?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes, I have.</b></p> <p>18 Q. In your statement to the inquiry, if I can take you,</p> <p>19 please, to paragraph 6.4, which you'll find on page 3,</p> <p>20 you say -- it will come up on the monitor in front of</p> <p>21 you -- page 3 of your inquiry statement, that's</p> <p>22 RBK00029034.</p> <p>23 At the top of the screen there:</p> <p>24 "6.4. I have received training from the Borough</p> <p>25 and[sic] which includes specific emergency scenarios.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 <b>Show, where we dealt with a fire.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did that event on which you were trained include how to</p> <p>3 deal with a major incident as understood in the JESIP</p> <p>4 interoperability framework?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes, it did.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Are you familiar with the JESIP interoperability</p> <p>7 framework?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No, I'm not.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Have you ever had any training on it?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Not specifically to that, no, sir.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Have you ever had any training on the London Resilience</p> <p>12 Partnership strategic co-ordination protocol?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I have had a certain amount of training with the</b></p> <p>14 <b>resilience, but only from our local authority side.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Did that training involve dealing with a major incident?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes, it did.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Did it involve a fire major incident?</p> <p>18 <b>A. That one, no.</b></p> <p>19 Q. What was the training that you received?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I think it was a terrorist event, that one.</b></p> <p>21 Q. What about the LESLP major incident procedure manual,</p> <p>22 are you familiar with that?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Very familiar, sir. Not 100 per cent.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Very familiar but not 100 per cent.</p> <p>25 Have you ever had training on the LESLP major</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 The training included reacting to different emergency</p> <p>2 scenarios."</p> <p>3 Was that training that you received in your capacity</p> <p>4 as a LALO?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes, it was.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Are there two levels for training for a LALO, level 1</p> <p>7 and level 2?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No, there's just one standard of training for LALOs.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Are you fully trained as a LALO?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes, I am, sir.</b></p> <p>11 Q. The training you refer to in that paragraph, what form</p> <p>12 did it take?</p> <p>13 <b>A. We did practical exercises which are normally run from</b></p> <p>14 <b>the halls at Chelsea Town Hall, which includes other</b></p> <p>15 <b>major services -- the LFB, ambulance services, the</b></p> <p>16 <b>police -- and it's getting together to actually</b></p> <p>17 <b>formalise ways of doing things in certain situations.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did that training include dealing with a fire?</p> <p>19 <b>A. A tower block, no.</b></p> <p>20 Q. But a fire, yes?</p> <p>21 <b>A. A fire as in an event, yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. How big an event did that training -- how big a fire</p> <p>23 event?</p> <p>24 <b>A. The fire itself was small, but it was ancillary things.</b></p> <p>25 <b>It was a thing that we've done for the Chelsea Flower</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 incident manual?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Locally, yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. What was that training -- what did that involve?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I can't remember the exact details, but that was</b></p> <p>5 <b>training that was done at Kensington Town Hall.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Did that involve a major fire?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I don't think so, no, sir.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Prior to the night of 13/14 June 2017, when was the last</p> <p>9 training session on any of these protocols or procedures</p> <p>10 that you received?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Probably 18 months to two years.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Who delivered that training?</p> <p>13 <b>A. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.</b></p> <p>14 Q. In-house or outsourced?</p> <p>15 <b>A. In-house.</b></p> <p>16 Q. What department within the borough?</p> <p>17 <b>A. The emergency planning team.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Who heads the emergency planning team?</p> <p>19 <b>A. David Kerry.</b></p> <p>20 Q. In terms of your experience as a LALO, you say at</p> <p>21 paragraph 6.6 of your statement, still on the same page</p> <p>22 up there on the screen:</p> <p>23 "6.6. I have dealt with quite a few major incidents</p> <p>24 through the years. For example, I was a LALO at a large</p> <p>25 gas leak, a shooting, as well as at the Trellick Towers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 Fire."</p> <p>2 The Trellick Tower fire, I think, was April 2017.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. To be precise, 19 April 2017.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>6 Q. In what capacity were you involved with that fire?</p> <p>7 <b>A. As a LALO.</b></p> <p>8 Q. What did you do in that capacity at that fire?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I attended site, liaised with the emergency services.</b></p> <p>10 <b>Compared to Grenfell, this was, I suppose, simple,</b></p> <p>11 <b>because of the procedure that they had in place with the</b></p> <p>12 <b>fire services, the building itself worked, and we didn't</b></p> <p>13 <b>even need to set up a rest centre for that one.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Were there any lessons as a LALO that you took away from</p> <p>15 Trellick Tower?</p> <p>16 <b>A. I would say no because all the procedures and effects</b></p> <p>17 <b>worked very well on that one.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Other than the Trellick Tower fire, how many other fire</p> <p>19 incidents of substance have you been involved in as</p> <p>20 a LALO?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Before Trellick Tower, no real major fires.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Prior to Grenfell Tower, were there any incidents which</p> <p>23 had been declared a major incident in which you acted as</p> <p>24 a LALO?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Not for a very long time. The last one was possibly</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 for.</p> <p>2 <b>A. I can't remember off the top --</b></p> <p>3 Q. Contingency management plan?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes, sir.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>6 39 says this:</p> <p>7 "The LALO will represent the Council at the scene of</p> <p>8 an incident or emergency as Council Silver, with full</p> <p>9 authority to call upon and deploy Council as required.</p> <p>10 "Key tasks are to:</p> <p>11 "• Attend the scene when called upon by the</p> <p>12 emergency services.</p> <p>13 "• Provide a single point of contact between the</p> <p>14 emergency services and the council and a link between</p> <p>15 the incident scene and the BECC."</p> <p>16 Pausing there, can you tell us what the BECC is?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Borough emergency command centre.</b></p> <p>18 Q. And one was set up on the night, wasn't it?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes, it was.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Who was in charge of the BECC?</p> <p>21 <b>A. David Kerry.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Just looking down at the rest of the bullet points --</p> <p>23 I'm not going to read them all out aloud to you, you can</p> <p>24 see what they are -- would you agree that all of these</p> <p>25 functions were part of your role on the night?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 <b>the -- I'm not sure whether it was the baby falling out</b></p> <p>2 <b>of the block of flats or the shooting on King's Road.</b></p> <p>3 Q. When were those?</p> <p>4 <b>A. They were not escalated to a high level of emergencies.</b></p> <p>5 Q. There are different levels of major incidents, aren't</p> <p>6 there?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. As we'll see in a moment.</p> <p>9 When were those events?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I can't remember the exact dates.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Turning to the night of the fire itself and your</p> <p>13 role on the night, you have described your role as</p> <p>14 a LALO in your statement at paragraph 6. It's also set</p> <p>15 out in the duty officer manual.</p> <p>16 If I can take you to that. That's RBK00029035.</p> <p>17 At page 1 you can see that this is the Borough Duty</p> <p>18 Officer/Duty Silver Manual 2017.</p> <p>19 Just to be clear, was this the relevant current</p> <p>20 document as at the night of the fire?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes, it was.</b></p> <p>22 Q. We can see the date at the bottom, 24 April 2017.</p> <p>23 Can I ask you, please, to turn to page 39, first of</p> <p>24 all, in that document, under CMP 5.4.</p> <p>25 "CMP" stands for -- well, you tell me what it stands</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. If you then go back a page, in the Duty Silver manual to</p> <p>3 page 38, you can see that at the top of the page, under</p> <p>4 the section "10. MAJOR EMERGENCIES", and "10.1. Local</p> <p>5 Authority Liaison Officer", it says this:</p> <p>6 "If a major emergency occurs out of hours, the</p> <p>7 Borough Duty Officer will be informed of it by the out</p> <p>8 of hours service. The BDO will then be responsible for</p> <p>9 assessing the scale of the emergency and, if</p> <p>10 appropriate, [activate] the Contingency Management</p> <p>11 Plan."</p> <p>12 On the night of the fire, were you aware that's what</p> <p>13 you had to do --</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. -- as the LALO on duty?</p> <p>16 Going on, you can see a longish list of things that</p> <p>17 have to happen in order to activate the contingency</p> <p>18 management plan, the CMP.</p> <p>19 The second is to evaluate the level of the</p> <p>20 emergency, and:</p> <p>21 "If level 1, deal with using the borough duty</p> <p>22 officer manual, and pass to the relevant service for</p> <p>23 action.</p> <p>24 "If level 2 or 3, start an Emergency Event Log."</p> <p>25 We can see that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 First of all, as the borough LALO on that night, did 2 you activate the RBKC contingency management plan? 3 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b> 4 Q. Did you evaluate the level of the emergency? 5 <b>A. From the information I'd already received from the</b> 6 <b>out-of-hours call management service, I determined that</b> 7 <b>for me it was a major incident so I immediately</b> 8 <b>contacted David Kerry to instigate the BECC.</b> 9 Q. Did you start an emergency event log as per this 10 checklist? 11 <b>A. My own list, yes, sir.</b> 12 Q. The emergency event log, is that something that's up to 13 the individual LALO or is there a format? 14 <b>A. I was not aware of a specific format at that time.</b> 15 Q. Looking at the checklist, a little bit lower down, it 16 says: 17 "[If an external emergency] Call the first available 18 designated Activation Officer (see Annex 1) and provide 19 a briefing on the incident, repeating the information on 20 the Emergency Report Form." 21 Did you do that? 22 <b>A. I contacted David Kerry immediately.</b> 23 Q. And he was the designated activation officer? 24 <b>A. Yes.</b> 25 Q. Was it he who activated the RBKC plan or was it you?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 in your statement? 2 <b>A. Yes.</b> 3 Q. When you made your statement in September 2017, did you 4 recall that time or did you look at a document? 5 <b>A. No, when I made the statement in September 2017, I had</b> 6 <b>no documentation to support anything I was saying at</b> 7 <b>that time because I hadn't received my notes back</b> 8 <b>from -- when I finished as LALO at 7 o'clock in the</b> 9 <b>morning, I handed over my nights to Mike Rumble, who</b> 10 <b>actually carried on during that day.</b> 11 Q. Yes, I see. So when you then came to make your 12 statement for the inquiry in September this year, and 13 put just after 2.00 am at paragraph 8, did you look at 14 a document then to refresh your memory? 15 <b>A. Not at the time, no.</b> 16 Q. So can you account for the difference between 2.10 and 17 just after 2.00 am? It may not sound a lot, but is 18 there a reason for the difference? 19 <b>A. No, I couldn't say.</b> 20 Q. Was the message you refer to from GDIT the first message 21 or attempt to contact you? 22 <b>A. Yes.</b> 23 Q. How long did your call with GDIT last? 24 <b>A. I would say no more than about 2 to 3 minutes.</b> 25 Q. Do you remember who you spoke to?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Yes, it was he who activated the plan.</b> 2 Q. We'll come back to this if need be. 3 Going back to the statement, your statement, can 4 I take you, please, to paragraph 8 on page 3. 5 You say there towards the bottom of the page: 6 "8. On the night of the Grenfell Tower fire, I was 7 contacted just after 2am, by GDIT, the out of hours call 8 answering service for the Borough. I was informed that 9 there had been a fire reported at Grenfell Tower and 10 that there was possibly 3 or 4 fatalities. GDIT told me 11 that the Emergency Services were on site and I recall 12 being told there were 15 pumps in attendance. I knew 13 from this information that this was a serious incident 14 and would require a major response." 15 I've read that all to you so that you have the whole 16 of your evidence in mind, Mr Layton. 17 First of all, you say you were contacted just after 18 2.00 am. 19 How do you remember that it was just after 2.00 am? 20 <b>A. I think I looked at my phone, at the time, because it</b> 21 <b>was the middle of the night and I was woken by the call.</b> 22 Q. In your police witness statement -- we can look at it if 23 we need to -- you said it was approximately 2.10 am. 24 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b> 25 Q. Do you remember saying that to the police and that being</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No, I do not.</b> 2 Q. Do you remember what information you were given beyond 3 what we see on the page at paragraph 8? 4 <b>A. No, I don't.</b> 5 Q. You say that you recall being told there were 15 pumps 6 in attendance. Are you confident that it was 15? 7 <b>A. I'm pretty confident, yes.</b> 8 Q. Nobody said at this stage that it was 40? 9 <b>A. No.</b> 10 Q. Or even 25? 11 <b>A. No.</b> 12 Q. Just tell me, GDIT, is that the out-of-hours service? 13 <b>A. That is the out-of-hours service, yes.</b> 14 Q. Do you know who had contacted GDIT in order to get them 15 to call you? 16 <b>A. That would've been the London Fire Brigade.</b> 17 Q. Do you know when GDIT had been called? 18 <b>A. When I took the call, they said they'd just received the</b> 19 <b>call.</b> 20 Q. Did the person you spoke to at GDIT tell you that 21 a major incident had been called? 22 <b>A. Yes.</b> 23 Q. Did they tell you who had declared the major incident? 24 <b>A. It came from the LFB.</b> 25 Q. It came from the LFB?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did the caller tell you that the Metropolitan Police had</p> <p>3 declared a major incident?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No, not that I'm aware of.</b></p> <p>5 Q. At paragraph 9 of your statement, you say:</p> <p>6 "9. I immediately called David Kerry to let him</p> <p>7 know."</p> <p>8 So that was, I'm assuming, straight after your call</p> <p>9 from GDIT was over?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. You've confirmed, I think, that he was the contingency</p> <p>12 planning manager or the emergency planning officer.</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Is there a difference between those two descriptions of</p> <p>15 his role?</p> <p>16 <b>A. There's two roles, sir.</b></p> <p>17 Q. What is the difference between contingency planning</p> <p>18 manager and the emergency planning officer?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I don't know what they define that as, sir.</b></p> <p>20 Q. I think you said that he's the activation officer within</p> <p>21 the LALO procedure we've seen on page 38 --</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. -- of the Silver manual.</p> <p>24 We can see his emergency event log sheet, as he</p> <p>25 opened one, and that's RBK00028849.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 Q. How certain are you that you told David Kerry that it</p> <p>2 was the police who called GDIT at that time?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I would say that's accurate that I would've said that to</b></p> <p>4 <b>him.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 At paragraph 9 of your statement, if we can go back</p> <p>7 to that, please, you say that you relayed to him the</p> <p>8 scale of the emergency. This is three lines up from the</p> <p>9 end of the paragraph. You say:</p> <p>10 "During my initial telephone call to David I relayed</p> <p>11 to him the scale of the emergency."</p> <p>12 Did you tell him there were casualties?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Did you say to him that the Met had declared a major</p> <p>15 incident?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Did you tell him that a major incident had been</p> <p>18 declared?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I told him that this was a major incident, and that we</b></p> <p>20 <b>needed to set up the BECC.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Did you tell him that the LFB had declared a major</p> <p>22 incident?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I can't remember.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Would you ordinarily expect to be told, based on the</p> <p>25 training and the experience that you had, that one or</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 If we can just have that, please, up on the screen.</p> <p>2 It looks as if he opened that at 02.21 with your</p> <p>3 call:</p> <p>4 "Call from Nick Layton, Borough Duty Officer.</p> <p>5 "Fire at Grenfell Tower -- police called GDIT at</p> <p>6 02:03.</p> <p>7 "Evacuees -- persons trapped -- casualties.</p> <p>8 "RVP at Bomore Road."</p> <p>9 First of all, can you account for the time lag or</p> <p>10 time elapse between 02.03 when, as he says, the police</p> <p>11 called GDIT and 02.21 when you call him, according to</p> <p>12 his log?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No, I cannot.</b></p> <p>14 Q. When he wrote "police called GDIT", is that right to the</p> <p>15 best of your recollection?</p> <p>16 <b>A. If he's put that, he's confirmed that, I would've</b></p> <p>17 <b>thought.</b></p> <p>18 Q. So doing the best you can, does that tell us that when</p> <p>19 GDIT called you, they told you that the police had</p> <p>20 called them?</p> <p>21 <b>A. It is possible. I cannot say for definite.</b></p> <p>22 Q. No, sure.</p> <p>23 Does that tell us, then, that the police told you</p> <p>24 that the LFB had declared a major incident?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I can't say, sir.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 other or both of the LFB and the Metropolitan Police had</p> <p>2 declared a major incident?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Not always. They would tell us -- normally the call</b></p> <p>4 <b>would come through that they require a LALO for a major</b></p> <p>5 <b>incident, as such, but it's the level of the incident.</b></p> <p>6 Q. I think you touched on this earlier on this morning, but</p> <p>7 were you told or did you understand that this incident</p> <p>8 was a level 3 major incident as defined in the</p> <p>9 contingency management plan?</p> <p>10 <b>A. That was my judgement at the time.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Let's just have a look at that. It's RBK00004396 at</p> <p>12 page 34.</p> <p>13 This is paragraph or section 4.5 within the CMP,</p> <p>14 "Scale and Impact", and you can see that there are three</p> <p>15 levels: level 1, which is yellow, "MINOR (Limited)";</p> <p>16 level 2, which is amber, "MEDIUM (Disruptive)"; and</p> <p>17 level 3, which is red, "MAJOR (Severe)".</p> <p>18 So when you tell us that you thought this was major,</p> <p>19 is that what you're referring to?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes, sir.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Had you made the assessment of impact on the community</p> <p>22 and council response that we can see in those two blocks</p> <p>23 there of the document?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. At paragraph 10 of your statement, if we can move</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 forward to that, Mr Layton, page 4 of the statement, you</p> <p>2 say:</p> <p>3 "10. In his role as Contingency Planning Manager,</p> <p>4 David would then escalate the matter and notify all</p> <p>5 other necessary people. He would also set up the</p> <p>6 Borough's BECC: Borough Emergency Control Centre — this</p> <p>7 is where the Borough would manage the incident and its</p> <p>8 response. People on the ground such as myself as LALO,</p> <p>9 pass information to BECC and BECC coordinate and manage</p> <p>10 everything going on."</p> <p>11 Then you give an example.</p> <p>12 Then you say at the end:</p> <p>13 "The LALO is the 'eyes and ears for the BECC'."</p> <p>14 First of all, do you know where the BECC for this</p> <p>15 incident was to be set up?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Initially it would've been at David Kerry's home because</b></p> <p>17 <b>he would've set up on his laptop to get things going.</b></p> <p>18 <b>Then it would be moved over to the town hall, where we</b></p> <p>19 <b>have a control centre purposely designed.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Who assisted David Kerry to set the BECC up in its early</p> <p>21 stages?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I do not know.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Who then began to assist David Kerry once you began to</p> <p>24 pull in staff to help him, do you know?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I do not know.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 see --</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. This is the first page of that document, "On site</p> <p>4 02:30".</p> <p>5 <b>A. (Nodded assent)</b></p> <p>6 Q. Underneath number 1 at the very top of the page.</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. "On site 02:30."</p> <p>9 This looks like a piece of paper taken from a pad.</p> <p>10 <b>A. It is.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Is this a private piece of paper you had?</p> <p>12 <b>A. It's a notepad that I keep in my folder.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Right, I see. It's not a formal --</p> <p>14 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>15 Q. -- document that is required or as a format of any kind.</p> <p>16 Okay.</p> <p>17 Did you start recording the events of that night as</p> <p>18 soon as you finished the call with David Kerry, or</p> <p>19 before?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I started recording as soon as I got to the site.</b></p> <p>21 Q. We can see that that's about 02.30.</p> <p>22 You may not know this, but Mike Rumble used</p> <p>23 an incident pack from another borough, Lambeth</p> <p>24 I believe.</p> <p>25 <b>A. Hammersmith probably, sir.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 Q. Did you and David Kerry discuss on your first call what</p> <p>2 information, for example about the residents or about</p> <p>3 the building, you might need to get hold of or give to</p> <p>4 the LFB?</p> <p>5 <b>A. When we made our first call, I was actually still back</b></p> <p>6 <b>in location, at home. I passed on all the relevant</b></p> <p>7 <b>details and told him that I would update him once I got</b></p> <p>8 <b>to the actual scene.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Once you had finished updating David Kerry on that first</p> <p>10 call, did you go then directly to the scene?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Do you know how long it took you to get to the scene</p> <p>13 after that call?</p> <p>14 <b>A. A bit longer than normal because I did drive over to</b></p> <p>15 <b>that area and then I had to find somewhere to park quite</b></p> <p>16 <b>a distance away, and then I walked the remainder.</b></p> <p>17 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 11 -- if we can</p> <p>18 just move to that -- still on page 4 of your statement:</p> <p>19 "11. I arrived at the scene of the fire shortly</p> <p>20 after 02:30am."</p> <p>21 <b>A. Approximately, yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Indeed, just to pin this to a contemporaneous document,</p> <p>23 your LALO log, if we can just go to that, shows that.</p> <p>24 It's at RBK00029036.</p> <p>25 If you go to the very top of that page, you can</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 Q. Or is it Hammersmith? Okay. I think it's Lambeth.</p> <p>2 Did it occur to you to use a LALO incident pack from</p> <p>3 another borough?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Why is that?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I don't normally have associations with other boroughs</b></p> <p>7 <b>at the time.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Is it right that, since the fire, RBKC has introduced</p> <p>9 an incident logbook?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes, it is.</b></p> <p>11 Q. When you arrived, were you wearing any high-vis jacket</p> <p>12 or any other kind of external indication --</p> <p>13 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>14 Q. -- which told people you were from RBKC?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Why is that?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I didn't have any.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Does one normally have one? Are you issued with one?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I have now.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 <b>A. But I didn't at that time.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did the council issue any LALOs with any kind of</p> <p>23 external indication that they were a LALO at a scene?</p> <p>24 <b>A. As far as I'm aware, not at that time.</b></p> <p>25 Q. I think we can pin down your arrival at the command unit</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p>

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

<p>1 with some precision. I just want to take you to your 2 statement first of all. 3 At paragraph 13, you say: 4 "13. I walked towards the Tower until I got to a 5 police cordon and asked them where the Command Station 6 was and showed them my ID. They directed me in the 7 direction of the Command Centre, which was a fire truck 8 at the base of the Tower situated on Bomore Road, near 9 Kensington Leisure Centre." 10 You describe what you were seeing at the tower on 11 your way. 12 I just want to play a short clip that has already 13 been shown to the inquiry, Mr Layton, which is a clip of 14 video from Inspector Thatcher's body-worn video footage. 15 It's about a minute of that. 16 I just ought to give you fair warning that it may 17 bring back memories of the night itself, and so if you 18 want a break at any point during seeing it, all you have 19 to do is say so. 20 It's INQ -- 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Before we put it up, you're 22 comfortable with this, I hope? 23 <b>A. Yes, thank you.</b> 24 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good.</b> 25 <b>MR MILLETT: All right. Thank you, Mr Chairman.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you remember who you reported to? 2 <b>A. No, I don't.</b> 3 Q. Do you remember what rank -- could you tell what rank? 4 <b>A. No, I don't know the ranking system, but he introduced</b> 5 <b>himself as the incident commander at the time.</b> 6 Q. Did the incident commander give you any particular 7 instructions at that time? 8 <b>A. The first thing that they asked for was they wanted to</b> 9 <b>open up the sports centre as a temporary mortuary, which</b> 10 <b>I took the decision myself and agreed to. Although</b> 11 <b>I didn't have any keys, I gave them permission to force</b> 12 <b>entry.</b> 13 Q. I'll come back to that in a moment. I'm going to pick 14 it up in your statement, but just before I do, can I ask 15 you: apart from what we've just seen when you spoke to 16 Inspector Thatcher, did you liaise with the police in 17 more general terms about what you should be doing? 18 <b>A. I spoke to the police, told them I was there to give</b> 19 <b>them any assistance that is required. We obviously</b> 20 <b>already knew that we were in need of rest centres.</b> 21 <b>I think it was the police that said they had an offer</b> 22 <b>from Belushi's to be set up as a rest centre.</b> 23 Q. Coming back to what you just said about what you were 24 told by the incident commander, can I go, please, to 25 paragraph 14 of your statement, which is over the page</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 It's INQ00000524. 2 (Video Played) 3 Now, we've seen that. 4 Was that the time at which you were arriving at the 5 command unit and presenting yourself there? 6 <b>A. I couldn't say for definite, sir.</b> 7 Q. Does that trigger a recollection as to whether that was 8 the first time or around about that time that you 9 arrived at the command unit? 10 <b>A. I would say pretty close.</b> 11 Q. We have an adjusted time for that as 02.47, and that 12 clip runs from 02.47 to 02.47.40. 13 Can I just ask you, when you arrived at 14 Grenfell Tower, did you go straight to the command unit 15 or did you do other things first? 16 <b>A. I went straight to the command unit.</b> 17 Q. So would that help us pin your arrival time at the 18 incident more accurately to about 02.47? 19 <b>A. I would say yes, sir.</b> 20 Q. Once you got to the command unit, as we've seen from 21 that clip, did you liaise with anybody from the London 22 Fire Brigade? 23 <b>A. Yes, I reported straight in to the London Fire Brigade,</b> 24 <b>sir, and set out I was there, give them my details,</b> 25 <b>contact numbers.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 on page 5. 2 You say that: 3 "14. Upon my arrival at the Command Centre, the 4 first thing I was told by the Incident Controller was 5 that they required a mortuary to be set up into which to 6 move the deceased as there was already bodies lying 7 around which needed to be moved. The Emergency Services 8 asked if they could set up the mortuary in the adjacent 9 Sports Centre. Whilst I did not have any keys to access 10 the Sports Centre I immediately gave permission for them 11 to force entry to allow it to be used." 12 Then you go on to talk about tents and a temporary 13 mortuary. 14 From your last answer but one, I think that was the 15 incident commander who told you that. 16 <b>A. Yes, sir.</b> 17 Q. Did you know at the time that his name was Assistant 18 Commissioner Roe, Andy Roe? 19 <b>A. It's possible that he did tell me, sir.</b> 20 Q. Who asked you to set up the mortuary in the sports 21 centre? You said emergency services, but who? Was it 22 the LFB or the police? 23 <b>A. Going by that, I would have to say the LFB, sir, as</b> 24 <b>that's what's in my statement.</b> 25 Q. You didn't have the keys, did you?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 <b>A. No, sir.</b></p> <p>2 Q. So you gave permission for the door to be broken down.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Do you know who broke the door down into the sports</p> <p>5 centre?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Do you know somebody called Michael Perkins? Does that</p> <p>8 name ring a bell?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Name rings a bell from possibly the second rest centre</b></p> <p>10 <b>that we set up.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Did he have a set of keys to the sports centre?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Not that I'm aware of.</b></p> <p>13 Q. In terms of your role for the rest of the night, you say</p> <p>14 moving forwards in your statement to paragraph 21, this</p> <p>15 is the last three lines of that paragraph:</p> <p>16 "My duty that night was to report on what was</p> <p>17 happening with the survivors and to organise rest</p> <p>18 centres for them. David Kerry was requesting the Red</p> <p>19 Cross to attend at each of the rest centres."</p> <p>20 Was that the only task that you were required to do?</p> <p>21 <b>A. At various points I was doing other bits and pieces.</b></p> <p>22 <b>I was liaising also at times with the LAS to try and</b></p> <p>23 <b>organise to see if we could have paramedics at the rest</b></p> <p>24 <b>centres that we were setting up, and bits and pieces.</b></p> <p>25 <b>Dealing with any request as it came through.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 Q. Did you always stay there or did you leave CU8, the</p> <p>2 command unit, to carry out other tasks?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I did leave on occasions.</b></p> <p>4 Q. How long did you spend away from the command unit, do</p> <p>5 you think, on those occasions?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Probably 5 or 10 minutes at a time.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Where did you go?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I did go around checking other areas to see if I could</b></p> <p>9 <b>see anything that we could do directly. But I didn't</b></p> <p>10 <b>travel too far from the command centre because I was the</b></p> <p>11 <b>point of contact there.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Was there any particular LFB officer with whom you were</p> <p>13 in regular contact outside the Silver meetings?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>15 Q. So did you talk to them through the window or hatch on</p> <p>16 the side of the command unit?</p> <p>17 <b>A. If they needed anything, they would call me back to the</b></p> <p>18 <b>vehicle. As I was outside, most of the time they would</b></p> <p>19 <b>speak to me outside the vehicle.</b></p> <p>20 Q. You say that you were the first LALO to arrive before</p> <p>21 being joined by Mike Rumble.</p> <p>22 This is paragraph 21 of your statement at the very</p> <p>23 top of that paragraph.</p> <p>24 You put his time of arrival at 3.20 am.</p> <p>25 <b>A. Approximately.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 Q. Looking back at the duty officer manual -- we don't need</p> <p>2 to necessarily do that -- you understood -- is this</p> <p>3 right? -- that you were the single point of contact</p> <p>4 between the emergency services and the council?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. And also a link between the incident scene and the BECC.</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. And that also you had to continue to monitor the</p> <p>9 council's requirements on an ongoing basis throughout</p> <p>10 the night?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. You understood that those were your responsibilities?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. You say in the middle of that same paragraph:</p> <p>15 "I was mainly situated with the silver fire command</p> <p>16 on base level - which was a fire truck placed within the</p> <p>17 grounds of Grenfell Tower."</p> <p>18 That's above what we just looked at.</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. That's, I'm assuming, the LFB command unit that we have</p> <p>21 just seen in the video clip.</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Which we call CU8.</p> <p>24 Where did you stand or base yourself?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Literally right outside the vehicle.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 Q. Approximately 3.20 am, as support LALO.</p> <p>2 I just want to explore a timing point with you,</p> <p>3 Mr Layton. Can I ask you, please, to go to your notes,</p> <p>4 RBK00029036, at page 1.</p> <p>5 We looked at it before.</p> <p>6 Can I ask you to look at item 5 in the left-hand</p> <p>7 column, a third of the way down the page, where it says:</p> <p>8 "5. Mike on site 3:10."</p> <p>9 Given that that is in your contemporaneous note, can</p> <p>10 you explain why your statement says 03.20?</p> <p>11 <b>A. No, I can't. I'd say that the time there is more</b></p> <p>12 <b>accurate.</b></p> <p>13 Q. So the time in your contemporaneous note is more</p> <p>14 accurate than your statement?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Right, thank you.</p> <p>17 Looking at paragraph 24 of your statement, if we</p> <p>18 can, you say that you attended Silver meetings, and then</p> <p>19 in the fourth line of that paragraph, you say:</p> <p>20 "The first Silver Meeting took place at 03:15am.</p> <p>21 The Fire Brigade's Incident Control Commander chaired</p> <p>22 these meetings and they were minuted by the LFB. Each</p> <p>23 representative updated on what service they were</p> <p>24 providing, what resources they had and how they were</p> <p>25 doing. I provided an update on the rest centres."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p>



