

OPUS 2

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Grenfell Tower Inquiry

Day 46

October 1, 2020

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1 Thursday, 1 October 2020
2 (10.00 am)
3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to
4 today's hearing. We're going to continue today taking
5 the evidence of Mr John Hoban. So would you ask
6 Mr Hoban to come back in, please.
7 MR MILLETT: Yes.
8 Mr Chairman, while Mr Hoban is resuming his seat in
9 the witness box, can I just say that we now intend to
10 take most of the day, if not all of the day, with him,
11 and, as a result, John Allen has now been put back until
12 Monday morning, so that other people not in this room
13 can make necessary arrangements.
14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you. That's very
15 helpful, thank you very much.
16 MR JOHN HOBAN (continued)
17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, Mr Hoban. Do sit
18 down, make yourself comfortable.
19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
20 (Pause)
21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Ready?
22 Yes, Mr Millett.
23 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (continued)
24 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, thank you.
25 Good morning, Mr Hoban.

1

1 Yesterday evening we left off in the middle of
2 a discussion about the ACM panels, and I want to take
3 you now to some drawings that were provided to you after
4 the full plans application.
5 Can we start with {RYD00024038}, please. This is
6 Neil Crawford's email to you of 18 November 2014. It
7 responds to yours telling him that the application
8 decision would be made shortly, and you can see that
9 just below halfway down the page on page 1 there. You
10 go on, as we've seen, to give him the detail views of
11 yours about the B1 and B5 requirements that Paul Hanson
12 had sent to you on 10 November, so the previous week.
13 That's the background.
14 We can see that Neil Crawford asks you, in that top
15 email of 18 November, some questions about the proposed
16 reduction to the window openings. He attaches
17 a drawing, and you can see that as the attachment there.
18 Do you see that?
19 A. Yes.
20 Q. Now, let's go to that drawing. It's {SEA00000225},
21 please. Now, it's dated, as we can see right at the
22 bottom right-hand corner, 4 November 2014, so it's quite
23 a recent drawing, and it's for the proposed west
24 elevation.
25 A. Yes.

2

1 Q. In the top left -hand corner, if we scroll out and then
2 back in again at the top left, please, we can see
3 there's a materials key. Do you see that?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. If you look at the key, you can see that the cladding --
6 and I'm summarising -- will be aluminium composite
7 material rainscreen panel. You can see that --
8 A. Yes.
9 Q. -- in 3, 4 and 5, with 6 being aluminium cassette lower
10 down.
11 First of all, did you, when you received this email
12 from Mr Crawford, open the attachment and look at this
13 plan?
14 A. I can't recall. I would have thought I would have, but
15 I can't say with absolute certainty.
16 Q. No, but it would have been your practice, would it?
17 A. It would. It would have been.
18 Q. And therefore you would have noticed that it was
19 different from the south elevation drawing that we
20 looked at yesterday, which formed part of the pack which
21 had been sent to you by Neil Crawford on
22 24 November 2014; yes?
23 A. Yes.
24 Q. So can we take it that you did spot the difference, that
25 there had been a change in the product or the material,

3

1 at the very least, forming the rainscreen?
2 A. I can't say with absolute certainty.
3 Q. No.
4 A. As I say, it's ... this is six years ago, so, as I say,
5 I would have opened it and looked at the drawing, and
6 obviously read the email as well.
7 Q. Do you think that this may have been the first time that
8 you became aware that aluminium composite material was
9 being proposed for use on the façade?
10 A. Maybe. Maybe.
11 Q. Right.
12 Moving forward in time, there are emails sent to you
13 in March 2015 on the subject of firestopping and
14 cavity barriers.
15 A. Yes.
16 Q. You referred to those in your evidence yesterday.
17 A. Yes.
18 Q. Now, I'm not going to ask you about cavity barriers yet
19 in your evidence. We'll come back to that later. But
20 I do want to look at one of those emails that were sent
21 to you.
22 Can we go to {SEA00000252}, please. This is
23 an email from Neil Crawford to Paul Hanson, copied to
24 you and others, including Simon Lawrence at Rydon and
25 Kevin Lamb and Simon O'Connor, 6 March 2015.

4

1 Do you remember receiving that email, do you think?
 2 (Pause)
 3 To put it in its context, it follows on or forwards
 4 to you as a copy party --
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. -- Kevin Lamb's email to Simon Lawrence attaching some
 7 drawings. You can see the attachments that are attached
 8 to Neil Crawford's email which he sends on to you. Do
 9 you see that?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Do you remember whether you opened the attachments?
 12 A. I can't. Sometimes, when they're forwarded on,
 13 sometimes we don't -- for some unknown reason the
 14 drawings don't come through, but --
 15 Q. If we look at the text of the email, it's:
 16 "Hi Paul
 17 "Following our conversation this afternoon this
 18 reminded me of another issue. Where we are over
 19 cladding what fire rating do we need to allow for within
 20 the wall build up between apartments (see below and
 21 attached)?"
 22 So that was the context and the question that was
 23 being raised with Paul Hanson, copied to you.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. So it was something on your radar --

5

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. -- can we at least --
 3 A. Yes, it was.
 4 Q. One of the attachments included in that email -- and
 5 just so you know, it's 855 C1059 GA Model 33 100A, so it
 6 was one of those in the pack as you can see -- was the
 7 Harley specification. We can see that if we look at
 8 that, {HAR00003955}, please.
 9 Do you remember seeing this document at that time
 10 attached to this email?
 11 A. I can't recall.
 12 Q. Does it look familiar to you?
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. If you zoom in on the bottom half of the left-hand
 15 side -- I think it's clear enough, actually -- you can
 16 see there that there is a heading, "Cladding - R1", do
 17 you see that? And it says:
 18 "Aluminium composite material. Smoke silver
 19 metallic Duragloss 5000 satin."
 20 So, again, you saw, did you, that here is
 21 a specification from Harley saying that the cladding
 22 proposal was an ACM panel?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Yes, so can we take it that by this point in time at the
 25 latest -- early March 2015 -- you knew that ACM panels

6

1 were going to be used as the rainscreen material on
 2 the --
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. -- outside of the building? Yes.
 5 It looks from the email that we've seen a moment ago
 6 that when Neil Crawford sent you these documents, both
 7 in November 2014, as we've just seen, and now in
 8 March 2015, he showed you drawings that showed that zinc
 9 panels had now become aluminium composite panels, but he
 10 didn't tell you expressly in his emails of that change.
 11 My question is: did you notice the change by looking
 12 at the drawings?
 13 A. That I can't say, unfortunately. I can't remember.
 14 Q. Right.
 15 Now, you haven't mentioned in your statements to
 16 the Inquiry that you knew at the time that ACM panels
 17 were being used as the product or material on the
 18 outside of the building.
 19 A. As I say, it's difficult to remember. As I say, I --
 20 Q. Is there a reason why you didn't put in your statement
 21 the fact that, by March 2015, you knew that the
 22 rainscreen was going to be composed of ACM panels?
 23 A. I didn't have access to information when I was given or
 24 asked that question, I don't believe. I was waiting for
 25 information from Kensington, I believe --

7

1 Q. Right.
 2 A. -- to come through.
 3 Q. Looking at these emails now --
 4 A. Yeah. I did have -- as I say -- sorry -- I have given
 5 some emails that I have in my own records to
 6 the Inquiry, so I did have those.
 7 Q. Do we take it from those answers that the fact that
 8 there was a change from zinc cladding to aluminium
 9 composite material cladding was not something that you
 10 remembered independently?
 11 A. No, no, no, at the time.
 12 Q. What documents would you be looking at or need to look
 13 at in order to trigger the recollection that you were
 14 told?
 15 A. I don't know the answer to that question. As I say,
 16 there was -- obviously this was a very important job,
 17 but I had -- as I mentioned yesterday, I had a number
 18 of -- quite a number of jobs. So unless something
 19 really -- particular event that would trigger my mind
 20 would -- I would be able to recall that.
 21 As I say, there's particular events that occurred,
 22 ie certain site visits, that I can recall because I can
 23 remember certain people being at them. But drawings --
 24 I look at so many drawings over the process of doing my
 25 job, it's sometimes difficult to actually recall

