



Grenfell Tower Inquiry

Day 139

June 1, 2021

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Tuesday, 1 June 2021

(10.00 am)

SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to today's hearing.

Before we begin, there's something I need to say about the proceedings for the rest of this week.

I'm sorry to say that a member of the counsel team has suffered a bereavement, and that's going to require some adjustment to our programme for this week. What we intend to do is to complete taking Mr Stokes' evidence today. We expect to finish that within the course of the day. We shall then not sit tomorrow or Thursday, but we shall begin Janice Wray's evidence on Monday of next week, and Mr Kinnier is going to take over for the remainder of Mr Stokes' evidence this morning.

Is that right, Mr Kinnier?

MR KINNIER: That's right, sir, thank you.

SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good, thank you very much.

So would you ask Mr Stokes to come back in, please.

MR CARL STOKES (continued)

SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good morning, Mr Stokes.

THE WITNESS: Good morning, sir.

SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Are you ready to carry on?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Now, you will see facing you across

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the room not Mr Millett this morning but Mr Kinnier, and he is going to ask you some questions today.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: All right? Good. Thank you very much.

When you're ready, Mr Kinnier.

Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (continued)

MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.

Good morning, Mr Stokes.

A. Morning.

Q. Before we turn to questions about the AOV, could I ask you one further question in respect of leaseholder doors.

At paragraph 28 of her first witness statement {TMO00000890/6}, Janice Wray says that you would have been asked to look at an individual leaseholder's door on request.

Were you ever asked by the TMO to inspect a leaseholder's door?

A. That would have been for the TMO — sorry. As an individual going to look at them —

Q. Yes.

A. — for the leaseholders, yes?

Q. Yes.

A. That was correct, sir, yes.

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Q. Were you ever asked by a leaseholder directly to inspect their doors?

A. It doesn't spring to mind. It would only ever come through the TMO. The TMO did put a letter out to say that if a leaseholder wanted to contact, I could look at them and then write a report.

Q. And did anyone follow up on that invitation?

A. Yes, I think — yes, they did, but it was done via the TMO, through their letters.

Q. Now may I turn to the operation and functionality of the AOV at Grenfell Tower.

A. Sir.

Q. Now, in your fire risk assessments at section 17, you typically recorded your observations about the AOV, and if we could turn, first of all, to the 2012 FRA as an example, which can be found at {CST00003084/23}.

Now, you will see there section 17, below the midway point on that page, under the heading "Means of giving warning in case of fire", and you will see there is a box beneath the questions giving opportunity for further comments or observations to be made. You say there this:

"There is an automatic smoke detector located in each flat / lift lobby area on every residential floor level of this building and a full fire alarm and warning

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system installed in the office areas of the building."

If we could turn two pages further to page 25 {CST00003084/25}, section 19, we see there another comment box. If we can look at the second paragraph from the bottom of that box, it says this:

"There is an automatic opening ventilation system located on each lift / lobby landing area, the vents are opened on the activation of the fire alarm detector for that floor level, there is a manual over ride facility located in the main entrance lobby. Please see the section 17 above, 'Means of giving a warning in case of fire' for more information of the lift / flat lobby area detectors."

Now, did you ever test or witness the testing of the system for the purposes of preparing your FRAs of Grenfell Tower?

A. No.

Q. In those circumstances, how could you reliably verify that the system was functioning correctly?

A. Looked at the contractor's service sheets and I made certain that I had one that would be in date.

Q. Did you ever ask Janice Wray if there were any issues affecting the operation of the system before you started the preparatory work for your FRAs?

A. I think if I did it would have been covered at the

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1 beginning, but I would rely on each — because obviously
 2 this was ongoing, so I would rely on the servicing —
 3 the service sheet from the engineer who serviced the
 4 system and the company that was responsible for
 5 maintaining it to get me accurate, up-to-date
 6 information.
 7 Q. So you relied upon the provision of information from
 8 others, rather than actively interrogating Ms Wray as to
 9 whether there were any issues with the AOV?
 10 A. Yes, and I'm going to say because Ms Wray would have
 11 only gone to the same place I would have gone to get
 12 that information.
 13 Q. When you said in answer to an earlier question you would
 14 have asked that question at the beginning, by those
 15 words do you mean when you first started work for the
 16 TMO?
 17 A. Yes, sir.
 18 Q. Thank you.
 19 Can I now turn to the question of the April 2010
 20 fire and the operation of the AOV. For that purpose,
 21 could I turn to your December 2010 FRA, which can be
 22 found at {CST00003181/18}.
 23 Here again we have section 17, "Means of giving
 24 warning in case of fire", and you say in the top of that
 25 text box:

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1 "There is an automatic smoke detector located in
 2 each lift /lobby area on every floor level of the
 3 residential part of the building and a full fire alarm
 4 and warning system installed in the office areas of the
 5 building."
 6 Then again, if we can go forward one page to page 19
 7 {CST00003181/19}, and section 19, the last paragraph in
 8 the comment box says this:
 9 "There is an automatic opening ventilation system
 10 located on each lift /lobby landing area, the vents are
 11 opened on the activation of the fire alarm detector for
 12 that floor level, there is a manual over ride facility
 13 located in the main entrance lobby."
 14 Just for further context, if we could go to page 5
 15 in this document {CST00003181/5}, you see there in the
 16 last paragraph on that page:
 17 "As far as it is known having asked the person named
 18 above, apart from the arson incident in July of this
 19 year 2010 there have been no other fires in this
 20 building within the last 2 years ..."
 21 Now, did you ask for more detail from Janice Wray
 22 about the so-called arson incident in July of 2010?
 23 A. I had some information, yes. It was bags of rubbish
 24 outside a flat door.
 25 Q. Were you aware that the incident in fact took place in

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1 April 2010?
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. And were you aware that there had been a spillage,
 4 leakage of smoke from the extraction system on the
 5 lobbies of floors 7, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20,
 6 which had led a number of residents to believe that the
 7 lift lobby was smoke logged and they were trapped in
 8 their homes?
 9 A. No.
 10 Q. Was that the type of information you would have expected
 11 Ms Wray to have given you?
 12 A. Yes. I would also expect it to be in the service
 13 reports that I was looking at.
 14 Q. If I could ask you now to turn to {IWS00001463}.
 15 Now, this is the LFB's report in relation to that
 16 fire dated 22 December 2010, and if you turn to page 5
 17 {IWS00001463/5}, you will see there two questions up
 18 from the bottom, "Number of persons injured ... 3".
 19 Were you aware of that?
 20 A. No.
 21 Q. Again, is that the type of information you would be
 22 dependent upon Ms Wray to provide you with?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Could I now turn to a separate document, which is
 25 a reported prepared by RGE and dated May 2010.

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1 Now, before you completed your FRA in December 2010,
 2 were you aware of a maintenance report prepared by RGE
 3 in relation to the AOV system at Grenfell?
 4 A. Sir, what was the date, please?
 5 Q. The date of the report was 12 May 2010, and if I take
 6 you to it, {RBK00013637}.
 7 I recognise it's 11 years ago now, but do you recall
 8 seeing that report at the time?
 9 A. I can't remember seeing it, no.
 10 Q. Do you have any memory of RGE raising any concerns
 11 regarding the inlet dampers of the AOV?
 12 A. No. The report that, if I remember correctly, was for
 13 the 2014 FRA, there was — sorry, I think it was a relay
 14 on one floor that was the only defect that was noted in
 15 their report.
 16 Q. Now, let's look at this, even though you don't remember
 17 it. Let's turn to page 7 within it {RBK00013637/7}.
 18 You will see here "Comments & recommendations", and
 19 you see there the third paragraph on that page says
 20 this:
 21 "Due to the spring force on the inlet dampers the
 22 actuators are not reliable and may not operate on every
 23 activation.
 24 "The outlet damper have very little force and are
 25 reliable .

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1 "Apart for the above, and its age, the system is
 2 generally in good operational order and is capable of
 3 being maintained for the next 5 years apart from the
 4 inlet dampers."
 5 Now, having taken you through that, do you still
 6 have no recollection of this report or its conclusions?
 7 A. No, because if I'd have seen this, I would have put
 8 something in the significant findings, "Has the work
 9 been undertaken?"
 10 Q. Again, is this the type of information that you would
 11 have been reliant upon Ms Wray to provide you with when
 12 preparing your FRAs?
 13 A. Or the TMO in general, yes.
 14 Q. And if you had been aware of it, you would have included
 15 it in your FRAs; is that a fair assumption?
 16 A. Yes, the same as I would have done the relay that was in
 17 the later one.
 18 Q. Well, we'll come on to the later —
 19 A. Sorry, sir.
 20 Q. — workings of the AOV.
 21 Putting that document to one side, could I ask us to
 22 turn to the Salvus 2009 FRA, and that was the FRA you
 23 completed whilst working with Salvus, and that was dated
 24 30 September 2009. That can be found at
 25 {CST00003128/14}, paragraph 9.2.

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1 Now, you see there, if you look at the far left, the
 2 fire hazard identified is "Smoke ventilation system
 3 installed in the building", and if you could read across
 4 to the middle column, it says this:
 5 "A manually operated smoke ventilation system has
 6 been installed in the building, the vents for the system
 7 are in the lift lobby areas at each floor level. The
 8 control panel for the system is located in the reception
 9 area with the equipment installed in the roof plant
 10 room.
 11 "It could not be confirmed at the time of fire risk
 12 assessment if the smoke ventilation system had been
 13 subject to maintenance and testing in line with current
 14 guidance and British Standards.
 15 "The receptionist could not explain fully the policy
 16 or procedures for when or how to operate the system."
 17 You will see under the "Risk category with controls"
 18 it's said to be "Medium/High" and further action is
 19 required.
 20 Bearing in mind what is said there, could we now
 21 turn on to the 2010 FRA that you completed in respect of
 22 Grenfell and, in particular, the significant findings
 23 schedule. That can be found at {CST00003083/5} (sic).
 24 If we go to the box at the very bottom of that page,
 25 item 23c, you wrote in respect of the AOV:

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1 "There are automatic opening vents on each flat/lift
 2 lobby area, it is not known if this system is serviced
 3 and maintained."
 4 You asked in the next box to the right for
 5 confirmation of the servicing and maintenance routine.
 6 My first question is this: did you at the time, can
 7 you remember, ask for records in respect of servicing
 8 and maintenance?
 9 A. As the follow-up to this document, I would have asked
 10 for it for the next time when I went, yes.
 11 Q. But for the purposes of this FRA, did you ask for the
 12 documents relating to the service and maintenance regime
 13 of the AOV?
 14 A. This was me asking for it now.
 15 Q. Yes, my question is: did you ask beforehand and didn't
 16 receive it?
 17 A. I can't say I asked beforehand, but this is my
 18 confirmation that I hadn't got any documentation at that
 19 time.
 20 Q. When completing this schedule, did you compare and
 21 contrast the situation with the 2009 schedule, where the
 22 problem had been identified previously that no one was
 23 able to explain how it was worked or the maintenance
 24 regime?
 25 A. It would have been the 2010 one before this, wouldn't

11

1 it, sir?
 2 Q. No, 2009. It's the one I took you to, the Salvus 2009
 3 one. I can take you back to it, Mr Stokes, if that
 4 helps.
 5 A. But had I not done another risk assessment in 2010?
 6 Q. Well, you did your December 2010 —
 7 A. So I would have asked then for the — is there a — does
 8 it know how it works then, and now this one I would have
 9 asked for confirmation on servicing because I still
 10 haven't got that.
 11 Q. Put differently, did you check the Salvus 2009 FRA
 12 before you carried out the work for the December 2010
 13 FRA?
 14 A. Yes, I would always check.
 15 Q. Would; did you?
 16 A. Well, it was just what I did, yes, sir.
 17 Q. Okay. And wouldn't it have been obvious, if you had
 18 done that, that you would have seen that you had said in
 19 2009 that it could not be confirmed at the time of the
 20 fire risk assessment that the smoke ventilation system
 21 had been subject to maintenance and testing in line with
 22 current guidance?
 23 A. But I would have been given that assurance it had have
 24 been by being provided with a service sheet.
 25 Q. But it's clear in 2010, looking at 23c at the bottom of

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1 this page, that you were still seeking for confirmation
 2 of the service and maintenance records, weren't you?
 3 A. But that — the servicing and maintenance is undertaken
 4 on an annual basis. I cannot answer the question
 5 definitively, but if I didn't — I could have had the
 6 2011 and it was out of date, I'm now asking for
 7 an in-date one at this point, can it be confirmed.
 8 Q. Right.
 9 Following this point through, and bearing in mind
 10 there that you were seeking confirmation of service and
 11 maintenance records, let's turn to the 2012 FRA, and
 12 that is dated 30 December 2012. It can be found at
 13 {CST00003083/5}.
 14 Again, looking at the bottom of the page, Mr Stokes,
 15 again item 23c deals with the AOV.
 16 Then if we look in the far left — hand column, it
 17 says:
 18 "There are automatic opening vents on each flat/lift
 19 lobby area, it is not known if this system is serviced
 20 and maintained."
 21 Then looking at "Actions to be taken", again, the
 22 same formula that you had used back in 2010:
 23 "Can it be confirmed that the automatic opening
 24 vents on each flat/lift lobby area are serviced and
 25 maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's

13

1 instructions."
 2 Now, can you remember, when you prepared this FRA,
 3 December 2012, that you recognised that you were seeking
 4 exactly the same action you had sought in 2010 and,
 5 indeed, 2009?
 6 A. Sorry, sir, this is the same document as we've just —
 7 it didn't change at the top, I don't think. This is
 8 the —
 9 Q. It is a different document.
 10 A. Oh, okay, sir. Yes, I'm still asking for the same
 11 information.
 12 Q. But my question is: did you not recognise at the time
 13 that you were in fact asking for the same confirmation
 14 you had asked for in 2010 and, indeed, in 2009?
 15 A. Probably, yes, sir.
 16 Q. But not sufficient to actually say anything here?
 17 A. But I'm asking the question. I can only do — look at
 18 it — at this stage, I can only look for or write down
 19 what I haven't seen.
 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Sorry, can I just help. I think the
 21 point you're being asked to comment on, Mr Stokes, is
 22 this: in 2009 and 2010, and now it appears 2012, you
 23 don't appear to have had maintenance records which would
 24 demonstrate that the opening vents had been serviced and
 25 maintained in accordance with instructions, because on

14

1 each occasion you're asking someone else to confirm that
 2 that's happened.
 3 A. Correct, sir.
 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: And the question I think that you're
 5 being asked to comment on is: did you realise each time
 6 that the situation had not been remedied and that you
 7 still hadn't got the maintenance records?
 8 A. Yes, sir, I did, because that's why I'm writing it down
 9 again.
 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: And then I think the question that
 11 follows from that is: what did you do about it?
 12 A. At this particular point, sir, I had no access to their
 13 maintenance records. I literally had to ask each time
 14 I went to the building, "Could I have maintenance
 15 records". Later on, I was given some access to their
 16 online system, but at this point it was literally
 17 asking, after I'd been to the — a building, "Can I now
 18 have those maintenance records".
 19 I would ask. If I didn't receive the maintenance
 20 records, I would write that statement in, "I haven't
 21 seen them". That's my observation.
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: All right, thank you.
 23 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.
 24 Following on from that —
 25 A. Sorry, sir.