<p>1 Do you remember whether Mike Rumble arrived before 2 or after that first TCM?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I think it was just before.</b></p> <p>4 Q. You've described his role as that of a support LALO. 5 Can you explain that role further for us?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes. If I needed any assistance there, he could provide 7 it. He could go around to other areas, if required.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Did you divide your responsibilities between you?</p> <p>9 <b>A. No, we didn't.</b></p> <p>10 Q. So he was basically a helper for you at that time?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. I'm not going to ask you about what you say at 13 paragraphs 14 and 15 in your statement earlier on about 14 the rest centres. That will be explored at a later 15 stage in this inquiry. I'm going to ask you about this 16 point in the night.</p> <p>17 Dealing with the first TCM, tactical co-ordination 18 meeting, which you say took place at 03.15, can I just 19 take you back to your LALO log at page 1. That's 20 RBK00029036 again.</p> <p>21 You see under item 6 in the left-hand column, 22 two-thirds of the way down the page: "Silver meet 3:15". 23 When you put 03.15 in your statement at 24 paragraph 24, is this document where you got that time 25 from?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did you think at that time that the advice to 3 self-evacuate might have an impact on your role as LALO 4 in any way?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. In what way?</p> <p>7 <b>A. In the fact that we'd need more resources for rest 8 centres.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Anything else?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Not at that time, no.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Did you think at that time that you might need to put in 12 place some kind of system to identify who was coming out 13 of the building, self-evacuating, and link them to 14 particular flats?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>16 Q. It doesn't appear from your record of that meeting that 17 you were asked for plans of the building or a list of 18 residents.</p> <p>19 Do you remember whether you were in fact at that 20 meeting asked for plans of the building?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you remember whether you were asked for a list of 23 residents at that meeting?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>25 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, when you say "No", do you mean</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. We can see what you've written there under "Silver meet 3 3:15":</p> <p>4 "Andy Rowe[sic] Asst Comm. 5 "100 still in trapped approx." 6 Et cetera. We can read that.</p> <p>7 At that point, or during that meeting, did you 8 understand clearly that occupants of the building were 9 now being told to self-evacuate?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Was there any discussion you can recall of that being 12 the advice now being given by the LFB to the occupants 13 of the building who called?</p> <p>14 <b>A. They did. It's in my notes there. There's a note there 15 to self-evacuate.</b></p> <p>16 Q. "Self evacuate". So you've picked that up there. 17 Can you just expand on what was being said at the 18 meeting which led you to write "Self evacuate"?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I would say that during that meeting they stated that 20 the advice would now be given to self-evacuate the 21 building.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you remember whether there was any discussion about 23 when that advice had begun to be given?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Did you ask?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 <b>you recall that you weren't asked?</b></p> <p>2 <b>A. I don't believe I was asked.</b></p> <p>3 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right. Thank you.</b></p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: I'm going to turn on to the topic of your 5 liaison with TMO staff at the scene.</p> <p>6 This topic lasts a little bit of time. Let's see 7 how we go, but I am going to try and break after another 8 10 minutes, so are you happy to continue?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Thank you very much, Mr Layton.</p> <p>11 Can I ask you, please, to go to paragraph 22 of your 12 statement, still on page 7.</p> <p>13 You say there:</p> <p>14 "22. At approximately 03:30am/03:45am Robert Black, 15 Chief Executive Officer of Kensington and Chelsea Tenant 16 Management Organisation ('the TMO') arrived with two 17 colleagues from the TMO."</p> <p>18 Then you go on to say:</p> <p>19 "I spoke directly with [him] ..."</p> <p>20 I'll come back to that, just pinpointing that.</p> <p>21 Before I ask you about that, can I just ask you to 22 help me with a number of general points about the TMO.</p> <p>23 First of all, what did you understand on the night 24 that the role of the TMO would be in responding to 25 an emergency such as this?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 <b>A. It's the TMO's responsibility to cater for all of their</b>  2 <b>displaced residents.</b>  3 Q. You say cater for them.  4 <b>A. Yes.</b>  5 Q. Can you expand?  6 <b>A. Get rest centres -- where we've actually set them up, we</b>  7 <b>would expect them to get staff in, look after the</b>  8 <b>residents.</b>  9 Q. I'll explore that a bit more shortly.  10 Did you know at that time whether they had an  11 emergency plan of their own?  12 <b>A. I didn't know of their emergency plan.</b>  13 Q. You didn't know of it at all or --  14 <b>A. No.</b>  15 Q. Does that mean that you can't help me answer the  16 question whether they had or hadn't activated their own  17 emergency plan?  18 <b>A. No, sir. I could not help you with that.</b>  19 Q. How did you understand that the TMO would be able to  20 assist you as LALO in the activation and carrying out of  21 the RBKC contingency management plan?  22 <b>A. Because once the TMO arrive then I would be asking them</b>  23 <b>to take on certain management responsibilities in order</b>  24 <b>to assist us, primarily with things like the rest</b>  25 <b>centres in the first place. When people want</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 Q. Just to pinpoint you in a document, if I can, to help  2 you, can I ask you to be shown the Roe log, which is  3 Assistant Commissioner Andy Roe's log of the night, at  4 MET00005404, page 1.  5 This is the first page of an 11-page document of the  6 various things that happened in the command unit after  7 02.47, once Assistant Commissioner Roe had taken  8 incident command. Just so you know, this is a record  9 taken by his loggist, Jackie McConochie.  10 Halfway down the page it has:  11 "03:20  12 "Tactical Coordination Meeting ..."  13 That then, over the page, is recorded as closing at  14 03.32, if we can see the last entry just above 03.39 on  15 page 2 of that document.  16 So based on what you told us before about 03.30,  17 03.32 is about right --  18 <b>A. Mm.</b>  19 Q. -- to the best of your recollection?  20 <b>A. Yes.</b>  21 Q. My question therefore is: when you first saw  22 Robert Black and his colleagues from the TMO, was that  23 after the first TCM had concluded?  24 <b>A. Yes.</b>  25 Q. Where did you see him?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 <b>information about the residents, I would go directly to</b>  2 <b>the TMO and ask them to supply this information.</b>  3 Q. Let's look at some detail.  4 At paragraph 22, as we've just seen, you say that  5 the TMO arrived at 03.30 to 03.45.  6 Just to put this to you, Mr Black says that he  7 arrived at the scene at 02.30. Can you comment on that?  8 <b>A. I can only comment as to when I saw him.</b>  9 Q. So the time of 03.30 to 03.45 is the time you saw  10 Mr Black, not necessarily the time when you say he  11 actually arrived at the scene; is that right?  12 <b>A. Correct.</b>  13 Q. Assuming for the moment that he did arrive at 02.30, and  14 you only saw him an hour to an hour and a quarter later,  15 do you know what he was doing --  16 <b>A. No.</b>  17 Q. -- and his team was doing in the meantime?  18 <b>A. No. The first interaction I had with Robert Black was</b>  19 <b>when he arrived by the command vehicle, and he</b>  20 <b>introduced himself and just said, "Have you seen the</b>  21 <b>news?" which I replied, no, I hadn't.</b>  22 Q. The news? Okay.  23 You've put 03.30 to 03.45. Do you remember what  24 time the first tactical command meeting finished?  25 <b>A. Probably about 03.30.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Outside the control vehicle.</b>  2 Q. So once it concluded, did you come outside --  3 <b>A. Yes.</b>  4 Q. -- and see him there?  5 Just go back to your notes, RBK00029036 at page 1.  6 You say at item 8, underneath the redaction:  7 "8. TMO on site 03:45."  8 <b>A. Yes.</b>  9 Q. Would that tell us more accurately at what time you  10 met --  11 <b>A. I would say yes.</b>  12 Q. -- Robert Black and his colleagues? Right.  13 Do you know who the two colleagues who arrived with  14 Robert Black were?  15 <b>A. No.</b>  16 Q. Do the names Teresa Brown or Hash Chamchoun mean  17 anything to you?  18 <b>A. No.</b>  19 Q. What about Graham Webb, does that name mean anything to  20 you?  21 <b>A. No.</b>  22 Q. Did you know or were you told that Hash Chamchoun had  23 been there since 02.15?  24 <b>A. No.</b>  25 Q. When Mr Black arrived, did you ask him for any</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 information?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No. When he arrived, I told him that we were setting up</b></p> <p>3 <b>rest centres and that he needed to get staff in there to</b></p> <p>4 <b>assist.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Is that the only topic that you covered with Mr Black on</p> <p>6 that first encounter?</p> <p>7 <b>A. On that first meeting, yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. What did he say?</p> <p>9 <b>A. He got on his phone and made some phone calls.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Were any of the TMO staff wearing anything to make their</p> <p>11 appearance known?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>13 Q. So no indication --</p> <p>14 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>15 Q. -- that they were TMO people?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Do you know somebody called Ken Wilson?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I know of a Ken Wilson within RBKC.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Was he a caretaker?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No, not this one.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 At paragraph 22 of your statement, you say in the</p> <p>23 last part of that paragraph:</p> <p>24 "... the first instruction I gave to him was for him</p> <p>25 to arrange for his staff to get to the rest centres and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I was chasing him at times for various information that</b></p> <p>2 <b>was requested for us. Once I put in a request, I would</b></p> <p>3 <b>chase them to try and get updates as to when the</b></p> <p>4 <b>information would be available.</b></p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: Yes. Thank you.</p> <p>6 Mr Chairman, I think now is an appropriate time.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Is that a good point from your point</p> <p>8 of view?</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: It is.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Layton, we have a break</p> <p>11 roughly once an hour. I think it's quite tiring giving</p> <p>12 evidence. We'll take 10 minutes now.</p> <p>13 I have to ask you not to talk to anyone about your</p> <p>14 evidence, please, while you're out of the room.</p> <p>15 If you go with the usher, we'll start again at</p> <p>16 10.40. All right?</p> <p>17 If you would like to go with the usher, she'll look</p> <p>18 after you.</p> <p>19 Right, 10.40, please. Thank you.</p> <p>20 (10.30 am)</p> <p>21 (A short break)</p> <p>22 (10.40 am)</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, Mr Layton, are you happy to</p> <p>24 carry on?</p> <p>25 THE WITNESS: Yes, please.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 staff them as quickly as possible. Robert confirmed</p> <p>2 that he would arrange for this to happen."</p> <p>3 Did he and his staff then go and do this?</p> <p>4 <b>A. He made a phone call.</b></p> <p>5 Q. What else did he do?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Nothing that I saw.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Do you know what happened to the TMO staff? Where did</p> <p>8 they go?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Did they leave the command unit?</p> <p>11 <b>A. At times, yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Did you set up any kind of communication link with</p> <p>13 Robert Black or his staff?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Why is that, do you know?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Because most of the time he was actually based with me.</b></p> <p>17 Q. You say most of the time; it's difficult, but how much</p> <p>18 of the time do you think he was based with you?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Probably 70 to 80 per cent of the time.</b></p> <p>20 Q. When you say based with you, you mean --</p> <p>21 <b>A. By the command vehicle.</b></p> <p>22 Q. So a few feet away from you?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Did you arrange to get any kind of updates from</p> <p>25 Robert Black or his staff?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Mr Layton, thank you for coming back to us.</p> <p>3 At paragraph 25 of your statement, if I can take you</p> <p>4 to that, please, on page 7 of your statement, you can</p> <p>5 see that you say there:</p> <p>6 "5. At 04:15am the Fire Brigade asked me to arrange</p> <p>7 for a Dangerous Structures Officer to attend the site as</p> <p>8 there were concerns regarding the stability of the</p> <p>9 Tower."</p> <p>10 04.15 is before the second tactical co-ordination</p> <p>11 meeting took place.</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. We have that starting at 04.34, and I'll come back to</p> <p>14 that.</p> <p>15 If you can go to your note, please, RBK00029036, at</p> <p>16 page 1, we can see under item 9, or against item 9:</p> <p>17 "9. DS req urgent blue light 16.15."</p> <p>18 First of all, 16.15, was that an error --</p> <p>19 <b>A. That was definitely an error.</b></p> <p>20 Q. What led you to write the time -- let's assume it's</p> <p>21 04.15 -- of 04.15 when you put that down?</p> <p>22 <b>A. What made me put that down, I do not know.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Do you think it's right or do you think it's wrong?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I think 04.15 was approximately the right time.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Let's follow that through a little bit.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 Were you aware prior to 04.15 that there were</p> <p>2 serious concerns regarding the structural integrity of</p> <p>3 the building?</p> <p>4 <b>A. There was mention about on the corners at an earlier</b></p> <p>5 <b>meeting, but I understood that to be the stuff that was</b></p> <p>6 <b>on the walls on the outside.</b></p> <p>7 Q. At the earlier meeting, so that's the first Silver TCM.</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Which started at 03.20 and ended at 03.32 or</p> <p>10 thereabouts.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. If you look at your own note, I think you say under</p> <p>13 item 6, four items up from the end of that:</p> <p>14 "Unsaveable building, pot collapse."</p> <p>15 Is that your record?</p> <p>16 <b>A. That is my record.</b></p> <p>17 Q. So that's the first time you realised -- is this</p> <p>18 right? -- that there was a concern regarding the</p> <p>19 structural integrity of the building?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Just for the record, that ties into the Andy Roe log at</p> <p>22 page 2 of MET0005404, and I'm not going to show you</p> <p>23 that.</p> <p>24 Were you aware prior to the start of that first</p> <p>25 Silver meeting, 03.20, whether there was a request for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 STRUCTURE ENGINEER GAS AND ELECTRICITY BOARD AND LOCAL</p> <p>2 AUTHORITY LIAISON OFFICER."</p> <p>3 My question is: were you aware from the moment you</p> <p>4 arrived at the incident ground that requests had been</p> <p>5 made for a dangerous structures engineer?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No, not that I recall.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Did you discuss a dangerous structures engineer during</p> <p>8 your first briefing when you arrived at the command</p> <p>9 unit?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>11 Q. If I can ask you just to look at a second message, which</p> <p>12 is page 23 -- it's the same question, just to pick all</p> <p>13 these up -- time mark of 02.38.21. There's another</p> <p>14 service request at that time marked AG, which we believe</p> <p>15 is Angie Gotts, a control room officer at Stratford on</p> <p>16 the night, and it says, again:</p> <p>17 "... CU8 REQUEST DANGEROUS STRUCTURE ENGINEER ..."</p> <p>18 So she's recording that the command unit was calling</p> <p>19 for a dangerous structure engineer. Were you aware at</p> <p>20 around that time --</p> <p>21 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>22 Q. -- that a dangerous structure engineer had been called</p> <p>23 for?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Then again, page 24, time mark of 03.15.32, two-thirds</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 a dangerous structure engineer?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No, I wasn't.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Can I just show you one or two entries in a document you</p> <p>4 will most likely not have seen before, which is the</p> <p>5 short incident log produced by the LFB, which is</p> <p>6 MET00013830.</p> <p>7 If I can ask you, please, to go in that document to</p> <p>8 page 22 and look at the time mark of 02.17.36.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do you think it might be good to</p> <p>10 tell Mr Layton what this document is so he understands</p> <p>11 the question?</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: Yes, I will certainly do that, Mr Chairman, of</p> <p>13 course.</p> <p>14 This is the short incident log produced or created</p> <p>15 by the London Fire Brigade. It's a log created from</p> <p>16 a longer log which is supposed to record all the</p> <p>17 messages coming through the LFB control room on the</p> <p>18 night of the fire.</p> <p>19 We can see the time marks on the left-hand column,</p> <p>20 in the second column from the left we have the person</p> <p>21 who put the message into the system and then what kind</p> <p>22 of message it is.</p> <p>23 At 02.17.36, SAD, who is Sharon Darby, the radio</p> <p>24 operator, puts in a service request:</p> <p>25 "EMG CU8 [the command unit] REQUEST DANGEROUS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 of the way down the page, SAD, Sharon Darby again:</p> <p>2 "Key</p> <p>3 "EMG CU8 REQUEST URGENT ATTENDANCE OF DANGEROUS</p> <p>4 STRUCTURE ENGINEER AND STRESS THIS IS MATTER OF URGENCY</p> <p>5 AND PRIORITY."</p> <p>6 We know you are on the incident ground at this time,</p> <p>7 you've had your first briefing some 25 minutes or so</p> <p>8 before because we saw the body-worn video clip.</p> <p>9 Do you remember being told or having any discussion</p> <p>10 to the effect that the command unit was requesting</p> <p>11 urgent attendance of a dangerous structure engineer?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>13 Q. So is it right that nobody involved you in that</p> <p>14 discussion even though you were standing there?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, they didn't.</b></p> <p>16 Q. We have a call recorded at -- and I'll just show you the</p> <p>17 transcript. It's LFB ...</p> <p>18 Well, let me try it this way.</p> <p>19 Do you have any knowledge of a call made by the</p> <p>20 control room to RBKC at 03.17 asking for a dangerous</p> <p>21 structures engineer?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>23 Q. If we can go back, then, to the first meeting of Silver</p> <p>24 at 03.20, can I just put this question to you: do you</p> <p>25 remember hearing during that first Silver meeting --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 03.20 to 03.32 or thereabouts -- that a dangerous</p> <p>2 structures engineer had been already requested by the</p> <p>3 LFB?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>5 Q. I'm just going to show you a very short clip of</p> <p>6 body-worn video footage which shows Andy Roe, the</p> <p>7 incident commander, and you present during that meeting.</p> <p>8 It runs from a time mark of 03.27.05, as adjusted, and</p> <p>9 it runs to 03.27.22, as adjusted.</p> <p>10 If I can ask for that to be played, please.</p> <p>11 It's INQ00000530.</p> <p>12 I should just say there are no pictures of the</p> <p>13 exterior of the tower.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: This is all inside the command unit?</p> <p>15 MR MILLETT: This is all inside the command unit,</p> <p>16 Mr Chairman, and I think we've already seen this anyway.</p> <p>17 (Video Played)</p> <p>18 Did you hear him say then --</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Do you recall hearing him say that at the time?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I don't.</b></p> <p>22 Q. You can see yourself in that clip.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, I can.</b></p> <p>24 Q. But you just don't remember him saying that? All right.</p> <p>25 Does it follow, then, that given that you didn't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Why is that?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I can't answer.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Coming back to your witness statement at paragraph 25,</p> <p>5 if I can, when you say:</p> <p>6 "25. At 04:15am the Fire Brigade asked me to arrange</p> <p>7 for a Dangerous Structures Officer ..."</p> <p>8 Can you help with the circumstances surrounding that</p> <p>9 request at that time?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I believe I was outside the control vehicle and a fire</b></p> <p>11 <b>officer came in and said they needed a dangerous</b></p> <p>12 <b>structure officer as soon as possible. They did tell me</b></p> <p>13 <b>that, if necessary, they could provide a blue-light</b></p> <p>14 <b>escort for the officer to get there quickly.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 In the same log at page 5 -- I'm sorry to have to</p> <p>17 ask you to jump around. If you go back to David Kerry's</p> <p>18 log, please, and go to page 5 of that, item 18.</p> <p>19 So this is RBK00028849, item 18, page 5, please.</p> <p>20 Item 18, the time mark of 04.18. David Kerry</p> <p>21 records:</p> <p>22 "Telephone call from LALO, Nick Layton.</p> <p>23 "LFB had called for a Dangerous Structures Officer</p> <p>24 to attend, and needed him urgently. MPS were offering</p> <p>25 to provide blue-lights transport to get the DSO to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 hear him say that a DSE had already been asked for, you</p> <p>2 didn't follow up after this call as to where the DSE was</p> <p>3 at that stage?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>5 Q. We do have a note of a call that you made to</p> <p>6 David Kerry. Can I ask you to look at the David Kerry</p> <p>7 log at RBK00028849, and go, please, to page 3 of that</p> <p>8 document.</p> <p>9 You can see that on the left-hand side, item 10,</p> <p>10 03.37:</p> <p>11 "Telephone call from LALO, Nick Layton, following</p> <p>12 a Silver meeting at the scene.</p> <p>13 "100 people trapped on various floors.</p> <p>14 "One corner in danger of collapse."</p> <p>15 So it looks like you had picked up the fact that</p> <p>16 there was, at that stage, one corner of the building in</p> <p>17 danger of collapse, and we've seen that from your own</p> <p>18 note, "pot collapse".</p> <p>19 My question is: did that not signal to you at that</p> <p>20 time that you did need a dangerous structures engineer</p> <p>21 urgently?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes, it should've done.</b></p> <p>23 Q. It should've done?</p> <p>24 <b>A. It should've done.</b></p> <p>25 Q. But did it?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 scene."</p> <p>2 Do you recall the discussion that you had with him?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes, I do.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Is that an accurate recollection or record of what you</p> <p>5 recall of that discussion with him?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. And that's 04.18, so shortly after 04.15 as you recorded</p> <p>8 in your note.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Do you remember, when you had the discussion with the</p> <p>11 LFB about needing a DSE at around 04.15, as you put it,</p> <p>12 did the officer from the LFB tell you that the LFB had</p> <p>13 been calling for one for some time?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I couldn't say with accuracy, sir.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Did you get an impression from the conversation with the</p> <p>16 LFB officer that they were frustrated that a DSE had not</p> <p>17 come yet?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I got the sense of urgency from the minute they offered</b></p> <p>19 <b>the blue light to escort, so from that aspect, yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Having had the discussion with David Kerry and told him</p> <p>21 about the call for a DSE, did you yourself go about</p> <p>22 getting or finding a DSE or did you leave that to David</p> <p>23 Kerry?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I left that with David Kerry.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Then he says in his emergency event log sheet on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 right-hand column:</p> <p>2 "04:30 I telephoned and spoke to the dangerous</p> <p>3 structures officer, Amir Fardouee. He was at the</p> <p>4 cordon.</p> <p>5 "04:31 I telephoned the LALO, Nick Layton, and</p> <p>6 informed him that the DSO was at the cordon."</p> <p>7 Is there a difference between a DSE and a DSO,</p> <p>8 dangerous structures engineer and dangerous structures</p> <p>9 officer?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Not to my knowledge.</b></p> <p>11 Q. When you spoke to David Kerry at 04.18, did David Kerry</p> <p>12 tell you that a dangerous structures engineer had</p> <p>13 already been requested to his knowledge?</p> <p>14 <b>A. At 04.18, no.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Do you remember when Amir Fardouee arrived at the</p> <p>16 cordon?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I would say somewhere around 04.30.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did you discover that from David Kerry --</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, no.</b></p> <p>20 Q. -- when he told you or did you know that before that?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I actually saw -- I couldn't remember Amir Fardouee, but</b></p> <p>22 <b>one of the building control officers I saw at the time.</b></p> <p>23 Q. I'm very sorry, Mr Layton, you are going to have to</p> <p>24 repeat that answer for the transcript, please.</p> <p>25 <b>A. Okay. Although I couldn't remember the name of Amir</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you know how long they'd been there?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did you take steps to tell the LFB that the DSE or DSEs</p> <p>4 were now there?</p> <p>5 <b>A. They were already talking to the LFB.</b></p> <p>6 Q. And this was, you say, about 04.30?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Approximately, yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Can I just ask you about a document that is not yours,</p> <p>9 but nonetheless is a record of the night. It's the Roe</p> <p>10 log we've looked at before, MET00005404.</p> <p>11 Look, please, at page 4 at the top of that document.</p> <p>12 At 04.51, top of the screen, it says:</p> <p>13 "Structural surveyor in attendance at leisure centre</p> <p>14 and is to make decision on integrity of building."</p> <p>15 Is that a reference to one or other of Amir Fardouee</p> <p>16 or John Allen?</p> <p>17 <b>A. That is.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Does that accord with your recollection about the</p> <p>19 presence of the structural surveyor in terms of timing?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I would've said it was earlier personally.</b></p> <p>21 Q. If you go to 05.32, halfway down the page on page 4, the</p> <p>22 loggist has written in the second line:</p> <p>23 "Corridor to protect egress and entry and inbound</p> <p>24 John Allen structural engineer."</p> <p>25 Can you help with "inbound"?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 <b>Fardouee, there was another officer who I knew belonged</b></p> <p>2 <b>to building control that had arrived round about that</b></p> <p>3 <b>time.</b></p> <p>4 Q. So your recollection is that someone who was not Amir</p> <p>5 Fardouee had arrived from building control at that time?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I'm trying to actually think of his name. Unfortunately</b></p> <p>7 <b>it's gone blank. But, yes, I saw a familiar officer</b></p> <p>8 <b>from building control at the site, I saw the two people.</b></p> <p>9 <b>At the time, Amir Fardouee, I couldn't remember his</b></p> <p>10 <b>name.</b></p> <p>11 Q. So you did see Amir Fardouee but couldn't remember his</p> <p>12 name?</p> <p>13 <b>A. At that time, yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. And you say at that time, about 04.30; is that right?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Approximately, yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. You say you also saw somebody else from building</p> <p>17 control.</p> <p>18 <b>A. Mm ... I'm trying to think. The other person's name is</b></p> <p>19 <b>in my statement.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Is that John Allen?</p> <p>21 <b>A. John Allen.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Where on the cordon did you see those two individuals?</p> <p>23 <b>A. By the incident control vehicle.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Were they together?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes, they were.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Entry, sir.</b></p> <p>2 Q. I see. So entry into the building rather than entry</p> <p>3 onto the incident ground?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I would say entry into the building, sir.</b></p> <p>5 Q. I am asking you to interpret a document that isn't</p> <p>6 yours, I appreciate, but your recollection is that</p> <p>7 John Allen wasn't, as it were, inbound to the site, he</p> <p>8 was there?</p> <p>9 <b>A. He was there.</b></p> <p>10 Q. And your clear recollection is that they were both there</p> <p>11 together, both Amir Fardouee and John Allen?</p> <p>12 <b>A. When I saw them, they were both there together.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Did you have a discussion with John Allen --</p> <p>14 <b>A. No, because he was actually dealing with the LFB at the</b></p> <p>15 <b>time.</b></p> <p>16 Q. I see.</p> <p>17 Can I ask you, please, to look at a clip of</p> <p>18 body-worn video from the second TCM, the second tactical</p> <p>19 co-ordination meeting, that started at 04.34, according</p> <p>20 to the Roe log.</p> <p>21 This is clip INQ00000531, which has an adjusted time</p> <p>22 of 04.39.30 to 04.39.55. So this is taken within that</p> <p>23 second meeting, second Silver meeting.</p> <p>24 If I can just play that to you</p> <p>25 (Video Played)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 First of all, you can hear the commissioner clearly</p> <p>2 saying on that, "I've been asking" --</p> <p>3 <b>A. I couldn't make out all the conversation, but she was</b></p> <p>4 <b>clearly asking for something that she'd been asking for</b></p> <p>5 <b>for two hours.</b></p> <p>6 Q. To the best of your recollection, is that right, that</p> <p>7 she had been asking for a DSE for the past two hours?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I didn't know that before that, but yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. You also can hear -- well, perhaps you can't hear,</p> <p>10 actually -- what you're saying. Perhaps we can play</p> <p>11 that again to try to pick up what you're saying on that</p> <p>12 from that clip.</p> <p>13 (Video Played)</p> <p>14 As I say, this is a time mark of 04.39.30 to</p> <p>15 04.39.55, so after 04.30.</p> <p>16 It looks from that -- help me with this -- as if at</p> <p>17 that point you didn't know that the DSEs were at the</p> <p>18 cordon or present.</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Would that be fair?</p> <p>21 <b>A. That would be fair.</b></p> <p>22 Q. So your first discovery that they were there must have</p> <p>23 been after 04.15, indeed after 04.30 --</p> <p>24 <b>A. After that meeting.</b></p> <p>25 Q. -- and after this meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 I'll pick this up four entries down:</p> <p>2 "Commissioner: Dangerous Structures Engineer is</p> <p>3 en route."</p> <p>4 Then about halfway down that main block of text:</p> <p>5 "Local Authority: rest centres established on</p> <p>6 Shepherds Bush Green. DSE to be blue lighted in as</p> <p>7 we've been asking for them for 2 hours."</p> <p>8 Again, is that an accurate record, so far as you can</p> <p>9 recollect --</p> <p>10 <b>A. I had not been asking for no duty surveyor for two</b></p> <p>11 <b>hours.</b></p> <p>12 Q. It looks as if, when the commissioner says dangerous</p> <p>13 structure engineer en route, DSE to be blue-lighted in,</p> <p>14 their impression is that the dangerous structures</p> <p>15 engineers are not there.</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. And you don't say, "No, no, they're here at the cordon."</p> <p>18 You're not recorded as having said that. So does that</p> <p>19 indicate that you didn't tell them that they were at the</p> <p>20 cordon?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>22 Q. When the commissioner said that she or the LFB have been</p> <p>23 calling for a DSE for the past two hours, was that the</p> <p>24 first time that you had heard that that was so?</p> <p>25 <b>A. For the two hours, yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 So the question is: why didn't you tell the meeting</p> <p>2 what you'd been told by David Kerry, which was that the</p> <p>3 DSE or DSO was at the cordon?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I can't answer.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>6 If I take you back to the Roe log, MET00005404 and</p> <p>7 page 3 of that, Mr Layton, we can see that this is again</p> <p>8 a note of the second tactical co-ordination meeting.</p> <p>9 If we can just have that blown up a bit.</p> <p>10 It starts:</p> <p>11 "... Commissioner introduces and establishes</p> <p>12 priorities in AR absence.</p> <p>13 "Safety of building.</p> <p>14 "LAS. Access and egress is being protected by riot</p> <p>15 shields.</p> <p>16 "Commissioner: Dangerous Structures Engineer is en</p> <p>17 route."</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do we have the right bit up on the</p> <p>19 screen, Mr Millett? If we have, I haven't spotted it.</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: I'm sorry, I'm working from a document. You're</p> <p>21 quite right.</p> <p>22 If you scroll down, please, to 04.34.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, that's it, thank you.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: "04.34.</p> <p>25 "Tactical Coordination Meeting ..."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 Q. I'm going to turn to a different topic, which is lists</p> <p>2 of residents.</p> <p>3 If you can go, please, to paragraph 26 of your</p> <p>4 statement on page 8, you say there:</p> <p>5 "26. The next Silver Meeting was at 04:30am. My</p> <p>6 briefing included informing Command that the Harrow Club</p> <p>7 rest centre was now being opened. I recall that it was</p> <p>8 also at the 04:30am meeting that I was asked by the Fire</p> <p>9 Brigade for a List of all residents at Grenfell Tower."</p> <p>10 Mr Layton, can I just ask you something about that.</p> <p>11 If we can look at your own log, please, at page 1,</p> <p>12 RBK00029036, you can see under item 11:</p> <p>13 "11. 0430 Silver meet."</p> <p>14 "Multi casualties."</p> <p>15 "12. 8-10 PI ..."</p> <p>16 I'm afraid I'm unable to read that next word. Can</p> <p>17 you help us with that?</p> <p>18 Are you all right? Mr Layton, would you like</p> <p>19 a break?</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do you need a break, Mr Layton?</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes? Okay. You go with the usher.</p> <p>23 We'll have a 5-minute break. Okay?</p> <p>24 All right, we'll break until 11.15, please.</p> <p>25 (11.10 am)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 (A short break)</p> <p>2 (11.15 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Are you feeling all</p> <p>4 right to carry on, Mr Layton?</p> <p>5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you get to the stage where you</p> <p>7 feel you need a break, don't hesitate to indicate, all</p> <p>8 right?</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: Mr Layton, thank you for coming back to us.</p> <p>12 Just see how we go with this.</p> <p>13 Can I ask you to be shown again RBK00029036 at</p> <p>14 page 3.</p> <p>15 We were looking at your note of the meeting, item 11</p> <p>16 on the left-hand side, "0430 Silver meet".</p> <p>17 We'd got to item 12, or against line 12, "8-10 PI",</p> <p>18 and I was going to ask if you wouldn't mind reading to</p> <p>19 me what you'd written there, if you can.</p> <p>20 <b>A. Eight to ten P1s conveyed – they were priority 1</b></p> <p>21 <b>casualties that were conveyed to hospital.</b></p> <p>22 Q. I'm so sorry to ask you to have to repeat that,</p> <p>23 "conveyed" and then it looks like -- can you read the</p> <p>24 next word?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes, treatment of two P1s at site.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Because I had to go to the next meeting with a negative</b></p> <p>2 <b>response back to the meeting about getting any</b></p> <p>3 <b>information on the residents. I know that there were</b></p> <p>4 <b>two meetings. I was due to attend the 7 o'clock</b></p> <p>5 <b>meeting, which I couldn't attend, and Mike Rumble</b></p> <p>6 <b>attended that in my place, and when I handed over to</b></p> <p>7 <b>Mike, I had to tell him that I still had not got the</b></p> <p>8 <b>information.</b></p> <p>9 Q. The next meeting was going to be at 05.50, as you see</p> <p>10 from your note.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. I'm not sure I understood your last answer.</p> <p>13 My question really is: given that there's nothing in</p> <p>14 your contemporaneous note about being asked for a list</p> <p>15 of residents at the second meeting, what was it that</p> <p>16 prompted your recollection in your statement that you</p> <p>17 were asked for a list of residents at that meeting?</p> <p>18 <b>A. As I say, I know for a fact that we were going to go to</b></p> <p>19 <b>two meetings where we hadn't provided the information</b></p> <p>20 <b>that was requested. That was the 5.50 meeting and would</b></p> <p>21 <b>be the 7 o'clock meeting. So it was my recollection</b></p> <p>22 <b>that it was approximately 04.30 that I was asked,</b></p> <p>23 <b>because I knew I was going to two meetings where I was</b></p> <p>24 <b>not providing the information I was requested.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Is it possible that you had this recollection of being</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 Q. I see.</p> <p>2 <b>A. 20 P3s, which were people being treated in locale around</b></p> <p>3 <b>the tower.</b></p> <p>4 Q. I see, so conveyed, treated.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Conveyed was already taken away to hospital.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Then:</p> <p>7 "13. Bus Bramley trans P3.</p> <p>8 "14. Press in one location.</p> <p>9 "15. Next 05:50."</p> <p>10 The reason for my taking you through that was to</p> <p>11 really point out what's not there, and that is that</p> <p>12 there's no record in there of any request for a list of</p> <p>13 residents.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Is that right?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>17 Q. That's why I'm asking you when you go back to your</p> <p>18 statement at paragraph 26, Mr Layton, if we can just</p> <p>19 look at that, you say:</p> <p>20 "I recall that it was also at the 04:30am meeting</p> <p>21 that I was asked by the Fire Brigade for a List of all</p> <p>22 residents at Grenfell Tower."</p> <p>23 What was it when you did your statement that</p> <p>24 prompted the recollection that it was at that meeting</p> <p>25 that you were asked for a list of residents?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 asked for this list of residents prior to or to or outside</p> <p>2 that second tactical co-ordination meeting?</p> <p>3 <b>A. It is possible.</b></p> <p>4 Q. You then say in paragraph 27:</p> <p>5 "27. Having received this request, I was aware that</p> <p>6 this information was likely to be with the TMO, as they</p> <p>7 were the managing agents for the Tower. I therefore</p> <p>8 passed this request to Robert Black and asked him to</p> <p>9 obtain the information urgently."</p> <p>10 Do you remember whether you asked Robert Black to</p> <p>11 get that information before or after the second tactical</p> <p>12 co-ordination meeting?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I can't say for definite.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Did you ask for that information immediately it was</p> <p>15 asked for of you by the LFB?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Where was Robert Black standing when you asked him for</p> <p>18 a list of residents?</p> <p>19 <b>A. He was outside, probably about 3-foot, 3 to 4 feet in</b></p> <p>20 <b>front of the incident control vehicle on the side of the</b></p> <p>21 <b>road.</b></p> <p>22 Q. What did he do?</p> <p>23 <b>A. He made a phone call straight away.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Do you know who he called?</p> <p>25 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p>