8

1 actually looking at a particular drawing.
 2 Q. Well, let's go back to your first witness statement,
 3 please. Just to refresh the memory of the reference,
 4 it's {RBK00033934/6}. If we can just look at that,
 5 I would like to go to paragraph 57 where you say, in
 6 answer to the question:
 7 "Was the exterior of the building (including the
 8 cladding, insulation, fixings and windows) compliant
 9 with relevant building regulations, fire regulations,
 10 other legislation, British Standards (including testing
 11 requirements), guidance and industry practice?"
 12 Your evidence was and is:
 13 "Based on the information I had at the time it was
 14 my understanding that it was compliant."
 15 A. Yeah.
 16 Q. Then you say:
 17 "However, the cladding has now been shown not to be
 18 compliant as a result of the cladding that was specified
 19 would be used was not in fact used."
 20 Now, we looked at that evidence yesterday and I want
 21 to revisit it in this context.
 22 We've now heard from you that you did know, looking
 23 at the drawings, that the cladding originally specified,
 24 ie zinc, was swapped for ACM.
 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. But your statement rather suggests that that wasn't
 2 something that you knew at the time. That's not the
 3 case, is it?
 4 A. I couldn't say.
 5 Q. Right.
 6 Now, you told us yesterday, I think several times,
 7 that you checked the BBA certificate --
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. -- for the Reynobond ACM cladding.
 10 A. Yeah.
 11 Q. Just for an example of that, {Day45/32:17}. I'm not
 12 going to take you back to that, but you remember giving
 13 that evidence, I think?
 14 A. Yeah.
 15 Q. Again, Mr Hoban, why didn't you mention that fact in
 16 either of your witness statements to the Inquiry?
 17 A. I just -- I didn't -- all I can do is apologise.
 18 Q. It was an important matter, though, wasn't it?
 19 A. As I say, when I first came in, I felt that my -- some
 20 of my answers weren't in great detail when I answered in
 21 my statements.
 22 Q. All right.
 23 Well, let's look at your second statement, then.
 24 This is {RBK00050416/13}, please. I would like to look
 25 with you at paragraph 38e. You're asked the direct

1 question there:
 2 "What information were you given about the materials
 3 for the exterior cladding, including the insulation
 4 material on Grenfell Tower? (If you were given
 5 different information over time, please explain)."
 6 Your answer there was:
 7 "Other than that outlined in para 37 B and 34 D
 8 above, I cannot recall."
 9 In 37b and d above, you refer to reports on
 10 television and given in the press and evidence given to
 11 the Inquiry by Inquiry experts, and your reference to
 12 the understanding of "limited combustibility" there.
 13 Going to 37b, to start with {RBK00050416/12}, the
 14 question there says:
 15 "In para 63 [this is your first statement], in
 16 answer to a question who was responsible for any
 17 failures in compliance with the regulatory regime, you
 18 state 'the person/persons who chose to change the
 19 specification without notifying building control using
 20 materials that did not comply with the prescribed
 21 standards' please explain."
 22 If you look at b:
 23 "What notification was given to building control
 24 about that the materials that would be used for the
 25 exterior cladding?"

1 You say:
 2 "As outlined in the drawings referred to in para 26.
 3 And in emails [that you then refer to] ... (and the
 4 drawings mentioned in those emails). This also includes
 5 [particular emails that you have referred to] ..."
 6 Now, you refer to the emails and the drawings, but
 7 you don't refer to the BBA certificate or any
 8 conversations on site at all as to what the cladding
 9 panels were.
 10 A. No.
 11 Q. So you're quite specific about the drawings and the
 12 emails but you don't refer to the BBA certificate. My
 13 question is: why is that?
 14 A. It's something I never wrote at the time, as I say.
 15 Q. But why didn't you think it was important enough to
 16 mention it in your witness statement?
 17 A. It didn't come into my memory at the time when I was
 18 answering these questions.
 19 Q. What's triggered the recollection now, while you're
 20 giving evidence, that you did look at the
 21 BBA certificate?
 22 A. No, it's something that I've always done, but I just
 23 didn't put it in my answers.
 24 Q. Yes, I just want to know why that is? Sorry to press,
 25 but I'd like to know why you didn't think it was

1 important enough to put it in your evidence.
 2 A. I can't answer that question. I really don't ...
 3 as I say, I should have. As I say, I mentioned before
 4 that my answers were brief and not in detail, as much
 5 detail.
 6 Q. If we go back, please, to page 10 {RBK00050416/10} of
 7 this same document, we can see that in the middle of
 8 page 10, paragraph 34, it says:
 9 "In para 57 of your witness statement you state, 'on
 10 the information I had at the time it was my
 11 understanding that it [the exterior of the building as
 12 refurbished] was compliant."
 13 Then under b here is the question:
 14 "What was the method of compliance which was being
 15 adopted in respect of the B4 requirement?"
 16 Your answer here was:
 17 "From the meetings I attended it was my
 18 understanding that the method of compliance that was
 19 being adopted in respect of B4 was that shown in
 20 Approved Document B."
 21 A. Yeah.
 22 Q. We went over that yesterday and we will come back to it
 23 shortly in relation to the insulation.
 24 Looking at d, I'll show you the question before
 25 I show you the answer to which I want some more

13

1 explanation:
 2 "Did you ever request details of the materials which
 3 were proposed to be used as part of the exterior
 4 re-cladding?"
 5 A. I --
 6 Q. Hang on:
 7 "If so when and to whom did you make that request?"
 8 That's the question you are asked, and if we go to
 9 the top of page 11 {RBK00050416/11}, you say:
 10 "The details were submitted in the initial
 11 submission. I also discussed the material with the
 12 Harley's engineer who had informed me that the cladding
 13 system had been fitted to many buildings throughout
 14 England and Wales to buildings of a similar height and
 15 construction."
 16 Now, we will come back to what you have said there
 17 shortly, but in terms of what's not there, you don't
 18 mention the BBA certificate. My question again is: why
 19 is that?
 20 A. I just didn't -- I didn't answer the question
 21 completely.
 22 Q. No, but why not?
 23 A. As I say, I ... that's the answer I gave at the time.
 24 Q. All right.
 25 Well, let's look at the BBA certificate that you now

14

1 say that you did read at the time.
 2 Can you, doing the best you can with your
 3 recollection, give us any kind of point in time when you
 4 did look at the BBA certificate in relation to the
 5 Reynobond PE ACM panels to be used on Grenfell?
 6 A. It would have been when I knew that it was Reynobond
 7 being used. I can't give you a time, unfortunately.
 8 Q. Right. That would be by latest, then, early March 2015,
 9 when you saw the Harley specification we've just looked
 10 at?
 11 A. I couldn't confirm that, sorry, I --
 12 Q. Right.
 13 Well, let's look at the BBA certificate,
 14 {BBA00000047}, please. It's Agrément Certificate
 15 08/4510, and the date of it, if we look at the bottom of
 16 the page, is 14 January 2008, as the first issue.
 17 Were you familiar with BBA certificates generally in
 18 your practice?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. What was your general view, at the time of the
 21 Grenfell Tower project, about the reliability of BBA
 22 certificates?
 23 A. It was something that we accepted as a standard.
 24 Q. Right, accepted without question?
 25 A. Yes, I would say so.

15

1 Q. Did you make a habit of reading these sorts of
 2 certificates in detail?
 3 A. I would -- not in detail, I would pick out the points
 4 that concerned me.
 5 Q. You would pick out the points that concerned you, right.
 6 Now, did you have a particular way of going about
 7 interpreting them? Did you take them with a pinch of
 8 salt? Did you examine every word, or did you just take
 9 them at face value?
 10 A. Well, if I'm looking here on this particular page, the
 11 thing that stands out is "Behaviour in relation to
 12 fire".
 13 Q. Yes. Let's just look at that. "Key factors assessed",
 14 "Behaviour in relation to fire", and it says:
 15 "In relation to the Building Regulations for
 16 reaction to fire, the panels may be regarded as having
 17 a Class 0 surface in England and Wales, and a 'low risk'
 18 material in Scotland (see section 6)."
 19 I know we looked at this yesterday, but I just want
 20 to ask you in the context of that statement: what did
 21 you understand the statement in the certificate that
 22 "the panels may be regarded as having a class 0 surface"
 23 to mean?
 24 A. That it achieved a notional -- or is it national? --
 25 standard class 0, as mentioned in Approved Document B.

16

1 Q. You say "notional, or is it national"; did you mean
2 national or do you mean notional?
3 A. If we can go to Approved Document B, and I can read it
4 from there. Sorry.
5 Q. Well, I --
6 A. I can't --
7 Q. That's a bit of a tall order for anyone to respond to.
8 A. Sorry.
9 Q. What did you understand a class 0 surface to mean?
10 A. That it achieved the standard as specified in Approved
11 Document B when it goes to external surface spread of
12 flame.
13 Q. Now, let's go to page 3 {BBA0000047/3}, under the
14 heading "General", and you can see there in the third
15 paragraph it says:
16 "It is important for designers, planners,
17 contractors and/or installers to ensure that the
18 installation of the cladding is in accordance with the
19 Certificate holder's instructions and the information
20 given in this certificate."
21 Did you read that when you examined this certificate
22 in the context of the Grenfell Tower project?
23 A. I don't know.
24 Q. If you did read it, what did you understand it to mean,
25 or what would you have understood it to mean?