15

1 Q. — why didn't you put in, say, for example, the 2012
 2 FRA, that you had been asking for this information
 3 consistently and it had not been provided?
 4 A. Because it's in the documents every time, it's ...
 5 Q. I suppose my point is: this is the third FRA where
 6 you've asked the same thing; why didn't you say, "This
 7 is the third time I've asked for that and I'm still not
 8 getting it, this is important, I need it"?
 9 A. It would be covered — we had meetings, and sometimes
 10 when the same item was coming up time and again, it
 11 would be covered in our meetings with Ms Wray and these
 12 sort of things were there as an agenda item.
 13 Q. Now, can I turn to the FRA itself for 2012 and the
 14 section on testing and maintenance, and that can be
 15 found at {CST00003084/28}.
 16 You will see the fifth question down from the top is
 17 this:
 18 "Is there a monthly testing and annual servicing and
 19 maintenance of any automatic opening vents along with
 20 any associated equipment/devices, with records kept?"
 21 You have ticked "No".
 22 If we zoom out of that page, we can see that there's
 23 no comment thereafter in the comment box at the bottom.
 24 Wouldn't that have been a useful place in which to
 25 record that you had been asking for these records over

16

1 the course of three years and they still hadn't been
 2 provided so as to flag up the issue explicitly with the
 3 TMO?
 4 A. This is the snapshot at the time. I don't have these
 5 records here and now. It would have been covered by
 6 an agenda item as an item that was ongoing, if you want
 7 to call it like that, where we had — if it was
 8 an ongoing issue of whatever — I'm trying to think of
 9 an example ... fire extinguishers was an example, where
 10 the service maintenance company was writing "Condemned"
 11 on them, I was commenting more than once, and then it
 12 was raised as an item, as an agenda item, with myself
 13 and Mrs Wray at the time.
 14 Q. Okay.
 15 You said that you were given access eventually to
 16 the service and maintenance records; can you remember
 17 when you were given access?
 18 A. Specifically, no, but it took a long time, even once
 19 they agreed to have access, for me to then get access to
 20 that system, and then I was only reliant on how good the
 21 person who had inputted that information on to the
 22 system.
 23 MR KINNIER: Now, were you told in February 2013 or
 24 thereabouts —
 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Kinnier, I'm very sorry to

17

1 interrupt you. I've got a message saying that the
 2 transcript may not be working for those who are not
 3 present in the room.
 4 MR KINNIER: Yes. Sir, I'm in your hands as to whether you
 5 want to rise for a few moments to see whether it can be
 6 rectified or whether you want to plough on for a bit.
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I think it's very
 8 unsatisfactory for those who are not actually present to
 9 follow it without the transcript. So I think we
 10 probably should just rise for a short time. I hope it
 11 won't be a lengthy interruption.
 12 Mr Stokes, you followed what I was saying.
 13 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: There is a realtime transcript going
 15 on for the benefit of not just the panel, but others as
 16 well, and it seems that there may be a problem with it.
 17 So we're going to break for as short a time as we can
 18 manage. All right?
 19 THE WITNESS: Sir.
 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So would you like to go with the
 21 usher, please. Thank you.
 22 (Pause)
 23 Mr Kinnier, I'm sorry to interrupt you. The best
 24 thing is you ask the usher to come and find us when
 25 things have been sorted out.

18

1 MR KINNIER: Will do, sir.
 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.
 3 (10.24 am)
 4 (A short break)
 5 (11.05 am)
 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, welcome back, everyone. I'm
 7 sorry about that interruption, but I'm told that the
 8 fault's been cured and we're ready to continue.
 9 So could you ask Mr Stokes to come back in, please.
 10 Thank you.
 11 (Pause)
 12 Right, Mr Stokes, apologies for the delay, but we
 13 are now ready to continue and hope it won't happen
 14 again.
 15 THE WITNESS: Sir.
 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: When you're ready, Mr Kinnier.
 17 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.
 18 Mr Stokes, I think before the interruption we were
 19 about to turn to a concern expressed by Gary Mitchell,
 20 who is the contracts manager, assets and regeneration,
 21 in February 2013.
 22 If I could ask to turn up an email correspondence,
 23 {TMO10002165/2}.
 24 We see in the top half of that page, this is
 25 an email addressed from Gary Mitchell to Peter Maddison.

19

1 The opening line says this:
 2 "We have RGE coming in to see us on Monday with
 3 a full 2 years maintenance/service reports and we will
 4 [interrogate] the information they provide ...
 5 "The problem we have is we have been given records
 6 that indicate RGE are maintaining their planned
 7 programme but Don and I have questioned the validity of
 8 the information produced."
 9 Did anyone report to you these concerns regarding
 10 the validity of the information produced by RGE?
 11 A. No.
 12 Q. Again, is that something you would have expected the TMO
 13 to provide to you, that information about the concerns?
 14 A. I can't answer that question, because I wouldn't know
 15 what they would want to provide me with, but I would
 16 like to think that they would have provided me with some
 17 information if they thought there was a problem.
 18 Q. Now, can we turn forward in time now to March 2014.
 19 Just to give you some idea of the context, the LFB
 20 visited the tower on 12 March 2014, and thereafter there
 21 was some email correspondence and discussion of the
 22 various points that had been raised by Matthew Ramsey of
 23 the LFB during the course of that visit.
 24 Can I first ask you to look at an email of 13 March
 25 which contains some notes of the discussions on that

20

1 day. That can be found at {TMO10005515/4}.

2 A. Can I just make an observation on that email, please?

3 It says that they didn't realise there were any failings

4 until they were highlighted to us, like in the FRAs.

5 Q. Yes, thank you.

6 If we could now turn to the email correspondence of

7 March 2014 and {TMO10005515/4}.

8 We see the email chain starts at the bottom of that

9 page with an email from Claire Williams sent at 15.43,

10 sent to Janice Wray, but also copied to yourself and

11 Bruce Soules of Studio E.

12 If we could turn over the page to page 5

13 {TMO10005515/5}, and point 2, where Claire Williams'

14 email deals with the AOV, and she states this:

15 "Matthew [Ramsey of the LFB] was very unhappy about

16 the existing state of the smoke vents to each lobby — of

17 those looked at about 30% were not in the right

18 position. I have been chasing RGE for 2 months now on

19 their servicing records and had nothing back. Janice,

20 do you want to chase Simon Coleman or Dil on this as

21 I am obviously getting nowhere. Matthew said about

22 issuing us with notice to confirm fully functional in

23 6 weeks, but maybe I can deal with Daniel on this,

24 assuming that we do have some servicing records?"

25 Now, if I can ask you now to turn to the bottom of

21

1 page 2 of this email chain {TMO10005515/2}, we see there

2 at the very bottom the response from Mr Soules.

3 If we can turn over the page to page 3

4 {TMO10005515/3}, it's roughly halfway down that page,

5 and below the bullet point there refers to a bike

6 chained to a dry riser.

7 If we go further down that email, you will see under

8 the heading "Visit to lobby, Floor 5". If you look down

9 that list of dashed points, you will see:

10 "Bike found chained to dry riser."

11 The point immediately below that says this:

12 "Vents open & closed — existing situation not

13 working."

14 Then it says below that:

15 "Matthew Ramsey very unhappy with fact dampers do

16 not appear to be functional. Risk of 4 week enforcement

17 notice. A demonstration would be [required]. This is

18 urgent."

19 Now, did you understand from this email

20 correspondence in to which you were copied that the AOV

21 was not functional?

22 A. No, because the — sorry, first of all, I — the — RGE

23 had a record that it was serviced and functional apart

24 from, I think, one item, looking at the date, and it

25 says "very unhappy with fact dampers do not appear to be

22

1 functional", "Vents open & closed", but the system — my

2 understanding, it's a mechanical system. The system is

3 also a ventilation system for the lift lobby areas, so

4 vents would be open or closed. Until the activation of

5 the fire alarm system, which would open the vents only

6 on the fire floor where it activated and closed all the

7 rest, they could be in their open and closed position,

8 it was just a shaft up and down the building.

9 Q. Given that the LFB has identified that the dampers do

10 not appear to be functional and there is a risk of

11 enforcement action being taken, at the very least did

12 that give rise to a concern in your mind about the

13 functionality of the AOV?

14 A. No, because if the fire service were going to ask for

15 that, that's within their remit, they can ask for that,

16 and they would then be justified in asking and also the

17 requirements that would come back to satisfy themselves

18 that it was working correctly.

19 Q. Now, if we can turn to a letter which you wrote on

20 18 March 2014, prompted by this correspondence, and that

21 can be found at {TMO10005572}, dated 18 March.

22 Opening line:

23 "Thank you for asking me to comment on the questions

24 raised by the [LFB] officers during they visit to the

25 above buildings [which included Grenfell] ... on 12th

23

1 March."

2 If I could ask to go to the top of the second page

3 of this letter {TMO10005572/2}, you say this:

4 "The emergency smoke control extract panel was

5 showing healthy when looked at yesterday with the switch

6 in the auto position. The flat/ lift lobby extraction

7 system is activated by the automatic fire detection

8 device on each of the flat/ lift lobby area ceilings.

9 The extraction system works by the vents on one side of

10 the flat/ lift lobby area expelling the smoke with inflow

11 air coming in through the vents on the other side of the

12 lobby area."

13 Then if we look at the very end of this page, and

14 the final sentence, in which you say this:

15 "I am assuming that as RGE have serviced the 'smoke

16 extraction system of Grenfell Tower' that all parts of

17 the system were checked."

18 First of all, did you yourself inspect any element

19 of the AOV system before writing this letter?

20 A. Only as it's said there, I would have taken the

21 photographs that it was healthy and showing green.

22 Q. So you looked at the panel?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So you didn't inspect the inlet dampers?

25 A. You would have to take the inlet dampers — are we

24

1 talking about the louvres —
 2 Q. Well, did you inspect the inlet dampers, any element of
 3 them, that element of the system?
 4 A. The terminology, do you mean louvred vents or the
 5 dampeners which could be internally within the shafts,
 6 which would be fire dampeners, or the louvred vents that
 7 cover each opening on each floor lift lobby area?
 8 Q. Did you inspect any of those aspects of the system which
 9 you have just identified?
 10 A. The ones that were visually available, yes.
 11 Q. Now, in your letter, you didn't refer there to the
 12 concerns that Claire Williams or Bruce Sounes had raised
 13 in their email correspondence of 13 March. Can you help
 14 us as to why you didn't refer expressly to those
 15 concerns?
 16 A. Which concerns were those, sir?
 17 Q. The ones in the email correspondence I've just taken you
 18 to, Mr Stokes.
 19 A. Sorry, I can't remember what they were, sorry.
 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Did you want to go back to them?
 21 A. Please, sir.
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Perhaps we should do that,
 23 Mr Kinnier.
 24 MR KINNIER: Yes.
 25 Can we go back to {TMO10005515/4}. There we go,

25

1 Claire Williams' email, 12 March, you're copied in.
 2 A. Yes, sir.
 3 Q. Turn over the page to page 5 {TMO10005515/5}, point 2.
 4 It's the extract I quoted to you.
 5 (Pause)
 6 If we could go to page 2 in this chain
 7 {TMO10005515/2}, you will see there at the bottom
 8 a response from Bruce Sounes to Claire Williams, copying
 9 you in. Do you have that?
 10 A. Yes, sir.
 11 Q. Okay, let's turn over the page to page 3
 12 {TMO10005515/3}, sent on 13 March. If we can scroll
 13 down this email, remember I identified the heading,
 14 "Visit to lobby, Floor 5"?
 15 A. Sir.
 16 Q. Then look down at the dash points. Do you see something
 17 which says, "Vents open & closed — existing situation
 18 not working"? Below that:
 19 "Matthew Ramsey very unhappy with fact dampers do
 20 not appear to be functional. Risk of 4 week enforcement
 21 notice. A demonstration would be [required]. This is
 22 urgent."
 23 Now, my question was a simple one: why didn't you
 24 refer to those concerns and address the substance of
 25 those concerns in your letter of 18 March 2014?

26

1 A. I think I did answer those questions, sir.
 2 Q. Can I now ask you to go back to your letter of 18 March,
 3 which is at {TMO10005572/2}.
 4 If we could go to the top of this page, we will see
 5 there, in the second paragraph, you said this:
 6 "This smoke extraction system is on a planned
 7 preventative maintenance programme with RGE, this
 8 contractor last serviced this system according to their
 9 on site log book on the 15/15/13 sic. Please see
 10 appendix A below, the previous loose page in the logbook
 11 was full and the service before this one was in
 12 September 2013 so I am assuming that the 15th month is
 13 a mistake and the engineer meant the 12th Month. As can
 14 be seen the engineer checked all of the items in the
 15 quarterly check list and the only fault recorded was
 16 19th floor relay.
 17 "As the next quarterly service is imminently due on
 18 this smoke extraction system I would recommend the
 19 contractor is asked to service the system and any
 20 findings etc made are actioned."
 21 Now, in your FRAs you had specified that there
 22 should be monthly testing of the AOV, but here you have
 23 noticed that they are undertaking quarterly servicing.
 24 Why did you not say in this advice letter that the AOV
 25 should be tested monthly?

27

1 A. Sir, the monthly could be an occupier's check.
 2 Quarterly is a service contractor's check, which is
 3 slightly different.
 4 Q. And that's the reason why —
 5 A. Yes, sir.
 6 Q. — you didn't correct them in your letter of advice of
 7 18 March?
 8 A. Sir.
 9 Q. Now, can I turn to a separate question, which is that of
 10 interim measures, and the meeting that was held on
 11 16 September 2014.
 12 Now, in paragraph 107 of your first witness
 13 statement, and we can find that at {CST00003063/37}, you
 14 say in the opening sentence:
 15 "Prior to receipt of this Deficiency Notice, on
 16 18 August 2014, I was asked by Ms Wray to undertake the
 17 2014 FRA ..."
 18 Now, you can take it from me that your 2014 FRA was
 19 carried out on 17 October 2014.
 20 Was the deficiency notice there you were referring
 21 to the one which had been served on 24 March 2014?
 22 A. I'm going to say yes then, sir.
 23 Q. Thank you. So by the time you were instructed in
 24 August 2014 to carry out your FRA of Grenfell, which you
 25 did in October 2014, you had been aware for some months

28

1 of the contents of the deficiency notice which had been
 2 served in March 2014?
 3 A. Sir.
 4 Q. Thank you.
 5 You go on to say in paragraph 107, second line
 6 onwards:
 7 "As usual I sought various information in advance of
 8 inspecting the Tower, and on 12 September 2014 (08:53),
 9 I received an email from Ms Wray saying that 'Claire has
 10 asked Rydons to investigate the current state of the
 11 ventilation & extraction system...' with JS Wright and
 12 inviting me to a meeting to discuss this ..."
 13 Now, can we turn to that email, which can be found
 14 at {CST00003178}.
 15 Now, it says at the very top of that chain:
 16 "Claire has asked Rydons to investigate the current
 17 state of the ventilation & extraction system at Grenfell
 18 and Claire has set up a meeting to discuss and see
 19 whether it is necessary to instigate any interim
 20 measures in advance of the system being replaced."
 21 And she asks you to attend.
 22 Now, you're the addressee there, although it's
 23 redacted.
 24 The subsequent meeting was held on
 25 16 September 2014. First of all, do you remember

29

1 attending that meeting?
 2 A. Not specifically, no.
 3 Q. Can you remember a meeting at which Simon Lawrence
 4 attended to discuss the AOV?
 5 A. Sorry, I'm trying to think who Simon Lawrence is, sir.
 6 Q. From Rydon.
 7 A. I can't — it's — not specific, no.
 8 Q. In his witness statement — and we don't need to go to
 9 it, but the reference is {RYD00094220/14},
 10 paragraph 68 — he says that the meeting was held on
 11 16 September 2014 with you, him, Claire Williams and
 12 possibly Janice Wray to discuss the fact the AOV was not
 13 working. Does that ring any bells now?
 14 A. No, it doesn't, sir.
 15 Q. Do you recall any meeting where interim measures to be
 16 applied to the AOV were discussed with anyone from
 17 Rydon?
 18 A. No.
 19 Q. You don't remember any discussion at all on that
 20 subject?
 21 A. No, I don't, sir.
 22 Q. Now, let's see if we can help you.
 23 You wrote a letter to Janice Wray after that meeting
 24 on 23 September 2014, so that's a week later, and that
 25 can be found at {CST00030043}.