<p>1 Q. Do you know what the result of that call was?</p> <p>2 <b>A. The result was I didn't get the information.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did he report to you that he had been unable to get the</p> <p>4 information?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No, not until I was chasing him for the information.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 Let's just move on with the same topic.</p> <p>8 At paragraph 28 of your statement, middle of page 8</p> <p>9 of your statement to the inquiry, you say:</p> <p>10 "28. The next Silver meeting was at 05:50. Before</p> <p>11 I went to the next meeting I asked Robert Black whether</p> <p>12 he had managed to get the list of the Grenfell Tower</p> <p>13 Residents. However, he did not have this information</p> <p>14 and he made another call."</p> <p>15 Why did you ask for this information from</p> <p>16 Robert Black at that point?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Because I was getting ready to go to the next Silver</b></p> <p>18 <b>meeting, and it was just before I went, I wanted</b></p> <p>19 <b>an update.</b></p> <p>20 Q. How sure are you that this wasn't the first time that</p> <p>21 you'd asked Robert Black for that information?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Certain.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Where was Robert Black when you made this request?</p> <p>24 <b>A. On Bomore Road, like I say, about 3/4 feet again in</b></p> <p>25 <b>front of the fire control vehicle.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 At 05.50, it says:</p> <p>2 "Tactical Coordination Meeting ..."</p> <p>3 And then there's quite a lot of detail in there.</p> <p>4 In particular, can I show you where it says at the</p> <p>5 end of the first chunk of text:</p> <p>6 "115 unaccounted for. Very difficult to establish</p> <p>7 exact numbers due to self evac."</p> <p>8 Then a reference to a casualty bureau being opened.</p> <p>9 We can't see anywhere in this record of that meeting</p> <p>10 any reference to a list of Grenfell Tower residents.</p> <p>11 How clear are you in your mind --</p> <p>12 <b>A. I'm convinced that there was a request for a list of</b></p> <p>13 <b>residents. I went back to that meeting and I had to</b></p> <p>14 <b>inform them that, unfortunately, I had not got the</b></p> <p>15 <b>information.</b></p> <p>16 Q. At paragraph 29 of your statement, you say you reported</p> <p>17 to that meeting that the list of Grenfell Tower -- I'll</p> <p>18 just show it to you on the screen, Mr Layton:</p> <p>19 "29. I reported at the 05:50am Silver Meeting that</p> <p>20 the list of Grenfell Tower residents was still not</p> <p>21 available and I assured that I was pressing to get this</p> <p>22 information urgently. I recall that the Fire Brigade</p> <p>23 were unhappy that the information hadn't arrived yet and</p> <p>24 after the meeting finished and I then went back to</p> <p>25 Robert Black and relayed this to him."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 Q. So same place as the previous request?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I met him in the same place most times.</b></p> <p>3 Q. You say he made another call.</p> <p>4 <b>A. He did.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Do you know who he called?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No, I do not.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Were you standing next to him when he was making that</p> <p>8 call?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I was standing in front of him.</b></p> <p>10 Q. What was the upshot of that call?</p> <p>11 <b>A. The upshot was he was asking somebody for the details.</b></p> <p>12 <b>But who he called, I do not know.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Did he say whether he was unable to get it?</p> <p>14 <b>A. He just said that he hadn't received the information so</b></p> <p>15 <b>he made another phone call.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Did he explain why?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, he didn't.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did you ask him?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. What did you ask him?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I didn't get an answer.</b></p> <p>22 Q. We then go to the third TCM, tactical co-ordination</p> <p>23 meeting, and you have the time of that at 05.50.</p> <p>24 If you go, please, to page 5 of the Roe log,</p> <p>25 MET00005404.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 How certain are you of what you're saying here in</p> <p>2 your statement?</p> <p>3 <b>A. 100 per cent.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Can I ask you to look at your own note of this meeting,</p> <p>5 RBK00029036, at page 2.</p> <p>6 This meeting is just below halfway down, 05.50.</p> <p>7 Just scanning your eyes down your record of that</p> <p>8 meeting, which I think finishes at the bottom of the</p> <p>9 page, which says "Next 07:10" or "07-[something]".</p> <p>10 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>11 Q. We can't see any indication there of your recording</p> <p>12 a discussion about a list of residents. Am I right</p> <p>13 about that?</p> <p>14 <b>A. It's at the very bottom -- oh no, sir. No, it isn't.</b></p> <p>15 Q. So do you know why you didn't record the discussion</p> <p>16 which you're now 100 per cent certain took place about</p> <p>17 a list of residents at that meeting?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Nonetheless, me having shown you your own record of that</p> <p>20 meeting, you are still 100 per cent certain that you</p> <p>21 raised it at that meeting?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes, I am.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Is there any reason why you didn't record that?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I can't explain it.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Did you have a discussion after this meeting with</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 David Kerry about obtaining a list of residents?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Why is that?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I went straight to Robert Black. The council I didn't</b></p> <p>5 <b>think had the full list of residents as we were not</b></p> <p>6 <b>managing the properties.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Did you have any thoughts at the time about how hard it</p> <p>8 could be to get a list of residents of this building?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Personally I thought it should be straightforward.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Was the information that you were asking for ever made</p> <p>11 available to you before you left the scene at, you say,</p> <p>12 7.00 am?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No. No.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Did you think anybody else would have this information</p> <p>15 other than the TMO?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No, I think it would be solely with the TMO.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Going back to paragraph 29 of your statement, you say in</p> <p>18 the middle of that paragraph:</p> <p>19 "... after the meeting finished and I then went back</p> <p>20 to Robert Black and relayed this to him. I asked Robert</p> <p>21 again if he had received the information. He hadn't and</p> <p>22 he made another call, but when I checked with him before</p> <p>23 I left the scene at 7am, he still hadn't received it and</p> <p>24 I passed over the matter to Mike Rumble so that he could</p> <p>25 liaise with Robert."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 can you recall roughly when that meeting finished so we</p> <p>2 can put a time on when you had this discussion with</p> <p>3 Robert Black?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I would say that meeting didn't take more than</b></p> <p>5 <b>10/15 minutes max.</b></p> <p>6 Q. You then say in your statement, as I've just shown you:</p> <p>7 "... when I checked with him before I left the scene</p> <p>8 at 7am, he still hadn't received it ..."</p> <p>9 How long before you left the scene do you remember</p> <p>10 checking back again with Robert Black about what had</p> <p>11 happened to the list of residents?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Probably about 5 minutes before I left.</b></p> <p>13 Q. You say you left at 7.00 am, so this would be about</p> <p>14 6.55 --</p> <p>15 <b>A. Approximately, yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. -- to the best of your recollection?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Because I needed to brief Mike of the outstanding issue</b></p> <p>18 <b>of this.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Did you have any contact with any other members of the</p> <p>20 TMO staff on the night other than Robert Black?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Were you aware at any stage of what roles the TMO staff</p> <p>23 had within the cordon?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No, I wasn't.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Did you observe any direct contact between the TMO staff</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 Just breaking that down a little bit, how soon after</p> <p>2 the meeting finished did you go back to Robert Black and</p> <p>3 relay what you had been told by the LFB to him?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I went probably straight away.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Where was he?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I'm not sure exactly, but I would've gone and found him</b></p> <p>7 <b>straight away. I believe he was probably still</b></p> <p>8 <b>somewhere on Bomore Street, and I would've spoken to</b></p> <p>9 <b>him.</b></p> <p>10 Q. You say:</p> <p>11 "I asked Robert again if he had received the</p> <p>12 information."</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. So is that, on your recollection, the third time you'd</p> <p>15 asked him?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. You say he said he hadn't and he made another call.</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Did he explain to you why he hadn't?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Were you present when he made that other call?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I was present but I wasn't listening.</b></p> <p>23 Q. What was the upshot of that call?</p> <p>24 <b>A. He said he would get the information to us.</b></p> <p>25 Q. We don't have an exact end time for that meeting, but</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 and the emergency services?</p> <p>2 <b>A. None at all.</b></p> <p>3 Q. You remember seeing none? Is that that you remember</p> <p>4 seeing none or that you don't remember seeing any?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I don't remember seeing any contact between the LFB, the</b></p> <p>6 <b>police or TMO.</b></p> <p>7 Q. There's a bit of a difference. Let me put the question</p> <p>8 again.</p> <p>9 Is it that you do remember seeing them not having</p> <p>10 any contact, or that you don't remember them having</p> <p>11 contact?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I don't remember them having any contact whatsoever.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Can I turn to the subject of plans.</p> <p>14 During your time at the incident, did it occur to</p> <p>15 you that the LFB would be assisted by having plans of</p> <p>16 the layout of Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. At what point did it occur to you that they would need</p> <p>19 plans?</p> <p>20 <b>A. It wasn't immediately. I know in the building I work in</b></p> <p>21 <b>we have a procedure of having plans available for the</b></p> <p>22 <b>Fire Brigade. But, no, I didn't do anything.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Are you aware of something called a premises information</p> <p>24 box?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 Q. Did you know on the night whether there was or wasn't 2 a premises information box at Grenfell Tower? 3 <b>A. As far as I'm aware, if there was, it wasn't available.</b> 4 Q. When did you first discover that plans for 5 Grenfell Tower were missing and were needed? 6 <b>A. I can't say with any clarity.</b> 7 Q. At paragraph 35 of your statement, on page 10, you say: 8 "35. At around 7am I handed over the role of LALO 9 to Mike Rumble and I handed him my notes/Log so that he 10 knew what had been happening. Although I was still Duty 11 Officer for the rest of the week I was no longer the 12 LALO for Grenfell Tower. At no point prior to me 13 leaving the site had I ever been asked about the layout 14 of Grenfell Tower or been asked to obtain any plans for 15 the Tower." 16 Let me just put something to you. 17 Inspector Thatcher, who attended the Silver TCMs, 18 tactical co-ordination meetings, told us in evidence 19 that his recollection from those meetings is that you 20 were asked by the LFB for up-to-date plans for the 21 building? 22 <b>A. I cannot recollect that at all.</b> 23 Q. And I can play this to you if you like -- 24 <b>A. Yes.</b> 25 Q. -- his body-worn video footage shows Andy Roe, the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 This, I should just be clear to you, looks as if 2 it's outside the context of Silver meetings. I want to 3 ask you about it anyway. 4 "DSE District Surveyor - could not get high enough. 5 No floor collapse pan cake. Frame building. Max fire 6 resistance 4hrs. FF shaft 2 hrs - if columns spall - 7 not saying will collapse. If no people - let it burn. 8 Will attempt to locate plans. John Allen [redacted]." 9 Do you recall ever hearing a discussion involving 10 Andy Roe or any other LFB officer about an attempt to 11 locate plans as recorded here? 12 <b>A. No.</b> 13 Q. Were you aware that Robert Black had e-mailed a copy of 14 the plans of the building at 6.16 am to John Allen? 15 <b>A. No.</b> 16 Q. Would it follow that you don't know whether or not 17 John Allen then handed those to the LFB? 18 <b>A. No, I do not.</b> 19 Q. So this is completely outside your knowledge, is it? 20 <b>A. Yes.</b> 21 Q. You left and you say you handed over to Mike Rumble. 22 Did you give Mike Rumble a brief or handover 23 briefing as to what requests had been made of you which 24 were still outstanding? 25 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 incident commander, saying at the tactical co-ordination 2 meeting at 07.13, which is after you left, that he had 3 been asking for plans for a very long time. That's what 4 he says. We can look at it if you like, but you weren't 5 there. 6 <b>A. Mm.</b> 7 Q. My question is: is he right, to the best of your 8 knowledge, that the LFB had been asking for plans for 9 a very long time? 10 <b>A. If they had, they weren't made to me.</b> 11 Q. Indeed, Inspector Thatcher, who was at that meeting, 12 said that the LFB had been asking for plans from the 13 word go. Can you comment on that? 14 <b>A. No.</b> 15 Q. To be fair to you, we don't see any record of that 16 request for plans during the first TCM, the second TCM 17 or the third TCM. Did you ever overhear a request being 18 made by the LFB for plans? 19 <b>A. No.</b> 20 Q. Can I ask you, please, to look at the Roe log, 21 MET00005404, and go, please, to page 5, middle of that 22 page. 23 Mr Layton, can I ask you, please, to look at the 24 time mark of 06.13, if we can just have that 25 highlighted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 Q. Can you remember what it was that was outstanding? 2 <b>A. It was the list of residents for the LFB, and trying to</b> 3 <b>establish what people were in rest centres.</b> 4 Q. Did you give any impression of how urgent it was for 5 Mike Rumble to keep following up on the list of 6 residents? 7 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b> 8 Q. What did you say to him, do you remember? 9 <b>A. I told him that the LFB had been asking for this</b> 10 <b>information for possibly the last three meetings, I had</b> 11 <b>not been able to give it to them. I said that it will</b> 12 <b>come up on the next meeting.</b> 13 Q. Was that a matter of concern to you at the time? 14 <b>A. Yes, it was.</b> 15 Q. So far as you know, Mike Rumble understood, did he, the 16 importance and urgency of obtaining that information? 17 <b>A. Yes.</b> 18 Q. Thank you very much, Mr Layton. 19 I do have one question just by way of clarification, 20 something that I want to go back to, and it's a subject 21 we covered right at the start of your evidence about 22 when you were first called by the GDIT. It's really 23 a timing point. 24 Can I ask, please, that the witness is shown 25 MET00023294, which is the CAD, CAD482.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 I'll explain to you what this.</p> <p>2 That's the first page of this document. What this</p> <p>3 is, as far as we understand it, Mr Layton, is the</p> <p>4 Metropolitan Police's running computer-assisted dispatch</p> <p>5 record of all the messages coming through the</p> <p>6 Metropolitan Police --</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. -- in relation to this incident.</p> <p>9 If I can ask you, please, to go to page 11 of that,</p> <p>10 you can see that at 02.10.02, four-fifths of the way</p> <p>11 down the page, if we can please have that highlighted:</p> <p>12 "ATWOP - K&amp;C COUNCIL INFORMED REF ... (KATHERINE</p> <p>13 ASCOMBE) THEY WILL BE CONTACTING THEIR DUTY OFFICER WHO</p> <p>14 WILL LIASE[sic] WITH BSC DIRECT. COUNCIL HAVE SET UP A</p> <p>15 DEDICATED OP NAMED ERRIN FOR ANY FURTHER POL</p> <p>16 CONTACT ..."</p> <p>17 Do you know who Katherine Ascombe was or is?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I believe she was the operator that took the call.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Do you know who Errin might be?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I think Errin might be the supervisor, because they set</b></p> <p>21 <b>up -- because they obviously realised it was a major</b></p> <p>22 <b>emergency, they set up a dedicated team to take the</b></p> <p>23 <b>calls.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Doing the best you can -- and I know this isn't your</p> <p>25 record -- does this help you time the first discussion</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 <b>A. That is my understanding.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Yes. Well, that's certainly David Kerry's note, and</p> <p>3 this doesn't help you clarify that any further, this --</p> <p>4 <b>A. That's the police document, so that ties in.</b></p> <p>5 Q. That ties in. What does it tie in with, let me ask you?</p> <p>6 <b>A. It just ties in to who made the call initially into the</b></p> <p>7 <b>out-of-hours service.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Does it also tie in with the time of 02.21, which is the</p> <p>9 time of your call to David Kerry?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes, it would.</b></p> <p>11 Q. So that leaves outstanding the question of the call at</p> <p>12 02.03. Can you explain that?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No, I cannot.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 Looking back at that, then, and reflecting on it,</p> <p>16 you told us earlier that you thought that it was the LFB</p> <p>17 who had called GDIT?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Is that right?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Not according to this, no.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Might you be wrong that it was the LFB?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I could've been wrong.</b></p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p>24 Mr Layton, thank you very much. You'll be glad to</p> <p>25 know that I've come to the end of my questions for you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 or call you took -- in fact, the only call you took --</p> <p>2 from GDIT?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Would this indicate that it was the police who called</p> <p>5 GDIT?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No, it doesn't, not to me. This is a police record, but</b></p> <p>7 <b>it just refers to the fact that somebody called.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 Going back to the Kerry log, which we looked at</p> <p>10 earlier on, on page 1, which is RBK00028849 -- perhaps</p> <p>11 we should have both of these on the screen at the same</p> <p>12 time. We can do that, Mr Layton.</p> <p>13 So keep CAD482 on the screen and then put up on the</p> <p>14 screen, please, the Kerry log, RBK00028849 and compare</p> <p>15 the two.</p> <p>16 You have David Kerry marking a call from you at</p> <p>17 02.21, where you say:</p> <p>18 "... police called GDIT at 02:03."</p> <p>19 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b></p> <p>20 Q. We also have the message on the CAD at 02.10.02.</p> <p>21 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Is it possible to link those together in some way?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I'd say not.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You're clear in your recollection, are you, that it was</p> <p>25 the police who called the GDIT at 02.03?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 this morning.</p> <p>2 The normal process is that we then rise for</p> <p>3 a few minutes so I can double-check my notes and with my</p> <p>4 team whether I've covered everything, and there may be</p> <p>5 other questions that people have.</p> <p>6 I'm going to ask the chairman to rise for 5 minutes</p> <p>7 to allow that to happen.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: This is to give Mr Millett a chance</p> <p>9 to order his thoughts and check he has asked the right</p> <p>10 questions.</p> <p>11 We'll rise now for 5 minutes and come back at 11.50.</p> <p>12 Same drill as before: don't talk to anyone about your</p> <p>13 evidence, please.</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: The usher will look after you. All</p> <p>16 right?</p> <p>17 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>19 All right, 11.50, then, please.</p> <p>20 (11.47 am)</p> <p>21 (A short break)</p> <p>22 (11.50 am)</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Layton?</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think Mr Millett has one or two</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 questions, so let's see how we go.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, thank you very much.</p> <p>3 Mr Layton, thank you for coming back to us. There</p> <p>4 are just one or two.</p> <p>5 First of all, in terms of your training as a LALO,</p> <p>6 were these desktop training sessions or programmes or</p> <p>7 were they hands-on, practical?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Desktop training sessions.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Secondly, did you ever have any prior dealings with</p> <p>10 Robert Black?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Before Grenfell Tower?</b></p> <p>12 Q. Before Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>13 <b>A. Never.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Had you ever met him before?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Not that I'm aware of.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Finally, can I ask you to look, please, at your own note</p> <p>17 of the night, RBK00029036, page 2.</p> <p>18 As we can see two-thirds of the way down the page,</p> <p>19 at the time of 05.50, this is the TCM and your record of</p> <p>20 it -- we looked at it a moment ago before the break --</p> <p>21 and under the line towards the bottom of the page it</p> <p>22 says:</p> <p>23 "Numbers all rest centres.</p> <p>24 "Names and addresses."</p> <p>25 Can you just help us, what is the reference there to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 understand that your evidence is very helpful to us, so</p> <p>2 we're very grateful to you for coming along to tell us</p> <p>3 what you were doing and your experience on the night.</p> <p>4 So thank you very much for coming to give your</p> <p>5 evidence.</p> <p>6 Right, now you're free to go. Would you like to go</p> <p>7 with the usher, she'll look after you.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>9 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, we are, I think, able to go</p> <p>12 directly into our next witness --</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: -- without any change of scenery.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: So I now call -- unless I'm wrong about that --</p> <p>17 Mr Mike Rumble of RBKC, please.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>19 MICHAEL JOHN SCOTT RUMBLE (sworn)</p> <p>20 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Rumble.</p> <p>22 You are going to stand, aren't you?</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: I am, thank you, sir.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you.</p> <p>25 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 "Names and addresses"?</p> <p>2 <b>A. We were trying to get information from the rest centres</b></p> <p>3 <b>of any persons that were there so that we could tell the</b></p> <p>4 <b>Fire Brigade people that we knew were out of the tower.</b></p> <p>5 Q. So, to be clear, is that, therefore, not a reference to</p> <p>6 your raising or being told about the need for a list of</p> <p>7 residents in the tower?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No, it's not.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Would it have helped the process of identifying people</p> <p>10 by name and address at the rest centres to have had</p> <p>11 a list of residents?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes, it would.</b></p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I have nothing further.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, all right.</p> <p>15 MR MILLETT: Mr Layton, I have no further questions for you.</p> <p>16 It just remains for me to thank you very much for</p> <p>17 coming today and assisting the inquiry with our</p> <p>18 investigations. We very much appreciate it, so thank</p> <p>19 you.</p> <p>20 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I would add my thanks to those of</p> <p>22 Mr Millett.</p> <p>23 Mr Layton, I'm sorry, I think it must have been</p> <p>24 difficult for you at various points in dealing with</p> <p>25 these matters, and I'm sorry about that, but you have to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: Mr Rumble, could you please give the inquiry</p> <p>2 your full name.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Michael John Scott Rumble.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Can I start by thanking you very much for attending the</p> <p>5 inquiry today and assisting us with our investigations.</p> <p>6 We very much appreciate your doing so.</p> <p>7 My questions are intended to be short and simple,</p> <p>8 sometimes they don't work out that way, so if you need</p> <p>9 me to repeat it or put the question in a different way,</p> <p>10 I'm very happy to do so.</p> <p>11 Equally, recalling some of the events of the night</p> <p>12 may be difficult at times. If you need a break at any</p> <p>13 point, let us know.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Thank you.</b></p> <p>15 Q. You've provided two witness statements for us. The</p> <p>16 first is your Metropolitan Police witness statement of</p> <p>17 19 June 2017 of some seven pages. That's RBK00028988.</p> <p>18 The second is your Rule 9 witness statement of</p> <p>19 24 September 2018 at RBK00029037 of some 10 pages.</p> <p>20 Can I ask you, first of all, please, to look at the</p> <p>21 first of those, your police witness statement, which</p> <p>22 carries an RBK reference, that's RBK00028988.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, I have that.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Doesn't matter, we'll stick with this one, which is your</p> <p>25 inquiry statement for the time being, that's</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 RBK00029037, as you can see, and turn, please, to</p> <p>2 page 10. That has a name and signature and address</p> <p>3 under a statement of truth.</p> <p>4 Is that your signature?</p> <p>5 <b>A. It is, yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Have you read this witness statement recently?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I have.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Can you confirm for us that the contents are true?</p> <p>9 <b>A. It is true, yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Look at the other statement, please, the first one you</p> <p>11 did, which is RBK00028988, and turn, please, to page 7</p> <p>12 in that.</p> <p>13 You can see a signature there. Is that your</p> <p>14 signature?</p> <p>15 <b>A. It is.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Have you read this statement recently?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I have.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Again, can you confirm for the inquiry that its contents</p> <p>19 are true?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I can confirm that it is true.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Thank you very much.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Exhibited to your second statement are a number</p> <p>24 of documents MJSR/1 through to MJSR/5. I'll read those</p> <p>25 formally into the record.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. That's the first page, is it, of your LALO incident pack</p> <p>3 you filled out on the night?</p> <p>4 <b>A. It is.</b></p> <p>5 Q. When did you fill it out, was it at the time or</p> <p>6 afterwards?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes. So this particular log was the one I was keeping</b></p> <p>8 <b>on me at all times and, as the incident progressed, you</b></p> <p>9 <b>know, whenever I got a spare moment, I tried to fill in</b></p> <p>10 <b>as much detail as I could on that log.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Thank you. We'll come back to that in due course.</p> <p>12 Can I start, please, by asking you some questions</p> <p>13 about your position, career, training and experience.</p> <p>14 I think you've been a parks police inspector for</p> <p>15 RBKC since 2009.</p> <p>16 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Since 2013 that's been a bi-borough role split or</p> <p>18 divided between RBKC and the London Borough of</p> <p>19 Hammersmith and Fulham.</p> <p>20 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>21 Q. So you are essentially in that role responsible for that</p> <p>22 borough, Hammersmith and Fulham?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, so the parks and open spaces and cemeteries across</b></p> <p>24 <b>those two boroughs.</b></p> <p>25 Q. You are a trained LALO.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 The first is a JESIP memoir, RBK00029038. That's</p> <p>2 MJSR/1.</p> <p>3 MJSR/2 is the RBKC contingency management plan,</p> <p>4 RBK00004396.</p> <p>5 MJSR/3 is the London Resilience major incident</p> <p>6 procedure manual, RBK00013294, which we have elsewhere.</p> <p>7 MJSR/4 is the Lambeth LALO incident pack you used on</p> <p>8 the night, RBK00029039.</p> <p>9 MJSR/5 is the LALO log, 14 June, RBK00028838.</p> <p>10 Can I, on that last document, just have that up</p> <p>11 there, please, RBK00028838. I have one or two</p> <p>12 preliminary questions --</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You can either use hard copy or that</p> <p>14 screen or that screen.</p> <p>15 <b>A. Okay.</b></p> <p>16 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Make your choice.</b></p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: RBK00028838.</p> <p>18 Is that it?</p> <p>19 Perhaps we should turn the pages. Turn the page</p> <p>20 again. I think you start at this next page, there.</p> <p>21 <b>A. Correct. That's the log I commenced when I arrived at</b></p> <p>22 <b>the scene.</b></p> <p>23 Q. So you've exhibited, I think -- so I say is that it --</p> <p>24 this works on the basis you've exhibited both</p> <p>25 Nick Layton's log and yours, just to be clear.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. I think you've been a trained LALO since October 2015.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. On the night of the Grenfell Tower fire, were you a LALO</p> <p>5 or a LALO support officer?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I was a LALO, trained LALO at that stage.</b></p> <p>7 Q. So in official terms, from the moment of your</p> <p>8 involvement, did you have the same official capacity as</p> <p>9 Nick Layton?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Indeed, yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Is there a formal role of a LALO support officer?</p> <p>12 <b>A. There is. It tends to be somebody whose been trained as</b></p> <p>13 <b>a LALO will start as a LALO support officer and then</b></p> <p>14 <b>carry on the training with the London Fire Brigade, and</b></p> <p>15 <b>then after that they are sort of a qualified LALO.</b></p> <p>16 Q. But you were there on the night as a fully accredited</p> <p>17 LALO?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Correct, yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. At paragraph 6.2 in your inquiry witness statement,</p> <p>20 page 2, you explain the training you had as a LALO, and</p> <p>21 we can see what you say there.</p> <p>22 What form did the training you describe there take?</p> <p>23 Was it desktop or was it --</p> <p>24 <b>A. No, there was a practical course at London Fire Brigade</b></p> <p>25 <b>headquarters.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 Q. Was that in 2015?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b></p> <p>3 Q. October 2015.</p> <p>4 Did that course involve dealing with fires?</p> <p>5 <b>A. There were a number of fires mentioned as part of that</b></p> <p>6 <b>course, but it wasn't as a practical course, it was</b></p> <p>7 <b>desktop as far as that was concerned, so it was going</b></p> <p>8 <b>through a number of scenarios.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Did that involve a fire in a high-rise residential</p> <p>10 block?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I believe they'd mentioned a number of fires that had</b></p> <p>12 <b>happened. It was part of the manual. So there were</b></p> <p>13 <b>Fire Brigade officers addressing that course who had</b></p> <p>14 <b>experience of major fires.</b></p> <p>15 Q. High-rise fires?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes, I can't recall whether the Lakanal House fire had</b></p> <p>17 <b>occurred, you know, whether that was one of the case</b></p> <p>18 <b>studies, but certainly they mentioned a number of fires</b></p> <p>19 <b>involving blocks of flats.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Were those fires trained as major incidents as part of</p> <p>21 that training?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes, they would've been classified as major incidents.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember -- it's difficult perhaps to recall --</p> <p>24 what was your major learning point or take-away message</p> <p>25 from that training so far as it involves a major</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 <b>of the event.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 <b>A. I was acting, if you like, as the London local</b></p> <p>4 <b>authorities LALO on the final day of that incident or</b></p> <p>5 <b>that exercise.</b></p> <p>6 Q. What did that exercise involve?</p> <p>7 <b>A. It was a major tube crash. So it involved a scenario</b></p> <p>8 <b>involving a tube train on which a building had collapsed</b></p> <p>9 <b>on top of it.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 <b>A. It was an extremely realistic exercise. It had taken</b></p> <p>12 <b>some months to set up and was a very good scenario.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Did that involve mass evacuation of the building or --</p> <p>14 <b>A. It was mainly evacuation of tube passengers, those who</b></p> <p>15 <b>had been rescued from the tube train, but obviously</b></p> <p>16 <b>those who had been in the vicinity as well.</b></p> <p>17 Q. What was the major learning point that you took away</p> <p>18 from your participation in that exercise?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I think from that it was mainly around joint working</b></p> <p>20 <b>with the other services. Again, it was very apparent</b></p> <p>21 <b>that the Fire Brigade had set up the exercise and they</b></p> <p>22 <b>were the lead agency on it. So, again, it was taking</b></p> <p>23 <b>our lead from the lead agency and trying to respond and</b></p> <p>24 <b>provide as many services as we could acting, you know,</b></p> <p>25 <b>with the Fire Brigade being the lead agency from there.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 incident fire in a high-rise residential block?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes, I mean, I think the term "high-rise" may be</b></p> <p>3 <b>a little bit misleading, I think some of the fires may</b></p> <p>4 <b>have been smaller than high-rise, but nevertheless.</b></p> <p>5 <b>I think the training around that was really about</b></p> <p>6 <b>the Fire Brigade's primary role and what they may then</b></p> <p>7 <b>require from us as LALOs and from the local authority in</b></p> <p>8 <b>a support role.</b></p> <p>9 Q. What was that?</p> <p>10 <b>A. It really was -- I mean, obviously going back to the</b></p> <p>11 <b>LALO manual, the local authority role obviously is one</b></p> <p>12 <b>of sort of going from the stage of evacuating residents</b></p> <p>13 <b>to setting up rest centres, repatriation centres and</b></p> <p>14 <b>eventually looking at, you know, humanitarian housing</b></p> <p>15 <b>needs further down the line, and then ideally</b></p> <p>16 <b>repatriating those people back to their premises at the</b></p> <p>17 <b>end of an incident.</b></p> <p>18 Q. At page 3 of your statement at paragraph 6.5 you refer</p> <p>19 to an exercise unified response at Dartford in</p> <p>20 March 2016. You describe it as a large-scale</p> <p>21 multi-agency disaster training drill.</p> <p>22 Which other LALO at RBKC, if any, attended that</p> <p>23 training?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes, as I recall, David Kerry, who is the emergency</b></p> <p>25 <b>services manager, I think he was there for all four days</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 Q. You say in paragraph 6.6 of your second statement at</p> <p>2 page 3 that you were the LALO for LBHF, London Borough</p> <p>3 of Hammersmith and Fulham, at the Shepherds Court fire</p> <p>4 in August 2016:</p> <p>5 "Although everyone was evacuated safely on that</p> <p>6 occasion, approx. 20 households were unable to return to</p> <p>7 their properties that night and had to be placed into</p> <p>8 temporary local accommodation."</p> <p>9 What did your role entail at that incident?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I mean, I was on duty on that. It was late on a Friday</b></p> <p>11 <b>afternoon. It was obviously a very busy period of the</b></p> <p>12 <b>day, with people returning home. So I was on duty as</b></p> <p>13 <b>the parks police inspector when we heard the message</b></p> <p>14 <b>about the incident occurring, and basically, because we</b></p> <p>15 <b>were on duty, I sort of volunteered to go to the scene</b></p> <p>16 <b>and start the log, acting as the LALO at the scene.</b></p> <p>17 <b>It was a very well co-ordinated response. We were</b></p> <p>18 <b>lucky in that we had the whole of Shepherd's Bush Green</b></p> <p>19 <b>available to us as a marshalling point for the fire</b></p> <p>20 <b>appliances and for the ambulance and for police</b></p> <p>21 <b>vehicles.</b></p> <p>22 <b>So it was, if you like, a little bit of a textbook</b></p> <p>23 <b>incident in that it did go extremely well. There was</b></p> <p>24 <b>obviously danger to life there and there were flames</b></p> <p>25 <b>coming up the front of that building over about two or</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 three storeys, as I recall.</p> <p>2 It was also very lucky that there weren't a lot of</p> <p>3 people in the building at the time, so they were able to</p> <p>4 be all evacuated safely. I think some of them came</p> <p>5 across to the green to start with, and then after that</p> <p>6 we were also lucky that within a couple of hundred yards</p> <p>7 of the premises, there was – I forget what it was, it</p> <p>8 was some sort of community centre that we were able to</p> <p>9 get opened up, and that's where the casualties were</p> <p>10 initially taken.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you have any particular difficulties in obtaining</p> <p>12 information which the emergency services required at</p> <p>13 that incident?</p> <p>14 A. Not really, because the housing department from H&amp;F were</p> <p>15 on the scene very quickly. We were able to set up, you</p> <p>16 know, within the reception centre, an arrangement of</p> <p>17 council staff in there who were able to get details of</p> <p>18 the residents and which flats they'd come from.</p> <p>19 After that, we co-ordinated with a number of local</p> <p>20 hotels who had actually offered bed spaces for people if</p> <p>21 they weren't able to return to their flats that day.</p> <p>22 Q. Were there any lessons learnt or take-away points from</p> <p>23 the Shepherds Court fire in August 2016 that you were</p> <p>24 able to apply at Grenfell?</p> <p>25 A. I think, again, the principle of having areas where we</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 small screen. Which bit do you want to refer to?</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: It's there. It's now blown up.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>4 A. Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: Can you see that there?</p> <p>6 A. I can.</p> <p>7 Q. Would you agree that the functions set out there as key</p> <p>8 tasks -- and there are six bullet points -- were part of</p> <p>9 your role on the night?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, I would.</p> <p>11 Q. We may come back to that shortly.</p> <p>12 Going back to your statement, can you please go to</p> <p>13 page 3. At paragraph 8 there, under the heading</p> <p>14 "14th June 2017", you say:</p> <p>15 "8. At approximately 02.45hrs I received</p> <p>16 a telephone call from David Kerry, the RBKC Contingency</p> <p>17 Planning Manager and he informed me that there was</p> <p>18 a major fire at Grenfell Tower."</p> <p>19 You go on to say that you were told that:</p> <p>20 "... Nick Layton, the Borough Duty Officer and LALO,</p> <p>21 had already been informed of the fire and was making his</p> <p>22 way to the scene, but in light of the scale of the fire,</p> <p>23 further support was required."</p> <p>24 Were you told at that stage that the Metropolitan</p> <p>25 Police had declared the fire a major incident?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 could take people who had been evacuated obviously</p> <p>2 worked very well on that occasion, but you were</p> <p>3 obviously talking about a far lesser number of people</p> <p>4 than at Grenfell.</p> <p>5 Q. Moving on to your role in emergencies as a LALO.</p> <p>6 At paragraph 6, you say at the start of that</p> <p>7 paragraph, back on page 2, three lines down:</p> <p>8 "A LALO is someone who is part of an on-call</p> <p>9 response team that attends incidents on behalf of the</p> <p>10 Local Authority and liaises with the Contingency</p> <p>11 Planning Teams."</p> <p>12 Then you say:</p> <p>13 "The role is to be the link between the incident</p> <p>14 scene and the Borough via the Borough Emergency Control</p> <p>15 Centre (BECC) if one is set up. The key role is to</p> <p>16 survey, assess and disseminate information and to relay</p> <p>17 requests from the emergency services back to the BECC."</p> <p>18 The role of a LALO I think is also set out in the</p> <p>19 Silver manual.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Can I just show you that. That's RBK00029035. It's</p> <p>22 page 39 of that.</p> <p>23 Would you agree that those functions set out there</p> <p>24 under CMP 5.4 --</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It's very difficult to read on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 A. Not that I can recall, no.</p> <p>2 Q. Were you told that the London Fire Brigade had declared</p> <p>3 the fire a major incident?</p> <p>4 A. I don't believe I was told at that time.</p> <p>5 Q. What level of major incident were you led to believe</p> <p>6 this was?</p> <p>7 A. From the information that I'd got from Mr Kerry, I'd</p> <p>8 obviously got the impression that it was serious. But</p> <p>9 obviously until I arrived at the scene, I didn't know</p> <p>10 quite how serious it was.</p> <p>11 Q. You're familiar -- we can look at it if you like -- with</p> <p>12 the yellow, amber, red scales of seriousness.</p> <p>13 Did there come a time when you thought it was</p> <p>14 level 3, major?</p> <p>15 A. Obviously once I'd arrived at the scene and when</p> <p>16 I parked the vehicle as close as I could get to it, it</p> <p>17 was obviously very apparent that in the network of small</p> <p>18 streets leading up to the tower, just the sheer scale of</p> <p>19 the number of fire appliances and emergency vehicles</p> <p>20 there, this was -- you know, certainly at that stage</p> <p>21 I would've considered it a major incident.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you have a discussion with Mr Layton when you first</p> <p>23 found him about RBKC manpower that you might need?</p> <p>24 A. Not that I recall at that stage.</p> <p>25 Q. What did you understand your role to have been in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>