1 A. Sorry, could you repeat the question, please?
2 Q. Yes.
3 A. If I did read it ...?
4 Q. What did you understand or what would you have
5 understood that statement to mean?
6 A. Yeah, as per the words in the statement there.
7 Q. Right. So you would have taken them as face value,
8 I think.
9 What steps can you remember you took to check that,
10 for this project, those instructions had been carried
11 out?
12 A. I don't think I had taken any steps. I would have --
13 as I say, the first page perhaps, as -- you know, it
14 said class 0, and maybe I didn't read the other pages.
15 Q. Well, I was going to ask you, my next question: when you
16 did look at the certificate, did you only look at the
17 first page or did you look into it?
18 A. Maybe I just looked at the first page.
19 Q. But the first page under fire, which is something that
20 you were particularly concerned with as
21 a Building Control officer, told you to examine
22 section 6.
23 A. Yeah.
24 Q. Did you?
25 A. I can't say.

1 Q. Well, let's see. We will come to it in a minute.
2 But a little bit below this statement under the
3 "Technical Specification", there is a "Description", do
4 you see that?
5 A. Yeah.
6 Q. And it says that the certificate also provides some
7 details about what the panels comprise, and it says that
8 they comprise, just reading off the first line:
9 "... two 0.5 mm thick aluminium alloy sheets [and
10 they're specified] bonded to either side of a core of
11 low-density polyethylene (LDPE). The panels are
12 available either plain edged (riveted system) or flanged
13 (cassette system) to suit architectural requirements
14 (see Figure 1)."
15 Just pausing there, you can see, if you cast your
16 eye down the page towards the bottom of page 3, that
17 there is figure 1, which says:
18 "Reynobond Architecture panels and typical fixing
19 systems."
20 On the left-hand side is riveted system and on the
21 right-hand side cassette system.
22 If we go back to paragraph 1.1 under "Description",
23 Mr Hoban, together, it says:
24 "A Duragloss or PVDF coating available in various
25 colours protects the exposed face. A polyester primer

1 protects the unexposed face. The products are also
2 available in a fire-retardant grade (FR)."
3 Do you see that?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. Now, at the time of the Grenfell Tower refurbishment,
6 did you appreciate that these panels were available with
7 a polyethylene core and also with a fire retardant core?
8 A. I couldn't say, sorry. I don't believe I would have
9 considered that at the -- or I may have considered it at
10 the time but I just can't recall.
11 Q. See, if you had read this certificate at all carefully
12 you would have understood that there were two different
13 products --
14 A. Yeah.
15 Q. -- one with a PE core and one with an FR core.
16 A. Yeah.
17 Q. What can you recall about knowing that?
18 A. I can't recall, sorry.
19 Q. Standing back from this document for a moment, did you
20 understand that there was a difference between
21 a PE-cored ACM panel and an FR-cored ACM panel?
22 A. Sorry, could you explain the question in another way,
23 please?
24 Q. Yes, certainly.
25 Ignoring this document for a moment, at the time of

1 the Grenfell Tower project, did you understand that when
 2 ACM panels came with a PE core, they were different from
 3 those which would come with an FR core?
 4 A. If I'd known, yes, but, as I say, I can't recall.
 5 Q. Did you have any understanding of what polyethylene was?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. No?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. Therefore you didn't understand that it was a plastic?
 10 A. No.
 11 Q. Does that tell us that you knew nothing of the fire
 12 performance of the polyethylene core of these ACM panels
 13 being proposed for the building?
 14 A. At the time, no.
 15 Q. I think I can take it, therefore, that you never
 16 explored why it was that everybody involved on this
 17 project had not investigated the use of FR panels as
 18 opposed to PE panels?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. Now, going back to this question about face-fixed and
 21 cassette systems, as we can see in figure 1, when you
 22 read this certificate, did you have any thoughts about
 23 whether the certificate applied to panels regardless of
 24 whether they were in a face-fixed system or a cassette
 25 system?

21

1 A. It was for both.
 2 Q. You say, "It was for both", and we can read that off the
 3 page, but my question is: did you have any thoughts at
 4 the time --
 5 A. I --
 6 Q. -- did it go through your mind, "Well, I wonder if this
 7 applies to both systems"?
 8 A. It's not something that comes to mind.
 9 Q. Right.
 10 Then if we go to section 6, on page 5
 11 {BBA00000047/5}, please, we can see that here is some
 12 detail, "Behaviour in relation to fire". Just to remind
 13 you from page 1, this is where you are supposed to go
 14 for the detail about behaviour in relation to fire.
 15 That's where you're directed.
 16 Let's look at paragraph 6.1 together. It says:
 17 "A standard sample of the product, with a grey/green
 18 Duragloss 5000 coating, when tested for reaction to
 19 fire, achieved a classification of B-s2, d0 in
 20 accordance with EN 13501-1:2002. A fire retardant
 21 sample of the product, with a gold-coloured Duragloss
 22 finish, when tested for reaction to fire, achieved a
 23 classification B-s1, d0 in accordance with
 24 EN 13501:2002."
 25 Do you recall reading that?

22

1 A. I can't recall.
 2 Q. You can't recall one way or the other or you have no
 3 recollection of ever being told --
 4 A. I don't want to mislead you in any way, and I'd only be
 5 guessing. As I say, it's ...
 6 Q. Right.
 7 Did it ever occur to you that the finish of this
 8 product, based on this document, would have made
 9 a difference to its fire classification?
 10 (Pause)
 11 A. As far as I was aware, it was -- Reynobond was class 0.
 12 Q. And that was it?
 13 A. That was my understanding at the time.
 14 Q. I think what you're telling me is that you looked at the
 15 BBA certificate, you looked at page 1, you saw it was
 16 class 0, and you didn't look into it further.
 17 A. Most probably.
 18 Q. Well, I don't want to put words in your mouth, but
 19 I don't want to spend a lot of time on this document if
 20 you can't give me any useful evidence.
 21 A. No, I can't give you any further comment on that.
 22 Q. Were you aware at the time that ADB requires you to
 23 examine and substantiate the fire resistance rating of
 24 constructions against the tests?
 25 A. It's not something that springs to mind.

23

1 Q. Well, let me be a bit more specific. Can you go,
 2 please, to {CLG00000224/122}. That's class 0, or rather
 3 that is the provision, 13. This says:
 4 "The highest National product performance
 5 clarification for lining materials is Class 0. This is
 6 achieved if a material or the surface of a composite
 7 product is either:
 8 "a. composed throughout of materials of limited
 9 combustibility; or
 10 "b. a Class 1 material which has a fire propagation
 11 index (I) of not more than 12 and sub-index (i1) of not
 12 more than 6.
 13 "Note: Class 0 is not a classification identified in
 14 any British Standard test."
 15 Were you familiar with that provision at the time?
 16 A. It would be something that I would have read when we had
 17 the original talks about the new approved document when
 18 it came out, but it's not something that would have come
 19 to mind. Was this statement in original documents as
 20 well? We didn't have ongoing tutorials or refresher
 21 courses on part B.
 22 Q. Right.
 23 Just coming back to the certificate then and what
 24 you're supposed to do with it, can I take you then to
 25 page 119 of this version of Approved Document B

24

1 {CLG00000224/119}, and I would like you to look at
 2 appendix A, "Performance of materials, products and
 3 structures", and let's look at note 2 in the right-hand
 4 column near the top there. Can you see note 2?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. It says:
 7 "Any test evidence used to substantiate the fire
 8 resistance rating of a construction should be carefully
 9 checked to ensure that it demonstrates compliance that
 10 is adequate and applicable to the intended use. Small
 11 differences in detail (such as fixing method, joints,
 12 dimensions and the introduction of insulation materials
 13 etc.) may significantly affect the rating."
 14 My question is: were you aware of that note in this
 15 guidance at the time of your involvement on the
 16 Grenfell Tower project?
 17 A. It's not something I considered at the time, I don't
 18 believe.
 19 Q. You may not have considered it at the time; were you
 20 aware of it at the time?
 21 (Pause)
 22 A. Could you repeat the question again? Sorry.
 23 Q. Yes. Were you aware of this note at the time?
 24 A. As I say, it's ... it's not something that would have
 25 come out at me at that time, if that answers the

25

1 question.
 2 Q. Very well.
 3 Can I then turn to the topic of infill panels next,
 4 and we saw the Harley specification that you were sent
 5 in early March 2015, 6 March 2015. Can we then go back
 6 to that document, please. That is {HAR00003955}.
 7 I would like to look on the left-hand side of that
 8 document, please, at glazing P1 and P2. Do you see
 9 that?
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Looking at P1 to start with, you can see that the
 12 insulation material specified there is styrofoam. Do
 13 you see that?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. When you got this document, as you did on 6 March 2015,
 16 Mr Hoban, did you notice that the material being
 17 specified for use there was styrofoam?
 18 A. I don't believe I did.
 19 Q. You didn't?
 20 A. No.
 21 Q. Right. Why is that?
 22 A. Maybe -- I must have not read the drawing properly at
 23 the time. Likewise with the Kingspan.
 24 Q. Right. How can you account for not reading the drawing
 25 properly at the time, when you were sent it by