30

1 Now, as you will see from the bottom centre, it is
 2 a ten—page letter. The AOV is discussed at page 9
 3 {CST00030043/9}, at questions 27 and 28. If we could go
 4 to that, and just amplify those.
 5 If I just invite you to refresh your memory of what
 6 you wrote there at 27 and 28.
 7 (Pause)
 8 A. Yeah.
 9 Q. Now, having refreshed your memory, do you have any
 10 recollection now of the meeting on 16 September 2014?
 11 A. No, I think this is me walking round the building. This
 12 is — I didn't — I can't remember a meeting, but this
 13 is me walking round the building.
 14 Q. Well, if you have no recollection of it, let's move on,
 15 and let's move on to the 2014 risk assessment itself.
 16 When you conducted the preparatory work for that
 17 FRA, would you or did you routinely look at the AOV
 18 maintenance contractor's records?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. Can I ask a document to be put up on the screen,
 21 {TMO00879757}, which is a report from RGE, who are the
 22 maintenance contractors, and it's dated 11 October 2013.
 23 It's handwritten.
 24 I'll just let you have a quick scan of the front
 25 page.

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1 (Pause)
 2 If we could turn to page 3 {TMO00879757/3}, you will
 3 see midway down that page, a sentence interrupted with
 4 three asterisks, which says:
 5 "In case of an emergency we cannot guarantee these
 6 vents working correctly [asterisk] poor system, needs
 7 attention [asterisk]."
 8 Do you recall reading that advice and warning in
 9 RGE's report as you carried out the work for your 2014
 10 FRA?
 11 A. I can't remember seeing this particular document, no.
 12 I had seen one, and I quote one in the FRA, but the one
 13 I quote had a relay damaged. I can't remember seeing
 14 this one.
 15 Q. But the message there is blunt, stark and clear; would
 16 you agree?
 17 A. Agreed, if I'd have seen it or was given this one, yes.
 18 Q. Now, can we turn to an email conversation into which you
 19 were copied which was initiated by Alex Bosman on
 20 9 October 2014, so that's eight days before you
 21 completed your FRA. That can be found at {CST00001628}.
 22 If I could look at the bottom of page 1, you see
 23 there the email from Mr Bosman, 9 October, sent at
 24 11.57, addressed, "Hi Janice, Claire and Carl":
 25 "Please see email below. For reference I have

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1 attached the fire alarm service cert from 26.6.2014
 2 which is valid.
 3 "I'll forward all certs asap."
 4 "Thanks,
 5 "Alex."
 6 If we go to page 2 {CST00001628/2}, you will see
 7 there a further email, 9 October, 11.53, again sent by
 8 Alex Bosman, and the opening salutation is, "Hi Carl,
 9 Matthew and Greg".

10 Now, in fairness, I should say it's not clear
 11 whether you're the "Carl", who is Carl Spary, but the
 12 redacted block clearly shows — you can take it from
 13 me — that you were copied in to this email.

14 The email says this materially:

15 "I have a LFB inspection of the blocks above [which
 16 includes Grenfell] and urgently need to have the
 17 attached assets serviced/rectified."

18 Moving on, "Smoke extract" you will see roughly
 19 halfway down the email:

20 "... I understand a visit was carried out on
 21 6.10.2014. This system has been confirmed as beyond
 22 repair and is scheduled for replacement shortly — no
 23 further action required."

24 Then if we go to the top of page 3
 25 {CST00001628/3} ...

33

1 Apologies, I can't come on to the particular extract
 2 I'm looking for, but bearing in mind what advice had
 3 been given by Alex Bosman there about the system being
 4 confirmed as beyond repair, can we now turn to your FRA
 5 of 17 October 2014, which is at {CST00003157/26}.

6 This is section 19, and if we go just below halfway
 7 on this page, you will see a sentence which start:

8 "There is an automatic opening smoke ventilation
 9 system located on each flat/lift lobby area, there are
 10 two sets of vents each of two vents on opposite walls on
 11 the flat/lift lobby areas. There is a smoke detector
 12 located on each flat/lift lobby area which upon
 13 activation opens the vents on that floor level, 2 vents
 14 are for in flow air the other 2 are extraction. The
 15 mechanical extraction units and the control panels for
 16 these vents are located in the roof level plant room on
 17 the wall. There is a manual over ride facility located
 18 in the ground floor lift lobby area for use by the fire
 19 service. Please see section 17 above, 'Means of giving
 20 a warning in case of fire' for more information of the
 21 lift / flat lobby area detectors."

22 Then it goes on to say this:

23 "As part of the buildings refurbishment this smoke
 24 extraction system is being upgraded, this currently
 25 installed system was serviced by RGE Services on the

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1 11th October 2013. This smoke extraction system
 2 incorporates dampers within the duct work."

3 Now, why didn't you include in that section the
 4 information which had been set out in Alex Bosman's
 5 email about the system not working?

6 A. Because it says there it's being refurbished as part of
 7 the upgrade.

8 Q. Wasn't it necessary and relevant to include the most
 9 up-to-date information, that, as at the date of your
 10 FRA, the advice from Alex Bosman was that the system
 11 wasn't working?

12 A. The system is being upgraded. The Fire Brigade know —
 13 have the same information as I have. I was cc'd in, it
 14 was copied to them. They are the enforcing authority,
 15 and I now know that the system here is being upgraded as
 16 part of the refurbishment.

17 Q. Can we look at this slightly differently. Isn't the
 18 fact that the AOV was "beyond repair" a relevant factor
 19 when you came to determine the risk rating for the
 20 tower?

21 A. A consideration.

22 Q. What's the difference between a relevant factor and
 23 a consideration?

24 A. Well, it's a stay-put policy, so the people wouldn't
 25 necessarily — would only evacuate if they — the fire

35

1 was in their flat.

2 Q. Let's look at this slightly differently.

3 Would you agree that a non-functioning AOV would
 4 have heightened the risks facing residents if a fire
 5 broke out in the tower?

6 A. It would heighten the risk slightly, but because there
 7 is a stay-put policy, it is only — the smoke control
 8 system is to make certain that the lift lobby areas are
 9 clear of smoke.

10 Q. Even if it had elevated the risk slightly, that is
 11 a relevant factor that ought to have been made
 12 explicitly in your FRA, shouldn't it?

13 A. But it is covered there by saying that the smoke
 14 extraction system is being upgraded.

15 Q. At the risk of being unduly lawyerly, Mr Stokes, the
 16 prospect of the system being upgraded is wholly
 17 different to the system not working properly or, indeed,
 18 being beyond repair, isn't it?

19 A. It is.

20 Q. And that should have been set out in your FRA, shouldn't
 21 it?

22 A. Again, it's a stay-put policy, so the only thing
 23 that's — as long as the dampener — sorry, as long as
 24 the vents are shut on that floor level, the system would
 25 not allow smoke to permeate elsewhere in the building.

36

1 It's a stay put policy. Therefore, any fire or smoke
 2 should not get out of the lift lobby areas, because the
 3 fire door of the flat should hold it shut.
 4 Q. Let's look at this again slightly differently.
 5 Would you agree that by not recording the fact that
 6 the AOV wasn't working, you gave rise to the incorrect
 7 assumption that the AOV would work in the event of
 8 a fire?
 9 A. But the AOV was working, it wasn't working at 100%.
 10 Q. Where do you say that in the FRA?
 11 A. I don't.
 12 Q. No. And the information —
 13 A. Sorry, the smoke control system. The AOV is —
 14 automatic opening vents is just a vent that will open
 15 and shut on an activator.
 16 Q. But the information you had been provided with by
 17 Alex Bosman was that the system was beyond repair,
 18 wasn't it?
 19 A. That's a terminology and wording, "beyond repair". It's
 20 not working. If the system was not there per se on the
 21 lift lobby area, the system is still — in the staircase
 22 is still working because that's a natural ventilation
 23 system.
 24 Q. Let's move on to a separate topic, which is your
 25 description of the notification of deficiencies issued

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1 by the LFB.
 2 Now, in your October 2014 FRA and your subsequent
 3 FRAs, you include a summary of the notice of
 4 deficiencies that had been issued by Matthew Ramsey on
 5 24 March 2014, and it's probably useful to look at
 6 page 8 of your October FRA, which can be found at
 7 {CST00003157/8}. It says:
 8 "An audit, under The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety)
 9 Order 2005 ... was undertaken in this building by Fire
 10 Safety Inspecting Officer Matthew Ramsey of the London
 11 Fire Brigade, with a Notification of Fire Safety
 12 Deficiencies being issued. This Notification of Fire
 13 Safety Deficiencies was issued by London Fire and
 14 Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) on the 24th March
 15 2014, the LFEPA reference is [as set out] ..."
 16 You go on to say:
 17 "A copy of this Deficiency Notice is held by the TMO
 18 Health and Safety team based at The Network Hub ...
 19 there were three requirements on this Notice these are:
 20 "1. A system of monitoring should be implemented
 21 for the smoke ventilation system installed on the
 22 flat / lift areas and a maintenance schedule put in place
 23 so the system is kept in good working order.
 24 "2. A maintenance schedule should be put in place
 25 for the emergency lighting system installed in this

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1 building and the system kept in good working order.
 2 "3. Training on fire issues should be given to
 3 staff who work in the ground floor level reception area
 4 of Grenfell Tower.
 5 "The three deficiencies highlighted in the
 6 Notification of Fire Safety Deficiencies as issued by
 7 the Fire Officer are covered in this Fire Risk
 8 Assessment (FRA) and on the significant findings sheets
 9 that accompany this FRA."
 10 Now, can you help us, why did you set out that
 11 information in this FRA and the subsequent FRAs?
 12 A. For overall continuity of the building, so anyone
 13 looking at this could see the history of the building
 14 and that there was a deficiency notice issued to it.
 15 Q. Now, can we turn to the notice of deficiency itself,
 16 which can be found at {LFB00032101}. There we go.
 17 Premises: Grenfell Tower.
 18 If we can turn to page 3 {LFB00032101/3}, it sets
 19 out the deficiencies identified. There are three
 20 columns: the article of the order said to have been
 21 contravened; second, "Area of Concern"; thirdly, "Steps
 22 Considered necessary to remedy the contravention".
 23 My first question is this: you have not included in
 24 your FRA the information set out in the middle column,
 25 namely "Area of Concern"; would you agree with that?

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1 A. I think I have covered it, haven't I, in the —
 2 Q. Well, let's put both documents side by side, Mr Stokes.
 3 If we could keep this page open, and if we could put up
 4 page 8 of your 2014 FRA at {CST00003157/8}.
 5 Now, the question was: would you agree that you
 6 haven't included the substance of the information set
 7 out in the "Area of Concern" column in your paraphrase
 8 of the content of the order set out in the FRA?
 9 A. Because it says "There were three requirements", so the
 10 requirements of the notice are the three items there,
 11 not the areas of — as you call it, the areas of
 12 concern — or the letter calls it, the areas of concern.
 13 Q. And you haven't set out in your FRA the steps that the
 14 LFB considered necessary to remedy the contravention,
 15 have you?
 16 A. No, but it says on my document, "The copy of the notice
 17 can be found at the Hub, please go there if you want
 18 it".
 19 Q. Can you help us as to why you paraphrased the substance
 20 of the LFB's concerns, rather than setting them out
 21 clearly and verbatim so everyone could know in precise
 22 terms what was concerning the LFB?
 23 A. Because the requirements — the actions of the document
 24 are set out there. If they wanted a full copy of the
 25 notice, the notice is held at the Hub, as it says.

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1 Q. Now, bearing in mind the preceding history with the AOV,
 2 can we look at the summary of areas of concern in
 3 relation to Article 11(1). It says there:
 4 "Failure in the effective monitoring of preventative
 5 and protective measures. For Example. A significant
 6 number (approx. 25%) of automatically opening vents
 7 within the common parts of the premises were found not
 8 to be in working order. No suitable system of
 9 monitoring was in evidence to identify deficiencies with
 10 the smoke ventilation system."
 11 That substance is to be found nowhere in the summary
 12 of the notice of deficiencies in the FRA; would you
 13 agree with that proposition?
 14 A. As I said, I've put the requirements down, not that
 15 item. Looking at that, how would they know that 25% of
 16 the automatic opening vents were not in working order
 17 unless they tested the system at that time when they
 18 were on site?
 19 Q. Well, isn't the reality of the situation, Mr Stokes,
 20 that the LFB has set out what it has set out in relation
 21 to the areas of concern, and my question was: do you
 22 accept that you have not quoted that in this section of
 23 the FRA?
 24 A. I have only quoted the requirements, but I have put down
 25 that the full notice can be found at the Hub, rather

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1 than copy out verbatim the whole of the LFB's notice.
 2 Q. Would you accept that by not setting out the substance
 3 of the LFB's concerns in relation to the AOVs, you have
 4 given the impression of downplaying the gravity and
 5 seriousness of the problem?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. Now, if we can stay with your October 2014 FRA, and put
 8 down the notice of deficiency for the moment, can we
 9 look ...
 10 A. Could I make — sir, this is March 2014 —
 11 Q. Yes.
 12 A. — is the deficiency, and my FRA is October 2014.
 13 Q. Yes.
 14 A. Six months later. So this is with hindsight, because
 15 the work in the notice should have been completed within
 16 four weeks, I think you said earlier on, or six weeks.
 17 Q. Well, we'll come on to that later. But the questions
 18 are that in your FRA, can you identify for us where you
 19 were satisfied that the works had been carried out?
 20 (Pause)
 21 Perhaps it will come clearer when we go on to
 22 further questions in respect of your FRA.
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Now, if we can put down the notice of deficiencies and
 25 turn to page 29 in the FRA {CST00003157/29}.