<p>1 attending given that Nick Layton was already there as</p> <p>2 a LALO?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes, I mean --</b></p> <p>4 Q. Or on his way.</p> <p>5 <b>A. So initially it was to support him. He obviously told</b></p> <p>6 <b>me that at a fairly early stage he obviously had to</b></p> <p>7 <b>return to the town hall to open up and carry out his</b></p> <p>8 <b>other duties there. So it was sort of apparent that at</b></p> <p>9 <b>some stage in the next hour or two hours I would be</b></p> <p>10 <b>taking over from him as the main LALO on scene.</b></p> <p>11 Q. During the period when you were there together, who was,</p> <p>12 if I can put it this way, the senior LALO, or were you</p> <p>13 equal?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I would say we were equal. Because Nick was there</b></p> <p>15 <b>earlier and had a better grasp of what was actually</b></p> <p>16 <b>going on, he carried on with that particular role, which</b></p> <p>17 <b>gave me an opportunity to look at a number of other</b></p> <p>18 <b>aspects and certainly familiarise myself with the</b></p> <p>19 <b>location.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Just briefly, what other aspects were you looking at?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Well, obviously one of other council premises nearby was</b></p> <p>22 <b>the Kensington Leisure Centre. Although it's owned by</b></p> <p>23 <b>the council, it's operated by Greenwich Leisure, who,</b></p> <p>24 <b>you know, would be normally arriving there probably not</b></p> <p>25 <b>before 7 o'clock in the morning. So I needed to see</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 own incident pack?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes. I mean, I believe they used one that was provided</b></p> <p>3 <b>by the London Fire Brigade, but essentially all that was</b></p> <p>4 <b>was a lined piece of A4 with a few notes on it. I'd</b></p> <p>5 <b>obviously acquired the Lambeth council pack at the major</b></p> <p>6 <b>incident exercise at Dartford and I considered it was</b></p> <p>7 <b>a very useful document.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 <b>A. So luckily I was able to locate it in the office before</b></p> <p>10 <b>I went to the scene.</b></p> <p>11 Q. A matter of chance?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes, yes. I mean, I'd obviously kept it with my notes</b></p> <p>13 <b>from the LALO course and the documents from the major</b></p> <p>14 <b>incident exercise.</b></p> <p>15 Q. How did the Lambeth incident pack help you?</p> <p>16 <b>A. I mean, I do like to make my notes as effectively as</b></p> <p>17 <b>possible. It was a good layout to do that. But it also</b></p> <p>18 <b>contained a number of useful things, like there's</b></p> <p>19 <b>a chart which shows the rank structure of the London</b></p> <p>20 <b>Fire Brigade and the police, and the key notes from</b></p> <p>21 <b>METHANE and the other mnemonics that are used in the</b></p> <p>22 <b>incident. So, you know, it was very useful to have that</b></p> <p>23 <b>with me.</b></p> <p>24 <b>It's also a sort of A5 fold-over size, which was</b></p> <p>25 <b>useful to keep in my pocket.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 <b>whether that premises was actually accessible.</b></p> <p>2 <b>When I arrived, obviously it was open, and I think,</b></p> <p>3 <b>as we've learnt, it was broken into, if you like, by the</b></p> <p>4 <b>police or the fire service as an obvious point of using</b></p> <p>5 <b>it, you know, for the purpose that it was used.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Just timing your arrival at the scene, you say in your</p> <p>7 second statement at paragraph 8.3 on page 4 -- if we can</p> <p>8 just have that, please, on the screen -- in the second</p> <p>9 line that you arrived there at approximately 0310 hours.</p> <p>10 Is that right?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes, that's correct. I probably arrived there sort of</b></p> <p>12 <b>6 or 7 minutes earlier but obviously had to walk from</b></p> <p>13 <b>the nearest point where I could leave the vehicle to get</b></p> <p>14 <b>to Bomore Road.</b></p> <p>15 Q. What were you using when you did your statement to</p> <p>16 approximate your time of arrival as 0310 hours?</p> <p>17 <b>A. As far as I recall, I looked at my watch and just made</b></p> <p>18 <b>a note.</b></p> <p>19 Q. You say also in that paragraph in the next part that you</p> <p>20 had:</p> <p>21 "... a LALO Incident Pack issued by Lambeth Council</p> <p>22 which contained a handy aide-memoire/checklist on</p> <p>23 'immediate problems to consider' ..."</p> <p>24 And you exhibit it.</p> <p>25 Is it right that RBKC, as you say, didn't have their</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 Q. Can I look at that with you. It's MJSR/4, which is</p> <p>2 RBK00029039, just to square that off, Mr Rumble, if we</p> <p>3 can.</p> <p>4 If we can just turn the pages quickly to see how</p> <p>5 this pack works.</p> <p>6 So it looks like it's a spiral-bound A5 with some</p> <p>7 contents in it.</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. And various logs at the end under the appendices.</p> <p>10 There's the reference on page 5, if we can stop</p> <p>11 there, to the METHANE.</p> <p>12 Did you find that helpful to you?</p> <p>13 <b>A. It was, indeed, yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. You say at the end of paragraph 8.3 and then in 8.5:</p> <p>15 "I located the Fire Control 'Silver' vehicle and</p> <p>16 informed the Command Control of my presence."</p> <p>17 When you say the command control, do you mean the</p> <p>18 LFB command unit?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes. I mean, it was obviously very apparent on my</b></p> <p>20 <b>arrival that this was a Fire Brigade-led incident and,</b></p> <p>21 <b>you know, I knew that that's who I would be reporting</b></p> <p>22 <b>to.</b></p> <p>23 <b>Normally, ideally at a major incident, you would</b></p> <p>24 <b>have the Fire Brigade's control, the police control and</b></p> <p>25 <b>the ambulance control co-located. I think because of</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 the layout and the narrow streets around the area, that</p> <p>2 wasn't possible.</p> <p>3 So I definitely made my initial point of contact and</p> <p>4 my ongoing point of contact the Fire Brigade Silver</p> <p>5 Command vehicle.</p> <p>6 Q. How long after arriving at around 03.10 do you think you</p> <p>7 made first contact with the command unit?</p> <p>8 A. Oh, within 5 or 10 minutes.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you remember who you spoke to at the command unit?</p> <p>10 A. I don't. I mean, I think I just knocked on door and</p> <p>11 reported my arrival to them.</p> <p>12 Q. Did they tell you anything at that stage about what they</p> <p>13 needed from you?</p> <p>14 A. No. I can't recall how long it was before I located</p> <p>15 Nick Layton, and we then discussed what would be</p> <p>16 required from the local authority.</p> <p>17 So at that stage, I mean, I sort of gave them my</p> <p>18 contact details. As far as I remember, I probably gave</p> <p>19 them my mobile phone number, and obviously said, "I'm on</p> <p>20 the scene, and if there's anything you want, please get</p> <p>21 in contact."</p> <p>22 Obviously I was told about the Silver meeting, so</p> <p>23 I would then be aware when the next Silver meeting was</p> <p>24 going to take place.</p> <p>25 Q. So at the time of your arrival, did they tell you that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 03.10?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, that makes sense.</p> <p>3 Q. Does that mean that you're clear in your recollection</p> <p>4 that you didn't attend the first TCM?</p> <p>5 A. That's correct, yes, I didn't.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you attend any of the TCMs during the time that</p> <p>7 Nick Layton was present at the incident?</p> <p>8 A. As I recall, I think the first one I attended was the</p> <p>9 one approximately 0710 hours.</p> <p>10 Q. That's after Nick Layton had left?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. I see.</p> <p>13 When you met up with Nick Layton, you say that he</p> <p>14 told you that he had had the Silver meeting and that</p> <p>15 approximately 100 people were still believed to be</p> <p>16 inside Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>17 Did he tell you anything else as to what had</p> <p>18 transpired at that first Silver meeting?</p> <p>19 A. Not really, no. I mean, he did tell me that --</p> <p>20 obviously in our role of looking at reception centres,</p> <p>21 where we're going to house people who had been evacuated</p> <p>22 from the tower, he did tell me that there had been one</p> <p>23 premises on Shepherd's Bush Green set up, which</p> <p>24 I believe may have been a pub or similar premises, and</p> <p>25 they'd had that particular -- they'd, if you like,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 the first Silver meeting had happened yet or was in</p> <p>2 progress or was about to happen?</p> <p>3 A. I got the impression that Nick Layton had probably just</p> <p>4 come from one meeting, so one had recently taken place,</p> <p>5 and I obviously wasn't anticipating the next one for at</p> <p>6 least an hour.</p> <p>7 Q. We can follow this through because you then say in 8.4</p> <p>8 that you went to the Kensington Leisure Centre. Then in</p> <p>9 8.5 of your statement, on the screen there towards the</p> <p>10 bottom:</p> <p>11 "8.5. I returned to the Silver Command vehicle and</p> <p>12 met up with Nickolas Layton, who was acting as LALO. He</p> <p>13 informed me that he had attended at a 'Silver' meeting</p> <p>14 at 03.15hrs and that approx. 100 people were believed to</p> <p>15 still be inside Grenfell Tower."</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Was this the first occasion on which you met Nick Layton</p> <p>18 on the scene?</p> <p>19 A. Sorry, was this the ...?</p> <p>20 Q. First occasion at which you met Nick Layton?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, I believe so.</p> <p>22 Q. We know this meeting finished at or around 03.32.</p> <p>23 I don't need to show you the log that the LFB made for</p> <p>24 that. But would that sound about right to you as to</p> <p>25 when you met Nick Layton first, having arrived at around</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 volunteered their premises to be set up.</p> <p>2 Q. Is that Belushi's?</p> <p>3 A. I believe so, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. At the stage you met Nick Layton, did you discuss your</p> <p>5 respective responsibilities in carrying out your LALO</p> <p>6 roles?</p> <p>7 A. Only in general terms, you know, I was happy for Nick to</p> <p>8 carry on as the primary LALO, if you like.</p> <p>9 Q. Yes.</p> <p>10 A. Which gave me a little bit of time to look at the</p> <p>11 scenario around the scene and sort out a few other</p> <p>12 matters.</p> <p>13 Q. What did you agree or discuss between yourselves about</p> <p>14 what you would do?</p> <p>15 A. I was looking at obviously premises which we could use</p> <p>16 for evacuating people to, and obviously the primary one</p> <p>17 there was the Kensington Leisure Centre. But when I got</p> <p>18 there, it was obvious that it had been entered and it</p> <p>19 was being used by fire service and the police, and that</p> <p>20 obviously was not going to be a suitable location to put</p> <p>21 residents in.</p> <p>22 Also, it was in my opinion far too close to the</p> <p>23 tower, because at that stage we didn't know whether</p> <p>24 there was a danger of any form of collapse.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you discuss the risk of collapse with Nick Layton at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 that first meeting with him after the first Silver</p> <p>2 meeting?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I can't recall if I discussed it. Obviously because of</b></p> <p>4 <b>the horrendous nature of the fire, and obviously when</b></p> <p>5 <b>I arrived I'd never experienced anything like that on</b></p> <p>6 <b>that scale, it was in my mind that there could be</b></p> <p>7 <b>a danger of certainly debris falling and there could be</b></p> <p>8 <b>a danger of collapse, yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Did you have a discussion with Nick Layton at that stage</p> <p>10 about the need to have a dangerous structures engineer</p> <p>11 present?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Not that I recall.</b></p> <p>13 Q. I'm going to turn to the TMO and just ask you, first of</p> <p>14 all, to look at paragraph 9 of your statement.</p> <p>15 You say there, at the top of page 5 -- we can have</p> <p>16 this expanded for you so you can see it on the screen:</p> <p>17 "9. I believe that the Kensington &amp; Chelsea Tenant</p> <p>18 Management Organisation ('TMO') also have some form of</p> <p>19 emergency call out system. There were representatives</p> <p>20 from the TMO on site from early on."</p> <p>21 First of all, do you know what the TMO's emergency</p> <p>22 call-out system is or was?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, only in very basic detail. I mean, I met the one</b></p> <p>24 <b>TMO rep there, Hash, and I'm still not quite sure what</b></p> <p>25 <b>his role was, but I understood he had a role in the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 That's, I think, Hash Chamchoun.</p> <p>2 <b>A. I believe so, yes. I didn't know his name at the time.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Had you ever met him before?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Where did you make that contact with Hash?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Again, it was outside the Fire Brigade Silver Command</b></p> <p>7 <b>vehicle, and I think obviously he was with</b></p> <p>8 <b>Nickolas Layton when I first met Nicholas.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Who introduced Hash to you? Did he introduce himself?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I believe that was Nickolas.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Did you have any discussion with Hash?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Only in the sort of vaguest terms, to ensure that he was</b></p> <p>13 <b>in contact with the rest of the TMO, if you like.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Did you ask him anything specific, or did you ask him</p> <p>15 for anything specific?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Not at that stage, no. You know, it was obvious he had</b></p> <p>17 <b>knowledge of the neighbourhood, but his other role, I'm</b></p> <p>18 <b>not sure of.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Was he there when you arrived or did he arrive --</p> <p>20 <b>A. I think he was probably there. I mean, obviously he was</b></p> <p>21 <b>there with Nickolas when I first met Nickolas.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did you provide him with a radio or some kind of means</p> <p>23 of communication?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I did, yes. I brought a couple of our spare council</b></p> <p>25 <b>radios with me to the scene and I gave them a radio each</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 <b>management of the Lancaster West Estate.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did you know on the night whether or not the TMO had</p> <p>3 activated their own emergency plan?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Not until later, you know, a lot later in the day.</b></p> <p>5 Q. What did you discover later in the day, that they had or</p> <p>6 hadn't activated their own emergency plan?</p> <p>7 <b>A. When I spoke to -- I obviously spoke to Mr Black, the</b></p> <p>8 <b>chief executive, who was on the scene at a fairly early</b></p> <p>9 <b>stage, and Teresa Brown, and in speaking to them, it was</b></p> <p>10 <b>obvious that they had called out, if you like, a number</b></p> <p>11 <b>of members of staff to assist, either at the scene or</b></p> <p>12 <b>back at the sort of TMO offices.</b></p> <p>13 <b>So it was apparent to me that they were aware of the</b></p> <p>14 <b>seriousness of the situation. Whether they'd got</b></p> <p>15 <b>a formal call-out procedure or not, I'm not sure, but</b></p> <p>16 <b>they were getting the staff in, if you like.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Just standing back from it for a moment, did you know on</p> <p>18 the night would happen if they had their own plan and</p> <p>19 activated it, how that would link with your plan?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Not specifically, no.</b></p> <p>21 Q. At paragraph 9 of your statement that we're on, you go</p> <p>22 on to say:</p> <p>23 "Around the time I met with Nickolas Layton, I also</p> <p>24 made contact with someone whom I only knew as 'Hash' —</p> <p>25 I believe that he was a warden from the TMO."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 <b>just to hopefully facilitate better communication.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Who would Hash have been able to communicate with by</p> <p>3 using the radio you gave him?</p> <p>4 <b>A. The council radio system, which is primarily used by the</b></p> <p>5 <b>parks police but also by neighbourhood wardens and</b></p> <p>6 <b>out-of-office services like that, is on what is called</b></p> <p>7 <b>a talk-through system, so anybody can talk to anybody</b></p> <p>8 <b>else. It's monitored by the 24/7 CCTV room in</b></p> <p>9 <b>Hammersmith town hall, which covers both boroughs. So</b></p> <p>10 <b>it's a useful way of obviously communicating with other</b></p> <p>11 <b>council staff.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Does that mean that Hash Chamchoun, if he broadcast</p> <p>13 a message over the radio you gave him, could be heard by</p> <p>14 those RBKC officers who had their radios with them and</p> <p>15 on?</p> <p>16 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Okay.</p> <p>18 You then go on in the same paragraph of your</p> <p>19 statement -- second statement, paragraph 9, page 5 -- to</p> <p>20 say:</p> <p>21 "TMO representatives were not allowed into the</p> <p>22 Silver meetings, so as LALO we also had to act as the</p> <p>23 liaison between the TMO and the emergency services.</p> <p>24 Robert Black, the Chief Executive of the TMO and</p> <p>25 Teresa Brown (also of the TMO) were in attendance."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 First of all, do you remember what time Robert Black 2 arrived?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I can't recall exactly. I mean, I think he was in the 4 vicinity in advance of the Silver meeting at 07.10.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 <b>A. So maybe between 06.30 and 07.00.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Roughly what time do you recall you were aware of his 8 presence at the incident?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Again, I would think -- I mean, I came back to the 10 Silver vehicle probably 10 to 20 minutes before the 11 07.10 meeting. As I recall -- it's a bit difficult 12 obviously to -- because I obviously met an awful lot of 13 people on the night, but I have a recollection that 14 I did meet him and Teresa Brown before that 07.10 15 meeting.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Do you have a recollection of meeting either of those 17 individuals at any stage prior to that 20-minute point 18 prior to the meeting?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yeah, not that I can recall.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Do you remember what the first matter that you discussed 21 with them was, either of them?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I think obviously they came to me as the council 23 representative to offer their services and say that they 24 were at the scene.</b></p> <p>25 <b>So I think at that stage I knew that the 07.10</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 Q. Was there any discussion at the time that you can recall 2 about whether the TMO should've been at any of those 3 Silver meetings?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Not that I can recall.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Were you aware at any time before Nick Layton left the 6 scene that he had been asking Robert Black for details 7 of residents of Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I don't believe that was specifically mentioned to me at 9 that stage.</b></p> <p>10 Q. What about details of the residents who were at rest 11 centres?</p> <p>12 <b>A. That was -- I mean, again, as I say, I cannot recall 13 whether that was specifically asked for.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Were you aware that requests that had been made by 15 Nick Layton to the TMO for a list of residents of the 16 tower were outstanding by the time of the third TCM at 17 05.50? Is that something you knew?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Again, I can't recall that.</b></p> <p>19 Q. When or after Nick Layton left the scene, do you 20 remember following up the question or chasing the TMO 21 for a list of residents?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I did at some stage ask them for that list of residents. 23 I've got the feeling that that was, though, after the 24 07.10 meeting.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Do you remember observing any direct contact between the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 meeting was about to take place, and then I think what 2 I said to them was obviously "After that meeting, I'll 3 get back to you", and, you know, it made sense then to 4 attend that meeting, find out what the requirements from 5 the fire service were and then speak to the TMO 6 representatives.</p> <p>7 Q. Had you ever come across Robert Black or Teresa Brown 8 before?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Not personally. I mean, I think I may have met him at 10 one meeting, but only in passing, if you like.</b></p> <p>11 Q. You say, as I've just read to you, that the TMO 12 representatives were not allowed into Silver meetings. 13 Why is that?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I think because of the major incident structure, the key 15 participants obviously are the emergency services and 16 the council as a key partner within that. So other 17 organisations who could assist and may well have a part 18 later on in the incident are not necessarily invited to 19 that meeting.</b></p> <p>20 <b>Obviously people like the gas service and London 21 Transport and various utilities, if you like, can be 22 party to that meeting, but they're not always invited to 23 every meeting. It depends. The Fire Brigade commander 24 will have the ultimate say as to who comes to that 25 meeting.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 TMO staff and the emergency services?</p> <p>2 <b>A. At some stage I was made aware that Mr Black had on his 3 phone a floor plan of part of the tower, and I think he 4 then spoke through the hatch -- so there is a sort of 5 hatch on the Silver vehicle, whereby Fire Brigade can 6 speak to anybody outside the vehicle, and I recall at 7 some stage that he was speaking with them about what he 8 may have got on his mobile phone. But I can't recall 9 the time that that took place.</b></p> <p>10 Q. We'll come back to that in a minute and follow that up. 11 Before I do, can I ask you to look at paragraph 11 12 of your statement.</p> <p>13 Just summarising it there, you set out there the 14 arrangements you made for other parks police constables, 15 including two experienced officers, to attend the scene. 16 They arrived at 07.40. You go on to say Tilbury and 17 Pullan arrived about 07.40.</p> <p>18 Does that mean that for a period until their 19 arrival, you were actually the sole LALO at the scene?</p> <p>20 <b>A. It does, yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Were there any outstanding priorities that you recall 22 you had to address once he had gone but before they 23 arrived?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I think obviously the actions from the 07.10 meeting 25 were the ones that I was trying to get sorted out at</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 <b>that stage.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember what those were?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I believe one of them was the request from the Fire</b></p> <p>4 <b>Brigade -- the most urgent request was the one for plans</b></p> <p>5 <b>of the building.</b></p> <p>6 Q. We'll come to that.</p> <p>7 Before I do, just a couple of questions.</p> <p>8 Can you help me with whether you know whether</p> <p>9 Mr Black or, indeed, Teresa Brown had asked anybody else</p> <p>10 within the TMO for a list of residents?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I don't. I mean, most of the requests for the TMO</b></p> <p>12 <b>I passed on to Teresa Brown.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 <b>A. But what happened subsequently, who she asked,</b></p> <p>15 <b>I wouldn't know.</b></p> <p>16 Q. We come then to the fourth TCM Silver at 07.13 or so.</p> <p>17 <b>A. Right.</b></p> <p>18 Q. I want to take you to your log, which is RBK00028838.</p> <p>19 This starts, I think, on page 4 -- correct me if I'm</p> <p>20 wrong -- in the bottom part of the document, underneath</p> <p>21 the spiral bind, halfway down:</p> <p>22 "07.10. Silver [meeting]."</p> <p>23 Is that right?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. So this is your record, is it, of that meeting that you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 <b>indication that I had actioned that by actually</b></p> <p>2 <b>requesting that from the TMO.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Going back to your statement if I can, please, on</p> <p>4 page 6, you say in paragraph 11.1 there:</p> <p>5 "11.1. Nickolas Layton had to leave the scene at</p> <p>6 approx. 06.30hrs as he had to go to the Town Hall and</p> <p>7 unlock it in readiness for the staff arriving that day."</p> <p>8 Just pausing there.</p> <p>9 Nickolas Layton in his statement says he left about</p> <p>10 7.00 am.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Who do you think is right?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I think I probably lost sight of him around about 06.30,</b></p> <p>14 <b>so it could well -- and obviously I don't know how he</b></p> <p>15 <b>got back to the town hall, whether he had to walk back</b></p> <p>16 <b>there or ...</b></p> <p>17 Q. In that same paragraph, if one looks about two-thirds of</p> <p>18 the way down it, paragraph 11.1, you say:</p> <p>19 "It was at this meeting that the LFB Commander</p> <p>20 indicated that there was likely to be 'significant</p> <p>21 fatalities'. I was also asked to obtain a copy of the</p> <p>22 Electoral Roll for Grenfell Tower from RBKC as well as a</p> <p>23 Floor Plan from the TMO -- this was the first time these</p> <p>24 requests had been made."</p> <p>25 Do you mean there that this was the first time you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 were taking -- is this right? -- contemporaneously with</p> <p>2 the meeting?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes, I tried to -- obviously the Silver Command vehicle</b></p> <p>4 <b>is very cramped and there were probably a dozen or more</b></p> <p>5 <b>people in there, so I am trying to obviously scribble as</b></p> <p>6 <b>much as I can down in that limited space.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Going over the page to page 5, do your notes continue</p> <p>8 where you're recording what was happening at that</p> <p>9 meeting?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Picking it up at the bottom, or towards the bottom of</p> <p>12 page 5, you can see there is a pair of asterisks,</p> <p>13 "* Action" and then "* electoral roll?"</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Does that record that you were asked to obtain a copy of</p> <p>16 the electoral roll?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 11.1 that you</p> <p>19 were also asked for a floor plan from the TMO.</p> <p>20 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Is the prompt for that that we see that recorded in your</p> <p>22 contemporaneous note?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. There's a tick next to that; what does that signify?</p> <p>25 <b>A. It's difficult to recall now, I think it was my</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 had been asked or do you mean that this was the first</p> <p>2 time RBKC had been asked?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Certainly it was the first time I had been asked, and</b></p> <p>4 <b>I don't recall Nick Layton telling me that he had been</b></p> <p>5 <b>asked before. But that's ...</b></p> <p>6 Q. In terms of a floor plan, again, do you think that was</p> <p>7 the first time that RBKC had been asked?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I wouldn't be able to say that with any certainty</b></p> <p>9 <b>because obviously there are other methods of</b></p> <p>10 <b>communications. So, you know, somebody else from RBKC</b></p> <p>11 <b>could've been asked by somebody from the TMO via another</b></p> <p>12 <b>channel.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 <b>A. But for me as LALO, that was the first request that had</b></p> <p>15 <b>been made to me in that role.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 I'm just going to play to you, if I can, some</p> <p>18 footage which was taken on Inspector Thatcher's</p> <p>19 body-worn video of this part of that meeting, its</p> <p>20 INQ00000518.</p> <p>21 It's an adjusted time of 07.29.45 to 07.30.50, so</p> <p>22 it's just over a minute.</p> <p>23 If we can please have that. What I am going to be</p> <p>24 looking at is what is being said about plans, if I can.</p> <p>25 (Video Played)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 First of all, you've heard him say there -- first of</p> <p>2 all to identify yourself in that footage.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. You were there. You were the gentleman just towards the</p> <p>5 right of the frame.</p> <p>6 <b>A. I was, yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Do you recall Incident Commander Roe saying, "We have</p> <p>8 been asking for plans for a very long time"?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I do, yes, and obviously at that stage I thought it</b></p> <p>10 <b>inappropriate to sort of query that because it was very</b></p> <p>11 <b>apparent from his statement that that was a major demand</b></p> <p>12 <b>from the fire service, and I suppose my reaction to that</b></p> <p>13 <b>was: well, I may not have heard that request before, but</b></p> <p>14 <b>I'll certainly do my best to action it.</b></p> <p>15 Q. It sounds as if you had already discussed the matter of</p> <p>16 plans with somebody at the TMO. Is that right or --</p> <p>17 <b>A. Again, I don't have a recollection of that. I mean, the</b></p> <p>18 <b>recollection I do have is I came away from that 07.10</b></p> <p>19 <b>meeting with a clear message ringing in my ears that the</b></p> <p>20 <b>Fire Brigade wanted those plans, and that's when I spoke</b></p> <p>21 <b>to Teresa Brown.</b></p> <p>22 Q. There's a reference to plans being available on a mobile</p> <p>23 phone. Can you assist us with that?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes, I'm not quite sure how I found out about that, but</b></p> <p>25 <b>certainly Robert Black had on his mobile phone, it would</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 Q. I was going to put it to you: is it possible that your</p> <p>2 07.40 is wrong and that, in fact, you had come to learn</p> <p>3 that Robert Black had a copy of the plans of a floor on</p> <p>4 his phone prior to the start of this meeting?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes, that is possible, although I've got the</b></p> <p>6 <b>recollection that he didn't deliver that mobile phone to</b></p> <p>7 <b>the Fire Brigade until after that 07.10 meeting.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Do you know how you were made aware that Robert Black</p> <p>9 had a copy of the plans of one floor on his phone?</p> <p>10 <b>A. You know, again, I think it must have just been in</b></p> <p>11 <b>conversation when I was liaising with the TMO team, and</b></p> <p>12 <b>somehow I obviously must have been made aware of that.</b></p> <p>13 Q. So is it possible that you had discussed building plans</p> <p>14 with the TMO prior to that Silver TCM which started at</p> <p>15 07.30?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes, that is possible, yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Following this Silver TCM, did you action the request to</p> <p>18 get plans which the incident commander had underlined?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes. As far as I recall, I passed that request back</b></p> <p>20 <b>so -- I think later on -- I wasn't sure at that stage</b></p> <p>21 <b>whether the borough emergency control centre, the BECC,</b></p> <p>22 <b>had actually been set up, and I think I have got a time</b></p> <p>23 <b>later on in my statement when I became aware that that</b></p> <p>24 <b>had been set up.</b></p> <p>25 <b>So I was aware that the TMO, especially</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 appear, a plan of at least one floor of the tower. Now,</p> <p>2 how that had arrived, whether that had been e-mailed to</p> <p>3 him or WhatsApped or whatever, I don't know, or whether</p> <p>4 it was just something he had on his phone anyhow, but</p> <p>5 once I discovered that, it obviously made sense to tell</p> <p>6 the fire service that that was the case, and make</p> <p>7 arrangements for Mr Black to speak with them directly.</p> <p>8 Q. Going back to your statement, please, at paragraph 11.3,</p> <p>9 on page 6.</p> <p>10 If we can wait to get that up on the screen.</p> <p>11 You say:</p> <p>12 "11.3. At approximately 07.40hrs I was made aware</p> <p>13 that Robert Black had a copy of the plan of one floor on</p> <p>14 his mobile phone."</p> <p>15 Just pausing there, where do you get the</p> <p>16 approximately 07.40 from?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes, I mean, that was obviously my recollection, that</b></p> <p>18 <b>was rough the time that I became aware of that.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Did you become aware of that during the meeting or</p> <p>20 before this meeting that we've seen videoed?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes, I mean, I think I did mention something about</b></p> <p>22 <b>a mobile phone in that clip.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Yes.</p> <p>24 <b>A. So maybe, you know, my recollection of the time was</b></p> <p>25 <b>wrong at that particular juncture.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 Teresa Brown, were on the scene, and it made far more</p> <p>2 sense, if you like, to speak with them, as it was far</p> <p>3 more likely that they would have access to plans of the</p> <p>4 tower than maybe somebody might have back at the town</p> <p>5 hall.</p> <p>6 Q. You say at paragraph 11.3:</p> <p>7 "I recall him speaking to the fire officer at Silver</p> <p>8 Command and I believe he forwarded the plan to the</p> <p>9 requested fire email address, although I never saw</p> <p>10 a hard copy of the plans."</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember whether that discussion you recall</p> <p>13 between him and the fire officer happened before or</p> <p>14 after this Silver meeting?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I've still got the recollection that that happened after</b></p> <p>16 <b>the Silver meeting.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Did you know that Robert Black had sent plans to the</p> <p>18 dangerous structure engineer at or about 06.15?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did anybody from the TMO, including Mr Black, tell you</p> <p>21 that?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Not that I recall, no.</b></p> <p>23 Q. You say you recall him speaking to the fire officer and</p> <p>24 you believe he forwarded the plan. Do you know why you</p> <p>25 were not used as the conduit between the TMO and the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 London Fire Brigade for the forwarding of those plans as 2 the LALO?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No. I mean, all I can recall is the fact that there was 4 discussion between Mr Black and the fire control truck 5 after the 07.10 meeting.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Did you ever see any plans of Grenfell Tower on the 7 night?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I believe at some stage they did appear in the Silver 9 Command vehicle.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Do you remember when?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I don't.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Can I ask you to look at something. It's LFB00001968. 13 I'd like you to be taken, please, to page 49.</p> <p>14 Do you recognise that as a plan sent to the LFB at 15 any stage?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Only because I have seen that on footage which has 17 already been shown to this inquiry.</b></p> <p>18 Q. But not from the night itself?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Not at the time, yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Page 51, please.</p> <p>21 Same question again: do you recognise that as a plan 22 sent to the LFB?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, again, same answer, really. I mean, I realise from 24 the footage that's been shown at some stage it was in 25 the Silver Command truck, and I must have been in the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 be kept and how easy they were to access?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No. I mean, obviously it would be very unlikely that 3 there would be a member of the housing staff in the town 4 hall at that time unless they'd been specifically called 5 in by the BECC or any other agency or the surveyor. So 6 in my mind, it was always more likely that copies of the 7 plans would be found with the TMO rather than with the 8 council.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you remember plans being brought back to the incident 10 ground?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I don't, not physically.</b></p> <p>12 Q. You don't?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Were you aware of something called a premises 15 information box at Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>16 <b>A. I've only been aware of that since the inquiry has been 17 in progress, but I wasn't aware of it before.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Was there one?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Not as far as I know. I mean, personally I'd only 20 visited Grenfell Tower once before, and that was to 21 attend a meeting in one of the meeting rooms on the 22 ground floor. So that was my only actual physical 23 experience of the tower before the date of the fire.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Did you know prior to the Silver meeting at 07.13 that 25 there was no premises information box at Grenfell Tower?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 <b>Silver Command truck after it had been displayed within 2 there, but in all honesty I can't recall seeing it 3 displayed. It wasn't brought to my attention, shall we 4 say.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Let's have a look and see what was displayed. We have 6 a photograph for you, MET00018729.</p> <p>7 I should tell you what this is. This is 8 a photograph taken from within CU8, the command unit you 9 were at, and there's a whiteboard. To the right of the 10 whiteboard we can see pinned up or clipped up to it is 11 a list of plans or set of plans showing four floors of 12 the tower.</p> <p>13 Is that what you recall seeing in the command unit?</p> <p>14 <b>A. As I say, I can't in all honesty recall seeing it. 15 I know it must have been there, but because all the 16 meetings I went to were -- you were trying to cram 17 an awful lot of people into a very small space. Unless 18 the fire commander was actually pointing to the 19 whiteboard, then I probably wasn't aware of it.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did you know that by -- there's a reason for me asking 21 you this -- 07.31 the dangerous structures engineer, 22 John Allen, had returned to Kensington town hall to look 23 for a copy of the plans?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I wasn't aware of that at that stage.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Do you know from your experience where these plans might</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No, I can't recall that being specifically mentioned at 2 that stage.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did it occur to you to say, "Well, there should be 4 a premises information box here, surely the plans are in 5 it"?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Looking back on it in hindsight, logically it would be 7 good if there had been, you know, plans immediately 8 available, but from my own knowledge, I didn't know that 9 that was the case. Or I did not know either.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Slightly different topic, short topic: list of 11 residents.</p> <p>12 We've seen your log referring to the request for the 13 electoral roll. In your witness statement at 14 paragraph 11.2, page 6, in the last sentence: 15 "... I requested them to obtain and provide a copy 16 of the Electoral Roll for Grenfell Tower."</p> <p>17 The "them" there I think is the BECC; is that right?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Correct, yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Was one supplied?</p> <p>20 <b>A. That I don't know.</b></p> <p>21 Q. We saw earlier that you had made a note at the 07.13 22 meeting against -- well, let's have a look at it, 23 perhaps, rather than guessing.</p> <p>24 If you go RBK00028838 and turn back to page 5, is 25 the easiest way to do this, you can see that in your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 note of that meeting -- it's on page 5 at the bottom, we</p> <p>2 looked at this before -- there was a tick next to floor</p> <p>3 plans, but you put a question mark next to</p> <p>4 electoral roll.</p> <p>5 What does the absence of the tick against</p> <p>6 electoral roll tell us, if anything?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I mean, I suppose at that stage I still don't know</b></p> <p>8 <b>whether the electoral roll these days is an electronic</b></p> <p>9 <b>document rather than a hard copy. I rather suspect it</b></p> <p>10 <b>is. All I can say is I was probably questioning myself</b></p> <p>11 <b>as to whether that electoral roll was accessible. But</b></p> <p>12 <b>I put the request in to the BECC and what happened from</b></p> <p>13 <b>then, I don't know.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Looking at the Roe log of the meeting of the tactical</p> <p>15 co-ordination group at 08.45, you'll find this at</p> <p>16 MET00005404, page 8.</p> <p>17 At 08.45, a quarter of the way down the page --</p> <p>18 let's have that highlighted for you on the screen --</p> <p>19 TCM, you can see you're in attendance there,</p> <p>20 "Rumble LALO".</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Then two-thirds of the way down the page, if you can</p> <p>23 just scroll down, it says there:</p> <p>24 "Local Authority - numbers, trying to rationalise</p> <p>25 rest centres. List asked for at last Silver is being</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 I'm in your hands as to whether we break.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: To finish the witness?</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: To finish the witness, subject to any further</p> <p>4 questions.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I imagine, Mr Rumble, you would like</p> <p>6 to finish before we break for lunch, even if we have to</p> <p>7 run on a little bit.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: That'd be very nice. Indeed, yes.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Let's see if we can do that.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much.</p> <p>11 You said in your last answer that you refer to when</p> <p>12 you got hold of the list in your statement. If I can</p> <p>13 ask you just to look at that.</p> <p>14 I think it's paragraph 13.2 in your second</p> <p>15 statement, which you'll find on page 7.</p> <p>16 You say there, paragraph 13.2:</p> <p>17 "13.2. A little later, but before 11.00hrs I was</p> <p>18 handed a list of all of the tenants of Grenfell Tower by</p> <p>19 Teresa Brown. I remember that this was a computer</p> <p>20 spreadsheet printout on A3 size paper and it contained a</p> <p>21 list of the residents' names. It was given to me at the</p> <p>22 Silver truck and I informed Silver Control that I had</p> <p>23 the list."</p> <p>24 Can I ask you please to be shown RBK00014629.</p> <p>25 Is that the document you're referring to, the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 given to FSG Sector."</p> <p>2 Do you remember what that was about?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No. I mean, I wouldn't know what FSG sector actually</b></p> <p>4 <b>stood for because that may well be a Fire Brigade term.</b></p> <p>5 <b>What I obviously did do at each of those meetings</b></p> <p>6 <b>was to try and get as comprehensive a list as I could of</b></p> <p>7 <b>the rest centres that were operating, and that was</b></p> <p>8 <b>a constantly changing situation, you know, because the</b></p> <p>9 <b>community acted magnificently on the night, and premises</b></p> <p>10 <b>were opening up to accommodate people within probably</b></p> <p>11 <b>a sort of half-mile to actually a mile radius from the</b></p> <p>12 <b>tower. So it was a little bit difficult to try and keep</b></p> <p>13 <b>up-to-date with where people were actually being taken</b></p> <p>14 <b>to. It was a constantly changing situation.</b></p> <p>15 Q. One more question.</p> <p>16 The list that's referred to here in this note, does</p> <p>17 that trigger any recollection about whether there was</p> <p>18 a discussion about the list of residents that had been</p> <p>19 asked for at last being supplied?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes, it could well be. I mean, I know later on in my</b></p> <p>21 <b>statement I do refer to when I actually got hold of the</b></p> <p>22 <b>list from the TMO.</b></p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>24 Mr Chairman, I just noted the time. I have about</p> <p>25 5 minutes of questions left but no more than that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 spreadsheet that you're referring to?</p> <p>2 <b>A. It is, and the post-it note was my notes with my</b></p> <p>3 <b>scribbled signature on the bottom confirming that.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Ah, that's you?</p> <p>5 <b>A. It is.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 That, looking at it, simply shows the number of</p> <p>8 people registered to each flat, doesn't it? It doesn't</p> <p>9 show you the names and any details of the residents.</p> <p>10 Was that what you were expecting?</p> <p>11 <b>A. At that stage -- I have got the recollection that there</b></p> <p>12 <b>was another document, probably A4 in size, which</b></p> <p>13 <b>I believe did contain some names, and I believe both</b></p> <p>14 <b>documents were given to me at the same time.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Can I ask you, in the light of that answer, then, to be</p> <p>16 shown LFB00024371.</p> <p>17 Is that the document you were referring to in your</p> <p>18 last answer, the A4 document?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I believe so.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Do you remember when you received that?</p> <p>21 <b>A. To the best of my recollection, I got both documents at</b></p> <p>22 <b>the same time.</b></p> <p>23 Q. There's another document as well, and I'm sorry to</p> <p>24 bombard you with them, LFB00024372.</p> <p>25 We'll just look at the first page of that. Again,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>