26

1 Mr Crawford on 6 March?
 2 (Pause)
 3 A. It just didn't focus when I was looking through the
 4 information.
 5 Q. Was this the first time you had actually seen written
 6 down in black and white the specification of the
 7 materials to be used in the cladding system?
 8 A. I can't recall, sorry.
 9 Q. Was it not a particularly important document for you to
 10 focus on, given that this was a complex project and
 11 a high-rise building with people living in it?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. And that's why I really ask the question: have you any
 14 explanation to give us as to why you didn't focus on the
 15 materials that were being proposed for this structure?
 16 A. The only answer I could give is that it was my
 17 understanding that Exova were also dealing with the
 18 project. As I say, I mentioned that I was dealing with
 19 a number of -- considerable number of projects at the
 20 time, and perhaps I didn't spend as much time as
 21 I should have looking at the documents at that time.
 22 Q. But as a Building Control officer -- can I just
 23 understand this.
 24 A. Yeah.
 25 Q. As a Building Control officer, your job was to ensure

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1 that the statutory requirements of the
 2 Building Regulations were complied with.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And in the discharge of your responsibilities and
 5 functions in that role, are you telling us that you
 6 thought it was appropriate to rely on the presence of
 7 a fire engineer in the project?
 8 A. No. As I say, I just didn't pick it up. It doesn't
 9 register.
 10 Q. Right, okay.
 11 A. Sorry.
 12 Q. Do you agree that styrofoam is not a material of limited
 13 combustibility?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. And that using styrofoam as insulation on Grenfell Tower
 16 would not comply with the guidance in 12.7 of Approved
 17 Document B?
 18 A. I'd have to look at the BBA certificate on styrofoam.
 19 Q. Right. You don't know one way or the other, I think?
 20 A. I don't.
 21 Q. And that's because you didn't check?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Looking at the P2 panels, just a bit lower down, we can
 24 see that they are to be comprised of an outer and
 25 an inner skin of aluminium, 1.5 millimetres in each

28

1 case, and then the core was to be 25 millimetres of
 2 Kingspan TP10 rigid insulation .
 3 Again, do you agree that Kingspan TP10 was not
 4 a material of limited combustibility?
 5 A. I would have to see the BBA --
 6 Q. Again, the same answer?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Again, you didn't check, I think?
 9 A. I don't believe I did.
 10 Q. No. Therefore it would follow that you never queried
 11 the use of these materials, even though the
 12 specification was sent to you, with either Studio E or
 13 Rydon or, for what it was worth, Harley?
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. Correct? Right. Do you accept now that you should have
 16 done?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Yes.
 19 Can we then turn to insulation . Now, we've seen,
 20 Mr Hoban -- and you may have picked this up from
 21 watching the Inquiry up to date -- looking at other
 22 documents with witnesses that the drawings and the
 23 information submitted to you don't mention that
 24 Celotex RS5000 insulation was to be used in the cladding
 25 system. You have said, though, in your statement --

29

1 your first and second statements, both of them,
 2 actually -- that you looked up details of the Celotex
 3 insulation on the manufacturer's website.
 4 Can we go specifically to where you say that,
 5 {RBK00050416/16}, please. I want to look at
 6 paragraph 43.
 7 You are referred back to paragraph 67 of your first
 8 statement -- I don't think we need to go to that -- and
 9 you're asked, "please state ", and here is the question:
 10 "a. What information you looked up on the
 11 insulation?"
 12 Your answer was:
 13 "I looked at the Celotex website to see the
 14 information they had in respect of the material. I may
 15 have looked at other information shown on other sites
 16 but I cannot be certain."
 17 How did you become aware that Celotex was to be used
 18 in the cladding system?
 19 A. When I saw it on the site . I may have been told before,
 20 but, as I say, certainly when it arrived on site ,
 21 I could see that it -- it has a marking on it.
 22 Q. It had a marking on it, did it?
 23 A. On the full panel it has the company logo and the
 24 material that's to be used.
 25 Q. Right.

30

1 Do you remember when you looked up the Celotex
 2 website to look and see what the information was?
 3 A. I can't. I can't.
 4 Q. Was it immediately after you saw that Celotex was to be
 5 used or ...?
 6 A. Most probably, but I can't be absolutely certain .
 7 Q. Right.
 8 What was it that prompted you to look up Celotex and
 9 actually go and look at the details of what was being
 10 used?
 11 A. I wanted to check to see if it was suitable for use on
 12 a building of that height.
 13 Q. Right.
 14 Did you have any discussions with Rydon or Studio E
 15 or Harley about that product before you looked up
 16 Celotex on the website?
 17 A. I couldn't say.
 18 Q. Did you ask them at all to provide you with any evidence
 19 that would satisfy you that Celotex used in this
 20 cladding system was an appropriate system to be used?
 21 A. I remember asking for details of the work. As I say,
 22 I mentioned about the calculations . But I can't
 23 specifically remember.
 24 Q. Can I ask you why you didn't ask them for clear
 25 information in terms which would support their

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1 application for Building Control approval?
 2 A. I was asking them for information, and they would say,
 3 "Yes, we'll get that to you", and it was difficult
 4 getting information from them. I wish I'd been more
 5 formal, but I was trying to work with them.
 6 Q. Well, yes. Why did you never say to them, "Look, I need
 7 clear information and data so that you can prove to me
 8 that this insulation can be used on this building?"
 9 A. As I say, dealing with the consultants on the previous
 10 project, I had a good working relationship with them,
 11 and I felt confident that they knew what they were
 12 doing.
 13 Q. Do you agree with me -- and I think you did yesterday --
 14 that your role as a Building Control officer required
 15 you to investigate and rigorously test what you were
 16 being told, regardless of the relationship?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. When you looked at the Celotex website to see the
 19 information they had in respect of the material, as you
 20 say here at paragraph 43a on page 16 of your second
 21 statement, what product did you look up, do you
 22 remember?
 23 A. I can't recall .
 24 Q. Did you have the NBS specification in your hand or in
 25 your memory, even, when you decided to look up Celotex?

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1 A. I can't -- I'm sorry, I cannot recall .
2 Q. If all you had to go on was what you saw on site, how
3 did you know what it was to look up?
4 A. Well, it would say the product --
5 Q. I see. So you had a mental picture of what the product
6 was, did you?
7 A. Well, no, I would have noted the particular brand of
8 product.
9 Q. I see. Where would you have noted that?
10 A. In my notebook.
11 Q. Right.
12 Now, you told us yesterday that you looked up the
13 LABC certificate , I think .
14 A. Yeah.
15 Q. You don't mention that in your statement. You don't
16 say, "I also looked at the LABC certificate ". Why is
17 that?
18 A. When I was filling in this statement, I ... it ...
19 I just -- it's not something that came to mind at the
20 time. As I say, there's -- it's not in detail .
21 Q. Right.
22 A. And, as I say, I wish it was in more detail .
23 Q. To be fair to you, I just wonder whether when you went
24 to the Celotex website you saw the LABC certificate , or
25 did you go to a separate LABC website to look for the

1 Celotex entry?
2 A. I cannot give you a firm answer on that.
3 Q. Right.
4 You say in the statement here, "I looked at the
5 Celotex website".
6 A. Yeah.
7 Q. Let's see if we can prompt a recollection of what
8 document was on it.
9 We will start with the LABC certificate because
10 that's what you told us yesterday. Just for our
11 purposes, that's {Day45/39:14-15}.
12 This is {CEL00000010}, first of all , and this is the
13 LABC registered system registration certificate , and the
14 date, you can see from the bottom left -hand corner, is
15 21 August 2014. The registered detail is "RS5000 PIR
16 Insulation Board (Rainscreen Application)". There is
17 a little asterisk next to it , and if you look down the
18 page, the asterisk says "With Limitation".
19 Is that a document you saw when you went on to the
20 Celotex website?
21 A. I can't say. I showed you another document that I had
22 in my possession. I don't know whether it's been passed
23 to you.
24 Q. Well, I just want to see what in the record we have that
25 triggers a recollection .

1 A. As I say --
2 Q. We will come back to that in due course.
3 Does this trigger a recollection ?
4 A. It doesn't.
5 Q. Well, let's try a different document.
6 Can we then go to {CEL00000009}. This is the LABC
7 registered details drawing and document list for this
8 product, RS5000, and you can see that there are some
9 supporting documentation reference numbers there in the
10 third box down, and in the fourth box down, "Limitations
11 of use" -- so this is a reference to the limitations
12 that we saw in the registration document:
13 "For use in rainscreen wall construction including
14 above 18 metres height. The required thickness of board
15 for a particular construction must be established with
16 the use of the Celotex online calculator ."
17 Did you see that at the time, do you think?
18 A. I can't --
19 Q. You can't remember?
20 A. I can't say, as I say.
21 Q. And then you can see the "Advice Notes":
22 "Celotex RS5000 can be used with a variety of
23 cladding systems (including masonry or rainscreen
24 systems) and can be fixed back to a structural steel
25 frame with a sheathing board or direct back to masonry.