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1 Now, you will see this is section 23, dealing with
 2 testing and maintenance, Mr Stokes. If we look at the
 3 fifth box down from the top, it asks:
 4 "Is there a monthly testing and annual servicing and
 5 maintenance of any automatic opening vents along with
 6 any associated equipment/devices, with records kept?"
 7 You have ticked "No", and there is no further detail
 8 provided in the commentary box below.
 9 Just so you can satisfy yourself of the latter part
 10 of what I have just said, if that page could be
 11 de-amplified.
 12 Now, can we take it from that that, by the time of
 13 your assessment in October 2014, the issue highlighted
 14 by the LFB in March of that year, namely that there was
 15 no suitable system and monitoring to identify
 16 deficiencies, remained an unresolved problem six months
 17 later?
 18 A. So the "No" could mean that there was no monthly testing
 19 or there's no annual testing. On the section for the
 20 smoke control, is there a date in there? So there's not
 21 a date here, but where it says "No", that could mean
 22 there is no monthly testing being undertaken or no
 23 annual servicing.
 24 Q. Given that there is a virtue in clarity, Mr Stokes, it
 25 lay upon you, didn't it, as the fire risk assessor, to

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1 make that clear, and yet there is no clarity in the
 2 commentary box below. Can you help us understand why
 3 you gave no detail or raised no further questions?
 4 A. Without seeing — what does the — sorry, the question
 5 I would have would be the — what does the significant
 6 findings say on this issue?
 7 Q. Well, can we just look at this box, Mr Stokes, that was
 8 the question that was asked.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. You have ticked "No" to the question regarding, "Is
 11 there a monthly testing and annual servicing ... [along]
 12 with records kept", you accept that?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. Looking at the commentary box below, there is no further
 15 explanation or commentary on that answer, is there?
 16 A. No.
 17 Q. My question was a straightforward one, Mr Stokes: can we
 18 take it that the problem that had been identified
 19 six months earlier by the LFB, ie there were no records,
 20 in broad terms, remained a problem at this stage?
 21 A. But there were — records were provided to me that it
 22 was being serviced. It's — if there is a "No" ticked
 23 there, there would be a comment in the significant
 24 findings sheet.
 25 Q. Now, just to follow up this point, can we just move on

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1 in time to your FRA of April 2016, which can be found at
2 {CST00003161/8}. So this is 18 months plus after the
3 event.

4 You will see, at the foot of the page, number 1.
5 Again, you referred there to the deficiency notice of
6 March 2014. You say a copy is available at the Hub.
7 You identify the requirements of the notice, and you
8 say:

9 "1. A system of monitoring should be implemented
10 for the smoke ventilation system installed on the
11 flat / lift areas and a maintenance schedule put in place
12 so the system is kept in good working order."

13 Then you go on to say this, which seems to be new:

14 "As part of the construction work a new automatic
15 opening ventilation system has been installed in this
16 building."

17 We can go to it if needs be, but you didn't update
18 either sections 17 or 19 of this FRA with the
19 information about the new AOV; can you help us
20 understand why you didn't update those relevant sections
21 of the FRA?

22 A. Because probably at this time, in the April, I wouldn't
23 have that information.

24 Q. That information being what?

25 A. The new system, because I don't think it had been

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1 commissioned as yet.

2 Q. So you just knew of the — well, what it says here:

3 "As part of the construction work a new automatic
4 opening ventilation system has been installed ..."

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. So are you saying that you knew the fact of the
7 installation but nothing more?

8 A. So it's been installed, but is it in working order yet
9 and commissioned?

10 Q. When you completed the April 2016 FRA, what information
11 had you sought about the operating procedures of the
12 system itself?

13 A. I can't remember the exact dates, but I actually went to
14 a testing of the system along with LFB crews undertaken
15 by the installer, and I believe there was emails in the
16 meantime and from building control that I was copied in
17 to, and London Fire Brigade, I think, their fire
18 engineering department were actually designing and
19 helping commission — sorry, helping to design the new
20 system.

21 Q. You have just said the system had been installed; there
22 is nothing in this FRA that says whether the system was
23 operational or not. That was relevant information,
24 wasn't it, for the purposes of the FRA?

25 A. It's ongoing. At the moment, this FRA is being

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1 undertaken just before all the systems are being handed
2 over. Without —

3 Q. Sorry to interrupt you, but just cutting to the chase,
4 Mr Stokes —

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. — it was relevant and necessary to set out in this FRA
7 whether the system was working or not; do you agree with
8 that?

9 A. Agreed.

10 Q. Why didn't you put it in then?

11 A. I would like to think it is in there somewhere. If
12 I have put it is installed, in the significant findings
13 or in one of the boxes it would say, "The system is to
14 be commissioned", and I would ask for items like — the
15 whole system should be commissioned, commissioning
16 certificates provided, operator's instructions, manuals
17 to be provided, kept on site, how it works, et cetera,
18 et cetera.

19 Q. Well, let's deal with what you did do —

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. — and, just in fairness to you, go to section 23 of the
22 FRA, and this can be found at page 30 in this document
23 {CST00003161/30}.

24 If we can go to the bottom of that page, you will
25 see there the fifth box with which we're now familiar:

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1 "Is there a monthly testing and annual servicing and
2 maintenance of any automatic opening vents along with
3 any associated equipment/devices, with records kept?"
4 You have ticked the "Not applicable" box.

5 If we could de-amplify and look at the comments and
6 observations box before moving on. I'll just invite you
7 to refresh your memory, looking at what's set out there.

8 (Pause)

9 Now, there's nothing in that commentary box which
10 says that the system is operational or not, is there?

11 A. But by ticking "Not applicable", I'm ticking that it's
12 not applicable — as I said, it was installed but not
13 working.

14 Q. That's not —

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. — an answer to the question I asked.

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. There's no reference there to —

19 A. No, there isn't.

20 Q. No.

21 Now, there is no reference there to the documents
22 that you would have liked or you were expecting ought to
23 be provided in due course once it was operational, is
24 there?

25 A. Not in this one. I haven't seen the significant

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1 findings so I can't answer that, but ...
 2 Q. Did you know at this stage who was going to maintain the
 3 AOV system?
 4 A. No, not definitively, it would be on a contract,
 5 maintenance contract, first year.
 6 Q. Had you been informed of the identity of the contractor
 7 at this stage?
 8 A. No. Only that, as it was earlier on, JS Wright or —
 9 I knew there was a contractor in place.
 10 Q. Can we turn to the significant findings schedule which
 11 is at {CST00003098/8}.
 12 If we could look at item 23g, the penultimate one
 13 from the bottom of the page, the identified risk is said
 14 to be:
 15 "Are the weekly occupier's tests of the buildings
 16 automatic opening ventilation system being undertaken?"
 17 In the "Actions to be taken" column, it says this:
 18 "Weekly occupier inspections of the buildings smoke
 19 ventilation system should be undertaken, with the
 20 results recorded as proof of the inspections having been
 21 undertaken."
 22 There is no reference there, is there, to whether
 23 the system is operational or not?
 24 A. No.
 25 Q. There is no information there as to the types of records

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1 and documents you would be expecting to see once it had
 2 become operational, is there?
 3 A. These are not covered — so this is just testing. Is it
 4 not covered further up the page under section 17?
 5 Q. Well, let's have a look if you want to {CST00003098/4}.
 6 So 17 starts at the bottom. Nothing there, is
 7 there?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. Let's turn over the page {CST00003098/5}.
 10 It might be at 19b.
 11 A. Sir.
 12 Q. Is that what you're wanting to identify?
 13 A. Sir.
 14 Q. Thank you.
 15 Now, can we turn to the design of the new system,
 16 and if I could ask you to put down that document and
 17 turn up the first statement of yours, which is at
 18 paragraph 111, which can be found at {CST00003063/38}.
 19 Just to sort of fix you in the statement, you refer
 20 to a letter dated 10 April 2015, and if we turn over the
 21 page {CST00003063/39}, you say:
 22 "I met with the ventilation consultant who is
 23 designing the new flat/ lift lobby area and staircase
 24 ventilation systems for [the Tower], full details of
 25 these systems are to be provided. But according to the

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1 consultant the systems have been agreed in principle
 2 with both the RBKC Building Control department and the
 3 [LFB] fire engineering team."
 4 You then say in your statement:
 5 "I also then suggested that written confirmation was
 6 sought from the consultant to confirm what he had told
 7 me verbally."
 8 Now, if we could just explore this element of what
 9 you say in your statement.
 10 First of all, who was the ventilation consultant?
 11 A. I've got no name, sorry.
 12 Q. Can you remember whether they were from PSB or from
 13 another outfit?
 14 A. I was just there as an observer, I wasn't even meant to
 15 be there. Because I was in working that day, I was just
 16 asked, "Do you want to go along?", I think was the —
 17 Q. I understand that, but can you remember whether they
 18 were from PSB?
 19 A. No, I can't remember.
 20 Q. Can you remember the gist of what you were told about
 21 the design of the system?
 22 A. I was given afterwards some information, and it was
 23 a mechanical system to be ... from the top of my head,
 24 I can't remember, but I had information given to me
 25 on — like a user's guide.

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1 Q. Were you actually given a physical copy of the user's
 2 guide, to keep for your own records?
 3 A. I'm going to say a guide, yes. I was given a copy.
 4 Q. You were?
 5 A. I believe so, because that's where I would have got the
 6 information from.
 7 Q. Was there any discussion of the extent to which the new
 8 system complied with relevant British Standards or any
 9 other applicable guidance?
 10 A. Off the top of my head, I can't remember, but if it's
 11 not in that guidance, my understanding was that
 12 building control — obviously building control were
 13 overseeing it, along with the LFB's engineering
 14 department.
 15 Q. Can you remember whether there was any discussion of the
 16 system being a depressurisation system and the
 17 implications of it being a depressurisation system?
 18 A. That would not have sprung to mind, depressurisation.
 19 Pressurisation, yes, I would have understood, but
 20 depressurisation —
 21 Q. No.
 22 A. — no.
 23 Q. Can you remember, looking at it maybe slightly
 24 differently to jog your memory, was there any mention of
 25 the effect a depressurised common lobby would have of

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1 drawing in smoke from the flat which was on fire?

2 A. That's why I was hesitant when you asked that question,

3 because depressurisation is a very, very complicated

4 system to use, and the shafts in the building were

5 existing and have been around for a long time, so to do

6 something like that to a system would be far beyond what

7 I would think would be undertaken.

8 Q. I don't mean this rudely, but would the detail and the

9 minutiae of how the system operated be outside the scope

10 of your knowledge and expertise?

11 A. Yes. I would understand the basic principles how it

12 worked, but I wouldn't have any calculational knowledge

13 or anything.

14 Q. Would you have had a handle on the relevant sections of

15 the relevant guidance? I'm thinking of British Standard

16 12101-6.

17 A. No.

18 Q. No, okay.

19 Would you have been aware, in broad terms, even if

20 not the specifics of the guidance, that the

21 depressurised system would provide no protection of any

22 part of an escape route within the depressurised space

23 itself, which may be entirely filled with smoke or may

24 even be fully involved in the fire?

25 A. Well, that's why I was kind of like — when you said to

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1 me a depressurised system, because it's not something

2 that you would — well, I would have thought you would

3 have put in, and they're not common.

4 Q. Did you raise that reservation at the time when you were

5 attending this discussion?

6 A. I never heard anything about a depressurised system.

7 Q. Was there any discussion of the effect of the operation

8 of the AOV on escape routes or, indeed, for

9 firefighters?

10 A. My understanding was that the system was being designed

11 as a site-specific system because of the way the shafts

12 are already there and they were being extended.

13 Q. Just turning back to your statement {CST00003063/39},

14 looking back on the screen, you will see the final

15 sentence of paragraph 111 said:

16 "I also then suggested that written confirmation was

17 sought from the consultant to confirm what he had told

18 me verbally."

19 Can you remember whether the TMO ever provided to

20 you the written confirmation that you had advised they

21 should take?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Can we take it from your previous answers that, before

24 you completed your FRA in June 2016, you did not know

25 who was responsible for servicing and maintaining the

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1 AOV system?

2 A. Correct, I wouldn't have known the name of a company.

3 Q. Did you ask at any stage as you were carrying out the

4 preparatory work for your June 2016 FRA?

5 A. I would know that if you — when you — any system is

6 guaranteed for the first year and you would sign

7 a contract. That's a standard for any system.

8 Q. Did you ask, for example, what their regime was for

9 maintenance of records and where they'd be kept,

10 et cetera?

11 A. Maintenance of records would be at the Hub, I would

12 expect that to happen. I knew that the new room had

13 been created on the ground floor for that system, along

14 with secondary power supplies, et cetera, et cetera,

15 were all in that room.

16 Q. Now, can I turn on to the next topic logically, which is

17 the commissioning of the AOV system itself and its

18 demonstration.

19 Now, if we can stay in your statement, which is on

20 the screen, but go to paragraph 134, which is at page 46

21 {CST00003063/46}.

22 You say there that you attended the commissioning of

23 the new AOV at Grenfell. Can you remember when that

24 took place now?

25 A. No, not an exact date, no. There's a date here, but

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1 I couldn't remember what that date was.

2 Q. Okay.

3 Can you remember, what was demonstrated to you?

4 A. The system on the wall, the —

5 Q. By that do you mean the panel?

6 A. Sorry, there was two panels — so as you went into the

7 lift lobby area, through the main doors, it was open

8 before you got to the lifts at the back. This panel was

9 on the wall on the left, next to a door that went

10 through to, I believe, what was going to be a meeting

11 room, but there was a disabled toilet in there, it was

12 on the wall there. And then there was a replica panel

13 with all the back-up systems in a room on the other side

14 of that wall.

15 Q. Okay.

16 Now, was there any discussion that you can

17 remember — was the word "depressurisation" used?

18 A. That's something I would have picked up on, but no, that

19 was not used.

20 Q. You refer there to a service engineer being present.

21 Can you remember his or her name?

22 A. Male.

23 Q. Can you remember who else was there?

24 A. I'm going to say it was one of many undertaken and it

25 was for the fire crew, local fire crew.