<p>1 it's another list with similar information on it.</p> <p>2 Do you recall seeing that?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I believe so, but obviously I only had, if you like,</b></p> <p>4 <b>physical control of these documents for a very short</b></p> <p>5 <b>number of minutes, because once the Silver control were</b></p> <p>6 <b>aware that they were available, they wanted them</b></p> <p>7 <b>transferred to the Bronze vehicle, which I believe was</b></p> <p>8 <b>in Grenfell Road itself.</b></p> <p>9 Q. You refer to a Bronze vehicle just now and, indeed, in</p> <p>10 your witness statement at paragraph 11.3.</p> <p>11 <b>A. (Nodded assent)</b></p> <p>12 Q. What was the Bronze vehicle that you're referring to?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Well, it was another London Fire Brigade control vehicle</b></p> <p>14 <b>which was -- as I say, I believe it was located in</b></p> <p>15 <b>Grenfell Road, so it was far closer to the tower than</b></p> <p>16 <b>the one in Bomore Road.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Had that been there throughout your involvement?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, it had been, yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Do you know whether you heard anybody describe that as</p> <p>20 the FSG command unit?</p> <p>21 <b>A. It could well have been. I mean, I was sort of trying</b></p> <p>22 <b>to stick to the Gold, Silver, Bronze designations, so</b></p> <p>23 <b>I sort of knew it as the Bronze vehicle.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Who told you that it was the Bronze vehicle?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Oh, I suppose the fire service told me where it was and</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 questions.</p> <p>2 The normal routine is that I then pause for</p> <p>3 a few minutes just to check whether I have any</p> <p>4 questions, and normally the chairman rises.</p> <p>5 Mr Chairman, I'm in your hands as to what we do.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think that's the best course.</p> <p>7 I feel people are sometimes rather inhibited if the</p> <p>8 witness and I are sitting here overhearing your</p> <p>9 conversations.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Very good.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So, Mr Rumble, Mr Millett needs</p> <p>12 a couple of minutes to check he's asked all the</p> <p>13 questions.</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Indeed, absolutely.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'll rise for just under 5 minutes,</p> <p>16 we'll get back in here before 1.15 and mop up anything</p> <p>17 that is left over. All right?</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: Lovely, okay.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Please don't talk to anyone about</p> <p>20 your evidence while you're out of the room, and the</p> <p>21 usher will now take you to a quiet place.</p> <p>22 THE WITNESS: I won't. Thank you.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>24 Mr Millett, I'm going to say 1.15, or sooner if</p> <p>25 possible.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 <b>then I went and found it.</b></p> <p>2 Q. You say also in your second statement at paragraph 13.2</p> <p>3 on page 7, the second part of that paragraph:</p> <p>4 "I was asked to take it to the Bronze vehicle, which</p> <p>5 I did and I asked Teresa if she could email it to the</p> <p>6 designated LFB email address ..."</p> <p>7 Did you give her that address or did you just say,</p> <p>8 "Send it to the designated LFB address"?</p> <p>9 <b>A. As far as I recall, I did give her the actual address,</b></p> <p>10 <b>and I think the actual e-mail address may well have been</b></p> <p>11 <b>on my notes at the time, my log. I can't recall for</b></p> <p>12 <b>certain, but ...</b></p> <p>13 Q. To the best of your knowledge, did Teresa Brown send</p> <p>14 that information to the e-mail address you gave?</p> <p>15 <b>A. As far as I'm aware, she did.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Roughly what time was this, do you think?</p> <p>17 <b>A. So I would've said it was all within -- sorry, I'm just</b></p> <p>18 <b>trying to think ... so it was probably just before the</b></p> <p>19 <b>11 o'clock Silver Command meeting.</b></p> <p>20 Q. So does that mean that the LFB had no tenant list or</p> <p>21 even a list of numbers per flat before 11 o'clock or so?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Not as far as I'm aware.</b></p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Thank you.</p> <p>24 Mr Rumble, thank you very much for your assistance.</p> <p>25 You'll be glad to know that I've come to the end of my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: We'll bring you back, Mr Chairman, as soon as</p> <p>2 we can.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>4 (1.10 pm)</p> <p>5 (A short break)</p> <p>6 (1.20 pm)</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Rumble, the fact that it</p> <p>8 has taken rather longer than I hoped is a slightly</p> <p>9 ominous sign, but we'll see. There are a few questions.</p> <p>10 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: It won't take very long.</p> <p>12 First of all, Mr Rumble, can I ask you to look at</p> <p>13 paragraph 13.3 of your statement at the foot of page 7.</p> <p>14 You say that during this meeting, that's the Silver</p> <p>15 meeting later in the morning on 14 June, you were asked</p> <p>16 to obtain an asbestos register for the building.</p> <p>17 Who asked you to obtain that?</p> <p>18 <b>A. As far as I recall, it obviously came out of that Silver</b></p> <p>19 <b>meeting, and I would anticipate it would've been</b></p> <p>20 <b>somebody from the London Fire Brigade, but I cannot</b></p> <p>21 <b>recall whom.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did you know why you were being asked?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Not specifically, but obviously they were trying to find</b></p> <p>24 <b>as many documents to do with the premises that would</b></p> <p>25 <b>assist their operation as possible, so this may well</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 <b>have been the logical request.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Do you know even today whether it was provided?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I don't.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Can I ask you then to look at the Lambeth pack that you</p> <p>5 were using, which is RBK00029039.</p> <p>6 We looked intently at your own notes within the</p> <p>7 document, but if you go to the formatted parts of the</p> <p>8 document, page 6 – we looked at page 5 where there was</p> <p>9 METHANE, I should've taken you to page 6:</p> <p>10 "Immediate problems to consider."</p> <p>11 Top of the page, second item down.</p> <p>12 "• Dangerous Structures Officers to assess dangerous</p> <p>13 buildings/civil engineering structures."</p> <p>14 First question: would your use of this document or</p> <p>15 your training or your experience have caused you</p> <p>16 immediately to consider the need for a dangerous</p> <p>17 structure officer?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I believe it would've done, yes. As I say, I cannot</b></p> <p>19 <b>recall – I know obviously at some stage I met</b></p> <p>20 <b>John Allen, the district surveyor, who was performing</b></p> <p>21 <b>that function. I was also relying on what was happening</b></p> <p>22 <b>back at the town hall when the BECC had been set up. So</b></p> <p>23 <b>they too would've had a checklist, if you like, to go</b></p> <p>24 <b>through, which that no doubt would also have been on.</b></p> <p>25 <b>But at the minute I just cannot recall whether</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes. Obviously that went on the checklist, but as</b></p> <p>2 <b>I say, I cannot recall at what stage that engineer was</b></p> <p>3 <b>called, or by whom.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Following the two Silver meetings you were present at,</p> <p>5 did you do anything to follow up what remained</p> <p>6 outstanding that you had asked for at those meetings?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I think I went through my log, and if there was anything</b></p> <p>8 <b>that was deficient in that, I either made a second</b></p> <p>9 <b>request to the BECC or tried to follow it up in some</b></p> <p>10 <b>other way.</b></p> <p>11 Q. How satisfied were you, having done that, that people</p> <p>12 understood what it was that you wanted?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I mean, the one request that I have put in my statement</b></p> <p>14 <b>that I'm not sure was when the Fire Brigade requested</b></p> <p>15 <b>a minivan, and I think that was for the purpose of</b></p> <p>16 <b>transporting firefighters away from the scene for</b></p> <p>17 <b>refreshments and back again.</b></p> <p>18 As far as I'm aware, that request was never</p> <p>19 actioned, so that was something that happened, should</p> <p>20 have been followed up, but I don't know whether it was.</p> <p>21 The other fact, I suppose, I need to highlight is</p> <p>22 that at the stage I was talking to the BECC, I was also</p> <p>23 not aware of how many people might have been in that</p> <p>24 BECC, how many people were actually at the town hall</p> <p>25 able to respond to these requests.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 <b>I specifically asked for one at that stage.</b></p> <p>2 Q. At the time of your arrival, did you think or realise</p> <p>3 that a dangerous structures officer or dangerous</p> <p>4 structures engineer would need to see the building</p> <p>5 straight away to assess whether or not it was in danger</p> <p>6 of collapse?</p> <p>7 <b>A. It was obviously apparent that the building was very</b></p> <p>8 <b>much on fire. I don't have any sort of knowledge of</b></p> <p>9 <b>engineering structures.</b></p> <p>10 I was aware, however, that it was mainly a concrete</p> <p>11 building, it's not as if it was like a wood building.</p> <p>12 But nevertheless, because the fire was behaving very</p> <p>13 unpredictably, there was obviously that danger and</p> <p>14 obviously debris was falling.</p> <p>15 At the time, the debris appeared to be -- I hesitate</p> <p>16 to say light debris -- but it wasn't sort of heavy</p> <p>17 pieces of concrete or metal or wood; it was burnt</p> <p>18 objects, if you like, so obviously the cladding will</p> <p>19 come very much into this -- but as far as I was aware,</p> <p>20 it wasn't apparent that there were large lumps of</p> <p>21 concrete or anything falling of the building at that</p> <p>22 stage.</p> <p>23 Q. So it didn't occur to you in the light of this thing on</p> <p>24 your checklist that you needed to get a dangerous</p> <p>25 structures engineer there straight away?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 Q. Final question: did you know, in your role as LALO or</p> <p>2 indeed otherwise, whether the TMO had a contingency plan</p> <p>3 for a full or partial evacuation of this building?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I was never made aware of that.</b></p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: Mr Rumble, thank you very much. Those are my</p> <p>6 further questions I have for you. I have no other</p> <p>7 questions.</p> <p>8 It just remains for me to thank you very much for</p> <p>9 coming today and giving your evidence to the inquiry and</p> <p>10 assisting us with the our investigations. We're</p> <p>11 extremely grateful. Thank you.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>13 What I would just like to add, sir, is I would like</p> <p>14 to add my sympathy and ongoing thoughts to the survivors</p> <p>15 and relatives of those that have died, and ... it</p> <p>16 obviously will remain in my memory for a long time to</p> <p>17 come.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I am sure it will.</p> <p>19 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We are very grateful to you for</p> <p>21 coming to give your evidence. It's all part of a big</p> <p>22 jigsaw puzzle which we want to build up.</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So to hear what was going on in your</p> <p>25 particular area of responsibility and what was done is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 always very helpful as being part of that overall  2 picture. So thank you very much. I'm sorry we've kept  3 you for a rather late lunch hour.  4 THE WITNESS: No problem.  5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You've now finished and you can  6 leave with the usher. If you would like to go with the  7 usher, she'll look after you.  8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  9 (The witness withdrew)  10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good.  11 Well, it has been rather a long morning, but I think  12 it was a good thing to enable that witness to finish his  13 evidence.  14 We'll break now and resume at 2.30, please.  15 (1.30 pm)  16 (The short adjournment)  17 (2.30 pm)  18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.  19 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, before I call the next witness,  20 there's just something I should say for the record or  21 correct for the record.  22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.  23 MR MILLETT: Which arose out of some questions that I asked  24 Mr Layton this morning about whether or not the question  25 of plans had been raised at any TCM. I believe I put it</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: Good afternoon, Mr Black.  2 Can I start by asking you, please, to give your full  3 name to the chairman.  4 <b>A. My name is Robert Milligan Black.</b>  5 Q. Can I begin by thanking you very much for attending  6 today to help us with our investigations. We very much  7 appreciate it.  8 I'm going to focus with you today on the events on  9 the night of the fire. There are, of course, other  10 areas which we will be wishing to investigate with you  11 in due course, but not today.  12 My questions are intended to be short and simple.  13 Sometimes they're not, they don't work out that way, so  14 if you don't understand the question or you want me to  15 repeat it or put it in a different way, I'm very happy  16 to do that.  17 I should just also say, sometimes witnesses find  18 recalling the events of the night difficult, so if you  19 need a break at any time, just let me know.  20 You've provided one witness statement to the  21 inquiry, and that is TMO10048961. If we can please have  22 that on the screen.  23 Is that the first page of your statement?  24 <b>A. It is.</b>  25 Q. I should just say that we will be looking at documents</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 to him on the basis that there was no record of that  2 issue having been raised at the TCMs. That was correct  3 so far as the contemporaneous records of those meetings  4 go.  5 It was not correct to the extent that it might have  6 included or be understood to have included Assistant  7 Commissioner Andy Roe's own record, which is appendix A  8 to his statement, and I should just give a reference to  9 that, which is LFB0001848[sic] at page 4, where at the  10 03.20 meeting, his recollection, admittedly soon after  11 the event, of that meeting is that he did ask for plans.  12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.  13 MR MILLETT: That will obviously be a matter for you to  14 weigh in due course.  15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you for clarifying that.  16 I think it's important that we do that.  17 MR MILLETT: Yes.  18 Mr Chairman, I now call Mr Robert Black of the TMO.  19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.  20 ROBERT BLACK (sworn)  21 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY  22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Black.  23 Would you like to sit down and make yourself  24 comfortable.  25 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 as we go through your evidence. There are a number of  2 places to see those: you can use the screens at the  3 back, the screen on your desk or your --  4 <b>A. Let's work out what's best for my glasses.</b>  5 Q. If you could turn, please, to the third page of that  6 statement, you'll see a statement of truth over  7 a signature and the date of 22 August 2018.  8 Is that your signature?  9 <b>A. It is, yes.</b>  10 Q. Have you read this witness statement recently?  11 <b>A. Yes.</b>  12 Q. Can you confirm that its contents are true?  13 <b>A. Yes.</b>  14 Q. Can I begin by asking you some questions about your  15 career and your position.  16 It's right, isn't it, that in June 2017 you were the  17 chief executive of the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant  18 Management Organisation?  19 <b>A. I was, yes.</b>  20 Q. You held that role between 2009 and December 2017.  21 <b>A. Yes.</b>  22 Q. Was that a full-time role?  23 <b>A. Yes.</b>  24 Q. Can you describe your career path before 2009?  25 <b>A. Yes. I started working in-house in 1991 with a company</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 called English Churches Housing Group in a programme 2 called the Rough Sleepers Initiative, which was started 3 by the Conservative government. So my first job was 4 a sort of housing officer in a hostel in Pentonville 5 Road which had been opened up for 24 people, rough 6 sleepers. 7 I was an officer for a year, and then within a year 8 I became the project manager of that scheme, and we 9 provided support and care to people right off the 10 streets. 11 I then became manager of a hostel, another rough 12 sleepers' hostel in Kensington and Chelsea, for 90 rough 13 sleepers, which was a sort of move on from the street 14 and I kept that position for a year. 15 Then I got a role as regional housing manager with 16 the same company, the company was called English 17 Churches Housing Group, managing all the hostels and 18 temporary hostels in London. 19 I then became business manager of all the hostels in 20 London when they restructured, north and south. 21 Then I became assistant director of the north 22 region, which covered support, care, sheltered housing 23 and general needs. 24 During that time, I also became the regional 25 assistant director for the south as well, so in a sense</p> <p>Page 141</p>	<p>1 that, you had general needs, sheltered housing and some 2 registered care homes, I think at that time. 3 We provided a full housing management service, which 4 was supporting tenants once they were allocated by RBKC, 5 doing the cleaning of the estates, doing repairs, doing 6 capital investment, managing supported housing and 7 resident engagement. 8 As well as governance, because it's unusual, because 9 it's a tenant management organisation. We were owned by 10 our members, so there were 10,000 homes and everybody 11 was entitled to be a member. We had roughly by the time 12 I left about 5,600. Those members were able to vote at 13 elections to elect a resident who stood for elections to 14 the board. The board was made up of 15 people. Eight 15 of them were residents elected on a three-year cycle. 16 There were three independents appointed by the board and 17 there were four council appointees, which originally 18 were four councillors, but when I joined, they changed 19 it to two councillors and two independent. So overall 20 we had five independent. 21 A large part of my job was managing the membership 22 in terms of governance. It was a huge part because 23 under the TMO legislation, you have to every year hold 24 a ballot of members to ask if you want to continue 25 managing the stock. One of the things when I joined is</p> <p>Page 143</p>
<p>1 I managed the whole north and south region across all 2 the services we provided. 3 I then left that to get a job with a company called 4 Circle 33, where I was director of support and care for 5 a company called Epic Trust, which was a specialist 6 support and care company providing a range of support 7 from, again, hostels up to high care, learning 8 disabilities. 9 Within a year they merged with another company 10 called Anglia and became Circle Anglia, and I became 11 executive director of customer services across the 12 45,000 homes, covering housing management, support and 13 care, asset management and the customer contact centre. 14 The structure was built in to business units, so 15 I manage seven managing directors and a director of 16 asset management. 17 I worked there for five years, and then I got the 18 job with the TMO, Kensington and Chelsea TMO, in 2009, 19 and I worked there until I left on 31 December 2017. 20 Q. What did your role as CEO of the Kensington and Chelsea 21 TMO involve? 22 A. It involved managing the whole organisation. So we were 23 a tenant management organisation, and what was unusual, 24 it didn't just cover one estate, it covered the whole of 25 RBKC's housing stock, so it was 10,000 homes. Within</p> <p>Page 142</p>	<p>1 very few members took part in that ballot, and over the 2 seven/eight years, we increased the membership but also 3 the participation of that membership in both the annual 4 AGM, but also the members election. So I think the last 5 time it was about 33 per cent of the members voted, and 6 the amount of people that voted for board elections rose 7 from on average people getting about 400 votes to 8 getting 800 votes. 9 So the engagement and governance were very linked in 10 terms of actually -- to make sure we could comply with 11 the tenant management legislation, the modular 12 management agreement, the MMA, which we have with RBKC, 13 because RBKC is still the landlord and still the 14 landlord of the tenants, we just have the rights to 15 manage the services. 16 Q. A very general answer to a general question. 17 A bit more specifically, have you ever heard of or 18 are you familiar with the TMO's emergency plan? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Did your role as CEO involve overseeing the TMO carrying 21 out its emergency plan? 22 A. My role would be, as it's part of one of our strategies 23 and policies, to oversee it and make sure it's 24 implemented, if required. 25 Q. Did your role involve liaising with RBKC in respect of</p> <p>Page 144</p>