1 "Celotex RS5000 has successfully tested to
2 BS 8414:2 2005, meets the criteria set out in BR 135 and
3 therefore is acceptable for use in buildings with
4 storeys above 18m in height (subject to the board being
5 fixed to a non- combustible substrate) alternative
6 compliance to AD B. The product has been tested [and]
7 achieves a 'Class 0' spread of flame."
8 I know you say you don't remember seeing this
9 document, but do you remember seeing a document that has
10 that statement or the gist of that statement in it?
11 A. Yes. As far as I can --
12 Q. Right.
13 A. Well ...
14 (Pause)
15 Sorry, it's so difficult to remember. As I say,
16 it's a moment in time that I was dealing with 120 jobs,
17 as I say. Looking at a particular page of something on
18 a particular day to another document on a particular
19 day -- it's difficult to remember something six years
20 back, and that's the only answer I can give.
21 Q. Did you have a system of recording formally so that
22 everyone in the department could see on this project
23 what materials were being used?
24 A. We didn't have a system in the office .
25 Q. Did you note in your own records what materials were

1 being used and what --
 2 A. I believe -- yes, I believe so.
 3 Q. Just looking at this statement -- and I appreciate that
 4 you don't remember seeing this document -- did you
 5 realise that the only basis on which RS5000 could be
 6 used on buildings taller than 18 metres was because it
 7 had passed an 8414 test as the alternative route to
 8 compliance with ADB, and not because it was a material
 9 of limited combustibility?
 10 A. Well, I know it wasn't a material of limited
 11 combustibility, but my understanding was it was suitable
 12 for use on buildings over 18 metres, provided it was
 13 attached to -- well, it says masonry, and concrete is
 14 a similar material.
 15 Q. Just before we leave this document, I want to ask you
 16 whether you had any understanding of the statement or
 17 a statement which says, "The product has been tested and
 18 achieves a 'Class 0' spread of flame".
 19 What would be the relevance of the fact that the
 20 insulation had achieved a class 0 surface spread of
 21 flame?
 22 (Pause)
 23 A. Could you repeat the question, please? Sorry.
 24 Q. Yes. As I say, I appreciate you didn't read this
 25 document at the time, but what would be the relevance of

1 a manufacturer or a certificate like this saying that
 2 an insulation product had been tested and achieved
 3 a class 0 surface spread of flame classification?
 4 A. If that was a standard you needed to achieve.
 5 Q. What, for an insulation product?
 6 A. No, if they -- if they were using it ... if that's the
 7 only reason that they wanted to use it.
 8 Q. Sorry, what was the reason?
 9 A. If they wanted to use that insulation material as
 10 a finish on a wall, for example.
 11 Q. Had you ever come across insulation material like this
 12 being used as a finish on a wall?
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. No?
 15 A. I haven't.
 16 Q. So have you any explanation to give us as to why
 17 a manufacturer or a certifier like LABC would be saying
 18 that an insulation product had a class 0 surface spread
 19 of flame classification?
 20 A. They did many tests when they were most probably testing
 21 the material.
 22 Q. Right.
 23 Let's try a different document, then, which is
 24 a Celotex document.
 25 When you went on the Celotex website, have you any

1 recollection of what even visually the documents looked
 2 like, what colours they had?
 3 A. I can't recall.
 4 Q. Let's see how far we get.
 5 Can you please be shown {CEL00000412}. Now, just
 6 visually, looking at this, it's quite a striking looking
 7 document because of the colours that Celotex have
 8 elected to use. Does this document, just on the face of
 9 it, on the look of the thing, trigger a recollection?
 10 A. It doesn't.
 11 Q. It doesn't?
 12 A. No.
 13 Q. Right. Again, I'll have to see how far we go with this.
 14 It says at the very top:
 15 "Celotex RS5000.
 16 "Premium Rainscreen Cladding Board (suitable for
 17 buildings above 18 metres in height)."
 18 Do you remember seeing a document on the Celotex
 19 website that said that?
 20 A. I would only be guessing, as I say. I would, you know,
 21 look up products from time to time on all sorts of
 22 projects.
 23 Q. Right.
 24 You see, you say in your statement that you looked
 25 at the Celotex website to see the information that they

1 had in respect of the material. Just going back to
 2 that, do you remember, when you came away from that
 3 exercise, being satisfied that RS5000, which was the
 4 product you were looking up --
 5 A. Yeah.
 6 Q. -- was suitable for use on a building above 18 metres?
 7 A. Yes, yes.
 8 Q. So you must have seen something on the website that told
 9 you that?
 10 A. Yes, the -- yes.
 11 Q. Right.
 12 This is the datasheet that Celotex put out in
 13 respect of RS5000 when it was launched in the August of
 14 2014.
 15 A. Yeah.
 16 Q. I'm going to proceed on the basis that this was
 17 something that you would have seen.
 18 A. Yeah.
 19 Q. Do you remember whether you would have read what you
 20 looked up fully and carefully?
 21 A. I can't say.
 22 Q. Right.
 23 A. Sorry.
 24 Q. Well, let's see how we go.
 25 Again, the first paragraph in the last three lines

1 says that RS5000 is:
 2 "... the first PIR insulation board to met the
 3 performance criteria in BR 135 for insulated rainscreen
 4 cladding systems and therefore is acceptable for use in
 5 buildings above 18 metres in height."
 6 Just pausing there, was that statement a statement
 7 of something which formed an impression in your mind
 8 when you looked at the Celotex website?
 9 A. Maybe.
 10 Q. Right.
 11 A. As I say --
 12 Q. Okay.
 13 A. As I say, I would go to other sources as well.
 14 Q. If we go down to the bullet points, the five bullet
 15 points in the middle of the page, you can see that the
 16 third one there states in terms:
 17 "Has Class 0 fire performance throughout the entire
 18 product in accordance with BS 476."
 19 Now, again, I appreciate that you may not have read
 20 this document, or at least you can't remember whether
 21 you did or not. What did that statement mean, or what
 22 would it have meant to you had you read it?
 23 A. That it had been tested to BS 476, part 6 and part 7.
 24 Q. But what does "Class 0 fire performance throughout the
 25 entire product" mean?

1 A. I wouldn't know how that would be tested. Sorry,
 2 obviously it's a test that's done. I would just be
 3 looking at the standard.
 4 Q. Right.
 5 A. I wouldn't have a detailed knowledge of ...
 6 Q. Well --
 7 A. I understand what the test does, how the test is done,
 8 sort of in layman's terms, but I don't have, as it were,
 9 a detailed knowledge of ... of, for example, fire
 10 engineering.
 11 Q. Would it have occurred to you that the concept of
 12 a product having a class 0 fire performance throughout
 13 was nonsense?
 14 A. It's not something that would have come out to me at the
 15 time.
 16 Q. Right.
 17 Did it strike you at the time that the only reason
 18 why this product could be used on a building taller than
 19 18 metres was because it had, as it was said, passed
 20 an 8414 test in accordance with the performance criteria
 21 under BR 135?
 22 (Pause)
 23 A. I couldn't say. As I say, the document that I have in
 24 my possession says that it's suitable for use on
 25 buildings over 18 metres provided it's fixed to masonry

1 or non-combustible backing.
 2 Q. Did you know at the time what a BS 8414 test was?
 3 A. No.
 4 Q. You didn't?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. Right.
 7 Can we just look on, then, to page 3
 8 {CEL00000412/3}. Under "Certification" -- and I'll just
 9 take you through it -- it says:
 10 "Celotex RS5000 ..."
 11 Again, I should just point out, in fairness to you,
 12 this is underneath a big pink banner that says "suitable
 13 for buildings above 18 metres in height". So to be fair
 14 to you, that's there as well. It goes on to say under
 15 " Certification " :
 16 "Celotex RS5000 is a premium performance solution
 17 and is the first PIR board to successfully meet the
 18 performance criteria set out in BR 135 for rainscreen
 19 cladding systems."
 20 Then it gives you the elements of the system tested,
 21 and you can see that there. It includes 12-millimetre
 22 fibre cement panels, and then other things as well,
 23 including a 12-millimetre non-combustible sheathing
 24 board and plasterboard.
 25 Then underneath that it says this in bold:

1 "The fire performance and classification report
 2 issued only relates to the components detailed above."
 3 A. Yeah.
 4 Q. "Any changes to the components listed will need to be
 5 considered by the building designer."
 6 Were you aware of that qualification in this
 7 datasheet or in any materials that you saw when you went
 8 on to the Celotex website?
 9 A. That I can't recall .
 10 Q. Looking at it now, it's clear, isn't it --
 11 A. It is .
 12 Q. -- that the only basis on which RS5000 could ever be
 13 used in a building taller than 18 metres is if it was
 14 used in exactly the same rainscreen cladding system as
 15 that which had, it is said, passed 8414 test; do you
 16 agree with that?
 17 A. I do.
 18 Q. But it's not something you spotted at the time?
 19 A. No. If you look at the LABC document that I have, it
 20 doesn't clearly state that .
 21 Q. Right.
 22 Just to summarise where we have got to, I think: by
 23 early March you know that there are ACM panels going on
 24 the building .
 25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And at some stage you discover that there is RS5000
 2 going on the building.
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. You look up RS5000 on the Celotex website, but you don't
 5 get any further than seeing that it's suitable for
 6 buildings above 18 metres.
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. And you don't examine precisely why that was so.
 9 A. No, correct.
 10 Q. Right.
 11 Would you accept that that was a serious failing on
 12 your part?
 13 (Pause)
 14 A. At the time, I felt that was -- at the time, I thought
 15 that was accept -- okay. I see now that's not.
 16 Q. Very well.
 17 Can I take you, then, to a document a little bit
 18 earlier in time at {RBK00059350}. This is an email from
 19 Paul Hanson to John Allen on 31 December 2013 which, as
 20 we saw yesterday, is exactly the same day that you first
 21 get involved in the project, or at least tell Studio E
 22 that you're now involved in the project.
 23 Now, you're not copied in on this, so, to be fair to
 24 you, I'm not suggesting that you saw this email at the
 25 time, but I just want to ask you about it and its