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1 Q. Do you remember the identity of the crew manager?
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. Can you remember whether there was any questions asked
 4 about compliance of the system with applicable
 5 British Standards or any other guidance?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. Was that an assumption that it did, at least on your
 8 part?
 9 A. Well, it shouldn't have been installed if it didn't
 10 comply with some sort of standard.
 11 Q. Quite.
 12 You refer there to an email of 5 August 2016 from
 13 Janice Wray, and we can find that at {CST00002905}.
 14 It's entitled — we don't need to go through it, the
 15 header is the key for the question here. It says:
 16 "Explanation of how the environmental system
 17 works ..."
 18 Now, as far as you can remember now, were you only
 19 provided with the details of how the environmental
 20 aspects of the system worked and not the smoke
 21 extraction element of that system?
 22 A. I think I was provided with documentation, maybe not at
 23 this time but subsequently, for both.
 24 I can remember asking for — each lift lobby area
 25 had a manual override box, and I can remember asking:

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1 how was this going to work, where were the keys kept,
 2 and how was the operating instructions?
 3 Q. Can you remember whether you were provided with the
 4 commissioning report?
 5 A. I'm going to say that I got that at a very much later
 6 date after this FRA. There was — certificates were
 7 provided to me.
 8 Q. Now, one of the points which you refer to in your
 9 statement is reliance on building control.
 10 If we could go to your second statement, which is at
 11 {CST00030186/36}, that's paragraph 131:
 12 "At all times, however, I was reliant on
 13 Building Control's assessment of the AOV in terms of
 14 compliance with the functional requirements of the
 15 Building Regulations. I was aware that this would have
 16 been based on its officers' own expertise, in
 17 conjunction with information and submissions made to it
 18 by the various construction professionals involved in
 19 the refurbishment of the Tower."
 20 Did building control ever provide you with a final
 21 assessment of the AOV system or copies of their final
 22 certification?
 23 A. Building control wouldn't — would only have — sorry,
 24 I start again.
 25 The assessments from building control they would

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1 rely on from the contractor, and I believe I got
 2 a commissioning certificate from the contractor, but
 3 nothing via building control. It all came from the TMO.
 4 Q. So it came indirectly?
 5 A. From the TMO. I had no direct contact with
 6 building control.
 7 Q. Can you remember receiving anything — was it simply the
 8 certificates and nothing more formal, any other formal
 9 documentation beyond that that you were provided with?
 10 A. Yes, correct. That's the documentation, certificates.
 11 I never had any computer-generated data or anything.
 12 MR KINNIER: Okay.
 13 Can I now turn to the question of weekly testing,
 14 and if we could go to —
 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Kinnier, do you mind if I just
 16 interrupt you for a moment, because we have been running
 17 for nearly an hour.
 18 The plan, I think you may have been warned,
 19 Mr Stokes, is that we should run through without a break
 20 until 1 o'clock, but if you would like a break, now
 21 would be the time to have it.
 22 THE WITNESS: I'm quite happy, sir.
 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You're happy?
 24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Very good. And the shorthand

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1 writer?
 2 All right, I'm sorry, thank you.
 3 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.
 4 If we could go to {CST00000199/11}.
 5 This is your letter to Janice Wray. It's a 13-page
 6 letter. You see at the top there:
 7 "Item 23g, High.
 8 "Identified risk or hazard.
 9 "Are the weekly occupier's tests of the buildings
 10 automatic smoke ventilation system being undertaken?
 11 "Actions to be taken.
 12 "Weekly occupier inspections of the buildings smoke
 13 ventilation system should be undertaken, with the
 14 results recorded as proof of the inspections having been
 15 undertaken."
 16 Now, do you know what testing had been taking place
 17 to this point?
 18 A. No, sir.
 19 Q. Anything about frequency?
 20 A. No.
 21 Q. Thank you.
 22 Now can we turn to a separate topic, which is the
 23 external façade.
 24 Could we go back for this purpose to your first
 25 statement at {CST00003063/40}. Hopefully it will be

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1 paragraphs 114 and 115.
 2 Starting under the heading "The external walls of
 3 the Tower", paragraph 114 says this:
 4 "I have been asked about (i) my awareness of the
 5 façade design; (ii) my awareness of the properties of
 6 the ACM panels and insulation used as part of the Tower
 7 facade; and (iii) my views on the compliance of the
 8 design with Building Regulations."
 9 Paragraph 115 says this:
 10 "I cannot remember when I first became aware that
 11 the Tower was to be over-clad. As already pointed out,
 12 the external walls of a building are not in my view part
 13 of the Common Parts covered by the FRAs (the external
 14 walls of a building not being covered by the FSO) ..."
 15 Now, having regard to what you have said there,
 16 I now want to go through PAS 79 and then also the
 17 LGA guide, and see, having reflected on what they say,
 18 whether your view changes as set out here.
 19 First of all, could I look at PAS 79 and, in
 20 particular, the competence standard at appendix D, which
 21 is entitled "Behaviour of fire in buildings". That can
 22 be found at {CST00000003/69}.
 23 I really want to look at the fourth paragraph on
 24 page 69. It's the one that starts with the word
 25 "Accordingly". It says this:

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1 "Accordingly, the fire risk assessor should be able
 2 to:
 3 "■ generally determine how fires can start and how
 4 the spread of fire and products of combustion can impact
 5 on components of the building;
 6 "■ identify failures and/or changes to the building
 7 that could change the way a fire and products of the
 8 combustion travel through the building.
 9 "To enable to[sic] fire risk assessor to carry out
 10 the above, the fire risk assessor should have ..."
 11 Going down:
 12 "■ an awareness of how different construction
 13 materials behave in a fire;
 14 "■ an awareness of how different structural designs
 15 of buildings behave in a fire."
 16 And going slightly further down:
 17 "■ an awareness of how to identify that the
 18 subsequent use or alteration of the building can
 19 invalidate pre-existing fire safety precautions and/or
 20 strategies."
 21 My first question is: were you aware of the
 22 substance of that advice?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Now, if we can look at appendix H, which I think
 25 Mr Millett took you to earlier in your examination, and

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1 that can be found in this same document at pages 73
 2 through to 74 {CST00000003/73}.
 3 If we look on the right-hand side, appendix H
 4 states, under the heading "Passive fire protection",
 5 this:
 6 "The fire risk assessor should have a knowledge and
 7 understanding of the role in the provision of
 8 fire safety ..."
 9 If we could go over the page to 74 {CST00000003/74}
 10 and the left-hand side, you see there in the very bottom
 11 left-hand corner the heading in red:
 12 "The building envelope e.g. fire-resisting external
 13 walls, curtain walls.
 14 "■ The significance of their role in protecting
 15 escape routes at boundaries."
 16 Were you aware of that principle as well?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. If I could put that document down for the moment and
 19 turn back to your first statement at {CST00003063/42},
 20 paragraph 118, you say in that last sentence:
 21 "I was also aware that the issue of external
 22 cladding is raised at paragraphs 72 and 85 of the LGA
 23 Guidance (although neither paragraph relates directly to
 24 FRAs)."
 25 Now, for the sake of completeness, let's look at

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1 those relevant paragraphs of the LGA guide.
 2 If we could go first of all to paragraph 72, which
 3 can be found at {HOM00045964/111}.
 4 We see below the diagram, under the heading in
 5 green, I think it is, "External fire—spread", it says
 6 this at 72.1:
 7 "The external façades of blocks of flats should not
 8 provide potential for extensive fire—spread. When
 9 assessing existing blocks of flats, particular attention
 10 should be given to any rainscreen or other external
 11 cladding system that has been applied and to façades
 12 that have been replaced."
 13 72.2:
 14 "The use of combustible cladding materials and
 15 extensive cavities can present a risk, particularly in
 16 high-rise blocks. Restrictions are normally applied to
 17 the nature of such materials and in particular their
 18 surface spread of flame characteristics. Cavity
 19 barriers are also required in some circumstances.
 20 Assistance from specialists may be required to determine
 21 if the external surfaces of walls are satisfactory and
 22 whether there is adequate provision of cavity barriers."
 23 If now we could turn to paragraph 85, which is at
 24 page 129 {HOM00045964/129}.
 25 Under the heading "Controlling alterations so that

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1 they are not detrimental to fire safety", 85.1 says
2 this:
3 "Alterations and improvements to blocks of flats can
4 be detrimental to fire safety if careful thought is not
5 given to the possible impact they might have. Problems
6 can arise, not only when large-scale refurbishment
7 programmes are carried out, but also during minor work
8 that residents themselves might undertake."

9 85.2 says this:

10 "Processes should be in place for landlords and
11 other responsible persons to scrutinise alterations and
12 building work within common parts that could have an
13 effect on fire safety in the block. It is important
14 that Building Regulations approval is obtained where
15 relevant."

16 If we could just turn over the page to 130
17 {HOM00045964/130}, we can see various examples are
18 given. If we can look at the third one from the bottom
19 of the box, it says this:

20 "A landlord undertaking a project to fit rain screen
21 cladding to an existing block of flats without
22 considering the potential for a fire from a flat to
23 travel upwards through the cavity behind the cladding to
24 spread into the flats above."

25 Now, having taken you through those various bits of

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1 PAS 79 and also the LGA guide, do you still maintain
2 your essential view that the external façade does not
3 fall within the scope of an FRA?
4 A. Yes, sir.
5 Q. And is that for the reasons you gave in answer to
6 questions posed by Mr Millett?
7 A. Yes, sir.
8 Q. Now, if we can go back to paragraph 72.2 of the
9 LGA guide, so back to page 111 {HOM00045964/111}, it
10 says in the last three lines of that paragraph,
11 "Assistance from specialists may be required".

12 In respect of Grenfell, was it your view that
13 assistance from specialists was required to advise the
14 TMO?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you communicate that view to anyone at the TMO?

17 A. Yes, in the significant findings sheets.

18 Q. Sorry, I didn't catch that, Mr Stokes.

19 A. Sorry, in the significant findings sheets I made
20 a comment.

21 Q. Can we turn to the 2014 FRA, following on from that
22 answer.

23 A. Yes, sir.

24 Q. If we can turn back to your first witness statement,
25 which can be found at {CST00003063/41}, and

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1 paragraph 117, I think this is what you were referring
2 to; is that right, Mr Stokes?

3 A. Erm —

4 Q. The reference to the significant findings schedule and
5 your recommendation?

6 (Pause)

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. So is the essential position this: that although you
9 considered the external façade to be outside the scope
10 of your remit, nonetheless you chose, as evidenced here,
11 to make recommendations in relation to it?

12 A. Yes, sir, because, as you highlighted earlier on,
13 I should take it into account.

14 Q. At the time of the fire risk assessment that was carried
15 out in 2014, did you ask anyone about the type of
16 cladding that was being put on the building?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Why not?

19 A. Because I don't think I — in 2014, I don't think I knew
20 that — until I'd seen the example on the outside,
21 I didn't even know it was being clad.

22 Q. Were you aware that the mock-up you were shown was what
23 was proposed for the external walls, it wasn't the
24 actual cladding system itself?

25 A. I wasn't showing anything, sir, I just happened to be

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1 walking by and looked up and there was this on the
2 wall — well, it was on the wall above me. I think
3 there was more than one style or type.

4 Q. So you were aware that it wasn't the actual cladding
5 system, can I take it from that answer?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Did you ask prospectively about whether the cladding was
8 class 0?

9 A. Only inasmuch as what it says there. I asked the
10 questions as the consideration that I should undertake.

11 Q. And your questions were limited to the substance that's
12 set out there?

13 A. Sir.

14 Q. Now, can I turn to the later FRAs, so turn to April 2016
15 FRAs.

16 For the purposes of preparing that assessment, did
17 you receive any further information about the cladding
18 itself?

19 A. Only inasmuch as I asked when I was on site were they
20 compliant from Rydons, and I had — I was told there was
21 a building control's letter of comfort being issued to
22 say it was compliant.

23 Q. And was your question, were these compliant, is that the
24 gist of the question you actually asked when you were
25 on site for the purposes of carrying out the April 2016

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1 FRA?
 2 A. All the way through, they were the questions I asked: is
 3 this compliant, is it fix compliant, and are
 4 building control happy with everything that's there?
 5 Q. So is your evidence, looking at the screen now, looking
 6 at the recommendations you made there, that you actively
 7 chased up answers to each of those questions?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. And of whom did you ask those questions? Was it
 10 Janice Wray?
 11 A. No, well, I asked Rydons.
 12 Q. Why wouldn't you ask Janice Wray as being the person to
 13 whom you were immediately responsible at the TMO?
 14 A. I think I probably did ask through — well, this was —
 15 I am asking Janice Wray by putting this document to her
 16 and the TMO.
 17 Q. Okay, but this is 2014. I'm asking you questions about
 18 events two years later.
 19 Can you remember now in April/June 2016 whether you
 20 asked Janice Wray the direct question whether she'd had
 21 satisfactory answers to each of those questions you had
 22 posed in 2014?
 23 A. Directly answering that — asking that question, no.
 24 Q. So is the reality, therefore, that you were content with
 25 the informal information given to you by representatives

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1 of Rydon whilst you were carrying out your various
 2 visits for the preparation of the 2016 FRAs?
 3 A. I was given assurances that building control had — they
 4 had a letter of comfort, and therefore they were happy
 5 with the overcladding or the cladding that was being
 6 used and it was fully compliant.
 7 Q. Given what is recommended in the LGA guide, given what's
 8 represented in PAS 79, did you ask Janice Wray to secure
 9 written confirmation of the information you had received
 10 informally from Rydon during your tours on site?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. You did?
 13 A. That would be part of the regulation 38 information
 14 which was asked for in the significant findings.
 15 Q. Can we turn, staying in your statement, to
 16 paragraph 120, which is at page 42 {CST00003063/42}, so
 17 just over the page. It's just following on from the
 18 answers you've just given.
 19 You say this at the start of that paragraph:
 20 "When inspecting the Tower in April 2016, I spoke to
 21 various people, including representatives from Rydon,
 22 however I cannot now remember exactly who I spoke to on
 23 this occasion ... I asked about how the cladding had
 24 eventually been fixed to the Tower."
 25 Can you now remember who the various people were

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1 that you asked these questions of?
 2 A. No, I asked the questions of the people that were
 3 showing me round at that time or who were presented to
 4 me to answer questions I had.
 5 Q. Can you remember whether Simon Lawrence was showing you
 6 round? Can you remember what level of seniority of
 7 individual was showing you round the site?
 8 A. Dave Hughes is a name that springs to mind.
 9 Q. Can you remind the panel, what was his role, insofar as
 10 you know, on site?
 11 A. To be honest, I don't know his actual job title. He was
 12 tasked with showing me round, so he must have been
 13 someone senior or management of the site management.
 14 Q. Was he able to answer satisfactorily the questions you
 15 asked of him as you went round the site?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. During the course of those discussions with Mr Hughes or
 18 whoever it was, was it during those discussions that you
 19 asked them questions about the cladding and the rest of
 20 it?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. And it's from those individuals that you obtained the
 23 information about a letter of comfort from
 24 building control?
 25 A. That's ... and I also believe I was told there was

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1 a letter of comfort from — the TMO told me that as
 2 well, I believe.
 3 Q. Now, you say in paragraph 120 that you asked questions
 4 of various people, including representatives from Rydon.
 5 Did you ask questions of anyone, for example, from
 6 the cladding contractors themselves about what was being
 7 put on the building?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. Why not?
 10 A. (a) I was never introduced to any of them, and if they
 11 were there, they would have been on the outside of the
 12 building and I was internal.
 13 Q. At any stage did you ask to speak to anyone from Harley?
 14 A. No.
 15 Q. You give the impression in paragraph 120 that you spoke
 16 to various people who weren't involved in Rydon. Who
 17 else did you speak to who wasn't involved or didn't work
 18 for Rydon?
 19 A. The TMO.
 20 Q. And is that it?
 21 A. Well, unless they — I was speaking to people who were
 22 with Rydon on site, if — I wouldn't know whether they
 23 were working for Rydon. I was with those people at that
 24 time.
 25 Q. And were these on-site conversations the only time you

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1 investigated or assessed the risk posed by the façade,
 2 or rather the cladding that was being put on the
 3 building?
 4 A. Apart from asking in writing in the part of the risk
 5 assessment process for it to be confirmed that they were
 6 fully compliant with building control, yes.
 7 Q. So the information—gathering process was confined to the
 8 conversations you had on site?
 9 A. And with the TMO.
 10 Q. Now, staying with paragraph 120, you say this:
 11 "As can be seen from my handwritten notes, following
 12 discussions with representatives of Rydon, I recorded
 13 'OK FR No Timber' and 'Cladding external Non Combustible
 14 Metal Fixings signed off by B/C'."
 15 Can you remember now, was it Dave Hughes who gave
 16 you that information or was it someone else?
 17 A. I can't remember actually who gave it, whoever I was
 18 talking to at the time.
 19 Q. Looking at the phrase "OK FR", what did you understand
 20 that abbreviation to mean?
 21 A. Fire rated.
 22 Q. Do you recall during these discussions in April 2016 any
 23 detail being given as to the type of panels that were to
 24 be used?
 25 A. No.