<p>1 any emergency involving one of RBKC's properties?</p> <p>2 <b>A. The emergency plan had within it a diagram that, be it</b></p> <p>3 <b>during the day or out of hours, contact should be made</b></p> <p>4 <b>with RBKC.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Did your role itself involve liaison with the council</p> <p>6 over that plan?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No. The plan was -- in a sense, I wasn't -- in terms of</b></p> <p>8 <b>the structure of the business, the emergency plan</b></p> <p>9 <b>started from a lower level and worked itself up.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Did you ever instigate or oversee any training or any</p> <p>11 practice on the part of TMO's staff of the functions set</p> <p>12 out in the emergency plan?</p> <p>13 <b>A. We did training in terms of -- sorry, if I step back.</b></p> <p>14 <b>We reviewed the strategy on a regular basis to make</b></p> <p>15 <b>sure that it was still valid, and in terms of the people</b></p> <p>16 <b>taking part who were on call, we were aware of the roles</b></p> <p>17 <b>and responsibilities.</b></p> <p>18 <b>We had an issue in the past about trying to get</b></p> <p>19 <b>people to be on call, because a lot of the people didn't</b></p> <p>20 <b>live in the borough, and once we worked through that</b></p> <p>21 <b>actually you didn't always have to come, it was more</b></p> <p>22 <b>about giving advice either to Pinnacle or the staff on</b></p> <p>23 <b>the ground.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Just following up on your last answer, you say you</p> <p>25 reviewed the strategy on a regular basis.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 plan?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did you yourself receive any training in how that</p> <p>4 emergency plan worked?</p> <p>5 <b>A. We had sessions with the executive where the staff took</b></p> <p>6 <b>us through the plan, outlined the rules in terms of</b></p> <p>7 <b>either an executive level, senior management level,</b></p> <p>8 <b>management level or front-line staff level, and the last</b></p> <p>9 <b>one of those we had was in November 2016.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Did that involve what would happen in the event of</p> <p>11 a major incident?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes. I'm very clear, as the plan is, that it's about</b></p> <p>13 <b>defining what the emergency is. So this emergency plan</b></p> <p>14 <b>can vary from someone's flat being flooded or something</b></p> <p>15 <b>like that, to, again, when we had a small fire at Adair.</b></p> <p>16 <b>But it was always clear that, actually, if it moved</b></p> <p>17 <b>beyond that, then we would have to go to RBKC and seek</b></p> <p>18 <b>their support and help as the strategic authority and</b></p> <p>19 <b>engage with its emergency plan, because they had the</b></p> <p>20 <b>resources and the statutory responsibility.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Did you ever receive any training in something called</p> <p>22 the London Resilience Partnership strategic</p> <p>23 co-ordination protocol?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Have you ever heard of that?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 Can I take you to the emergency plan, please, which</p> <p>2 is TMO10013898 and turn to page 3 in that.</p> <p>3 I'll show you page 1 because it demonstrates what</p> <p>4 we're looking at, Mr Black.</p> <p>5 TMO10013898.</p> <p>6 (Pause)</p> <p>7 Just quickly look back, if we can, to page 1, first</p> <p>8 of all, so that the witness can see what document this</p> <p>9 is.</p> <p>10 So this is the emergency plan.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. It doesn't tell you what date it's as at, but if we go</p> <p>13 back to page 3, please, we can see that version 1</p> <p>14 is August 2004, and then it was revised three times</p> <p>15 after that: once in May 2009, once in May 2015 and once</p> <p>16 in February 2016.</p> <p>17 When you said in your last answer that you reviewed</p> <p>18 it on a regular basis, are you referring to these review</p> <p>19 dates or something more frequent?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. These dates?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I'm referring to those dates.</b></p> <p>23 Q. I asked you questions about training.</p> <p>24 My question was: did you ever instigate or oversee</p> <p>25 yourself any training or practice of TMO's emergency</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I've heard of it as part of flicking through RBKC's</b></p> <p>2 <b>plan. I'm aware there is an escalation within boroughs</b></p> <p>3 <b>up to London and beyond.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Had you heard of it or were you at all familiar with it</p> <p>5 on the night of the fire itself, or is your knowledge</p> <p>6 about this document --</p> <p>7 <b>A. Probably my knowledge is after. I was more aware of</b></p> <p>8 <b>RBKC's plan or it's tri-borough plan.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Same question respect of the LESLP major incident</p> <p>10 manual. As at the night of the fire, were you familiar</p> <p>11 with that document?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Can I then turn to the night of the fire.</p> <p>14 You say in your statement that you have difficulty</p> <p>15 now remembering all details and timings.</p> <p>16 Did you yourself keep any contemporaneous written</p> <p>17 record of the events or your actions on the night of the</p> <p>18 fire?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Is there a reason why not?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No. It just wasn't -- so, again, when I arrived</b></p> <p>22 <b>there -- I don't want to jump too far in your</b></p> <p>23 <b>questions -- that the local authority liaison officers</b></p> <p>24 <b>were in place and they were keeping notes. Therefore</b></p> <p>25 <b>I recognised that the plan had been put in place. My</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 <b>job was really -- I'm not included in the local</b></p> <p>2 <b>authority plan and my job was there to help if I could.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did you make any note or log of your actions after the</p> <p>4 events of the fire but prior to making your witness</p> <p>5 statement for the inquiry?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Is there a reason why you didn't do that?</p> <p>8 <b>A. It was quite chaotic afterwards. There was a lot going</b></p> <p>9 <b>on. Not only were we dealing with the sort of disaster</b></p> <p>10 <b>on the ground, I was also having to deal with governance</b></p> <p>11 <b>and responsibility with my board. So a lot of my time</b></p> <p>12 <b>was working with them because they were obviously</b></p> <p>13 <b>concerned about what had happened, and we were working</b></p> <p>14 <b>with our solicitors to try to understand the situation.</b></p> <p>15 Q. When you prepared your witness statement, Mr Black, did</p> <p>16 you look at any documents to refresh your recollection?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, I didn't have any access to documents because when</b></p> <p>18 <b>I wrote the statement, I had left the organisation,</b></p> <p>19 <b>I don't have links to my e-mails or telephone.</b></p> <p>20 Q. So do we take it from that that when you did your</p> <p>21 statement, you had no documents in front of you at all</p> <p>22 and were working directly from your recollection?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You say -- if I can show you this, please, at</p> <p>25 paragraph 3 of your witness statement -- that you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 "Hash is o's[sic] his way to the ground and u[sic]</p> <p>2 have spoken to Terssa[sic]. I am going in.</p> <p>3 "Robert."</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. How long after receiving the phone call did you send</p> <p>6 that e-mail?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Well, first of all, when I got the phone call, I was in</b></p> <p>8 <b>bed and I couldn't quite understand what was going on.</b></p> <p>9 <b>So I got up, I went downstairs. My son was still up and</b></p> <p>10 <b>I asked him to look at the news. I saw the horrible</b></p> <p>11 <b>sight, as you've heard so many times. You know, it's</b></p> <p>12 <b>quite hard to comprehend.</b></p> <p>13 <b>So I then phoned Sharon back and said, "I've seen</b></p> <p>14 <b>it", you know, "This is something really gigantic and</b></p> <p>15 <b>I will start to talk to my team and RBKC and I will try</b></p> <p>16 <b>to come in -- I will come in."</b></p> <p>17 Q. I going to come back to the timing in a moment.</p> <p>18 Before I do, can I ask you one or two further</p> <p>19 questions.</p> <p>20 Was the notification by Sharon part of a formal</p> <p>21 process of notification or was it informal?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Informal.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Is there a formal process?</p> <p>24 <b>A. There is a formal process and that fits in the emergency</b></p> <p>25 <b>plan. So if there's a fire or an incident, if it's out</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 received a call at about 01.30.</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. You say you were at home. You say:</p> <p>4 "... at about 01:30am I received a telephone call at</p> <p>5 home from a TMO board member who lived near to Grenfell</p> <p>6 Tower to advise me of the fire."</p> <p>7 Do you recall who that TMO board member was?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I do.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Who was that, please?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Sharon, who was one of my elected board members.</b></p> <p>11 Q. I think there's an e-mail of that which records that you</p> <p>12 were told by Sharon because you sent it. Can I just</p> <p>13 show it to you. It's TMO10036956?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. You can see that it bears the date and time at the top</p> <p>16 of 02.26.45. I'm going to come back to that in</p> <p>17 a moment. But in the text you say:</p> <p>18 "Dear team</p> <p>19 "We have a major fire at Grenfell Tower. The</p> <p>20 fire.brigade[sic] is on site. I was told by Sharon our</p> <p>21 Board member.</p> <p>22 "RBKC are aware ..."</p> <p>23 Et cetera.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Then you say:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 <b>of hours, and that's an emergency plan, Pinnacle are a</b></p> <p>2 <b>out-of-hours company. So after a certain time, Pinnacle</b></p> <p>3 <b>takes on all the calls out of hours, and they would</b></p> <p>4 <b>usually be dealing with any call from a resident about</b></p> <p>5 <b>an issue or repair, an emergency.</b></p> <p>6 <b>They have authority to agree up to certain levels</b></p> <p>7 <b>with what they can do. If it goes beyond that level or</b></p> <p>8 <b>if they want to find out a bit more, there's two things</b></p> <p>9 <b>they can do: one, they can contact the on-duty estate</b></p> <p>10 <b>services, other people call them caretakers but --</b></p> <p>11 <b>someone that lives locally that can get out there and</b></p> <p>12 <b>assess it to give them information; and then there's</b></p> <p>13 <b>on-call managers, and I think Adrian was on-call who was</b></p> <p>14 <b>part of the health and safety team.</b></p> <p>15 <b>And Hash had also a lot of the time been on-call as</b></p> <p>16 <b>well, and he was one of my senior managers.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Similarly, in paragraph 3 you say:</p> <p>18 "I turned on the TV and news to see how</p> <p>19 seriousness[sic] the fire was."</p> <p>20 It's a bit garbled there.</p> <p>21 You then say:</p> <p>22 "I then telephoned Hash Chamchoun, TMO's Head of</p> <p>23 Housing Support Services who lives local to Grenfell</p> <p>24 Tower ..."</p> <p>25 At what time did you call him?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 <b>A. As I say, when I wrote this, I didn't have my telephone,</b>  2 <b>so I don't have any notes and I haven't been supplied</b>  3 <b>with them. So in terms of -- I think, looking back,</b>  4 <b>I telephoned my board member back, and then Hash --</b>  5 <b>because I know, and before I've used him, I contacted</b>  6 <b>him, quite soon afterwards, I would say, to give him</b>  7 <b>a heads up that something's going on, I've just been</b>  8 <b>told and is he available. Because, again, he lives very</b>  9 <b>locally compared to most of my senior managers.</b>  10 <b>Again, having seen the size of the fire, actually</b>  11 <b>what I wanted -- not only I knew that we'd have an ES or</b>  12 <b>estate services person on the ground, but actually to</b>  13 <b>have a senior manager who could actually get there.</b>  14 <b>Adrian was at home so he could deal with that.</b>  15 <b>Q. I'll just park the timings of this in a moment in light</b>  16 <b>of what you've just said and ask you one or two other</b>  17 <b>questions.</b>  18 <b>First of all, was the TMO emergency plan to your</b>  19 <b>knowledge actually ever activated on the night of the</b>  20 <b>fire?</b>  21 <b>A. No. I mean, apart from the aspect that I know when the</b>  22 <b>fire started and it set off the signal that went to</b>  23 <b>Tunstall who in terms of actually -- then followed the</b>  24 <b>plan by reporting it to the Fire Brigade and to CSC or</b>  25 <b>Pinnacle, and they then started to -- well, the Fire</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: In the text it says in the first line:  2 "You will no doubt have heard the distressing news  3 regarding Grenfell Tower. I want to reassure you that  4 the emergency plan has been activated and Robert is on  5 site."  6 Is it true that the emergency plan had been  7 activated?  8 <b>A. What I would say is the aspects of the emergency plan in</b>  9 <b>terms of alerting the Fire Brigade and alerting Pinnacle</b>  10 <b>was activated, but when I got there -- remember, this</b>  11 <b>came at 07.50, so I take it Sinead's come in and whacked</b>  12 <b>off an e-mail. She didn't discuss the e-mail with me.</b>  13 <b>I think it was a response to try to give the board some</b>  14 <b>reassurance. But by that time, the RBKC plan and</b>  15 <b>structure, in terms of its LALOs, its borough command --</b>  16 <b>the BECC group was in place and the Silver group.</b>  17 <b>Q. When she says the emergency plan has been activated,</b>  18 <b>I think what you're telling us is actually that is not</b>  19 <b>correct to the extent it refers to the KCTMO emergency</b>  20 <b>plan?</b>  21 <b>A. It should've referred really to RBKC's emergency plan</b>  22 <b>has been activated and we're working with them.</b>  23 <b>Q. In terms of the responsibility for making the decision</b>  24 <b>whether or not to activate the TMO emergency plan, does</b>  25 <b>that rest with Pinnacle or did it rest with the relevant</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 <b>Brigade got there quickly, and then Pinnacle were then</b>  2 <b>trying to work out: well, what is this fire? What's it</b>  3 <b>like? So I know that started.</b>  4 <b>But from my aspect, having dealt with some smaller</b>  5 <b>emergencies, there is just no way our plan could deal</b>  6 <b>with that. Even though I'd only seen it on TV. And</b>  7 <b>therefore, in a sense, that's when I decided, when</b>  8 <b>I spoke to Laura Johnson, who was director of housing,</b>  9 <b>and she was being made aware of it as well, that</b>  10 <b>actually the RBKC emergency plan would come in. We</b>  11 <b>weren't resourced to deal with anything like this.</b>  12 <b>Q. Can I ask you, then, to help me with something, please.</b>  13 <b>Can you please be shown an e-mail at TMO10031176.</b>  14 <b>Go to page 2 in that, which I think you have.</b>  15 <b>This is the e-mail from Sinead McQuillan, the second</b>  16 <b>e-mail on the page --</b>  17 <b>A. Yes.</b>  18 <b>Q. -- at 07.50.32, to a number of people.</b>  19 <b>A. They are board members.</b>  20 <b>Q. It's cc'd to you.</b>  21 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Board members?</b>  22 <b>A. So Sinead was the company secretary. The e-mail was</b>  23 <b>sent to the TMO board members to alert them. Some</b>  24 <b>already knew because they were phoning, but this was to</b>  25 <b>try to give everybody a heads up.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 TMO duty officer on duty?  2 <b>A. As I say, because Pinnacle, if you look at the graph</b>  3 <b>that's in it, shows you that their job when they're told</b>  4 <b>there's an emergency, depending on the size, is to alert</b>  5 <b>the people on the ground and try to make an assessment.</b>  6 <b>I think by the time we got there, you know, RBKC's</b>  7 <b>had kicked in.</b>  8 <b>Q. So so far as you're concerned -- is this right? -- it</b>  9 <b>was always the RBKC emergency plan running and not the</b>  10 <b>TMO's plan?</b>  11 <b>A. Yes. Yes, because although we're a reasonable size</b>  12 <b>organisation with 10,000 homes, we just don't have that</b>  13 <b>resources or authority to go and set up rest centres.</b>  14 <b>We have community rooms, but they wouldn't have been</b>  15 <b>able to deal with the size of it. We don't have the</b>  16 <b>muscle or the authority to command people to do things.</b>  17 <b>So, for me, we were always and wanted to be in that</b>  18 <b>plan, because in the sense they're the people that, as</b>  19 <b>you've pointed out, link into the wider plans if it goes</b>  20 <b>bigger into the London Plan.</b>  21 <b>Q. Given that it was not the TMO emergency plan that was</b>  22 <b>running but the council's emergency plan, what did you</b>  23 <b>understand the role of the TMO to be in responding to</b>  24 <b>this fire?</b>  25 <b>A. Well, it has no role, because actually the local</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 156</p>

<p>1 authority liaison officers are the key part. They're on 2 the ground and have the authority to command resources. 3 You've got the BECC group, which is sitting at the town 4 hall, and then you've got the Silver group. The TMO 5 isn't part of any of those groups.</p> <p>6 So for us, once that is enacted, the statutory 7 powers, the police, the Fire Brigade, and the local 8 authority have taken over, in the sense of the area, the 9 estate and all the responsibility in it, because -- 10 almost in the sense -- I think we wrote to you and said 11 you're almost there as a spare part about trying to 12 help.</p> <p>13 I think that was the sense of what we, I, my team 14 wanted to do. What could we add to this in terms of 15 actually this situation? Because it was quite 16 overwhelming when you get there, when you see it.</p> <p>17 Of course, it's nothing compared to what bereaved or 18 survivors face, but it was quite an impact on you as an 19 individual.</p> <p>20 Q. We know that you and other TMO staff attended the site. 21 What did you understand your personal role to be on 22 site?</p> <p>23 A. My personal role really was recognising -- I'm not in 24 any of the meetings, any of the strategic -- but in 25 a sense you're there, if you can help. In terms of what</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 his statement that you arrived at 03.30 to 03.45 and he 2 confirmed that this morning.</p> <p>3 Is that right or might that be right?</p> <p>4 A. Well, I don't know, really. I mean, in a sense, if my 5 timings are wrong, I apologise. What I tried to do is 6 when we were doing this with my solicitors is try to 7 actually -- a little bit of correlation between -- what 8 did Hash say, because he's got a phone. Because I don't 9 have my phone, it's very hard to tie down these details.</p> <p>10 Q. All right.</p> <p>11 A. But when I got there, it took quite a while to work 12 through. The cab could only get as far as Shepherd's 13 Bush roundabout because the roads were blocked and full, 14 and you had to actually get through two cordons to get 15 to where the local authority liaison officers were.</p> <p>16 Q. So when you say "I arrived there at about 02:45", where 17 is the "there"?</p> <p>18 A. So "there" would be in my recollection here when I got 19 to where the command centre was at Treadgold House, 20 I think it was.</p> <p>21 Q. Hash Chamchoun in his statement says at paragraph 8 -- 22 and obviously he will have to be asked about this 23 because he is yet to give evidence -- he recalls you 24 arriving at about 03.30 am. Again --</p> <p>25 A. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 we were trying to -- I and then Teresa and others was 2 trying to get our staff out to help, you know, to try 3 and get them in so that actually they could link in with 4 RBKC at the shelters.</p> <p>5 Certainly the housing staff and the resident 6 engagement staff, because they work on the ground all 7 the time and know the people, and actually are much more 8 useful than me, who don't know everybody.</p> <p>9 I saw it very much as, actually, the more we could 10 motivate and mobilise our staff to fit into RBKC's plan 11 and support as it goes forward. We had nothing else to 12 offer at that stage.</p> <p>13 Q. In your statement at paragraph 5 you describe your 14 access to the tower. You say in the last sentence in 15 that paragraph:</p> <p>16 "I cannot be sure of exact timings but I believe 17 I arrived there at about 02:45 am."</p> <p>18 When you did the statement, what was that belief 19 based on?</p> <p>20 A. It was belief on trying to talk to my family about when 21 we got the first call. How quickly my cab -- because 22 I don't drive, so I had to phone a cab. And just trying 23 to remember. It was quite difficult just to remember 24 when you were there. I apologise for that.</p> <p>25 Q. Nick Layton, who gave evidence this morning, has said in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 Q. Is that right?</p> <p>2 A. Well, I didn't co-operate with Hash in his statement. 3 If there's a difference in timing, I have to forgive 4 that, in a sense. I'm not sure if the LALO noted it 5 down in their pad when I came.</p> <p>6 Q. Let me go back to the e-mail which refers to Sharon 7 a moment ago, TMO136956, please. The one we saw which 8 had the reference to Sharon in it.</p> <p>9 As I noted to you, it had an apparent time of 10 02.26.45.</p> <p>11 Do you remember, where were you when you sent this 12 e-mail?</p> <p>13 A. I don't remember whether I was in a cab going there or 14 when I was there.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you send it from your handheld device?</p> <p>16 A. Yes. I mean, that's all I had on the night.</p> <p>17 Q. I'd like you to help me with something, please. Could 18 you also be shown -- we can have two of these on the 19 screen at the same time -- TMO10031176 at page 10.</p> <p>20 Help me with this, please, Mr Black.</p> <p>21 We've seen on the right-hand side the e-mail I was 22 just showing you which carries a time mark of 02.26.45. 23 On the left-hand side of the screen, we can see there 24 are a number of e-mails, the middle of which is from you 25 to what appears to be the same recipients, 14 June, at</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p>



<p>1 03.27, "Dear team", and then the text is exactly the  2 same as far as I can see.  3 "We have a major fire at Grenfell Tower. The ..."  4 And the same error is made:  5 "... fire brigades are on site. I was told by Sharon  6 our Board member.  7 "RBKC are aware and are preparing red cross  8 shelters.  9 "Hash is on his way to the ground and you have spoken  10 to Theresa. I am going in."  11 It's exactly the same text, as you can see.  12 Can you help, please, explain why the one on the  13 right says 02.26.45 but the one on the left says 03.27?  14 <b>A. No, I'm afraid, I can't, honestly. When we were going  15 through this, there seemed to be a few text or e-mails  16 that seem to not sync in time-wise, and I don't  17 understand.</b>  18 Q. When you said "I am going in", did you send this e-mail  19 before you left or on the way?  20 <b>A. I think it was saying I was on the way.</b>  21 Q. It says, "Hashim is on [his] way to the ground". You  22 had already spoken, therefore, to Mr Chamchoun at this  23 point?  24 <b>A. Yes.</b>  25 Q. Given what has been said by other witnesses, including</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 time, and it's either 02.30 or 03.30, and at the time  2 I gave the best time I thought I could. If other people  3 are saying it's another time, then maybe there's  4 a mistake there and I apologise for that. But I can't  5 go beyond -- say anything beyond that  6 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You're sure you only sent one  7 e-mail?</b>  8 <b>A. Yes, because they're the same people, I think.</b>  9 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, and so there's a conundrum as  10 to why we should have these two different documents at  11 different times.</b>  12 <b>A. Yes.</b>  13 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You can't help with that?</b>  14 <b>A. I think when we went through some stuff a bit earlier,  15 there is another one or two e-mails that seem to be out  16 of sync, which, again, I can't explain.</b>  17 <b>MR MILLETT: We'll come to those.</b>  18 My question was that when you swore to the accuracy  19 of this statement earlier on today, Mr Black, had you  20 seen these e-mails before giving evidence?  21 <b>A. I might have seen them. I hadn't seen two of them with  22 the different times.</b>  23 Q. Right.  24 <b>A. So, again, when I swore it, it was based on, again, what  25 I thought was the truth at the time.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 Mr Chamchoun, about your arrival at about 03.30, are you  2 able to assist us which is the right time, whether it's  3 02.26.45 or 03.27?  4 <b>A. I don't know, to tell you the truth. I think that's  5 what I'm saying to you. When I wrote the statement  6 I thought that was about the time. If it's later,  7 I have to accept that. I can't understand why we have  8 two e-mails with different times. You'd need to ask  9 a technical or ICT person why that might happen,  10 I didn't send two e-mails.</b>  11 Q. I think you said when you wrote this statement, you  12 hadn't seen these e-mails; is that right? Or is that  13 wrong? You said you hadn't seen any documents when  14 you wrote this statement, or am I misunderstanding your  15 evidence?  16 <b>A. I haven't seen them -- I saw these e-mails later. But,  17 again, I was more -- I think we sent a timetable of what  18 we thought they were.</b>  19 Q. So you'd seen these e-mails prior to giving evidence  20 today?  21 <b>A. Yes.</b>  22 Q. So when you confirmed that this statement was correct,  23 did you know that in fact the timings in it were wrong?  24 <b>A. No. No, sorry, what I'm saying is, I think, when I go  25 back to it, the confusion is that I don't have the exact</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 Q. How long was your journey to the tower?  2 <b>A. It takes quite a long while from south London to -- you  3 know, 45 minutes.</b>  4 Q. The e-mail at 03.27 that I'm showing you, am I showing  5 you this for the very first time? Or rather, are you  6 seeing this for the very first time?  7 <b>A. I don't know, to tell you the truth. I'm basing it on  8 the e-mail I saw at 2.00.</b>  9 Q. If it's right that you arrived at the incident at about  10 03.30, or at any rate after 03.27, what were you  11 doing -- well, let me backtrack a bit.  12 Does that tell us about when you were first called  13 about the fire by Sharon?  14 <b>A. Could you say that again, sorry? I didn't quite  15 understand what you're trying to say.</b>  16 Q. Yes. If it's right you arrived at the incident at about  17 03.30, or at any rate after 03.27, what does that tell  18 us about the time at which you were actually first  19 called about the fire by Sharon?  20 <b>A. Well, again, as far as I know, I got called by Sharon  21 about 01.30.</b>  22 Q. Therefore, that would mean that two hours had elapsed  23 between being called by Sharon and you sending this  24 e-mail at 03.27 saying "I am going in".  25 <b>A. Well, that's your interpretation. What I am saying here</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 <b>is I think I got there at 02.30, because I got the phone</b>  2 <b>call, got dressed, phoned a cab. That's the best of my</b>  3 <b>knowledge.</b>  4 Q. Well, you say 02.30 now; in your statement you said  5 02.45. That's before you saw the e-mail saying 03.27,  6 Mr Black.  7 What I'm trying to get a feel for is what you were  8 doing between getting the phone call at 01.30, as you  9 say, and arrival?  10 <b>A. So what I was doing is -- it's the middle of the night,</b>  11 <b>I get up, I check -- I'm trying to work out what's going</b>  12 <b>on. I have to get dressed, I have to tell my partner</b>  13 <b>what's happening. I phoned around some people to</b>  14 <b>actually let them know if they hadn't seen it. A lot of</b>  15 <b>people didn't answer their telephone. I had to call</b>  16 <b>a cab, you have to wait for a cab to come. I then get</b>  17 <b>into a cab and then I get to the place and it's -- so</b>  18 <b>therefore it takes some time.</b>  19 Q. It's not gone on the transcript, but I thought I heard  20 you say you phoned Rydon; is that right?  21 <b>A. No.</b>  22 Q. Okay.  23 You said it took quite some time to get to the  24 incident. Do you know or can you estimate roughly how  25 long your journey time was?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 whatever assistance I could."  2 Was that the command unit parked on Bomore Road?  3 <b>A. It's the one Treadgold -- quite near the -- sorry,</b>  4 <b>I don't have its name -- quite near where the leisure</b>  5 <b>centre was, where the LALOs were based.</b>  6 Q. Let's take a step back. You say you made yourself known  7 to the police at the cordon, who then directed you to  8 the Fire Brigade's command unit.  9 Do you remember what you asked them to do? Where  10 you asked them to send you?  11 <b>A. No, no, so -- because I spoke to Hash, who was already</b>  12 <b>within the cordon. I said I'd arrived and he said you</b>  13 <b>couldn't get through without either showing some</b>  14 <b>evidence, like your card with your name, and he would</b>  15 <b>come and get me. So in a sense I phoned him up to say</b>  16 <b>I was at the initial cordon, then he came and took me</b>  17 <b>through and took me to where the local authority liaison</b>  18 <b>officer was and the little hut that the Fire Brigade</b>  19 <b>were in.</b>  20 Q. I see. Because --  21 <b>A. Treadgold House.</b>  22 Q. In your statement you say that the police directed you  23 to the Fire Brigade's command unit.  24 <b>A. Well, there's two cordons. So there was the outer one,</b>  25 <b>which I managed to get through, and the inner one, which</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 <b>A. I think I estimated in the previous two questions about</b>  2 <b>45 minutes.</b>  3 Q. Which means that if you arrived at 03.30, you would've  4 left at about 02.45.  5 <b>A. Or if I left at 01.30 -- or if I got there at -- sorry,</b>  6 <b>just let me check.</b>  7 <b>So if I arrived at 02.45, it meant I left about</b>  8 <b>2 o'clock.</b>  9 Q. But you can't help us with the timings between these  10 e-mails?  11 <b>A. What I'm saying is I got a phone call at 01.30. I think</b>  12 <b>I arrived there at 02.45. If it took me about</b>  13 <b>45 minutes for the cab to get from south London to --</b>  14 <b>that would take me up to about 2 o'clock. That would</b>  15 <b>give me half an hour to get dressed, phone a cab. So at</b>  16 <b>the moment, that's keeping with my statement, that's the</b>  17 <b>timing in my head.</b>  18 Q. Right.  19 <b>A. Again, personally I don't understand -- I'm not an ICT</b>  20 <b>or technology person, that's maybe something we have to</b>  21 <b>find out.</b>  22 Q. At paragraph 7 of your witness statement, you say:  23 "7. I made myself known to the police at the  24 cordon, who then directed me to the fire Brigade's  25 Command Unit in front of Treadgold House where I offered</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 <b>is where the sort of policeman took me to, and then</b>  2 <b>that's where I met Hash.</b>  3 Q. Did the policeman say: this is the command unit?  4 <b>A. No, I don't know, I just said I was meeting Hash and he</b>  5 <b>was taking me to where it was.</b>  6 Q. When you arrived at the command unit, did you speak to  7 any officer of the London Fire Brigade there?  8 <b>A. No.</b>  9 Q. Did you speak to any officer of the Metropolitan Police?  10 <b>A. No.</b>  11 Q. At the time of your arrival, how many TMO staff apart  12 from Hash Chamchoun were there, do you think?  13 <b>A. In terms of -- there was just me and Hash there.</b>  14 <b>I think the estate caretaker was somewhere, but I don't</b>  15 <b>think he was at that bit at the time.</b>  16 Q. How long do you remember Hash Chamchoun had been there?  17 <b>A. I'm not sure.</b>  18 Q. Did he tell you? Do you remember whether he told you?  19 <b>A. No. What he told me is that when he got my phone call,</b>  20 <b>he just got himself dressed and came and he worked his</b>  21 <b>way through.</b>  22 Q. Did he provide you with an update?  23 <b>A. In a sense, there was nothing to update, as far as</b>  24 <b>I could see. He introduced me, that we were there,</b>  25 <b>there was a fire burning, and in a sense, he didn't have</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 very much to tell me apart from the fire and it was 2 a sort of cordoned off area.</p> <p>3 Q. Did he tell you about what RBKC were doing?</p> <p>4 A. Well, he introduced me to the local authority liaison 5 officer, who introduced themselves, and that was his 6 job, that he was sort of responding or request and 7 fitting into the emergency plan.</p> <p>8 Q. Just so we can build the picture in our minds of how 9 this actually worked. So you get to the cordon.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Tell me if this is wrong, and Hash Chamchoun collects 12 you and takes you to the command unit. Is it at that 13 time that then he introduces you to the RBKC staff?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you remember who you were introduced to at that 16 point?</p> <p>17 A. The local authority liaison officer.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you know his name?</p> <p>19 A. It's the -- not -- yeah, sorry.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you remember his name?</p> <p>21 A. I remember him, but it's -- Nick Layton, I think.</p> <p>22 Q. Yes, okay. Did you then have a discussion with 23 Nick Layton?</p> <p>24 A. In the sense of I introduced myself and he got on with 25 his business. There wasn't -- he was -- there was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 because of the amount of people and the size of the 2 disaster, RBKC would be seeking staff to support, help 3 and run those rest centres.</p> <p>4 So in a sense with Hash and then with Teresa, it's 5 about how could we actually have those resources to help 6 the local authority when they asked them.</p> <p>7 Q. Can I ask you, please, to look at paragraph 18 of your 8 statement on page 3, Mr Black.</p> <p>9 You say there that you cannot be certain about 10 timings. Then you say:</p> <p>11 "... but I would say that I remained outside the 12 Command Unit from about 03:00/03:30 to about 09:00."</p> <p>13 Do you see that?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, I can see that.</p> <p>15 Q. If you arrived, as you have said in your statement at 16 paragraph 5, at the incident at about 2.45 am, can you 17 just tell us what you were doing between 2.45 am, if 18 that's the right time, and 3 o'clock?</p> <p>19 A. No. I mean, again, it's -- just being there.</p> <p>20 Q. For the period of 03.00 or 03.30, to about 09.00, you 21 say you were liaising mostly with the LFB, LALO, TMO 22 staff and RBKC?</p> <p>23 A. I said after my initial discussion with the local 24 authority liaising officer, I didn't have any or very -- 25 conversation with LFB, London Fire Brigade, and then</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 nothing much to say after that.</p> <p>2 Q. Was he outside the command unit?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, he was beside -- the command unit was, say, here, 4 and we were over here outside Treadgold House 5 (Indicates), but beside the hedge.</p> <p>6 Q. What did he say to you?</p> <p>7 A. "I'm the local authority liaison officer", and that's 8 about it.</p> <p>9 Q. Really? That's it? That's all he said?</p> <p>10 A. Well, I mean, apart from, you know, there's a terrible 11 fire going on in the background and there's firemen sort 12 of coming and going, and police coming and going, there 13 wasn't much to say in terms of, actually, he was just 14 doing his job, and then I was trying to sort of mobilise 15 my workforce.</p> <p>16 Q. To do what?</p> <p>17 A. To see if they could come in to help liaise and link in 18 with RBKC as they opened rest centres.</p> <p>19 Q. Did Mr Layton ask you to assist him with anything 20 specific?</p> <p>21 A. No, not as far as I can remember.</p> <p>22 Q. So what did you think you were going to be asking your 23 staff to do?</p> <p>24 A. I think it was a separate thing. I knew that the local 25 authority would be opening rest centres. I knew that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 I spoke most of the time dealing with phone calls that 2 were coming in to me from either board members or 3 members of staff, or people I was letting know what we 4 were doing.</p> <p>5 Q. Did you have any conversations with the LFB during this 6 period?</p> <p>7 A. Not very many.</p> <p>8 Q. Those --</p> <p>9 A. They were busy fighting a fire.</p> <p>10 Q. Well, some LFB officers were at the command unit, 11 weren't they?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, they were inside.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you have any difficulty being able to communicate 14 with them?</p> <p>15 A. Well, I didn't communicate with them because they were 16 in their command centre, managing the fire. They were 17 liaising with the local authority liaison officer. It 18 wasn't my role or place to be popping my head in to see 19 how they were.</p> <p>20 Q. Let's see if we can break this down a little bit.</p> <p>21 You say in your statement that you were liaising 22 mostly with, and you give a list. One group in the list 23 is the LFB.</p> <p>24 A. Which --</p> <p>25 Q. Let me ask the question.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 172</p>

<p>1 <b>A. Oh, sorry, there, 18.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Let's just take it in stages.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Did you have any conversations at all with the LFB?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Near the end of the night, when I sent the e-mail to</b></p> <p>6 <b>them, which is on record, with the list of residents,</b></p> <p>7 <b>I think it was.</b></p> <p>8 Q. We're going to come to that. Okay.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>10 Q. That was an e-mail.</p> <p>11 Did you have any conversations, Mr Black, with the</p> <p>12 LFB?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No, not as far as I can recall.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Going back to paragraph 7, you say, after having</p> <p>15 referred to being directed to the Fire Brigade's command</p> <p>16 unit, that you offered whatever assistance you could.</p> <p>17 Who did you offer assistance to?</p> <p>18 <b>A. It would've been to the local authority liaison officer.</b></p> <p>19 Q. I think I take it from your last answer but one or two</p> <p>20 that you didn't offer assistance directly to the LFB?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, because, again, they weren't out on the street, they</b></p> <p>22 <b>were in their box doing things.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Did the LFB make any request directly to you?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Not as far as I can remember.</b></p> <p>25 Q. If you had wanted to speak to the LFB direct, did you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No, because in a sense Teresa would've been phoning</b></p> <p>2 <b>around her team, and people would've been coming in</b></p> <p>3 <b>dribs and drabs depending on how far they were to</b></p> <p>4 <b>travel.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Do you remember who was giving them instructions when</p> <p>6 they arrived at the scene?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, because they weren't reporting to me. I think they</b></p> <p>8 <b>were probably speaking to Teresa, and if the rest</b></p> <p>9 <b>centres were requiring people, she or Hash or one of the</b></p> <p>10 <b>managers would direct them. I didn't direct them.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Are you able to help me with whether they were</p> <p>12 instructed as to what information the LFB or the Met</p> <p>13 needed?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No, I think off their own back, because there were so</b></p> <p>15 <b>many people, as the night went on there were more and</b></p> <p>16 <b>more people, it's trying to understand, you know, who</b></p> <p>17 <b>was in the rest centres.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did you ever observe any instructions being given by</p> <p>19 Teresa Brown or any other senior TMO staff to these 33</p> <p>20 people?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, because they weren't all around the command centre.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Were you not interested to know what 33 members of your</p> <p>23 staff were actually doing?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I think I was interested in knowing that we managed to</b></p> <p>25 <b>mobilise staff to help RBKC at its rest centres, and</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 get the impression that there was anything stopping you?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I think what was stopping me was because they were fully</b></p> <p>3 <b>engaged in a fire which was consuming them with their</b></p> <p>4 <b>time and resources. Again, I felt very clearly that it</b></p> <p>5 <b>wasn't my role just to pop in and say something because</b></p> <p>6 <b>the RBKC person was there in control, in a sense, you</b></p> <p>7 <b>know, so that's it.</b></p> <p>8 Q. At paragraph 10 of your statement on page 2, you say</p> <p>9 that some 33 TMO staff were in attendance. This is the</p> <p>10 third line up from the bottom of that paragraph.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. "Some 33 TMO staff were in attendance to assist with</p> <p>13 welfare issues and to collect names of survivors and</p> <p>14 persons reported missing."</p> <p>15 First of all, how was that figure arrived at?</p> <p>16 <b>A. I was told at the time it was about that. I think it</b></p> <p>17 <b>went up to about 40 later on.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Who told you that?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Teresa Brown.</b></p> <p>20 Q. When did she tell you that?</p> <p>21 <b>A. When?</b></p> <p>22 Q. Yes.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Sometime in the night when she was talking to me.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Do you know what time those staff, that 33 strong group</p> <p>25 of staff, were first mobilised?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 <b>I was comfortable allowing, if those managers are there,</b></p> <p>2 <b>that they could be instructed either by TMO managers or</b></p> <p>3 <b>RBKC managers to do whatever was required at the time.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Do you know whether they had any system for finding out</p> <p>5 which flats people who had managed to escape from the</p> <p>6 tower had come from and then getting that information</p> <p>7 back to the LFB?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I wouldn't know that, that would be more localised, what</b></p> <p>9 <b>was going on at the rest centres.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Was that not your ultimate responsibility?</p> <p>11 <b>A. My responsibility was to help as much as possible.</b></p> <p>12 <b>I wasn't part of the emergency plan. RBKC were running</b></p> <p>13 <b>things and they were asking either my managers or my</b></p> <p>14 <b>staff for information. In a sense, my responsibility</b></p> <p>15 <b>once the staff were committed wasn't to those areas. It</b></p> <p>16 <b>was about whoever was managing them.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 <b>A. That was the contribution of the staff.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Who were you directly overseeing from the point of your</p> <p>20 arrival within your organisation?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Who was I overseeing?</b></p> <p>22 Q. Who were you directly overseeing?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I wasn't directly overseeing anybody. I was -- in terms</b></p> <p>24 <b>of -- once Teresa was there as director of housing,</b></p> <p>25 <b>I was happy to leave her to get on with it.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 Q. So you were just a free-roving agent; is that it?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yeah. Not roaming very far.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Not roaming even very far?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>5 Q. So is this right: you didn't involve yourself in</p> <p>6 understanding what system your staff had adopted in</p> <p>7 order to identify from which flats escapees from this</p> <p>8 building had come in order to assist the LFB with the</p> <p>9 search and rescue operation?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I was leaving that to Teresa Brown, who was collecting</b></p> <p>11 <b>information and would be able to provide it.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Who was helping Teresa Brown in that exercise?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I don't know off the top of my head. Probably Hash was</b></p> <p>14 <b>helping, but I don't have insight into that.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Do you not?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Did you know how Hash was able to communicate with the</p> <p>18 RBKC?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Which RBKC?</b></p> <p>20 Q. Okay. Do you remember whether Hash Chamchoun was</p> <p>21 actually provided with any radio or other means of</p> <p>22 communication so that he could communicate with RBKC?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I think the LALO provided him with a radio.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Do you remember that yourself from the night?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I do.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes, just finding my glasses.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Before you left your home after having been notified of</p> <p>3 the fire, did you make any telephone calls to anybody?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Who did you call?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I would have called my exec team members who were about</b></p> <p>7 <b>and I think I phoned Laura Johnson as well.</b></p> <p>8 Q. You say your exec team.</p> <p>9 <b>A. So that would've been --</b></p> <p>10 Q. Can you give me a list of the names?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Well, Barbara Matthews, who was my director of finance.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Yes.</p> <p>13 <b>A. That was about it, because Sacha Jevans was on holiday</b></p> <p>14 <b>and Yvonne Birch was away, so in a sense there wasn't</b></p> <p>15 <b>that many people.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Did you call Teresa Brown?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did you speak to Peter Maddison?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I tried to but he didn't respond to the phone call.</b></p> <p>20 Q. What about Alex Bosman?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, I didn't have his number.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Janice Wray?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I think I tried but she didn't answer, and I think I've</b></p> <p>24 <b>been told she's been away.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Do you have your phone records of that night?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 Q. At what point did that happen?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Sometime in the night. I don't have the time.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Do you know why the RBKC had to provide him with a radio</p> <p>4 and you couldn't provide him with one?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I think it must be because they run the emergency plan</b></p> <p>6 <b>and they have the resources to do it.</b></p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I've been running for just under</p> <p>8 an hour and I'm about to turn to a different topic. It</p> <p>9 might be convenient to take a short break.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Black, we normally have</p> <p>11 a break after a witness has been giving evidence for</p> <p>12 about an hour. So we'll take a break now.</p> <p>13 I'm going to ask you not to talk to anyone about</p> <p>14 your evidence while you're out of the room, and we'll</p> <p>15 come back at 3.40. All right?</p> <p>16 Would you like to go with the usher, please.</p> <p>17 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, 3.40, please. Thank you.</p> <p>19 (3.30 pm)</p> <p>20 (A short break)</p> <p>21 (3.40 pm)</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Mr Black, thank you for coming back to us.</p> <p>24 Before you left your home, having been notified of</p> <p>25 the fire -- sorry, are you ready?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Have you looked for them?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I don't have the phone. So it was a company phone.</b></p> <p>4 <b>When I left, the phone was handed back, and no one</b></p> <p>5 <b>supplied me with transcripts for it, which would've been</b></p> <p>6 <b>helpful.</b></p> <p>7 Q. I know you told us that the emergency plan wasn't in</p> <p>8 fact activated, but let me ask you one or two questions</p> <p>9 about it just to see if in fact some things were done.</p> <p>10 Can I ask you, please, to be shown the emergency</p> <p>11 plan at TMO10013898.</p> <p>12 This is page 34 I'd like you to see, please.</p> <p>13 "CHECKLIST - FIRE."</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Just looking at the page, is this something you're</p> <p>16 familiar with at all, Mr Black?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes, it's part of the emergency plan.</b></p> <p>18 Q. "You are informed by CSC/PINNACLE that there is a fire</p> <p>19 in a block. To help you make an informed decision on</p> <p>20 what action is required, follow this action plan."</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Then you can see questions and actions.</p> <p>23 "2. Is the fire actually in a KCTMO block?</p> <p>24 "Confirm it is a KCTMO property ... Find the details</p> <p>25 for the block in this plan."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 180</p>