1 contents.
 2 You can see that Paul Hanson sends John Allen
 3 a document, and the attachment is "BSI Don't be
 4 a flaming liability", and it says:
 5 "Hi John,
 6 "Re fire doors claims, I have attached an old BSI
 7 doe which goes though some of the misleading claims
 8 manufacturers sometimes make. Although it is pre EN
 9 standards it is still relevant.
 10 "Please circulate if [you] feel it is useful to
 11 surveyors."
 12 Now, I will show you the document, {RBK00059351},
 13 please. It's called "Don't be a flaming liability", and
 14 there is a graphic attached to it:
 15 "Memo to manufacturers.
 16 "Does your product literature unwitting imply that
 17 your product is safe if exposed to fire?"
 18 Just looking at that first page, do you remember
 19 whether Mr Allen did circulate that to surveyors,
 20 including you?
 21 A. I couldn't say.
 22 Q. Do you remember ever seeing this document?
 23 A. I couldn't say.
 24 Q. Well, we might be able to say if we look on a little bit
 25 in it.

1 When you say you couldn't say, do you mean you don't
 2 recall ever seeing it before, or you might have seen it
 3 before but can't remember?
 4 A. As I say, I don't want to mislead you. It's not
 5 something that comes to mind.
 6 Q. Okay. Let's just see how far we go with it, then.
 7 If we look at page 2 {RBK00059351/2} -- and I should
 8 just tell you, this document is old, we think it's dated
 9 back to the late 1980s, and it was published by the BSI,
 10 so it's from the British Standards groups.
 11 On page 2, if you look at the column on the
 12 right-hand side under the heading "Interlocking
 13 cladding", and this is under the wider heading "Examples
 14 of misleading copy":
 15 "Interlocking cladding
 16 "It is fireproof (grade '0')."
 17 Do you see that? Then it goes on to explain what
 18 national class 0 means. Do you see that?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. Were you aware at the time of a confusion in the
 21 construction industry about what national class 0
 22 actually meant?
 23 A. It's not something that ... I may have been. As I say,
 24 it's ...
 25 Q. Were you aware at the time that manufacturers were

1 putting out misleading statements in their manufacturing
 2 literature about class 0 and its effects?
 3 A. I can't recall. Sorry.
 4 Q. Do you remember yourself having at the back of your own
 5 mind a lingering doubt about whether you really
 6 understood national class 0?
 7 (Pause)
 8 A. Sorry ...
 9 (Pause)
 10 It's something that may have come up, but, as I say,
 11 from memory now, it's not -- as I say, it's not
 12 something that stands out. It may have at the time.
 13 I -- as I say ...
 14 Q. Do you remember there being any discussion in the office
 15 with your colleagues, or with Paul Hanson or John Allen
 16 in particular, about class 0 and whether it was clear or
 17 whether it was confusing?
 18 A. Not that I can recall.
 19 Q. Do you remember any discussion in the office or in the
 20 wider industry about whether manufacturers were putting
 21 out misleading copy in relation to class 0 that needed
 22 to be scrutinised carefully by those buying their
 23 products?
 24 A. Again, it's not something I can recall at the time, or
 25 can recall now.

1 Q. Right.
 2 Do you know what prompted Paul Hanson to send
 3 John Allen this document for circulation among --
 4 A. No.
 5 Q. -- Building Control officers such as you?
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. Now, I think you told us yesterday that Grenfell Tower
 8 was the first high-rise overcladding project you had
 9 ever been a Building Control officer in respect of.
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. Was this the first time you had ever thought about
 12 class 0?
 13 A. No.
 14 Q. What other projects or context had led you to examine
 15 class 0 as a standard which had to be complied with in
 16 order to be able to pass compliance under the
 17 Building Regulations?
 18 A. Generally extensions, new buildings. Just generally
 19 where they were doing external works, you know, roof
 20 works, as I say, new buildings.
 21 Q. Right. So you were familiar with class 0 -- is this
 22 right? -- even though not in the context of buildings in
 23 excess of 18 metres?
 24 A. Yes, yes.
 25 Q. So you were still, I think, new to the idea of class 0

1 in the context of a building over 18 metres?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. So this was the first time you had ever had to think
 4 about section 12.6 and diagram 40 of Approved
 5 Document B; is that right?
 6 A. No. As I say, when dealing with, as I say, either new
 7 buildings as regards space distances, what materials
 8 they were allowed to use on the surfaces, in relation to
 9 boundaries.
 10 Q. Right. Is that section 9.20 of ADB?
 11 A. Can I have a look, please?
 12 Q. Well, if it doesn't trigger a recollection, we don't
 13 need to go to it.
 14 A. No.
 15 Q. Can we go, please, to {INQ00014085}. Now, this is
 16 a blog post dated 15 March 2017.
 17 Just help me: had you resigned -- "resigned" was
 18 your word, actually -- from RBKC's Building Control
 19 department by this point?
 20 A. Yes, I wasn't actually -- I had quite a bit of holiday
 21 left, so I actually -- I resigned the week before
 22 Christmas and then --
 23 Q. I follow.
 24 A. -- I worked up until some time in February, although
 25 I came in at weekends --

1 Q. Right.
 2 A. -- up until when I finished at -- on the end of March
 3 that year.
 4 Q. Right.
 5 The blog post is one posted on the LABC's website on
 6 that date, and its title is, "What's the difference
 7 between fire proof and fire resistant?"
 8 You have said that the LABC was your principal
 9 reference body for information about performance
 10 standards, and you said that yesterday, {Day45/66:10}.
 11 Do you remember whether you looked at this blog
 12 post?
 13 A. No, I haven't seen that before.
 14 Q. Right.
 15 Did you yourself ever have cause to ask yourself:
 16 what is the difference between fireproof and
 17 fire resistant?
 18 A. Yes, sometimes -- sometimes builders or ... sometimes
 19 people would say that something was fire retardant as
 20 opposed to fire resisting.
 21 Q. Yes.
 22 A. Which is a difference. As I say, you would get people
 23 that would say a particular product was fire resisting
 24 and in fact it was just fire retardant, so it's not
 25 actually fire resisting.

1 Q. If we look at the first paragraph here, you can see that
 2 there is a reference here to the "Don't be a flaming
 3 liability" leaflet published by the BSI.
 4 A. Yeah.
 5 Q. It goes on to say:
 6 "It was aimed at encouraging manufacturers to use
 7 correct terminology when describing their products to
 8 avoid misleading prospective purchasers.
 9 "Terminology plays an important role in our
 10 industry; however the misuse of common phrases can lead
 11 to a complete misunderstanding regarding the suitability
 12 of products for a particular application and could
 13 result in fatal consequences."
 14 I know you say you didn't see this blog post at the
 15 time, and indeed it postdates the completion certificate
 16 and your role in the project by some months. My
 17 question is whether the issue here about the misuse of
 18 common phrases was one which you were alive to during
 19 your role as Building Control officer on the
 20 Grenfell Tower project?
 21 A. Sometimes, as I say, I mentioned that people would
 22 use -- for example, with doors they would use
 23 a particular material that was fire retardant and say
 24 that it was a fire resisting door, and we would correct
 25 them.

1 Q. Now, if you go to the top of page 2 {INQ00014085/2}, you
 2 can see that it says:
 3 "The misuse of terminology can be split into two
 4 categories:
 5 "1. Using terms that have no real meaning.
 6 "2. Using the correct terminology in the wrong
 7 context.
 8 "In the first case, there are terms commonly used
 9 which have no defined performance based upon tests, for
 10 example Fire retardant, fire proof, FR.
 11 "In the second case, a product may have a genuine
 12 fire related test result but the context in which it is
 13 applied isn't right.
 14 "Occasionally the tests relating to 'fire
 15 resistance' and those relating to 'surface spread of
 16 flame' are confused but they relate to different
 17 properties and aren't interchangeable."
 18 Again, just looking at that, was that issue and the
 19 misuse that's described there something you were
 20 familiar with in your experience as a Building Control
 21 officer at the time of your involvement on the
 22 Grenfell Tower project?
 23 A. As I say, "retardant" and "fire resisting", certainly
 24 that was something that came up quite often.
 25 Q. Right. What about in relation to class 0?