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1 Q. Were you given any information regarding the
 2 manufacturer?
 3 A. No.
 4 Q. Did you ask for that information?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. Why?
 7 A. Because the — it was overseen by building control.
 8 Q. Were you told about the type of insulation that would be
 9 used?
 10 A. No.
 11 Q. Or the manufacturer?
 12 A. No.
 13 Q. And you didn't ask about it for the self—same reason;
 14 you assumed building control were involved?
 15 Did you ask about the performance or certification
 16 of the external wall construction?
 17 A. No.
 18 Q. Again, for the same reason you've just given?
 19 A. It's being overseen by building control. It's
 20 a refurbishment.
 21 Q. Now, you referred in your previous answers to the FRAs
 22 themselves.
 23 If we could turn to the FRAs, using April 2016 as
 24 an example here, that can be found at {CST00003161/4}.
 25 At the top of that page, it says this:

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1 "New external cladding has been fitted to this
 2 building as part of the project of
 3 refurbishment/construction work being undertaken on and
 4 within this building. The original external face of
 5 this building has been over clad, the new fire rated
 6 cladding is fixed to the out face of the building by
 7 metal fixings and the whole process has been overseen by
 8 the RBKC Building Control Department and Officers. They
 9 have approved and accepted the fixing system and
 10 cladding used."
 11 Now, did the term "fire rated", in your view, apply
 12 to the cladding or to the fixings or to both?
 13 A. Both.
 14 Q. What did you understand the phrase "fire rated" to mean?
 15 A. Acceptable and approved.
 16 Q. By?
 17 A. Building control and compliant with the standard
 18 required, which I'm going to say is 135.
 19 Q. Now, this is the April 2016 FRA, remember. When you say
 20 in the final sentence of the paragraph we've just looked
 21 at, "They have approved and accepted the fixing system
 22 and cladding used", it's right that you hadn't received
 23 any documentation from building control, isn't it?
 24 A. Correct.
 25 Q. Because you received the letter of comfort on

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1 20 June 2016; is that right?
 2 A. If that's correct, yes.
 3 Q. Now, can we look —
 4 A. But I knew about that letter — I knew that that was
 5 coming.
 6 Q. As a result of the discussions you'd had on site?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Now, can we look at that letter of comfort, which is at
 9 {CST00003126}. Now, I'll just ask you to have
 10 a speed—read of that.
 11 (Pause)
 12 When you're finished, if you invite the document
 13 manager to turn over the page, as it were.
 14 (Pause)
 15 A. Yes, sir, thank you.
 16 (Pause)
 17 Q. Now, certainly looking at that letter afresh and coming
 18 at it objectively, there doesn't appear to be anything
 19 in it that would give you any reassurance that
 20 building control had "accepted and approved" the
 21 cladding system, was there?
 22 A. There's no adverse comments, and the cladding would not
 23 have been on the building if it hadn't been approved by
 24 them.
 25 Q. There is nothing express there that could give solid

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1 ground for comfort that building control had approved
 2 and accepted this cladding system, was there?
 3 A. There is only negatives on here, work that needs to be
 4 undertaken, otherwise it's all signed off as compliant.
 5 Q. Now, would you accept that you were sent a copy of the
 6 completion certificate in July 2016?
 7 A. The full completion certificate? Yes, if you say —
 8 yes.
 9 Q. After you had written and submitted the 20 June 2016
 10 FRA, you didn't ask for or receive any other information
 11 concerning building control's approval of the system?
 12 A. I've got a completion certificate. I wouldn't have
 13 expected to have anything else from building control.
 14 Q. That was it, and you were satisfied with that?
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. So is the reality, therefore, that when you say that
 17 building control has approved and accepted the fixing
 18 system and cladding used, that was based solely on the
 19 informal conversations you had had on site?
 20 A. No, it was based on these documents because there is —
 21 Q. Sorry to interrupt, Mr Stokes. These documents were
 22 sent after —
 23 A. Sorry, yes, I knew that these documents — they were
 24 coming.
 25 Q. Thank you.

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1 Given what PAS 79 advised, given what the relevant
 2 paragraphs of the LGA guide had advised, wouldn't it
 3 have been sensible and prudent to include the
 4 information you had regarding the cladding system in the
 5 April and June 2016 FRAs?
 6 A. But I didn't have any information at that time.
 7 Q. Well, that's the point.
 8 A. But I wouldn't expect to have any information on those
 9 systems, and the Fire Safety Order doesn't have the
 10 external façade of the building.
 11 Q. And so the consequence was that neither FRA could be
 12 said to have assessed the fire hazard posed by the
 13 cladding system, could it?
 14 A. Because it's not parts in common.
 15 Q. But we've taken you through PAS 79 —
 16 A. Agreed, and I commented —
 17 Q. Hang on, if you just wait for the question, it's
 18 probably easier for you.
 19 A. Sorry.
 20 Q. We've taken you through the various appendices, which
 21 you accepted you were aware of. I've taken you through
 22 the relevant paragraphs of the LGA guide, all of which
 23 encouraged in broad terms the risk assessor to have
 24 regard to the external façade of the building. Here,
 25 you have no substantive information about what is on the

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1 building when you completed your April and June 2016
 2 FRAs. Wouldn't it have been prudent to have said that,
 3 given the purpose of a risk assessment and given the
 4 substance of the advice set out in PAS 79 and the
 5 LGA guide?
 6 A. It was covered in the statement that building control
 7 had overseen it. It was covered that the regulation 38
 8 information was required. Any subsequent FRAs of this
 9 building, once I had that information, could have been
 10 included in that — those FRAs, but at this time, this
 11 information hadn't been passed on.
 12 Q. Following on from that, can I ask you to go back to
 13 PAS 79 and appendix A, Mr Stokes, and that can be found
 14 at {CTA00000003/65}, and really the first paragraph on
 15 that page.
 16 It says in the second sentence:
 17 "The competent fire risk assessor must be able to
 18 make a subjective judgement — albeit based largely on
 19 objective evidence — of the overall risk to life from
 20 fire in the building for which a fire risk assessment is
 21 carried out."
 22 What objective evidence — objective evidence — did
 23 you have about the cladding panels when you wrote the
 24 April and June 2016 FRAs?
 25 A. I was assured by building control that the cladding was

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1 compliant because they were issuing a Building
 2 Regulations completion certificate. If it hadn't have
 3 been compliant they should never have issued the
 4 certificate.
 5 Q. Let's take that one stage — you said you were assured
 6 by building control?
 7 A. Assured by the TMO and Rydons that building control were
 8 signing those off.
 9 Q. And so the information you received from Rydons was via
 10 informal conversations on site; that's right, isn't it?
 11 A. Correct.
 12 Q. And the information you had received was via
 13 conversations with the TMO; that's right, isn't it?
 14 A. Correct.
 15 Q. You had nothing from building control itself?
 16 A. I was relying on building — they knowing that
 17 building control were signing it off.
 18 Q. So, in answer to the question, you had no information
 19 directly from building control, did you?
 20 A. No information direct from building control, nor would
 21 I ever expect to, because I would only have had it from
 22 the TMO.
 23 Q. Would you accept, therefore, that you had no objective
 24 evidence from building control that they'd approved,
 25 effectively signed off, the external cladding system?

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1 A. I had — because if it had not been compliant,
 2 building control wouldn't have signed a completion
 3 certificate or were — had told the TMO they were going
 4 to sign off a compliance —
 5 Q. I'm sorry to be difficult about it, Mr Stokes, but the
 6 letter of comfort from building control, the completion
 7 certificate, came after the June 2016 FRA.
 8 A. Agreed.
 9 Q. Right. So would you accept this: that you had, for the
 10 purposes of the April and June 2016 FRAs, no objective
 11 evidence upon which to rely that building control had
 12 approved and signed off the external cladding system?
 13 Would you accept that?
 14 A. I had nothing in writing from building control, correct.
 15 Q. You had nothing from building control, did you? All you
 16 had was informal assurances from Rydon and the TMO?
 17 A. Correct.
 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Mr Kinnier, is the burden of the
 19 point you're really putting to Mr Stokes that he should
 20 not have made those statements in the letter? Because
 21 in the end, he was right, in that building control had
 22 signed off the cladding, or did sign off the cladding.
 23 MR KINNIER: Well, the burden of the point is that looking
 24 at what is set out in appendix A, and the emphasis
 25 placed on the burden on the competent fire risk

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1 assessor, at the time when he made the express statement
 2 that building control had approved and accepted, he had
 3 no objective evidence upon which to rely, and I think
 4 that's what I've tried to put repeatedly to Mr Stokes.
 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes. Well, that's why I sought to
 6 clarify that your point is that he should not have made
 7 the statement.
 8 MR KINNIER: Yes.
 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Not that he should have done
 10 something different.
 11 MR KINNIER: That's right.
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Apart from not make the statement,
 13 of course.
 14 MR KINNIER: Yes.
 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: All right.
 16 Do you want to comment on that, Mr Stokes?
 17 A. But I was relying —
 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: You understand the point that's
 19 being put?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: That at the time when you wrote
 22 that, you didn't have anything from building control,
 23 that's the point.
 24 A. Correct. But I was reliant on them and was told that it
 25 was coming, and therefore I've put it down as the risk

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1 assessor because I know that document's coming.
 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Well, I think the suggestion might
 3 be — though Mr Kinnier will correct me if I'm wrong —
 4 that you would have been wiser and maybe more accurate
 5 to say, "I expect it to be approved by building
 6 control"?
 7 A. Sir.
 8 MR KINNIER: Yes.
 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes?
 10 A. Sir. But then I would argue the point that if it was to
 11 be declined by building control, it should never have
 12 been on the building in the first place.
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: That's a fair point. Yes.
 14 MR KINNIER: So can I turn to something linked to but
 15 different to the point we have been discussing, and
 16 that's an email you sent to yourself on 3 May 2016,
 17 which can be found at {CST00001449}. The email is
 18 entitled "Cladding grenfell", and it attached a photo of
 19 Grenfell Tower. The photo — we don't need to go to
 20 it — is at {CST00001450}.
 21 Can you remember now why you sent a photo of the
 22 cladding to yourself in May 2016?
 23 A. Just so I had it as a reference.
 24 Q. Nothing more?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Can I now turn to a separate topic, which is the
 2 20 June 2016 FRA.
 3 First of all, why were you asked to carry out an FRA
 4 in June when one had been carried out in April 2016?
 5 A. One was just before handover and one was after handover,
 6 as far as I'm aware.
 7 Q. Can you remember whether you were given any particular
 8 instructions in relation to the 20 June FRA?
 9 A. I would — I'm guessing one of —
 10 Q. Don't guess.
 11 A. Oh, sorry. One of the instructions would have been:
 12 have any items from the April one now been signed off or
 13 have been completed?
 14 Q. Now, we've just been discussing when practical
 15 completion took place and it had not yet taken place as
 16 at 20 June 2016.
 17 Wouldn't it have been more sensible to have awaited
 18 practical completion before carrying out the FRA?
 19 A. I would — as instructed.
 20 Q. First of all, did you have that reservation at the time?
 21 A. I've — nothing I thought about, I just undertook it as
 22 constructed.
 23 Q. So you didn't raise any concern with Janice Wray to say,
 24 "Listen, it might be better if waited until practical
 25 completion before I carry this out"?

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1 A. When I undertook the June one, still the lower floor
 2 levels still hadn't been completed. So the boxing club,
 3 the nursery, were still under refurbishment.
 4 Q. We noted that the invoice you submitted for this FRA
 5 described it, I think I'm right in saying, as an FRA
 6 review; would it be fair to describe the June FRA as
 7 a review of the April FRA?
 8 A. They were all put down as reviews, sir, because they
 9 weren't initials. So on the pricing, it was only
 10 ever — the first time you ever went to the building was
 11 the first one. Everything else was a review after that.
 12 Q. Thank you.
 13 Now, can I turn to a separate and distinct topic,
 14 which is advice on tall buildings, and in particular
 15 a letter sent on 6 April 2017 by the LFB.
 16 Now, just to give you some proper context here, on
 17 19 April 2017, you received an email from Janice Wray
 18 which forwarded a letter from the LFB, the 6 April 2017
 19 letter, entitled "Tall buildings — external fire
 20 spread".
 21 If we can look at that letter, which is at
 22 {RBK00026888}.
 23 (Pause)
 24 If we look at the third paragraph, could I invite
 25 you, rather than everyone having to listen to me, to

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1 read from the third paragraph down until the paragraph
 2 which starts with the words, "I would therefore strongly
 3 urge you". So the five paragraphs from the third one,
 4 and if you would shout when you have done that.
 5 (Pause)
 6 A. To the bottom of the page?
 7 Q. It's the five paragraphs flowing from that one. It
 8 finishes with the one which starts, "I would therefore
 9 strongly urge", so you need to go over the page to
 10 page 2 {RBK00026888/2}.
 11 A. Thank you.
 12 (Pause)
 13 Yes.
 14 Q. Now, if we can go back to the covering email under which
 15 this letter was sent to you, that's {CST00003123}, and
 16 we look at the second email down from the top,
 17 Janice Wray forwarded that to you at 11.04 pm.
 18 If we look at the top, you responded to her the same
 19 night at 23.16, so some 12 minutes later, and you said
 20 this:
 21 "Noted.
 22 "That is why I asked Rydons for the information and
 23 compliance for the cladding and will dowsing of
 24 Grenfell.
 25 "Rydons provided all the information and stated

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1 compliance with the requirements of the Building Regs."
 2 Now, you responded 12 minutes later at 23.16 in the
 3 evening; did you look at any documents or records before
 4 sending this response?
 5 A. Could we just scroll down —
 6 Q. Of course.
 7 A. — please. Yeah.
 8 No, I knew what they were talking about.
 9 Q. So if we go to the top of the page again in your email,
 10 the phrase in the first line "will dowsing", presumably
 11 that should mean "windows"?
 12 A. Windows.
 13 Q. Now, to clarify, the information that you're referring
 14 to there in the opening sentence, is that the one or two
 15 conversations you had on site, plus such conversations
 16 you had with the TMO?
 17 A. This is to do with this letter, isn't it?
 18 Q. Yes.
 19 A. So I know the building in Shepherd's Bush. There is no
 20 cladding on that building, it's a brick building, and
 21 I knew immediately that, having seen the building,
 22 having seen the fire, it was to do with spandrels, and
 23 a fire in one flat then going up the building from where
 24 the windows had been infilled at the bottom with newer
 25 panels.

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1 Q. Okay. So to answer the question I asked — I was asking
 2 a question in relation to the email you sent at 23.16 —
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. — which said, "That is why I asked Rydons for the
 5 information". The information referred to there, is
 6 that the information that was elicited via informal
 7 conversations on site and such conversations you had
 8 with the TMO?
 9 A. And in relation to the letter that I was asked about
 10 there.
 11 Q. That doesn't say that, does it?
 12 A. No.
 13 Q. So on fuller reflection, is that what you were referring
 14 to there?
 15 A. Both, yes.
 16 Q. Although you didn't refer to the LFB's letter —
 17 A. Correct.
 18 Q. — or the facts of Shepherd's Bush?
 19 A. So initially this — as you quite rightly say there,
 20 sir, this is — I asked for the information and
 21 compliance of cladding and windows.
 22 Q. Were you sent all relevant information about any
 23 replacement window and façade schemes as the LFB advised
 24 should be obtained?
 25 A. No, because that's external façade.

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1 Q. Notwithstanding PAS 79, the LGA guide, that's the line
 2 you took for not seeking further information,
 3 notwithstanding the prompt?
 4 A. Having read the letter that you were talking about, sir,
 5 the — I can't remember the title —
 6 Q. Tall buildings —
 7 A. — tall buildings, that —
 8 Q. — external fire spread.
 9 A. Sir. That letter, once I had read it, was to do with
 10 spandrel panels. The building at Shepherd's Bush is
 11 a brick outer façade and it was purely to do with infill
 12 panels in windows. And on the second page of that
 13 letter, because it's to do with the ... sorry, I can't
 14 remember the actual phrasing, for the scheme where you
 15 don't have to go through building control, it actually
 16 says you must go through building control and it has to
 17 be signed off by building control.
 18 Q. Now, if we can go to a separate document which is
 19 {CST00003112}, which is an email from Janice Wray on
 20 24 April, so some five days later, at 9.34 in the
 21 morning. It's at the foot of this page:
 22 "Carl
 23 "My understanding is that we do not have any blocks
 24 with external cladding of this nature. Are you able to
 25 confirm please?