<p>1 Was that an action that was taken, so far as you</p> <p>2 know, by TMO?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I don't think so.</b></p> <p>4 Q. "5. Are there KCTMO staff on site.</p> <p>5 "If no, ask CSC/PINNACLE to dispatch ESA to site.</p> <p>6 On site staff must liaise with emergency services and</p> <p>7 feedback info to CSC/PINNACLE."</p> <p>8 Did that action get actioned?</p> <p>9 <b>A. So this would be the transcript for TMO staff if they</b></p> <p>10 <b>were leading in the emergency plan. From my</b></p> <p>11 <b>perspective, that didn't happen because the RBKC</b></p> <p>12 <b>emergency plan was in place.</b></p> <p>13 Q. So I think the short answer to my question is this was</p> <p>14 there but it wasn't activated at all because the</p> <p>15 emergency plan wasn't activated?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Can I ask you, then, to go back to paragraph 14 of your</p> <p>18 statement, please.</p> <p>19 You say there:</p> <p>20 "14. As far as I can recall, during the time I was</p> <p>21 at the Command Unit [you've given the period for that in</p> <p>22 the previous paragraph as 3.30 to shortly before</p> <p>23 9.00 am] fire officers and police asked to be provided</p> <p>24 with information such as the number of floors in</p> <p>25 Grenfell Tower, number of flats, occupants in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 yourself?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I must have, yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Well, you say you must have; what is your recollection,</p> <p>4 Mr Black?</p> <p>5 <b>A. My recollection -- some people -- there was a general</b></p> <p>6 <b>thing of asking for how many floors, how many flats in</b></p> <p>7 <b>terms of coming through the LALO, and then in a sense</b></p> <p>8 <b>then I was sort of trying to remember how many floors it</b></p> <p>9 <b>was and flats.</b></p> <p>10 Q. So to the best of your recollection, to which person did</p> <p>11 you observe the command unit fire officers making that</p> <p>12 request?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I think it would've been to the LALO, the local</b></p> <p>14 <b>authority liaison officer.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Did you overhear that request?</p> <p>16 <b>A. I might have done.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Having overheard it, were you able then to say to the</p> <p>18 LALO, "I have that information" or "I can get that</p> <p>19 information"?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I think I would've thought that we could try to get it,</b></p> <p>21 <b>but I didn't know how to get it at the scene, if you see</b></p> <p>22 <b>what I mean. I didn't have it on me, didn't have it on</b></p> <p>23 <b>my phone.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Do you recall an occasion when a command unit fire</p> <p>25 officer asked for this information, as it were, in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 building and information such as presence of asbestos</p> <p>2 etc. all to assist the Fire Brigade in managing their</p> <p>3 rescue attempts."</p> <p>4 When you did your statement, that was your</p> <p>5 recollection, was it?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. You weren't looking at a document, I think, as you told</p> <p>8 us.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Pardon?</b></p> <p>10 Q. You weren't looking at a document.</p> <p>11 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Do you know who command unit fire officers asked to be</p> <p>13 provided with that information?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Did you observe command unit fire officers asking for</p> <p>16 that information?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I think it came through the LALOs asking in general</b></p> <p>18 <b>conversation.</b></p> <p>19 Q. You were at the command unit physically, as I think</p> <p>20 you've explained and as is clear from this part of your</p> <p>21 statement.</p> <p>22 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Did you observe, as you say here, command unit fire</p> <p>24 officers -- forget police -- asking to be provided with</p> <p>25 the information you've listed? Did you observe that for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 a list: number of floors, number of flats, occupants,</p> <p>2 technical information like presence of asbestos?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No, apologies.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Or was this on separate occasions that you heard</p> <p>5 separate requests for this kind of information?</p> <p>6 <b>A. If I was asked, I then asked Teresa if she could get it,</b></p> <p>7 <b>who would then pass it on to the appropriate teams.</b></p> <p>8 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I wonder if you could help me</b></p> <p>9 <b>understand the position.</b></p> <p>10 <b>You were standing outside the command unit,</b></p> <p>11 <b>reasonably close to it; is that right? And the LALO was</b></p> <p>12 <b>in much the same area?</b></p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Can you recall whether any fire</b></p> <p>15 <b>officer came out of the command unit and spoke to the</b></p> <p>16 <b>LALO where you were close enough at least to see that</b></p> <p>17 <b>that was what was happening --</b></p> <p>18 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>19 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- or hear the conversation?</b></p> <p>20 <b>A. No, I wasn't. So mostly the LALO went into the command</b></p> <p>21 <b>unit I think for the meetings.</b></p> <p>22 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.</b></p> <p>23 <b>MR MILLETT: Did you see or observe the LALO communicating</b></p> <p>24 <b>with the LFB through the window hatch, the sliding</b></p> <p>25 <b>window in the side of the command unit?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 184</p>

<p>1 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Nick Layton, the LALO up until about 7.00 am when he</p> <p>3 left the site, says in his witness statement that he</p> <p>4 first asked you for a list of residents of</p> <p>5 Grenfell Tower after the second Silver tactical</p> <p>6 co-ordination meeting, which finished at 04.50.</p> <p>7 He says that he asked you for that information and</p> <p>8 you then made a call to somebody asking for that</p> <p>9 information.</p> <p>10 Do you recall that?</p> <p>11 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Do you deny it?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I'm not denying anything; I don't recall it.</b></p> <p>14 Q. You simply can't recall one way or other; is that what</p> <p>15 you say?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Okay.</p> <p>18 Do you remember making any call at around that time,</p> <p>19 04.50, asking for a list of residents of Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I can't recall at the moment, sorry.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Mr Layton also says in his statement that before the</p> <p>22 next Silver tactical co-ordination meeting at 05.50 he</p> <p>23 asked you whether you had managed to get a list of</p> <p>24 Grenfell Tower residents. He says you said no and made</p> <p>25 another call. Is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 Q. Let's see if we can look at some of the documents.</p> <p>2 Can I please ask you to look at an e-mail string</p> <p>3 which is at TMO10031176.</p> <p>4 I want to take you, please, to page 10 in that</p> <p>5 e-mail string.</p> <p>6 This is an e-mail on a page which I've shown you</p> <p>7 before this afternoon, Mr Black.</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. We looked at your e-mail in the middle of that page, the</p> <p>10 one at 03.27, and there are two others on it, but at the</p> <p>11 top of the page there's an e-mail of 14 June at 05.24</p> <p>12 from a David Noble to Teresa Brown. If we can have that</p> <p>13 highlighted.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. It's the top e-mail, David Noble, 14 June, 05:24, to</p> <p>16 Teresa Brown, Robert Black, Angelique Noble,</p> <p>17 Louisa Nezandonyi and Janice Wray:</p> <p>18 "Subject: Grenfell occupants</p> <p>19 "Attachments: Grenfell tower.xlsx</p> <p>20 "All occupants of Grenfell as 30 May 2017. Still</p> <p>21 trying to get live data to run. Looking for plans."</p> <p>22 You were a recipient of this e-mail and it attached</p> <p>23 a document. Do you remember receiving that?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Sometime in the night, yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Is there any reason to think that you didn't receive</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 <b>A. I can't remember, I'm sorry.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Again, are you saying it didn't happen or you just can't</p> <p>3 remember?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I can't recall it, sorry.</b></p> <p>5 Q. All right.</p> <p>6 He also says, Mr Layton, that after the third</p> <p>7 tactical co-ordination meeting, which started at 05.50</p> <p>8 and was probably finished -- you'll have to take this</p> <p>9 from me -- about 06.10, he told you that the Fire</p> <p>10 Brigade were unhappy that the information hadn't</p> <p>11 arrived.</p> <p>12 Do you remember that?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Do you remember making a call at that stage to get the</p> <p>15 list of residents?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>17 Q. He also says that shortly before he left the incident,</p> <p>18 as he says he did at 7.00 am, he checked back with you</p> <p>19 and you said you hadn't yet received that information.</p> <p>20 Do you recall that?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, I'm afraid not.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you recall ever during the course of the night making</p> <p>23 any call to anybody within your organisation seeking</p> <p>24 a list of residents of this building?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I can't remember, sorry.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 that at that time, 05.24?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I don't know if -- if that's the time, that's the time.</b></p> <p>3 Q. We have no record of you sending that e-mail on from</p> <p>4 your Samsung handheld to Mr Layton or to the LFB.</p> <p>5 Do you know whether you did or not?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I don't think I did, no.</b></p> <p>7 Q. You don't think you did?</p> <p>8 <b>A. (Indicated dissent)</b></p> <p>9 Q. Why would that be?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Because Mr Layton didn't ask for it. Or I assume maybe</b></p> <p>11 <b>Teresa had it.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Did you make the assumption on the night that Teresa,</p> <p>13 who was also on this e-mail, had sent that to Mr Layton?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I can't remember. I assume -- I think because Teresa</b></p> <p>15 <b>was organising things, I just recognised that she would</b></p> <p>16 <b>have it.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Were you able to communicate easily with Teresa Brown --</p> <p>18 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>19 Q. -- on the incident when she'd arrived?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No, I think we met and then she was off and doing</b></p> <p>21 <b>things, so we didn't see each other a lot and it was</b></p> <p>22 <b>hard to get through to each other sometimes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. She had her mobile with her, did she?</p> <p>24 <b>A. She had her mobile, but sometimes she was doing things,</b></p> <p>25 <b>I take it, and --</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 188</p>

<p>1 Q. When you got this e-mail -- is this right? -- you didn't</p> <p>2 manage to communicate with her and say to her, "Have you</p> <p>3 received this e-mail? Could you please give it to the</p> <p>4 London Fire Brigade or to the LALO?"</p> <p>5 <b>A. I didn't realise they wanted it.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Who did you think wanted that information?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I would've thought that David probably thought that</b></p> <p>8 <b>Teresa needed it to actually sort of try to find out at</b></p> <p>9 <b>the rest centres if all the people were there.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Did you see any e-mail from Teresa Brown or any message</p> <p>11 from Teresa Brown indicating that she had passed this</p> <p>12 information on, either to the LALO or the LFB?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Having not seen that, did you not think to check to make</p> <p>15 sure that this information had got into the LALO's hands</p> <p>16 or the LFB's hands?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Why not?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Because I didn't know they wanted it or --</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did you turn your mind to the importance of this</p> <p>21 document or this information at all, Mr Black?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I was in a sort of situation where it didn't strike me</b></p> <p>23 <b>at that time.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Where were you standing, do you think, when you got this</p> <p>25 e-mail?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 189</p>	<p>1 It says:</p> <p>2 "This is Up to date data. Use this one."</p> <p>3 This is sent to you.</p> <p>4 <b>A. It's sent to all the participants, mostly who are all</b></p> <p>5 <b>the housing management team, apart from Janice Wray.</b></p> <p>6 Q. It's also sent to you, isn't it?</p> <p>7 <b>A. (Nodded assent)</b></p> <p>8 Q. Yes?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. It's got your name on it?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. We have no record of your forwarding this document to</p> <p>13 Mr Layton or the LFB. Again, why is that?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Because I assumed that this e-mail was for Teresa to</b></p> <p>15 <b>manage the role she was playing at the rest centres to</b></p> <p>16 <b>try to collect names linked with the property.</b></p> <p>17 Q. But, again, you're standing there by the command unit,</p> <p>18 you receive this information, it's the second time you</p> <p>19 received this, did you not think simply to put this into</p> <p>20 the hands of the LALO at that stage?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, because, as I say, I thought it was going for Teresa</b></p> <p>22 <b>for the role she was playing on the night.</b></p> <p>23 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You didn't say to the LALO, "It's</b></p> <p>24 <b>come through to me, I'm sure it will get through to you</b></p> <p>25 <b>in a moment"?</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 191</p>
<p>1 <b>A. I don't know, probably around about where the control</b></p> <p>2 <b>plan[sic] was.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did you not think to ask Nick Layton if he was there or</p> <p>4 the LFB who was inside whether this information might be</p> <p>5 of assistance to them?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No, because I thought they had it.</b></p> <p>7 Q. What made you think they had it?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Because I just thought they would've done because they'd</b></p> <p>9 <b>been on site for a long time and they would know.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Did you not think to double check?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Obviously not.</b></p> <p>12 Q. There's another e-mail at page 9 -- go back, please,</p> <p>13 TMO10031176 at page 9.</p> <p>14 At the foot of the page, that's an e-mail about</p> <p>15 10 minutes later from David Noble to the same -- well,</p> <p>16 actually, slightly different recipients this time,</p> <p>17 05.58, Robert Black -- you're the primary recipient on</p> <p>18 this e-mail -- Teresa Brown, Nicola Bartholomew,</p> <p>19 Janice Wray, Angelique Noble:</p> <p>20 "Subject: Grenfell residents</p> <p>21 "Attachments: Grenfell tower short list.docx;</p> <p>22 Grenfell tower updated.xlsx."</p> <p>23 It looks like there are two documents attached to</p> <p>24 that. One looks like a document and the other looks</p> <p>25 like a spreadsheet.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 190</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No, I don't think so, sorry.</b></p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: At this point, did you try to get hold of</p> <p>3 Teresa Brown and ask her whether she had put this into</p> <p>4 the hands of the LALO or the LFB?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I don't know. I don't have my telephone records with</b></p> <p>6 <b>me.</b></p> <p>7 Q. No, I know, but from your recollection?</p> <p>8 <b>A. It's very hard to recollect the timing and the phone</b></p> <p>9 <b>calls. Apologies.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Given that this data is coming to you --</p> <p>11 <b>A. And Teresa and the housing management team.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Mr Black, I know, you keep saying that and we can see</p> <p>13 that on the e-mail, but given that it comes to you,</p> <p>14 you're the chief executive of this entire organisation,</p> <p>15 did it occur to you at the time it was coming to you</p> <p>16 because it was important information?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I recognise I was included in it. I thought the</b></p> <p>18 <b>information was for Teresa so that she could use it.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Given you're the first named recipient on this e-mail,</p> <p>20 what made you think it was for Teresa?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Oh, that's just my thoughts at the time.</b></p> <p>22 Q. You recall that, do you?</p> <p>23 <b>A. That's what I said.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You recall having that thought at the time, do you?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Well, I recall not doing anything with it.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 192</p>



<p>1 Q. But you recall having the thought at the time that it 2 was for Teresa and not for you? 3 <b>A. Yes.</b> 4 Q. Is that how you thought of it at the time? 5 <b>A. (Nodded assent)</b> 6 Q. There's an e-mail a little bit further back at page 4 -- 7 I'm sorry to ask you to go backwards in this run of 8 correspondence -- from you, Robert Black, to a person at 9 the London Fire Brigade, as you can see, 10 @london-fire.gov.uk, timed at 07.56. 11 If you look at the text, it's sent to the Fire 12 Brigade, cc'd to Teresa Brown, and it's a forwarding 13 e-mail, do you see? 14 <b>A. Yes.</b> 15 Q. It forwards the same documents, Grenfell tower short 16 list.docx and Grenfell tower updated.xlsx: 17 "Hi from Teresa[sic] and getting a hard copy. 18 "Robert." 19 Then underneath it you can see the e-mail I've just 20 been asking you about, which was sent by David Noble to 21 you and the others at 05.38. 22 Do you see? 23 Can you explain why there's a delay of 2.25 hours 24 between your receiving the details from David Noble that 25 we see in the second e-mail on that page at 05.38, and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 193</p>	<p>1 Q. -- as LALO? 2 <b>A. Apologies.</b> 3 Q. I want to turn to the details of the building and go 4 back to paragraph 14 of your statement. 5 Before I do, I want to ask another question on this 6 e-mail. I'm so sorry to ask you to go back to it. This 7 is the e-mail at 07.56, which is TMO10031176. 8 Sorry to ask you to go back to it, Mr Black. It's 9 page 4 in that run of e-mails. 10 At the point at which you were asked to send this to 11 the London Fire Brigade, as you say, this was 2.5 hours 12 after receiving it, did it not then occur to you at that 13 time that Teresa Brown had sat on that e-mail and its 14 information for almost 2 hours and 20 minutes? 15 <b>A. I think you'd need to ask Teresa. I assume she's using 16 that information at the rest centres.</b> 17 Q. I'm asking you whether at the moment you were asked to, 18 as you say, provide this information to the LFB, which 19 results in your sending this e-mail at 07.56, did it 20 occur to you that Theresa May[sic] had not sent it to 21 them earlier on? 22 <b>A. No, it didn't occur to me, I thought it would be --</b> 23 Q. Would it not have come as something of a surprise to you 24 to learn that the information you had received as well 25 as Teresa -- I'm so sorry, you're quite right, the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 195</p>
<p>1 your passing them on to the LFB? 2 <b>A. I think that's when I was asked by the LFB to pass it on 3 to them.</b> 4 Q. So is the answer to my question that the delay of 5 2.25 hours between your receipt of this document and 6 your passing it on was that you weren't asked by the LFB 7 until this point? 8 <b>A. Yes.</b> 9 Q. Do you know why you didn't pass this data on until that 10 point? 11 <b>A. No, because it was only then I was asked and then given 12 this London Fire Brigade e-mail.</b> 13 Q. Did you open the e-mail to see what the attachments 14 were? 15 <b>A. No, it wouldn't open on my phone.</b> 16 Q. Did you try? 17 <b>A. It was too big.</b> 18 Q. Did you ever get to see what those attachments were 19 during the course of the night? 20 <b>A. No.</b> 21 Q. Have you ever since the night seen those documents? 22 <b>A. I've seen them recently, in terms of talking to Teresa.</b> 23 Q. Do you know why they weren't sent to Mike Rumble at any 24 stage after 7 o'clock, once he took over -- 25 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 194</p>	<p>1 transcript says Theresa May! 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Laughter excused! 3 MR MILLETT: Yes, it's entirely my fault! 4 I'm going to ask -- it's a serious question 5 underlying this point. 6 Teresa Brown. 7 Did it not occur to you at the point at which the 8 London Fire Brigade asked you for this information, that 9 your assumption that Teresa Brown had sent it to the LFB 10 earlier was wrong and that she had delayed in doing 11 that? 12 <b>A. My assumption wasn't that; my assumption was the Fire 13 Brigade asked for the information and I passed it on to 14 them.</b> 15 Q. That's your assumption. If that assumption is correct, 16 the London Fire Brigade was asking for the information 17 that you were passing on to them, did that not mean to 18 you that Teresa Brown had failed to send it on to the 19 London Fire Brigade two hours before or more? 20 <b>A. Again, you'll need to ask Teresa if the London Fire 21 Brigade asked her to send the information on.</b> 22 Q. Did it not occur to you that whoever had asked her, she 23 had not handed that information to the London Fire 24 Brigade earlier on? 25 <b>A. Again, I think you would have to ask her. Apologies.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 196</p>

<p>1 Q. Well, I'm asking you what occurred to you.</p> <p>2 <b>A. What occurred to me was --</b></p> <p>3 Q. And I think you're not answering my question.</p> <p>4 <b>A. What occurred to me was I was asked to send information</b></p> <p>5 <b>on, which I did. I wasn't thinking Teresa is not doing</b></p> <p>6 <b>this because she wasn't there, she's busy and doing</b></p> <p>7 <b>things. It wasn't a simple night, people were running</b></p> <p>8 <b>about.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Paragraph 14 of your statement, please, just to go back</p> <p>10 to that. We've seen it before.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. You say in the third line from the end:</p> <p>13 "Following these requests I made enquiries from TMO</p> <p>14 staff better placed to provide accurate information.</p> <p>15 This information was then passed onto Teresa Brown as we</p> <p>16 got it. She then passed it onto the appropriate teams."</p> <p>17 First of all, do you remember whether you or other</p> <p>18 members of the TMO staff had a copy of the TMO emergency</p> <p>19 plan with you, either in hard form or electronically?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>21 Q. You didn't, what about others?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I wouldn't know that.</b></p> <p>23 Q. You've said before you were familiar with the TMO's</p> <p>24 emergency plan.</p> <p>25 Can I ask you to go back to it, please. It's</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 197</p>	<p>1 Q. Is it only blocks or is it other TMO property as well?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Well, in terms of -- it's the housing stock and how it's</b></p> <p>3 <b>broken down.</b></p> <p>4 Q. It says halfway down the page, under the title, "ABOUT</p> <p>5 THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT":</p> <p>6 "Nearby place where Police/Fire/Ambulance can</p> <p>7 gather.</p> <p>8 "Initially the fire services would pull up under the</p> <p>9 block in Grenfell Rd, because of the position of the</p> <p>10 fire riser etc. Gathering point can be the car-park</p> <p>11 (overflow) located by Silchester Road where there</p> <p>12 is space to set up."</p> <p>13 And then:</p> <p>14 "INFORMATION USEFUL TO THE EMERGENCY SERVICES."</p> <p>15 Do you see there are -- first question:</p> <p>16 "Are basic plans available if so are these</p> <p>17 attached?"</p> <p>18 And there's a blank.</p> <p>19 Do you know whether or not there were any plans</p> <p>20 available to be attached to this part of the emergency</p> <p>21 plan?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I wouldn't know the detail of that, sorry.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Who would, please?</p> <p>24 <b>A. It would be the operational teams, so it cut across</b></p> <p>25 <b>housing management, asset management and health and</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 199</p>
<p>1 TMO10013898. I'd like to take you, please, to page 39</p> <p>2 to start with.</p> <p>3 It says there:</p> <p>4 "PART 2 - PROPERTY DETAILS."</p> <p>5 It's a very lengthy document, but just in general</p> <p>6 terms, can you confirm for everybody that this document</p> <p>7 has two parts, the first part of which is the plan and</p> <p>8 part 2 of which is the property details?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes. So the first part is strategic in terms of the</b></p> <p>10 <b>plan and the second part is the operational detail.</b></p> <p>11 Q. If I can ask you, please, then, to go to page 145. We</p> <p>12 have that there.</p> <p>13 We looked earlier on and we saw this plan was</p> <p>14 revised in February 2016, earlier on in your evidence.</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Just to remind you of that.</p> <p>17 Looking at page 145 this is -- is this right? -- the</p> <p>18 page for "GRENFELL TOWER - Lancaster West"?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. It goes on to 146. It goes over two pages.</p> <p>21 This is a format which is used for all the other</p> <p>22 properties under the TMO's remit; is that right?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, one for each block.</b></p> <p>24 Q. One for each block?</p> <p>25 <b>A. (Nodded assent)</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 198</p>	<p>1 <b>safety. So in a sense they pulled the information</b></p> <p>2 <b>together.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Then you can see some other questions down the page,</p> <p>4 main electrical intake, gas, water, and then other</p> <p>5 significant special features, other on site-specific</p> <p>6 information.</p> <p>7 "Location of relevant keys: In Reception -- ground</p> <p>8 floor."</p> <p>9 Then over the page:</p> <p>10 "Other means of escape: Stairs exit at walkway</p> <p>11 level."</p> <p>12 I should've shown you this on the first page as</p> <p>13 well, sorry, if we can go back to it.</p> <p>14 "Number of dwellings ... "</p> <p>15 Go back to the first page.</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. "Number of dwellings: 120.</p> <p>18 "Approximate number of residents: 330 to 360.</p> <p>19 "Please give indication of the likely number of</p> <p>20 vulnerable residents: 8-12."</p> <p>21 If you go back to page 146:</p> <p>22 "Other means of escape: Stairs exit at walkway</p> <p>23 level."</p> <p>24 And then "OTHER INFORMATION":</p> <p>25 "The block has an automatic fire alarm and smoke</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 200</p>

<p>1 extract system."</p> <p>2 And then you can see that there's some fire safety</p> <p>3 advice, second entry up from the bottom in that box:</p> <p>4 "In case of fire residents are advised to remain in</p> <p>5 their homes unless affected by heat or smoke. They</p> <p>6 would be advised by fire services or the estate office</p> <p>7 when to leave their homes."</p> <p>8 Then the date, 25 February 2002.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Do you know whether there is a more up-to-date version</p> <p>11 of this document as part of the emergency plan?</p> <p>12 <b>A. It should be. I'm very disappointed to see the date</b></p> <p>13 <b>here.</b></p> <p>14 Q. So if there isn't -- and we haven't seen one -- as at</p> <p>15 the night of the fire, this document was 15 years out of</p> <p>16 date; is that right?</p> <p>17 <b>A. It would appear to be so.</b></p> <p>18 Q. And it wouldn't even reflect the refurbishment.</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes, I agree.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Because if it did, it would say 129 flats.</p> <p>21 <b>A. I recognise that.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Presumably, if it did, it would reflect the up-to-date</p> <p>23 number of vulnerable residents, wouldn't it?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Well, the up-to-date vulnerable residents would be on</b></p> <p>25 <b>the housing management system, not on that. So that's</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 201</p>	<p>1 night, any conversation about how to go about finding</p> <p>2 that information?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No, because I think she would know how to do that.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Can I ask you then, please, to look at an e-mail</p> <p>5 TMO10031176.</p> <p>6 I'd like you to go in that to page 6, please.</p> <p>7 This is an e-mail sent --</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Is it more comfortable to look at</p> <p>9 that one, or there is the one on there?</p> <p>10 <b>A. It depends on my eyes, sir. This is better at the</b></p> <p>11 <b>moment.</b></p> <p>12 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Okay.</b></p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: This is an e-mail from David Noble,</p> <p>14 14 June 2017, at 06.03, Mr Black. Sent to Teresa Brown,</p> <p>15 Janice Wray and Nicola Bartholomew. I appreciate you're</p> <p>16 not on that e-mail distribution list.</p> <p>17 It says:</p> <p>18 "Subject: Grenfell Emergency plan section."</p> <p>19 Then we can see if we follow our eye down the page,</p> <p>20 it says:</p> <p>21 "Name of Block(s)</p> <p>22 "Grenfell Tower."</p> <p>23 And then the postal address, et cetera.</p> <p>24 "Number of dwellings."</p> <p>25 Do you see?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 203</p>
<p>1 <b>a live record. So in a sense, these are almost static,</b></p> <p>2 <b>it doesn't have to be updated.</b></p> <p>3 Q. On the night itself, did you actually have in your</p> <p>4 hands, or the other TMO staff's hands, a reliable number</p> <p>5 for vulnerable residents in that building?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I wouldn't have had anything. That's what Teresa would</b></p> <p>7 <b>be trying to -- getting through the data of the system.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Given that it's one of the --</p> <p>9 <b>A. 300.</b></p> <p>10 Q. -- features or factors that are part of the emergency</p> <p>11 plan, did it occur to you on the night, did it go</p> <p>12 through your head on the night, that one thing you</p> <p>13 needed to do was to make sure that you or somebody who</p> <p>14 was reporting to you had as soon as possible in their</p> <p>15 hands an up-to-date and reliable list of who the</p> <p>16 vulnerable residents of this building were?</p> <p>17 <b>A. In that sense, that would've been my operational</b></p> <p>18 <b>director, director of housing, Teresa Brown. In</b></p> <p>19 <b>a sense, her staff would update that information where</b></p> <p>20 <b>appropriate if they knew about it.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Did you give her any specific instructions to go and</p> <p>22 find that information?</p> <p>23 <b>A. No, because she's a director and she would probably</b></p> <p>24 <b>understand it herself.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Did you and she ever have, during the course of that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 202</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. "120.</p> <p>3 "Approximate number of residents.</p> <p>4 "330 to 360.</p> <p>5 "Please given an indication of the likely number of</p> <p>6 vulnerable residents.</p> <p>7 "8-12."</p> <p>8 You can see the theme that's emerging, can't you,</p> <p>9 here?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. If you turn the page, you can see at the bottom of</p> <p>12 page 7:</p> <p>13 "Location of relevant keys.</p> <p>14 "In Reception - ground floor."</p> <p>15 Then at the top of page 8:</p> <p>16 "Stairs exit at walkway level."</p> <p>17 It looks as if Mr Noble had simply cut and paste the</p> <p>18 details for Grenfell from part 2 of the TMO emergency</p> <p>19 plan that we were looking at earlier dated 2002 and sent</p> <p>20 them on the night of the fire to the incident ground.</p> <p>21 <b>A. It looks like that, yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did you know that he did that at the time?</p> <p>23 <b>A. No, because it's not copied in to me.</b></p> <p>24 Q. So you didn't know that TMO staff were sending detailed</p> <p>25 information about this building that was 15 years out of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 204</p>