1 A. I can't recall, sorry, but, as I say --
 2 Q. Right.
 3 A. As I say, "fire retardant" and "fire resisting" was
 4 something that would come up on a regular basis when
 5 dealing with projects.
 6 Q. Yes.
 7 You said earlier on in your evidence just now on
 8 class 0 that you were familiar with it in its context of
 9 space separation. Have I got that right?
 10 A. Yes. In that -- in its use, because -- and obviously --
 11 space separation and obviously height as well.
 12 Q. That's, just to be clear, section 13, I think, of ADB.
 13 A. Yes, I believe so.
 14 Q. So not, then, in the context of use in an external wall
 15 construction on a building taller than 18 metres?
 16 A. Sorry, could you repeat --
 17 Q. So your experience of class 0 and your knowledge of
 18 class 0 would be in the context of space separation
 19 under section 13 of ADB, but not in the context of
 20 an external wall construction under section 12.6 and
 21 diagram 40 in respect of buildings taller than
 22 18 metres? That was your experience, was it?
 23 A. Sorry. It calls up class 0 in that diagram.
 24 Q. Which diagram?
 25 A. Sorry, is it diagram 40?

1 Q. Diagram 40, yes.
 2 A. Yeah.
 3 Q. But given that this was your first high-rise, as we have
 4 established, you had never come across class 0 in that
 5 context, only in the context of space separation?
 6 A. As regards buildings over 18 metres, that was the first
 7 time.
 8 Q. Yes, thank you.
 9 A. Sorry.
 10 Q. Then if you go to the heading "FR" at the foot of page 2
 11 of this blog post, I just want to show you the second of
 12 those paragraphs. It says:
 13 "Although the manufacturer, specifier and installer
 14 each have a responsibility to ensure the correct product
 15 is used for the correct application, it commonly falls
 16 to the building control surveyor to spot that the wrong
 17 product is being used for the wrong application."
 18 That's right, isn't it? That was your job?
 19 A. I mentioned about the fire retardant -- people using
 20 a fire retardant material and saying, "Well, we've got
 21 a board here that's fire retardant, therefore it's -- we
 22 can make -- use it as a fire resisting material",
 23 that's ...
 24 Q. Yes.
 25 Then it goes on to say in the second sentence of the

1 last paragraph, which I think in fairness I should read
 2 in its entirety:
 3 "Having said this it must also be recognised that
 4 there are many manufacturers who are responsible and do
 5 provide valuable knowledge to the industry. The key to
 6 considering any claim of product performance is to match
 7 the stated claim with the test standard quoted. If the
 8 test standard is for something different to that
 9 claimed, then the product is not suitable for the
 10 intended application."
 11 As a principle, were you aware of that at the time
 12 of your involvement on the Grenfell Tower project?
 13 (Pause)
 14 I think you need to look at the top of --
 15 A. Sorry.
 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We've lost the last --
 17 MR MILLETT: Yes, I've just been told we have lost the
 18 bottom part of page 2. I think you need to look at the
 19 top of page 3 {INQ00014085/3} as well. The top of
 20 page 3 says:
 21 "If the test standard is for something different to
 22 that claimed, then the product is not suitable for the
 23 intended application."
 24 A. Yeah. Yes.
 25 Q. My question again: as a principle, were you aware of

1 that at the time of your involvement on the
2 Grenfell Tower project?
3 A. Yes.
4 Q. You were?
5 A. Yeah ...
6 Q. You didn't, I think, spot, though, that the class 0
7 statement was inapposite in respect of the insulation
8 and its proposed use in this rainscreen cladding system?
9 A. Well, as I say, class 0 is for surface spread of flame.
10 Q. Then moving on:
11 "If a term is used such as FR, fire retardant or
12 fire proof that are not defined by a test, be very
13 suspicious."
14 Again, that's a principle, is it, that you were
15 alive to at the time of your involvement on the project?
16 A. Yes.
17 Q. Yes.
18 A. Yes, that's --
19 Q. But I don't think you were very suspicious?
20 A. No, in this particular case. No, as I say, with certain
21 products, as I say, I mentioned types of boarding that
22 we would come across from our -- from time to time that
23 people would propose to be used as fire resisting
24 construction, which was fire retardant and not
25 fire resisting.

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1 Q. Yes, my question was actually more related to the use of
2 class 0 and the 8414 test references.
3 You were not, I think, acting with the relevant or
4 requisite degree of suspicion when looking at whether
5 Celotex was suitable for use above 18 metres. Do you
6 accept that, looking at this principle which you have
7 accepted?
8 A. It's not something that stood out at the time.
9 Q. Looking at the last paragraph here, it says:
10 "So almost 30 years on, the sentiment of the BSI
11 leaflet remains just as relevant; 'Don't be a flaming
12 liability': It frequently falls to the last link in the
13 chain - the building control surveyor - to spot the
14 problem; however, this just confirms the valuable
15 contribution that a diligent surveyor can bring to the
16 design and construction team."
17 Again, were you aware at the time of your
18 involvement in the Grenfell Tower project that you were
19 the last link in the chain to spot a problem or spot the
20 inappropriateness of the use of any particular product
21 on this building?
22 A. Yes, I would say I ...
23 Q. And that you couldn't assume that the design team had
24 thoroughly checked whether the materials used in the
25 cladding system -- so the Celotex, the ACM -- were

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1 in fact suitable for use in the Grenfell Tower cladding
2 rainscreen system?
3 A. Sorry, could you repeat that? Sorry.
4 Q. Yes, I will.
5 A. Maybe we could have a break --
6 Q. You couldn't simply proceed --
7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We are going to have a break in just
8 a moment, but just get this question out.
9 A. Yeah, all right, sorry.
10 MR MILLETT: You couldn't simply proceed on the assumption
11 that someone else had done the job, the design team had
12 done the --
13 A. No, correct.
14 MR MILLETT: Thank you.
15 Mr Chairman, I think that probably would be
16 an appropriate moment for a break, not least given the
17 time.
18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.
19 Mr Hoban, we shall have a break now.
20 THE WITNESS: Right, thank you.
21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We will come back at 11.40, please.
22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And, again, don't talk to anyone
24 about your evidence while you're out of the room.
25 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

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1 (Pause)
2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: 11.40, then, please. Thank you.
3 (11.25 am)
4 (A short break)
5 (11.40 am)
6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Hoban?
7 THE WITNESS: Right.
8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, do sit down, please, and make
9 yourself comfortable again.
10 All right to carry on?
11 THE WITNESS: Yes, thank you.
12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.
13 Yes, Mr Millett.
14 MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.
15 Mr Hoban, you have referred to conversations that
16 took place on site about the compliance of the cladding
17 system in your evidence. Can I go to your second
18 statement, please, at page 10 {RBK00050416/10}. I would
19 like to look with you, please, at paragraph 34. The
20 question that's being asked here is:
21 "In para 57 of your witness statement [that's your
22 first witness statement], you state 'on the information
23 I had at the time it was my understanding that it [the
24 exterior of the building as refurbished] was
25 compliant.'"

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1 I want to examine your answers a little more closely
 2 than we have so far.
 3 At paragraph a the question is :
 4 "What submissions, drawings, documents led you to
 5 believe that the proposed design was compliant?"
 6 You say:
 7 "All of the material submitted to me at the relevant
 8 time and discussions on the topic led me to form this
 9 view. And no concerns were raised by any of the fire
 10 experts/consultants, and no Application was made to
 11 indicate that they were not using material of Class 0
 12 standard as per Para 12.6 of Section B4 of Approved
 13 Document B (and including diagram 40)."
 14 Just to be clear, the applicant was who?
 15 A. The applicant would be who was stated on the ... the
 16 applicant would be mentioned on the form.
 17 Q. Yes, but in your answer here --
 18 A. Sorry, the --
 19 Q. -- you say no application was made. Who was the
 20 applicant in that answer? Who were you intending to
 21 identify?
 22 A. Oh, sorry. That would have come from the architect,
 23 that they were not using or complying with the
 24 Building Regulations.
 25 Q. Right.