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1 "I need to go write back to the Director of Housing
 2 and I think you are probably best placed to advise me on
 3 the construction of our blocks.
 4 "Please advise.
 5 "Thanks.
 6 "Janice."
 7 Now, your reply, immediately above the email sent at
 8 12.20, so less than three hours later, says:
 9 "As far as I know that is correct.
 10 "Grenfell was clad but the cladding complied with
 11 the requirements of the Building Regulations, lots of
 12 questions asked of Rydons and answers received back from
 13 them."
 14 Now, had Janice Wray ever asked you before for
 15 advice regarding the cladding or the external façade?
 16 A. No.
 17 Q. At this stage, did you, before replying to Janice Wray,
 18 go back to your records to ascertain the information you
 19 were giving to her was correct?
 20 A. The letter doesn't ask for — it's not talking about
 21 cladding; it's talking about spandrel panels and infills
 22 in windows.
 23 Q. But the letter talks about tall buildings.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. It talks about external fire spread.

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. Janice Wray had never previously asked for your advice.
 3 It was clearly a matter of concern.
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. Given that background, my question was a simple one,
 6 Mr Stokes: did you go back and check your records before
 7 responding to Ms Wray's email?
 8 A. I'd never had any information on the cladding at
 9 Grenfell anyway so I had no records to check.
 10 Q. Did you think that you were best placed to advise her in
 11 relation to the issues raised by the LFB's letter of
 12 April 2017?
 13 A. She was — I would have — I'm guessing, sorry. I'm
 14 thinking here that I'm one of — other people were asked
 15 the same question. From my information — I was
 16 answering from my knowledge — this letter did not apply
 17 to Grenfell because it does not apply to cladding, this
 18 letter applied to spandrel panels and was site-specific
 19 to Shepherd's Bush, and on the second page it says about
 20 the requirements of Building Regulations and the
 21 building control officer had signed off Grenfell Tower
 22 anyway.
 23 Q. I'm sorry to interrupt. My question, again, was
 24 a simple one, Mr Stokes: did you think that you were
 25 best placed to advise Ms Wray in relation to the matters

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1 raised by the LFB in their letter, given your particular
 2 expertise and background?
 3 A. I did not even think of that — answering that — the
 4 answer to that question. I answered the question I was
 5 asked by Ms Wray. Whether I was the best person or not
 6 or if she asked anyone else, you'd have to ask her.
 7 I just answered the question I was posed.
 8 Q. Now, you said earlier in evidence that I think you
 9 assumed that she would be asking other people this
 10 question. Just looking at this email, she's only asking
 11 you at this stage, isn't she?
 12 A. She could have asked other people. I'm only answering
 13 the question I'm being asked here in front of me.
 14 Q. Why did you assume she could have been asking other
 15 people? On what basis?
 16 A. Because I would ask other people. I would have asked
 17 anyone else who was around her at the time.
 18 Q. Wouldn't it have been prudent to have directed Ms Wray
 19 towards Rydon or Harley Façades or the asset management
 20 team to give her more informed advice on the risk of
 21 external fire spread presented by the cladding system
 22 that had been put on Grenfell?
 23 A. That could be additional information, but it would be
 24 covered by the Building Regulations and regulation 38
 25 information that the TMO should have at this time.

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1 Q. Now, earlier in your evidence, I think in answer to
2 a question Mr Millett put to you last week, you accepted
3 that a fire risk assessor must "have an awareness of the
4 limitations of the fire risk assessor's own experience
5 and knowledge" and "a willingness and ability to
6 supplement existing experience and knowledge where
7 necessary by obtaining external help and advice".
8 That's from PAS 79, clause 7, commentary. Indeed, you
9 said that the assessment of cladding was a matter for
10 specialists.

11 Now, having regard to that acceptance, in
12 paragraph 177 of your witness statement, if we can go to
13 that, it's the first one, {CST00003063/57}, you say at
14 177, in the middle of this paragraph:

15 "... prior to the Fire, my knowledge of the
16 existence and properties of the materials installed at
17 the Tower was limited."

18 Given that limited knowledge, why did you proceed to
19 advise Ms Wray at all about whether the cladding on the
20 tower was of the same nature as that covered by the
21 LFB's letter of 6 April 2017?

22 A. Because the LFB's letter was about spandrels, not about
23 cladding. Shepherd's Bush is not overclad with any
24 other material -- with no material, it's a brick
25 building.

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1 Q. I go back to the question I put to you earlier on,
2 Mr Stokes: it was clearly a source of concern to
3 Ms Wray.
4 A. Correct.
5 Q. She was seeking advice. Given all of that, given the
6 fact you weren't a specialist, why didn't you simply
7 direct her to ask the question of someone who was
8 a specialist adviser in relation to the cladding?
9 A. But -- sorry, I'm being stupid, but the letter refers to
10 a brick building and it refers to infill panels, not
11 cladding.
12 Q. Would you accept that, by advising Ms Wray in the manner
13 you did in your email of 24 April -- and it may well be
14 useful to go back to that, {CST00003112/1}. You said:
15 "Grenfell was clad but the cladding complied with
16 the requirements of the Building Regulations, lots of
17 questions asked of Rydons and answers received back from
18 them."

19 In giving that advice, weren't you acting beyond
20 your knowledge and expertise and you ought not to have
21 expressed yourself in such unqualified terms?

22 A. But the question I was asked:
23 "Carl
24 "My understanding is that we do not have any blocks
25 with external cladding of this nature."

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1 Shepherd's Bush didn't have external cladding on, so
2 therefore the TMO at Grenfell Tower or any other TMO
3 block didn't have any external cladding of the same
4 nature as Shepherd's Bush.

5 Q. Can I now turn to a separate topic, Mr Stokes, and
6 that's gas.

7 If we go to {CST00002731/3}, you will see at the
8 bottom of the page there, this is an email from the
9 Grenfell Tower Leaseholders' Association sent by
10 Tunde Awoderu to Peter Maddison about exposed gas lines
11 running through the staircase.

12 If we go up the chain to page 1 {CST00002731/1}, we
13 will hopefully see there an email you sent, there we go,
14 at the top of the page, on 8 March at 14.08. You say to
15 Janice Wray, second line:

16 "From the photos that you have sent it appears that
17 fire stopping around the pipes has been undertaken."

18 Can you help us, what photos had you seen at this
19 stage?

20 (Pause)

21 A. So this is dated 8 March 2017.

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. I'd gone to the building in the January.

24 Q. And you think that's the basis on which you expressed
25 the view there?

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1 A. My understanding, it had been boxed in.

2 Q. And were you satisfied that what you had seen was
3 representative of all pipework and that appropriate
4 firestopping had been comprehensively carried out?

5 A. Sorry, I've got no context of whether this is
6 firestopping into the staircase enclosure or
7 firestopping from the lift lobby areas into the flats.

8 Q. So you can't help us now as to on what basis beyond the
9 photos --

10 A. So --

11 Q. -- you were satisfied in giving the advice you did there
12 in the second line of the email on 8 March?

13 A. It says:

14 "My letter dated 30th Jan 2017 attached, were there
15 any answers given to the questions raised?"

16 So I went there to look at this pipework and told
17 them immediately that they should firestop all the holes
18 that the gas engineers had put into the building.

19 I cannot remember going back, and the photos -- "From
20 the photos that you have sent", so without seeing those
21 photographs that I've been sent, I can't comment.

22 Q. Can you remember whether at the time you were satisfied
23 that those photos indicated that the work had been
24 carried out comprehensively?

25 A. Looking at this, from the photos that I had been sent,

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1 I'm only commenting on that photo. That's why I've
 2 commented at the bottom, "My letter dated 30th Jan, are
 3 there any answers to the questions raised?"
 4 MR KINNIER: Thank you.
 5 Right, can we now turn on to a separate topic.
 6 Sir, I'm mindful that we're at 12.56.
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes. Is this next topic going
 8 to take a little while?
 9 MR KINNIER: It will probably take longer than four minutes.
 10 Sir, in the circumstances might I invite you to rise
 11 until 1.55?
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: I think, since it's only 12.56, we
 13 might as well rise until 2 o'clock.
 14 MR KINNIER: So be it.
 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: I am assuming you're not doing too
 16 badly, given the loss of time earlier on.
 17 MR KINNIER: We're not doing too badly at all. Mr Stokes'
 18 evidence will be finished today.
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: There you are. That's reassuring,
 20 Mr Stokes.
 21 I think we will stop now for some lunch, then,
 22 please. Please remember what I said to you earlier
 23 about the importance of not talking about your evidence
 24 or anything relating to it to anyone over the break.
 25 All right?

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1 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.
 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: So we will resume at 2 o'clock,
 3 please. If you would like to go with the usher, that
 4 will be helpful. Thank you.
 5 THE WITNESS: Sir.
 6 (Pause)
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you. 2 o'clock, then, please.
 8 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.
 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.
 10 (12.57 pm)
 11 (The short adjournment)
 12 (2.00 pm)
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, right, Mr Stokes, ready to
 14 carry on?
 15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you very much.
 17 Yes, Mr Kinnier.
 18 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.
 19 Mr Stokes, can we now turn to a separate topic,
 20 which is fire safety information given to residents.
 21 Now, if I could take you, first of all, to an email
 22 chain of 14 April 2016, that can be found at
 23 {TMO00865780/2}.
 24 We see at the very bottom of page 2 an email from
 25 Barbara Matthews to Janice Wray, "Fire Safety

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Information".
 2 If we can go to the top of page 3 {TMO00865780/3},
 3 it says:
 4 "Janice
 5 "Please could you provide a list of where the
 6 information is held [that's fire safety information] and
 7 how we provide it to residents (existing and new) and
 8 how often we do reminders."
 9 If we could go to the bottom of page 1 of this chain
 10 {TMO00865780/1}, you will see Janice Wray's response
 11 starts there, 14 April, and if we turn to the top of
 12 page 2 {TMO00865780/2}, you see at the penultimate line
 13 of the email:
 14 "Carl also often posts copies of the LFB leaflet
 15 through doors."
 16 First of all, is that something you did, post
 17 leaflets through doors?
 18 A. Yes.
 19 Q. Do you know what particular leaflet Janice Wray is
 20 referring to here?
 21 A. I can't remember the title. It is two pages of A4, and
 22 on one side it looks like a Lego block of flats, and it
 23 was the fire service's — LFB's leaflet from their
 24 website.
 25 Q. So "Home fire safety guide for homeowners", does that

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1 sound familiar?
 2 A. Without seeing it —
 3 Q. Let's have a look, {CST00017272}.
 4 A. Yes. There should be a second page, I believe.
 5 Q. But does that look familiar?
 6 A. Yes, it does.
 7 Q. Who would give those leaflets to you?
 8 A. I think that was copied down off their website.
 9 Initially —
 10 Q. Who downloaded it from the website? Was it you or
 11 Janice Wray?
 12 A. I'm going to say myself. They initially were printed
 13 copies, and then I believe they couldn't get any more
 14 from the LFB, so it was downloaded off the website.
 15 Q. And you did that at the request of Janice Wray, is that
 16 right, the posting of these leaflets, or was it
 17 something you spontaneously did?
 18 A. I think it was something that, when they ran out of the
 19 leaflets, it was a case of it was photocopied and put
 20 through the doors.
 21 Q. But did you put through the leaflets through doors at
 22 the request of Janice Wray?
 23 A. I can't say whether it was at the request of Janice Wray
 24 or it happened.
 25 Q. How often would you do that?

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1 A. I can't say every time. Mostly it was for the smaller
2 premises, rather than the bigger blocks, because in the
3 bigger blocks their caretakers at one point, I can —
4 an example would be at the World's End complex, on the
5 desk there at the concierge they had boxes provided by
6 the LFB and people could just pick them up. So it was
7 the smaller ones, predominantly, where I would drop them
8 through.
9 Q. Can you remember whether you posted these in flats at
10 Grenfell?
11 A. I would say no, because there was a dedicated caretaker,
12 and it was part of the Lancaster West Estate, so the
13 caretakers would have done it or the ESAs would have
14 done it.
15 Q. What other steps would you take to disseminate
16 fire safety information to residents?
17 A. Personally?
18 Q. Yes.
19 A. None.
20 Q. Just this?
21 A. Yes.
22 Q. Thank you.
23 Can I turn to a separate topic, which is your
24 involvement and knowledge of the FRA backlog on
25 significant actions.

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1 Now, were you made aware by Janice Wray or anyone
2 else that FRA actions were challenging to resolve?
3 A. I knew that some were, yes.
4 Q. When were you first made aware of that?
5 A. I can't give a specific date. I can't, no, sorry.
6 Q. Can you remember, for example, that there was a problem
7 regarding a backlog as early as January 2012? Does that
8 ring any bells with you?
9 A. There was a — I'm going to say it was a software
10 changeover, and it started then, so it would have been
11 a long time ago.
12 Q. Did Janice Wray ever seek practical advice from you as
13 to how best to resolve FRA significant action backlogs
14 as quickly as possible?
15 A. No.
16 Q. Were you ever asked to carry out a system-wide review or
17 audit of the TMO's fire risk management system?
18 A. No.
19 Q. Do you recall a meeting with Michael Lyons, a health and
20 safety manager of Repairs Direct, in January 2014, once
21 he had started at Repairs Direct, to bring him up to
22 speed with your fire risk assessment programme?
23 A. It's not something that jumps to mind, but there were
24 some meetings where Repairs Direct people were involved,
25 and on the agenda items at some point, if we had an item

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1 that was consistently being brought up, we would discuss
2 it.
3 Q. Now, let's see if I can help your memory there.
4 If we can go to {CST00021675}, there you go, that's
5 an email from Janice Wray to you organising a meeting.
6 A. Okay.
7 Q. Does that ring any bells?
8 A. No.
9 Q. Can you remember anything specific that was discussed at
10 that meeting?
11 A. No, not without seeing any minutes, no.
12 Q. Can you remember at any stage having any discussion
13 involving you, Janice Wray and Michael Lyons about how
14 best to clear the backlog of FRA actions?
15 A. Again, without minutes, no, sorry.
16 Q. Were you aware of, even in broad terms, the volume of
17 the backlog at any particular time?
18 A. Not ... I knew there was a backlog and I could see
19 sometimes when I went — asked for the W2 sheet that
20 there would still be items outstanding, so I knew there
21 was, but not the — how big the backlog was, no.
22 Q. So when you were preparing your FRAs of Grenfell, can
23 you help us, what particular information would you have
24 about the scale of the backlog of significant actions?
25 A. Well, I would ask for the previous FRA, the W2 —

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1 Q. A print-out?
2 A. — print-out, and that would be about it, and then
3 I would work on what was on that piece of paper in front
4 of me.
5 Q. Did you ever have cause to emphasise to Janice Wray or
6 indeed anyone else at the TMO the importance of closing
7 out outstanding significant FRA actions?
8 A. I think that was had more than once, that conversation.
9 Q. With Janice Wray?
10 A. It would have been, yes, and — yes, the health and
11 safety team.
12 Q. And those conversations would have been outside the
13 foursquare of the fire risk assessment itself?
14 A. Where we had a meeting or where I had to go into the
15 office, yes.
16 Q. What was the gist of the views you expressed about the
17 importance of closing out such actions, can you help the
18 panel?
19 A. I can only — it would be along the lines that work has
20 to be undertaken. If it's highlighted, it has to be
21 undertaken.
22 Q. Following on, could I ask you to turn to an email of
23 13 November 2015, and that's at {CST00002212}, and it's
24 an email, as I said, from Alex Bosman to you:
25 "Hi Carl,

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1 "I have been working through completing a number of
2 FRA actions and have identified a number of queries
3 please could you review the attached and provide
4 a response against each action."