<p>1 date?</p> <p>2 <b>A. So what I know is David sent it to the housing</b></p> <p>3 <b>management team who -- again, you would have to check</b></p> <p>4 <b>with Teresa -- understood that to be out of date, and</b></p> <p>5 <b>that's as much as I know.</b></p> <p>6 Q. You don't know what Teresa Brown did with this material?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I think -- I recognise Teresa's later. She would be</b></p> <p>8 <b>able to tell you that rather than me suggesting.</b></p> <p>9 Q. So, again, this is something for Teresa to answer, not</p> <p>10 for you; is that right?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Well, I think since it's sent to Teresa, it would be</b></p> <p>12 <b>useful to hear her views rather than mine, since</b></p> <p>13 <b>I didn't know about it.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Is this the first time you've discovered that</p> <p>15 information which is 15 years out of date about this</p> <p>16 building was being sent between your TMO staff on the</p> <p>17 night of the fire?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I discovered it when we were preparing the e-mail chain</b></p> <p>19 <b>for today to understand the time span.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Right. Well, I won't ask you about that preparation.</p> <p>21 But as a result of discovering that, have you undertaken</p> <p>22 any further investigations as to how it could be that</p> <p>23 information that was 15 years out of date --</p> <p>24 <b>A. I wish I could, but unfortunately I don't work there</b></p> <p>25 <b>anymore, I'm no longer chief exec there and I left the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 205</p>	<p>1 no such conversation.</p> <p>2 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Were you specifically asked to provide plans of this</p> <p>4 building during the time that you were at the scene?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I can't remember that.</b></p> <p>6 Q. You can't remember one way or the other?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I can't remember having gone through it.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Let's see if you can help me with some documents.</p> <p>9 There's an e-mail at RBK00001468.</p> <p>10 This is an e-mail sent, it appears, at 05.15 from</p> <p>11 your Samsung device to John Allen.</p> <p>12 First of all, who is John Allen?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I found out that he is a building engineer who was asked</b></p> <p>14 <b>to look at the building on the day by the borough.</b></p> <p>15 Q. You are forwarding an e-mail you've received below,</p> <p>16 "Fire access plans from the refurb", do you see?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. And there are some attachments to it. Look at what</p> <p>19 you're forwarding.</p> <p>20 What your forwarding, below where you see you say</p> <p>21 "Sent from my Samsung device", it says from David Noble,</p> <p>22 to Janice Wray, Robert Black, Nicola Bartholomew, "Fire</p> <p>23 access plans from the refurb".</p> <p>24 That e-mail is timed at 06.14.</p> <p>25 Can you explain the time discrepancy, given that you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 207</p>
<p>1 <b>organisation.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Very well.</p> <p>3 Did Teresa Brown or Janice Wray or Nicola</p> <p>4 Bartholomew try to contact you and tell you not to give</p> <p>5 this information to anybody -- the LALO or the LFB or</p> <p>6 the police -- because it was 15 years out of date and</p> <p>7 materially inaccurate?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Well, for a start, I don't have it. It wasn't sent to</b></p> <p>9 <b>me. Therefore, I wouldn't know that.</b></p> <p>10 Q. I repeat my question. That wasn't the premise of my</p> <p>11 question, Mr Black.</p> <p>12 <b>A. Sorry.</b></p> <p>13 Q. I'll put it again: did any of the people who did receive</p> <p>14 this e-mail -- Teresa Brown, Janice Ray or Nicola</p> <p>15 Bartholomew -- contact you on the night and tell you not</p> <p>16 to provide this information to the LFB?</p> <p>17 <b>A. First of all, I couldn't provide it because I didn't</b></p> <p>18 <b>have it; secondly, I don't remember them contacting me</b></p> <p>19 <b>about that.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did they contact you and tell you that they had received</p> <p>21 information which was 15 years out of date and could you</p> <p>22 help them obtain information which was up-to-date?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I don't remember that, and I imagine they would have the</b></p> <p>24 <b>more up-to-date information than I would have.</b></p> <p>25 Q. So I think the answer to my question is that there was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 206</p>	<p>1 receive an e-mail at 06.14 and are forwarding it at</p> <p>2 05.16?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No, I think this was another one of these e-mails that</b></p> <p>4 <b>the timing doesn't make sense.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Could it be simply that, in fact, the time you received</p> <p>6 that e-mail was at 06.14 and you sent it at 06.16, and</p> <p>7 for some technical reason your Samsung device has</p> <p>8 recorded it as being sent an hour earlier?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I don't know. It seems very strange timing that you've</b></p> <p>10 <b>got 06.14 and mine is 05.16. This was I think -- again,</b></p> <p>11 <b>you can check with my solicitors -- provided by RBKC.</b></p> <p>12 <b>It wasn't in our pack of e-mails.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Yes. I'm just --</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, I think there are</p> <p>15 questions about these times because you'll have noticed</p> <p>16 in the original e-mail, the timing is given as GMT+0, so</p> <p>17 it's not adjusted for summertime. That would make it</p> <p>18 even later, but it still raises a question as to some of</p> <p>19 these timings. So it may be at some point we need to</p> <p>20 examine that.</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: I am just asking the witness whether or not he</p> <p>22 can explain the discrepancy. Given that what is being</p> <p>23 forwarded is received at 06.14, as it appears, and you</p> <p>24 forward it on at 05.16, one or other of those is</p> <p>25 incorrect. I'm just asking you, given you are the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 208</p>

<p>1 recipient and sender, whether you can assist us?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I can't tell you the answer to that, I'm sorry.</b></p> <p>3 Q. We might be able to make some more sense of this if you</p> <p>4 go back -- let's keep this one on the page, Mr Documents</p> <p>5 Director, please, and go back then to TMO10031176,</p> <p>6 page 10, which is an e-mail we looked at earlier on</p> <p>7 together, Mr Black.</p> <p>8 So if we have that one on the page, and then also on</p> <p>9 the screen the one I've just referred to.</p> <p>10 What I want to show you is the one from David Noble</p> <p>11 at 05.24 to you, where at the end of the line, it says,</p> <p>12 "Looking for plans."</p> <p>13 Do you see?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. We can perhaps have that highlighted. The right-hand</p> <p>16 side.</p> <p>17 If the highlighter can go on the line of the e-mail</p> <p>18 at the top of the page:</p> <p>19 "All occupants of Grenfell as at 30 May 2017. Still</p> <p>20 trying to get live data to run. Looking for plans."</p> <p>21 I want to emphasise "Looking for plans."</p> <p>22 It looks as if David Noble sends an e-mail to you at</p> <p>23 05.24 saying "Looking for plans." If that is right,</p> <p>24 which it appears to be, it would suggest that you</p> <p>25 couldn't have been sending plans to John Allen at 05.16,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 209</p>	<p>1 to 05.24 therefore means the one on the left couldn't</p> <p>2 have been sent at 05.16 because we don't know that the</p> <p>3 one on the right is --</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, the only question is whether</p> <p>5 Mr Black can help us understand the problem. If he</p> <p>6 can't, we'll have to work it out for ourselves.</p> <p>7 MS JARRATT: Thank you.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>9 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Well, I think we've probably squeezed this</p> <p>11 lemon dry. You've got the documents. You'll have to</p> <p>12 make sense of them, Mr Chairman. I'm just seeing</p> <p>13 whether the witness can help.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think the answer is he can't.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: I'm afraid I can't, yes.</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: Let me see if I can do a little better because</p> <p>17 I'm not quite going to give up yet.</p> <p>18 If I can ask you, please, to be shown MET00005404.</p> <p>19 Go, please, to page 5 in that.</p> <p>20 I should just be clear, Mr Black, I'm using these</p> <p>21 documents to see if I can assist with your recollection.</p> <p>22 You didn't see this document.</p> <p>23 This is the log compiled by the incident commander</p> <p>24 Assistant Commissioner Andy Roe through his loggist, and</p> <p>25 at page 5 there is a record of a meeting or discussion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 211</p>
<p>1 some 8 minutes beforehand.</p> <p>2 Therefore, the time at which David Noble sends you</p> <p>3 plans, at 06.14, would be correct?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I ...</b></p> <p>5 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm not sure I followed your</b></p> <p>6 <b>question. I'm sorry, Mr Millett.</b></p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Right.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Can we do it again in a different</p> <p>9 way?</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Yes, of course.</p> <p>11 David Noble sends an e-mail at 05.24 to you saying</p> <p>12 "Looking for plans." It stands to reason that if he was</p> <p>13 still looking for plans at 05.24, you couldn't have been</p> <p>14 sending plans to --</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Ms Jarratt, what do you --</p> <p>16 MS JARRATT: I'm sorry to rise to my feet, but there are</p> <p>17 a number of discrepancies in these e-mails and they</p> <p>18 haven't been set out in correspondence. I'm not sure</p> <p>19 anyone has got to the bottom of why they are there.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Well, counsel is just</p> <p>21 exploring this with the witness. He may not be able to</p> <p>22 help.</p> <p>23 MS JARRATT: I think he's confirmed that. But also, to try</p> <p>24 and forensically dissect it by suggesting that the</p> <p>25 e-mail on the right-hand side of the page was attributed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 210</p>	<p>1 at 06.13:</p> <p>2 "DSE District Surveyor ..."</p> <p>3 Then I'm going to show you the third line of that:</p> <p>4 "Will attempt to locate plans. John Allen</p> <p>5 [redacted]."</p> <p>6 If that is correct, and 06.13 is the correct time,</p> <p>7 does that help you with your recollection as to when you</p> <p>8 sent plans to John Allen?</p> <p>9 <b>A. No, I'm afraid not. I can see that.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Even though I've shown you your own e-mail just shortly</p> <p>11 after that which sends plans to John Allen by e-mail,</p> <p>12 no?</p> <p>13 <b>A. What I'm saying is the times seem very confusing and ...</b></p> <p>14 Q. Well, with great respect, they're only confused if you</p> <p>15 want them to be confused.</p> <p>16 The e-mail under which you send John Allen the plans</p> <p>17 is very, very shortly after 06.13.</p> <p>18 I know you didn't see this document at the time, but</p> <p>19 to the best of your recollection -- I'll put it to you</p> <p>20 once more -- do you think you sent the plans to</p> <p>21 John Allen at about 06.15 or after 06.13, or was it</p> <p>22 about 05.13, an hour before Assistant Commissioner Roe</p> <p>23 asks for them from John Allen?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I wouldn't be able to clarify that for you, I'm sorry.</b></p> <p>25 Q. So is the answer to my question you simply can't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 212</p>

<p>1 remember?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes, I can't remember on the night of that specific</b></p> <p>3 <b>detail.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Why did you forward the plans to John Allen, do you</p> <p>5 know?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I think I must have been asked, but I can't remember,</b></p> <p>7 <b>apologies.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Did you or anybody at the TMO send these to the LFB?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Do you remember being asked by anybody to send plans to</p> <p>11 the LFB?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Were you aware after the end of the -- I'll give you the</p> <p>14 time because you weren't at the meeting -- at about</p> <p>15 07.30 or so, after the fourth tactical co-ordination</p> <p>16 meeting at 07.15, that at that meeting a request had</p> <p>17 been made by the incident commander for plans?</p> <p>18 <b>A. What was the question again, was I aware of it?</b></p> <p>19 Q. I'll repeat the question.</p> <p>20 Were you aware, after the end of the fourth tactical</p> <p>21 co-ordination meeting, which started at 07.13, that the</p> <p>22 incident commander, Andy Roe, had asked for plans of</p> <p>23 Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I can't remember, apologies. I know I sent the list to</b></p> <p>25 <b>the Fire Brigade after 7 o'clock as well. That was the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 213</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I'm not sure. I thought they would've had them.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember having any contact with Mike Rumble?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes, I'd met him once before.</b></p> <p>4 Q. In his statement, and as he told us this morning, he</p> <p>5 says that you had a copy of the plans of one floor on</p> <p>6 your mobile phone at approximately 07.40 am.</p> <p>7 Do you remember anything about that?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No, I was made aware of that in preparation for this,</b></p> <p>9 <b>and when we looked at the e-mails of actually what was</b></p> <p>10 <b>sent to the Fire Brigade, it was a list of the</b></p> <p>11 <b>residents.</b></p> <p>12 <b>We haven't seen any e-mails from the Fire Brigade to</b></p> <p>13 <b>give clarification on that.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Do you remember whether the plan that you received from</p> <p>15 David Noble and sent to John Allen was the plan that you</p> <p>16 had on your mobile phone?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I'm not sure, so ... I imagine it must have been.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Mr Rumble says that he recalls you speaking to a fire</p> <p>19 officer at the command unit and he believes that you</p> <p>20 forwarded the plan to the requested fire e-mail address.</p> <p>21 <b>A. So, again, according to the e-mails I've seen in</b></p> <p>22 <b>preparation for today, around about that time sending</b></p> <p>23 <b>an e-mail to the Fire Brigade e-mail, which had the list</b></p> <p>24 <b>of the residents, we -- and I haven't been shown</b></p> <p>25 <b>an e-mail that shows that included the plans.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 215</p>
<p>1 <b>main one.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Let me see if I can again show you a document to prompt</p> <p>3 your recollection.</p> <p>4 Same document we're in but page 7, please.</p> <p>5 On that page, you can see just above the time mark</p> <p>6 of 07.35, Mr Black, just above halfway down, it says:</p> <p>7 "Andy wants from LA, numbers and where people in</p> <p>8 rest centres came from i.e. Granville House [that should</p> <p>9 be Grenfell].</p> <p>10 "Police request electoral roll from LA.</p> <p>11 "6 flats per floor confirmed by Tom Goodall."</p> <p>12 Then this:</p> <p>13 "Andy Roe requests plans from Local Authority LALO</p> <p>14 is Mr Rumble."</p> <p>15 You weren't at this meeting. I'm assuming you've</p> <p>16 not seen this document before.</p> <p>17 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>18 Q. My question is simply this: at about this time, so after</p> <p>19 this meeting, about 07.30, do you remember Mr Rumble</p> <p>20 asking you for plans of Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I have no recollection.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you know whether this request for plans was actioned?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I'm not Mr Rumble.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Do you know whether the TMO assisted the local authority</p> <p>25 in finding plans for Grenfell Tower?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 214</p>	<p>1 <b>That's ...</b></p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, we've been going for another hour</p> <p>3 or so. It is probably time for another break. I'm</p> <p>4 conscious it's 4.30. I don't have much more to cover</p> <p>5 with this witness, but it would be essential to finish</p> <p>6 him tonight?</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It would if we can.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: We can.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I am reluctant to sit beyond</p> <p>10 5 o'clock because we started half an hour earlier as it</p> <p>11 was. Is that going to be feasible?</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: It is, subject to other things, yes.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I imagine you would like to finish</p> <p>14 your evidence this evening, Mr Black, wouldn't you?</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like a break or would you</p> <p>17 rather keep going on the basis that the sooner we --</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: I'd rather --</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: The rather more we keep going, the</p> <p>20 sooner you finish?</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: Yes, I would appreciate that.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You are comfortable to keep going,</p> <p>23 are you?</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: I'm comfortable.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think the answer, Mr Millett, is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 216</p>

<p>1 just keep going.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Very good.</p> <p>3 Do you remember anything about sending plans to the</p> <p>4 LFB after about 07.40?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No, I haven't seen an e-mail that I did that.</b></p> <p>6 Q. No, but do you remember?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I'm trying to base it on evidence that in terms of</b></p> <p>8 <b>preparation, I don't have an e-mail sent to the London</b></p> <p>9 <b>Fire Brigade with --</b></p> <p>10 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No, but I think the question is: do</b></p> <p>11 <b>you have any independent recollection of that?</b></p> <p>12 <b>A. No. Apologies.</b></p> <p>13 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's all right.</b></p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: Did you know that at some point in the morning</p> <p>15 of 14 June, after Nick Layton had left and while</p> <p>16 Mike Rumble was still the LALO, plans did arrive?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I didn't know that.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Is your evidence that you can't recall having any</p> <p>19 involvement with plans at all other than the e-mail</p> <p>20 I showed you?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. I want to ask you about another e-mail, TMO10031176,</p> <p>23 please, at page 9.</p> <p>24 This is an e-mail from you on 14 June 2017 at</p> <p>25 6.00 am to Peter Maddison, Barbara Matthews, Janice Wray</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 217</p>	<p>1 <b>pull together some heads up and pointers about what we</b></p> <p>2 <b>would have to prepare either for RBKC or ultimately for</b></p> <p>3 <b>the inquiry, which we knew there would be one at that</b></p> <p>4 <b>time.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Were you passing those questions that they were asking</p> <p>6 of you on to anybody at that time?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, that's in terms of -- for me that's a heads up</b></p> <p>8 <b>e-mail to those people who cover those areas in terms of</b></p> <p>9 <b>directors or senior managers.</b></p> <p>10 Q. I see.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Just reflection on the evening or that morning, where we</b></p> <p>12 <b>were.</b></p> <p>13 Q. So that I am clear about your evidence, are you saying</p> <p>14 that they were saying there were questions or were they</p> <p>15 actually asking you questions?</p> <p>16 <b>A. They were saying what's happening -- so it was -- it was</b></p> <p>17 <b>a general -- they were asking general questions which</b></p> <p>18 <b>I didn't have the answer to, and then I was really</b></p> <p>19 <b>regurgitating that back to my team that these were</b></p> <p>20 <b>things people were asking about, and actually as the</b></p> <p>21 <b>lead people for those areas, you would need to start</b></p> <p>22 <b>quite quickly gathering that information, not just for</b></p> <p>23 <b>RBKC or the inquiry but for my board as well.</b></p> <p>24 Q. What were the questions that you were being asked about</p> <p>25 the cladding?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 219</p>
<p>1 and Yvonne Birch, copied to Teresa Brown and</p> <p>2 Hash Chamchoun, "Subject: Fire". Do you see?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. "To update</p> <p>5 "Teresa and Hash are mangling [I'm sure that should</p> <p>6 be managing] resources at the respite centres.</p> <p>7 "RFM and NPB are here and making statements saying</p> <p>8 very little."</p> <p>9 Could you tell us who RFM and NPB are?</p> <p>10 <b>A. So Rock Feilding-Mellen, who was deputy leader and lead</b></p> <p>11 <b>member for housing, and Nick Paget-Brown, who was leader</b></p> <p>12 <b>of the council.</b></p> <p>13 Q. "Question S[sic] about the cladding and spec.</p> <p>14 "Questions about how it spread."</p> <p>15 And then forget the next line, and then:</p> <p>16 "We need all the information about the refurbishment</p> <p>17 as this will be a primary focus (Peter. And his team)."</p> <p>18 First of all, questions about cladding and spec;</p> <p>19 were these questions that you were asking yourself on</p> <p>20 the night or being asked of you on the night?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Asked of me.</b></p> <p>22 Q. By whom?</p> <p>23 <b>A. When Nick Paget-Brown and that came they were asking,</b></p> <p>24 <b>because obviously, you know, it looked like the cladding</b></p> <p>25 <b>was an issue. So therefore all I was trying to do was</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 218</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Well, they weren't really questions. They're</b></p> <p>2 <b>saying: what's happened? Have you seen the cladding?</b></p> <p>3 <b>They were very general in terms of actually what was put</b></p> <p>4 <b>to me and it's very general headlines I sent to my team.</b></p> <p>5 Q. You said in the last answer they were general. What</p> <p>6 were the general questions? Or were they so general as</p> <p>7 to not have any content?</p> <p>8 <b>A. So general at that stage, they have no content. It's</b></p> <p>9 <b>more about how you could perceive that people are going</b></p> <p>10 <b>to be asking lots of questions and how you we gather</b></p> <p>11 <b>that information.</b></p> <p>12 Q. What made you think at that point in the night that the</p> <p>13 refurbishment would be a primary focus?</p> <p>14 <b>A. It wasn't. It was asking about how -- I mean, I didn't</b></p> <p>15 <b>know and still didn't know how the fire sort of created</b></p> <p>16 <b>that problem, and it was just these general things that</b></p> <p>17 <b>I'd picked up that I wanted to send to the team.</b></p> <p>18 Q. You say just these general things you picked up you</p> <p>19 wanted to send to the team.</p> <p>20 Just be a bit more specific. What was it about the</p> <p>21 refurbishment that you thought meant that it would be</p> <p>22 a primary focus?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Well, I suppose what I thought is that we have a brand</b></p> <p>24 <b>new refurbished building that's on fire, and a terrible</b></p> <p>25 <b>fire, and people will be asking: how could that happen?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 220</p>

<p>1 As general as that. In terms of, actually, people will</p> <p>2 be wanting to look in more detail, you know, in terms of</p> <p>3 actually: what are the issues? You know, it's</p> <p>4 a disaster. People will come after asking those</p> <p>5 questions, and it's about trying to get the team to</p> <p>6 start thinking: how do you collect that information so</p> <p>7 that it can be available in more detail?</p> <p>8 Q. At this time, on the night of the fire, were you aware</p> <p>9 of any deficiencies in the building so far as concerned</p> <p>10 fire safety?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. I take it from that that you therefore never had any</p> <p>13 discussion with the LFB about fire safety on the night?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you ask any questions of Janice Wray or anybody else</p> <p>16 in the TMO responsible for the refurbishment on the</p> <p>17 night whether they knew whether there were any</p> <p>18 deficiencies so far as regards fire safety?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. I think you then left the site at around about 9.00 am</p> <p>21 or so.</p> <p>22 A. Yes, I think so.</p> <p>23 Q. Where did you go after that?</p> <p>24 A. I think I went to RBKC for I think it was the first Gold</p> <p>25 meeting they were holding.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 221</p>	<p>1 conversations with anybody on the night about how you</p> <p>2 could best assist RBKC in responding to this fire?</p> <p>3 A. Well, I think how we best assist was taking instruction</p> <p>4 from the RBKC officers who were helping -- there wasn't</p> <p>5 any RBKC senior managers on site apart from the LALOs.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you volunteer any particular assistance in terms of</p> <p>7 documents or anything like that to the LALOs or were you</p> <p>8 just essentially waiting to be asked by them?</p> <p>9 A. Essentially waiting to be asked for them in line with</p> <p>10 the strategic plan.</p> <p>11 Q. In line with RBKC's strategic plan?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Would that mean you would describe your role on the</p> <p>14 night and that of your organisation as essentially</p> <p>15 passive?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, because in a sense the RBKC emergency plan was in</p> <p>17 operation, and our plan wasn't. So it was passive in</p> <p>18 the sense that I wasn't part of the emergency structure.</p> <p>19 Q. Can I ask you to go back, please, to an e-mail we looked</p> <p>20 at earlier, which is the e-mail at TMO10031176, page 9.</p> <p>21 No, that's not the right one.</p> <p>22 I'm so sorry, let me give you a different reference.</p> <p>23 I have a better one, I think.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It's up now. Is that the wrong</p> <p>25 page?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 223</p>
<p>1 Q. In general terms, just as a general question, would you</p> <p>2 accept that it would've been helpful to have building</p> <p>3 plans, a list of residents and an asbestos list,</p> <p>4 documents like that, readily to hand?</p> <p>5 A. I think that would be useful. It depends where they</p> <p>6 are. Because usually they're on the system, it's like</p> <p>7 getting them off the system.</p> <p>8 Q. Did you make any assumption as to whether the council</p> <p>9 had those documents or pieces of information or whether</p> <p>10 they were more readily available to the TMO?</p> <p>11 A. I made no assumptions in terms of actually we would</p> <p>12 probably have information and the people to find it are</p> <p>13 the ones I mentioned.</p> <p>14 Q. Did you get any sense on the night that things that were</p> <p>15 needed were absolutely integral to the council's</p> <p>16 response to this fire?</p> <p>17 A. Well, I think the integral that the council required is</p> <p>18 how it was dealing with the unfolding disaster around</p> <p>19 about it and how the firemen were fighting the fire,</p> <p>20 because what it was creating was a wave of people who</p> <p>21 didn't want to stay in their homes and needed support.</p> <p>22 So, again, the primary at that stage would be how you</p> <p>23 actually man and support the rest centres.</p> <p>24 Q. Just to try to get at the same point in a slightly</p> <p>25 different way, did you have any discussions or</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 222</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: It is, yes.</p> <p>2 LFB00024370.</p> <p>3 It's the same document but under a different</p> <p>4 reference. At this hour, I am not going to apologise</p> <p>5 for taking you to a different reference.</p> <p>6 This is an e-mail from you -- that's not it.</p> <p>7 LFB00024370.</p> <p>8 It's the bottom of the page. Robert Black, 07.57,</p> <p>9 to Goodall, Thomas. We know that's an LFB officer?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Copied Teresa Brown:</p> <p>12 "Subject: Fwd: Grenfell residents</p> <p>13 Hi from Teresa and getting a hard copy.</p> <p>14 "Robert."</p> <p>15 This is back to the list of residents.</p> <p>16 My question is: do you remember whether that was</p> <p>17 sent to the LFB in response to a request to you from the</p> <p>18 LFB?</p> <p>19 A. I can't remember if it came from the LALO or what,</p> <p>20 because someone had to give me the Fire Brigade's</p> <p>21 e-mail, which I didn't have.</p> <p>22 Q. Who gave you the e-mail?</p> <p>23 A. I can't remember, sorry.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: Mr Black, I have no further questions for you.</p> <p>25 That isn't to say there may not be one or two more, but</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 224</p>



<p>1 thank you very much so far.</p> <p>2 Mr Chairman, I'm going to ask you to rise for</p> <p>3 a few minutes to see if there are any further questions.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, at this stage we do normally</p> <p>5 break for 5 minutes to let counsel check whether he has</p> <p>6 covered all the ground he needs to cover. I'll rise for</p> <p>7 5 minutes and again ask you not to talk to anyone about</p> <p>8 your evidence while you're out of the room. We'll be</p> <p>9 back at 4.50 to see if there is any more. All right?</p> <p>10 Thank you very much.</p> <p>11 All right, 4.50, then, please.</p> <p>12 (4.45 pm)</p> <p>13 (A short break)</p> <p>14 (4.50 pm)</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Black, I think just a few more</p> <p>16 questions and then we'll be finished.</p> <p>17 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: Mr Black, can I ask you, please, to go back to</p> <p>20 your witness statement at page 2, and this is</p> <p>21 TMO100148961. Look, please, at paragraph 14. We looked</p> <p>22 at this together before and I showed it to you. If we</p> <p>23 can have paragraph 14 expanded, please.</p> <p>24 You say that you can recall that command unit fire</p> <p>25 officers were asking for information such as -- and then</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 225</p>	<p>1 staff to the find out what asbestos was in the building</p> <p>2 so that you could help the LFB answer their question?</p> <p>3 <b>A. In a sense, that would've been my health and safety team</b></p> <p>4 <b>who would have that information.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Do you remember asking your health and safety team to</p> <p>6 assist you to get that information so that you could</p> <p>7 assist the LFB?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No. I imagine that was something that would come later</b></p> <p>9 <b>on in the morning once we had more people.</b></p> <p>10 Q. When you say no, is it you don't remember or that you</p> <p>11 didn't ask?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I don't remember.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Looking at paragraph 15 of your statement, you say:</p> <p>14 "15. I recall the LFB being particularly anxious to</p> <p>15 know the names of people known to be in the building.</p> <p>16 I recall explaining to the officers that TMO would be</p> <p>17 able to provide the names of the registered tenants and</p> <p>18 leaseholders but the TMO did not hold records of</p> <p>19 occupants and visitors therefore the TMO would not be</p> <p>20 able to provide that level of detail."</p> <p>21 You told us a number of times you didn't have or</p> <p>22 don't recall having conversations with the LFB.</p> <p>23 When you wrote your statement, you do appear to have</p> <p>24 recalled having a conversation with officers, you say,</p> <p>25 about the provision of information about registered</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 227</p>
<p>1 we see the presence of asbestos, et cetera.</p> <p>2 I just want to focus on that.</p> <p>3 Do you remember who asked you to find out</p> <p>4 information about asbestos specifically?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Not specifically.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Do you know whether information about asbestos was</p> <p>7 handed over to the LFB in accordance with what you say</p> <p>8 they were after?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I don't know if they were able to get it on the night or</b></p> <p>10 <b>whether they got it later on in the day.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Did the TMO actually have a policy of positively</p> <p>12 promoting asbestos awareness?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I think so. We had an asbestos policy, I'm not aware of</b></p> <p>14 <b>the details of it, and that was managed in our health</b></p> <p>15 <b>and safety department.</b></p> <p>16 Q. When you heard that the London Fire Brigade was</p> <p>17 interested in information about the presence of</p> <p>18 asbestos, did you yourself consider the dangers of</p> <p>19 asbestos in the vicinity?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>21 Q. No?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I imagine it was one of the things you worry about</b></p> <p>23 <b>because you don't know what's in the building, and it's</b></p> <p>24 <b>about how you access that information.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Did you take it upon yourself to ask any members of your</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 226</p>	<p>1 tenants and leaseholders.</p> <p>2 When you say "officers" there, do you mean the LFB?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I ... I think it was to the LALOs.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Well, it's in the context of the LFB being particularly</p> <p>5 anxious to know the names of the people known to be in</p> <p>6 the building.</p> <p>7 <b>A. I imagine LFB asked the LALOs and the LALOs asked me.</b></p> <p>8 Q. You don't say that there. Instead you say you recall</p> <p>9 the LFB being particularly anxious to know the names of</p> <p>10 the people, and you recall explaining to the officers</p> <p>11 the TMO would be able to provide the names of registered</p> <p>12 tenants.</p> <p>13 <b>A. So that was a recollection. It is the best of my</b></p> <p>14 <b>knowledge at the time.</b></p> <p>15 Q. So is it right that actually you did have a conversation</p> <p>16 with the LFB, as you record here, about the names of the</p> <p>17 people known to be in the building?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I didn't say that. What I said is I recall explaining</b></p> <p>19 <b>to the officers, and it might be the LALO, how and what</b></p> <p>20 <b>information we would have, we wouldn't have information</b></p> <p>21 <b>on everybody in the building.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Mr Black, why did you choose to use the word "officers"</p> <p>23 here when you meant LALOs?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I don't know, I'm afraid.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Did you really mean LALOs or did you actually mean</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 228</p>

<p>1 officers of the London Fire Brigade to whom you refer in</p> <p>2 the previous sentence?</p> <p>3 <b>A. General officers -- it's only recently I've got my head</b></p> <p>4 <b>around the whole LALO bit, so I think what I did was to</b></p> <p>5 <b>the best of my knowledge at the time wrote that down.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Well, it looks, on a plain reading of this paragraph,</p> <p>7 that you did have a conversation with the LFB about the</p> <p>8 names of people in the building?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I can't recall that at the moment, apologies.</b></p> <p>10 Q. And you now can't recall it?</p> <p>11 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Very well.</p> <p>13 You were at the scene, as you told us, from</p> <p>14 03.00/03.30 until you left about 09.00ish or so. That's</p> <p>15 about six/six and a half hours. Would that be right?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. What were you actually doing during that period?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Standing there. Responding to phone calls. Speaking to</b></p> <p>19 <b>people on the phone. Not very much, as I said, because</b></p> <p>20 <b>I wasn't part of the structure.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Standing there, responding to phone calls.</p> <p>22 <b>A. And speaking to my team generally.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Of those communications, is there anything that stands</p> <p>24 out which was the subject of those communications?</p> <p>25 <b>A. So what we've got is a disaster that's unfolding. I'm</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 229</p>	<p>1 patience to some extent.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: I'm sorry I have, but I think it was essential</p> <p>3 to finish the witness.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course.</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: I'm particularly grateful to the transcribers</p> <p>6 and the trial director for bearing with me.</p> <p>7 Teresa Brown was clearly programmed for this</p> <p>8 afternoon and it's self-evident we will not be able to</p> <p>9 reach her today, even if I thought it was a good idea to</p> <p>10 ask you, which I don't.</p> <p>11 There is a human aspect to this, which is that she</p> <p>12 is extremely anxious to give her evidence as soon as</p> <p>13 possible, and there is a good reason forensically why</p> <p>14 her evidence should follow that of Mr Black.</p> <p>15 I would like to explore overnight whether it's</p> <p>16 possible to call her first thing in the morning in place</p> <p>17 of Mr Chamchoun and Mr Webb.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: But there are other considerations</p> <p>19 then, aren't there, as well?</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: There are other considerations as well, and</p> <p>21 I don't want anybody in the room to be under any</p> <p>22 illusions as to whether that's possible or not, but</p> <p>23 I would like to explore it.</p> <p>24 If it is possible, then I would like to be able to</p> <p>25 call her tomorrow morning in place of Mr Webb and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 231</p>
<p>1 <b>chief executive of the company and people are phoning up</b></p> <p>2 <b>and asking me, I've got a board who are asking</b></p> <p>3 <b>questions, and those are the general things, as the Fire</b></p> <p>4 <b>Brigade were fighting the fire and getting on with it.</b></p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: I have no further questions, Mr Black. Thank</p> <p>6 you very much for assisting us with our investigations.</p> <p>7 I'm most grateful. Thank you.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'd add my thanks, Mr Black. It's</p> <p>9 important to us to hear from all those who were within</p> <p>10 the cordon during that night in whatever capacity. It</p> <p>11 helps to fill in another piece of the jigsaw, so thank</p> <p>12 you very much for coming to give us your assistance.</p> <p>13 I'm sorry we've kept you so late this evening. We</p> <p>14 hoped not to do so, but at least we managed to finish</p> <p>15 your evidence.</p> <p>16 THE WITNESS: I prefer to have it finished. Thank you.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the</p> <p>18 usher, please.</p> <p>19 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, two things.</p> <p>22 First of all, I'm grateful to you for sitting late.</p> <p>23 It's been an extremely long day and tiring for everyone</p> <p>24 in the room.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It's trespassed on everyone's</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 230</p>	<p>1 Mr Chamchoun and find a place soon in the timetable for</p> <p>2 them instead, but I need to be able to make sure that</p> <p>3 I've raised it with all the right people so that can be</p> <p>4 done.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, thank you for giving that</p> <p>6 indication. I think all I can say is make your</p> <p>7 enquiries. Those who are preparing to hear Teresa Brown</p> <p>8 today will be ready for her in the morning if she comes</p> <p>9 in the morning, and I think just see what can be</p> <p>10 arranged.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: I'm very grateful, Mr Chairman. We'll see what</p> <p>12 we can do.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That is it for today, I think?</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: It is. If we're calling her tomorrow morning,</p> <p>15 I think a 10.00 am start would still be a good start.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think it would be early enough.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Yes. I detect that at this time of the night,</p> <p>18 after the day we've had, me asking for a 9.30 start</p> <p>19 would not be the best form of advocacy.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No.</p> <p>21 10 o'clock tomorrow, please, thank you very much.</p> <p>22 (5.05 pm)</p> <p>23 (The hearing adjourned until Friday, 16 November 2018</p> <p>24 at 10.00 am)</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 232</p>

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