5 Now, pausing there in the text, which we'll come
6 back to, he attached a spreadsheet, and we can find that
7 at {CST00002213}.

8 We can see column A set out various properties, and
9 it's got, in column K, "FRA Action", reading from left
10 to right.

11 And then it may be useful if we look at row 9, so
12 scroll down slightly to Pembridge Square, and just
13 reading across that, we can see that the FRA was
14 completed on 28 February 2014. We read along to
15 column H that it was a high priority. The action itself
16 was "external steps up to the building entrance door are
17 slightly damaged". Then in column Q, reading all the
18 way across, we've got "Passed to RD — awaiting update",
19 and then in the very final column, column S, we see the
20 question:

21 "Please justify the fire risk and why this has been
22 listed as High risk?"

23 Would you ever be given an explanation, say looking
24 at the Pembridge Square example, of why an FRA
25 significant action had been outstanding for 20 months?

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1 A. No, this is unusual, to get something like this.

2 Q. Now, did you discuss the contents of this spreadsheet
3 with Alex Bosman that you can remember?

4 A. I don't know if I went back to Alex Bosman or went to
5 Janice Wray with this.

6 Q. And did you discuss the apparently slow rate of closing
7 off significant actions with Janice on the basis of this
8 spreadsheet and the information in it?

9 A. I can't say for definite I went and said, "Why haven't
10 these been closed out?", but as you can see there,
11 they're asking the question: why are the steps of
12 a building a fire risk? Well, it's the means of escape
13 coming out. So that's the question I would have ...

14 Q. That's something I wanted to ask you next. You see in
15 column S it's a repeated question for you to justify the
16 fire risk. Was that something that Alex Bosman or
17 indeed anyone else at the TMO persisted in asking you?

18 A. I think this — again, I can't remember for definite,
19 but this was, I think, the first or only — I think this
20 is the first time this happened. I can't remember for
21 definite. I had been asked questions previously: why do
22 you consider this a fire risk? But the one you have
23 highlighted there, Pembridge Square, is because it's on
24 the means of escape route out of the building, therefore
25 is a risk.

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1 Q. Now, you say that question had not been raised with you
2 in the past; was it a question that was asked
3 thereafter, so from November 2015 onwards?

4 A. I cannot remember.

5 Q. Now, if we could go back to the email {CST00002212} —
6 sorry, I interrupted by taking us to the spreadsheet —

7 A. Apologies.

8 Q. — and turning to the second paragraph of that email,
9 Alex Bosman said this:

10 "I am keen to reduce the number of actions we
11 receive and ensure that those that are raised are
12 proportionate to the risk that is present on site at the
13 time. I understand that you may wish to highlight
14 concerns in addition to formal FRA actions however it
15 would be helpful to raise these outside of the FRA
16 process to ensure the process is manageable ..."

17 Did you discuss that request with him?

18 A. I think I discussed this with Janice Wray and said,
19 "These are in the FRAs because they are to do with
20 fire".

21 Q. Did Alex Bosman or, indeed, Janice Wray invite you to
22 change your practice in terms of identification of
23 a risk or classification of the priority of the action
24 that was required?

25 A. I can't remember specifically that being asked, but

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1 I wouldn't have done anyway.

2 Q. You wouldn't have changed your practice?

3 A. These are here because, like I said with the steps at
4 Pembridge, it's on the means of escape route, so
5 therefore it's to do with fire. I was asked questions
6 a lot like: why do you — why is there carpet damaged on
7 the staircase a fire risk? Well, because someone could
8 trip down the treads as fell down the stairs — as they
9 went down the stairs.

10 Q. Now, you responded three days later on 16 November 2015,
11 and if I could take you first of all to the covering
12 email, which is at {CST00002482}. I show you this just
13 to sort of remind you, Mr Stokes.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Halfway down the page:

16 "Janice with my comments added.

17 "Would you like to read first before I forward on to
18 Alex."

19 Then if I could take you to the spreadsheet on which
20 you put your comments, which is at {CST00002483}, it
21 would be probably quite useful, say, if we go to row 9
22 that dealt with Pembridge Square. It's just to flesh
23 out the answer you gave. The comments at column T
24 effectively replicate what you have just told the panel;
25 would you accept that?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. Thank you.
 3 Do you know if Janice Wray read and took on board
 4 your comments, to use that inelegant phrase?
 5 A. I can't — sorry, you'd have to ask that question to
 6 her. I can't remember.
 7 Q. Can you remember whether she made any comments on your
 8 comments?
 9 A. I can't remember, sorry.
 10 Q. Can you remember whether you forwarded your spreadsheet
 11 to Alex Bosman in the end?
 12 A. That's what the email said, "before I forward it on", so
 13 I would have forwarded it on if Janice would have —
 14 I imagine Janice would have come back to me and I would
 15 have forwarded it on.
 16 Q. Do you remember any subsequent conversation with
 17 Alex Bosman about the substance of your comments on this
 18 spreadsheet?
 19 A. No.
 20 Q. Now, apologies, it is difficult trying to remember
 21 things more than a few years ago, but there seems to
 22 have been a meeting held sometime around
 23 20 November 2015. If we can go to it, it's at
 24 {CST00026106}.
 25 "Instructed 20—11—15", you see roughly halfway down?

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. We took it from that that there had been a meeting on
 3 that date, but I don't know if that helps you?
 4 A. No, sorry.
 5 Q. Don't worry.
 6 Now, could I turn to page 2 of this email
 7 {CST00026106/2}. It's the final email, which starts,
 8 "Hi Janice" at the bottom of that page, sent by
 9 Alex Bosman, 16.55, and it says:
 10 "Further to our meeting and Carl's advice that FRA
 11 actions could be closed once we can evidence contractors
 12 have been engaged/investigation has begun can you
 13 confirm if W2 actions can be closed if this evidence is
 14 included."
 15 You can just see, right above that, that Janice Wray
 16 forwarded that to you.
 17 Now, did you agree or disagree with Alex Bosman's
 18 suggestion as to the evidence that was required?
 19 A. To the — without seeing it, I can't remember this
 20 email, but my understanding, reading this, would be that
 21 you should have — it should be complete — if it's
 22 going to be closed out, work must be completed. You can
 23 put down — you can start the work on a set date, but
 24 then there must be evidence that it's been completed.
 25 Q. Because the impression here is that Alex Bosman is

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1 trying to expedite closing of significant actions. Can
 2 you remember any further discussions with him about the
 3 evidence that would be required satisfactorily to close
 4 off outstanding significant actions?
 5 A. Not specifically, but I'm going to say that I would have
 6 said, "You have to have evidence that the work has been
 7 completed to the correct standard".
 8 Q. Can you remember, from late 2015 onwards, whether
 9 Alex Bosman's recommendation was accepted or not
 10 accepted in terms of the evidence required to close out
 11 outstanding actions?
 12 A. I can't — I wouldn't know that, but I would know that
 13 when I went back to do the risk assessment next time, if
 14 the W2 said it was closed out and I got there and it
 15 wasn't, I would be really, really raising questions on
 16 why.
 17 Q. When you did do subsequent FRAs, do you remember that
 18 being a problem, that W2 indicated that an action had
 19 been closed off when it hadn't?
 20 A. No, it doesn't — it's not one of those ones that
 21 says — springs to mind that says that was a problem.
 22 Q. Thank you.
 23 Now, the next topic I'd like to raise with you is
 24 your knowledge of concerns that had been raised about
 25 the fire risk assessments by others with the TMO.

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1 Now, during your time as a fire risk assessor for
 2 the TMO, did Janice Wray ever raise any issues with you
 3 about your competency or suitability of your fire risk
 4 assessments?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. Did she ever raise with you any concerns that had been
 7 raised by the LFB about your competence or the
 8 suitability of your assessments?
 9 A. No, because the documents had been given to the LFB at
 10 the initial stage and they'd looked at them all the way
 11 through.
 12 Q. Did she ever raise with you any specific concerns raised
 13 by Rebecca Burton of the LFB regarding competence and
 14 the suitability of your fire risk assessments?
 15 A. The name rings a bell, and it's to do with a comment
 16 made by senior officers at a meeting, and she says
 17 without evidence of minutes, you shouldn't be saying
 18 that in the document.
 19 Q. And was that passed on to you by Janice Wray at the
 20 time?
 21 A. It will have been because I have never met
 22 Rebecca Burton.
 23 Q. Rebecca Burton.
 24 A. Yeah.
 25 Q. But to the best of your recollection, Janice Wray never

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1 raised any concerns or reservations about you or your
 2 FRAs at any time?
 3 A. No, not that ...
 4 Q. Now, the final topic that I'd like to discuss with you
 5 is a report completed by Matt Hodgson in September 2013
 6 entitled "Safety management review".
 7 First of all, can you recall that report or indeed
 8 Mr Hodgson at all?
 9 A. No, it doesn't — it's not a familiar name.
 10 Q. Could we turn to {TMO00873398}. That's the front page.
 11 If I could ask you to turn to page 31
 12 {TMO00873398/31}.
 13 Now, one of the things that Mr Hodgson focused on
 14 was the FRA programme and completion rates of FRA
 15 actions, documented between 28 February 2013 and
 16 17 July 2013. You will see that from the final sentence
 17 at the bottom of the page.
 18 Now, if we turn over to page 32 {TMO00873398/32},
 19 and look at the top of the page, you will see, fourth
 20 and fifth down, the number and percentage of actions
 21 that had been completed respectively by assets and
 22 regeneration surveying and assets and regeneration
 23 building services, and it was 39% and 34% respectively.
 24 Stopping there, were those statistics something
 25 about which you were aware at the time?

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. Now, just below that summary table of statistics,
 3 Mr Hodgson said this:
 4 "Assets and Regeneration have expressed some concern
 5 regarding the validity and practicality of some of the
 6 remedial works raised in the FRA reports. This issue
 7 was raised at meeting of 15 August and is to be
 8 investigated in more detail in consultation with the
 9 contractor."
 10 Then if we go to the bottom of this page,
 11 "Recommendations", 23:
 12 "Investigate the Assets & Regeneration concerns in
 13 relation to recommendations raised in the FRA reports,
 14 and seek opportunities to simplify and streamline the
 15 process. It was understood that a consultation with
 16 Carl Stokes and Associates was to be arranged."
 17 Now, do you recall a meeting being arranged with you
 18 to discuss the Hodgson report and his recommendation?
 19 A. It doesn't spring to mind, no.
 20 Q. Do you have any recollection of the substance of this
 21 issue, so a concern to simplify and streamline the FRA
 22 process, being raised with you in late 2013, or indeed
 23 at all during the time you worked for the TMO?
 24 A. No. As I said, we'd have meetings where, if a specific
 25 item come up, it could be dealt with as an item on

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1 an agenda. For instance, as I explained before, like
 2 fire extinguishers, that was an issue that could try to
 3 be raised, but this does not spring to mind as an item.
 4 MR KINNIER: Mr Stokes, thank you for the moment.
 5 Sir, we have reached the point where I would be
 6 grateful for a break to see if there are any questions
 7 I've not asked which I ought to.
 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, and no doubt pick up others.
 9 MR KINNIER: Yes.
 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Well, Mr Stokes, Mr Kinnier thinks
 11 he has reached the end of his questions.
 12 THE WITNESS: Oh.
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: But he needs to have a short time in
 14 order to check that there's nothing he's omitted, and we
 15 also need to allow time for those who are following the
 16 proceedings but not in this room to suggest questions
 17 which they think perhaps ought to be asked. So we'll
 18 break now.
 19 Is 15 minutes going to be enough, Mr Kinnier?
 20 MR KINNIER: 20 minutes I would ask for.
 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: 20 minutes, all right.
 22 We will break now until 2.45, then, please.
 23 THE WITNESS: Sir.
 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Usual rules: please don't talk to
 25 anyone about your evidence or anything to do with it

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1 while you're out of the room.
 2 THE WITNESS: Sir.
 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: And if you come back at 2.45, we
 4 will see if there are still a few questions we need to
 5 ask you.
 6 THE WITNESS: Sir.
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: All right? Thank you. If you would
 8 like to go with the usher, please.
 9 (Pause)
 10 All right, Mr Kinnier, 2.45.
 11 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.
 13 (2.26 pm)
 14 (A short break)
 15 (2.45 pm)
 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Right, Mr Stokes. Well, we'll see
 17 if there are any more questions for you.
 18 THE WITNESS: Sir.
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, Mr Kinnier.
 20 MR KINNIER: Sir, thank you.
 21 I just have one more question for you, Mr Stokes.
 22 With the benefit of having given evidence over these
 23 past four days, and with the benefit of fuller
 24 reflection, is there anything you would have done
 25 differently?

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1	A. It's a question I've reflected on or an issue I've	1	INDEX
2	reflected on constantly.	2	PAGE
3	I believe that I undertook the risk assessments to	3	MR CARL STOKES (continued)1
4	the best of my ability, and within the requirements of	4	
5	the Fire Safety Order. I'm dreadfully sad because of	5	Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY2
6	the people that lost their lives and were injured, and	6	(continued)
7	also how it's affected their family and friends.	7	
8	MR KINNIER: Mr Stokes, thank you, and it leaves me to	8	
9	thank you for attending to give evidence to the Inquiry.	9	
10	THE WITNESS: Sir.	10	
11	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Mr Stokes, it's right that I should	11	
12	thank you as well on behalf of all the members of the	12	
13	panel. You have been giving evidence for the best part	13	
14	of four days, it must have been quite an ordeal, and	14	
15	we're very conscious of the fact that people do find it	15	
16	difficult to come and do this. But I would like you to	16	
17	know that we do find it very helpful to hear what you	17	
18	and others come to tell us. It's very valuable to us	18	
19	and we are very grateful to you for coming along.	19	
20	Now the ordeal is over, and you're able to go.	20	
21	THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir. Thank you madam. Thank you,	21	
22	sir.	22	
23	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you. Would you like to go	23	
24	with the usher, please.	24	
25	(The witness withdrew)	25	

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1	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Well, Mr Kinnier, thank you very	120
2	much. That concludes Mr Stokes' evidence, obviously.	
3	MR KINNIER: Yes.	
4	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Our next witness is going to be	
5	Janice Wray; is that right?	
6	MR KINNIER: Next Monday.	
7	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: And she is going to come on Monday	
8	of next week.	
9	MR KINNIER: That's right, sir.	
10	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: For anyone who is watching, for the	
11	reasons I explained earlier, we are not able to call	
12	Janice Wray this week, but we're going to start her	
13	evidence on Monday of next week at 10 o'clock.	
14	So we will break now until 10 o'clock next Monday.	
15	MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.	
16	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you very much indeed.	
17	(2.48 pm)	
18	(The hearing adjourned until 10 am	
19	on Monday, 7 June 2021)	
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

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