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1 A. They would have set out, "We're not following the
 2 guidance in such and such and here's our submission".
 3 Q. Were you relying on the architect, then, to tell you if
 4 they were proposing something that wasn't compliant with
 5 the Building Regulations?
 6 A. Well, I was doing my checks, but I would expect them to
 7 do their checks as well.
 8 Q. Yes, but the answer you're giving to the question --
 9 A. Sorry.
 10 Q. -- which is what led you to believe that the proposed
 11 design was compliant, was that no application was made
 12 to indicate --
 13 A. Sorry -- well, as I say, that's --
 14 Q. -- that the materials were not of class 0.
 15 My question is: were you relying on the architect,
 16 as the applicant, to tell you if they were proposing
 17 something that was not compliant?
 18 A. No, no, no.
 19 Q. Right.
 20 When you say, "not using material of Class 0
 21 standard as per Para 12.6", what do you mean there?
 22 What material are you referring to?
 23 A. The actual cladding panels themselves.
 24 Q. Right. So does this mean that your approach was that
 25 unless the applicant alerted you to their proposed use,

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1 in this case, of ACM panels above 18 metres that were
 2 not class 0, you would assume that it was class 0?
 3 A. No.
 4 Q. So can you just help us what you do mean?
 5 A. I would do my checks and they would do their checks.
 6 Q. We get the sense from this paragraph that you were
 7 relying on the result of their checks --
 8 A. No, sorry --
 9 Q. -- to form your own view about compliance.
 10 A. Sorry, it's misleading.
 11 Q. Is that right?
 12 A. No, that's not the case.
 13 Q. Right.
 14 Can we just look, still on the same point, at
 15 page 16 {RBK00050416/16}, and I'd like to look at
 16 paragraph 42g with you. You say there, and this is in
 17 relation to discussions with Harley:
 18 "It had no relevance to the role I was performing.
 19 However, that information, coupled with the fact that
 20 I was not aware of any concerns raised by the fire
 21 experts/consultants and no Application had been made to
 22 not use class 0 material reinforced my view that the
 23 cladding proposed at that time was compliant."
 24 Again, are you saying there that because no one had
 25 said to you, "We are not using class 0 material", you

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1 thought it was class 0?
 2 A. No, no, I did do checks, I --
 3 Q. Right.
 4 A. As I say, it's misleading.
 5 Q. Can we go back to paragraph 34, then, on page 10
 6 {RBK00050416/10} and look at points b and c on that
 7 page. At b the question is :
 8 "What was the method of compliance which was being
 9 adopted in respect of the B4 requirement?"
 10 The answer you give there is :
 11 "From the meetings I attended it was my
 12 understanding that the method of compliance that was
 13 being adopted in respect of B4 was that shown in
 14 Approved document B."
 15 Then in c the question is :
 16 "Did you ever enquire as to the method of compliance
 17 for the B4 requirement?"
 18 Your very short answer is, "Yes I did", and I don't
 19 think you say anything more than that.
 20 A. No.
 21 Q. Taking b and c together there, Mr Hoban, you say you
 22 enquired about the method of compliance with the
 23 Building Regulations, you understood from meetings that
 24 the method of compliance with requirement B4 was
 25 following ADB guidance.

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1 Now, when did those meetings take place, do you
 2 remember?
 3 A. Well, I mentioned about -- one that stands out is that
 4 first meeting where Paul Hanson and myself attended site
 5 and there was numerous consultants there, and I believe,
 6 I don't know who said it, but the question was asked
 7 what method -- or we went through the various methods,
 8 and it was my understanding from that that they were
 9 using ADB and, if they weren't using that, that they
 10 would come up with another solution. But subsequent
 11 from that I got information from time to time, through
 12 site visits and ...
 13 Q. Right.
 14 Do you have a specific recollection of discussing
 15 the method of compliance, the route to compliance with
 16 Approved Document B?
 17 A. No. It was my understanding that that -- or my
 18 understanding that they were going to use ADB.
 19 Q. When you say "use ADB", we looked at this yesterday
 20 morning, quite early on in your evidence, and I think
 21 you explained that that meant using materials of limited
 22 combustibility --
 23 A. Yeah, yeah.
 24 Q. -- so far as concerned the insulation. Have I got that
 25 right?

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1 A. Yes, but I was aware that they were using, as I say,
 2 Celotex. What I should have or -- what I should have
 3 done is asked for a further submission.
 4 Q. Who told you that the method of compliance would be
 5 following ADB, as you put it?
 6 A. As I say, it was a general meeting at that first
 7 meeting, or that was my understanding --
 8 Q. How did you -- sorry. I'm so sorry, I cut across you
 9 there.
 10 A. Yeah.
 11 Q. That was your understanding.
 12 When you said ADB, as you said yesterday and again
 13 just now, that meant limited combustibility, did anybody
 14 at that meeting say, "We are going to be using
 15 an insulation of limited combustibility"?
 16 A. I don't believe they did.
 17 Q. So what gave you to understand --
 18 A. I --
 19 Q. -- that that was the case?
 20 A. Well, I didn't have any information. I gave the four
 21 methods, or I believe I discussed the four methods with
 22 them, and they said, "Yeah, we'll be doing that".
 23 Q. Right.
 24 I think in your police statement you say that you
 25 actually went through at some stage --

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1 A. Yeah.
 2 Q. -- the four methods of --
 3 A. Yeah, at that meeting, I believe, or -- that's why
 4 I asked for -- if there were any minutes of that
 5 particular meeting.
 6 Q. Right.
 7 So let's just try and be clear about your
 8 recollection: is your recollection that there took place
 9 a meeting at which the four routes to compliance with
 10 Approved Document B were discussed?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Do you remember where that meeting was?
 13 A. It was on site.
 14 Q. On site?
 15 A. Yeah.
 16 Q. Do you remember whether that was early on in your
 17 involvement?
 18 A. Yeah, as I say, as far as I can recall, it was at
 19 that -- we were discussing the smoke venting system, it
 20 was -- and, as I say, there was a number of consultants
 21 there, and the contractor, and I believe the client was
 22 there -- not the client, the -- somebody from TMO, but
 23 I can't be absolutely certain, and we went through that
 24 at a stage.
 25 Q. Are you sure it was four routes to compliance or three?

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1 The reason I ask is because the --
 2 A. No, as I say, there are -- as far as -- there's ADB,
 3 desktop study, fire engineering solution, or BR 135.
 4 Q. Or of limited combustibility?
 5 A. Well, that's Approved Document B.
 6 Q. Right.
 7 In his oral evidence to the Inquiry, Neil Crawford
 8 referred to some workshops that he said would take place
 9 after design team meetings, and he said that those would
 10 involve Building Control on occasions. Just for our
 11 reference purposes, that's {Day11/14} to {Day11/15}.
 12 My question for you, Mr Hoban, is: do you remember
 13 attending any workshops with Neil Crawford?
 14 A. As regards this project?
 15 Q. Yes.
 16 A. I --
 17 Q. Yes, indeed, as regards this project, not KALC.
 18 A. See, it's hard to distinguish between one and the other,
 19 because they're meetings that I'm dealing with that
 20 particular architect at that time, as I say. So from
 21 memory, I can't distinguish between the academy and
 22 Grenfell.
 23 Q. Right.
 24 His evidence was that there was a workshop which
 25 took place before Christmas 2014, and then one in the

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1 middle of February and late March/early April 2015.
 2 Does that trigger a recollection with you?
 3 A. I can't recall .
 4 Q. Right. His evidence is to be found at {Day11/15}, just
 5 for our purposes, so we can look back at it .
 6 Simon Lawrence of Rydon also gave evidence, and he
 7 said that he could remember Building Control coming to
 8 site and sitting round a table to discuss plans,
 9 designs, et cetera. Again, for our reference purposes,
 10 that's {Day25/166:16}.
 11 Do you agree with that, that he came to site and sat
 12 round a table and discussed plans, designs, et cetera?
 13 A. I can't recall .
 14 Q. Right.
 15 He also said that the meetings were arranged with
 16 Building Control as a way of resolving issues with the
 17 design of the cladding package, {Day25/169:7}. Do you
 18 remember that?
 19 A. As I say, it would have -- we could find out whether
 20 that definitely happened by looking at -- I would have
 21 to sign in to the site . We had a visitors ' book, or
 22 they would have a visitors ' book. But, as I say, it 's
 23 not something that stands out.
 24 Q. All right . Well, we will come to look at each of the
 25 site meetings you had later today in your evidence,

1 Mr Hoban. If anything stands out at that stage on this
 2 question, the discussion of the cladding, we can pick it
 3 up at that stage.
 4 In general, do you remember discussing the materials
 5 to be used in the cladding system at meetings on site?
 6 A. As I say, with Ben Bailey, the initial meeting, and
 7 I may have looked, as I say, at drawings on site . I do
 8 recall seeing an elevation and plan drawing stuck on the
 9 wall showing the Siderise cavity barriers .
 10 Q. Right. Just to be clear, you say "with Ben Bailey, the
 11 initial meeting". We know from the record we looked at
 12 yesterday that your first site visit was in late
 13 August 2014; Ben Bailey didn't become project manager
 14 until early February 2015. So when you say initial
 15 meeting, what do you mean by that in the context of
 16 meeting Ben Bailey of Harley?
 17 A. Well, he was -- when they came on site, or when they --
 18 when the contractors came on site, I believe it was
 19 Rydon that arranged for me to meet with him to discuss
 20 what they were doing.
 21 Q. Now, if we go to point d on page 10 {RBK00050416/10},
 22 which should be still on the screen, I think we need to
 23 go right to the bottom of page 10, we can see the
 24 question:
 25 "Did you ever request details of the materials which

1 were proposed to be used as part of the exterior
 2 re-cladding? If so when and to whom did you make that
 3 request?"
 4 If you go to page 11 {RBK00050416/11}, we can see
 5 the answer. We looked at it earlier on this morning,
 6 and I'll just repeat it back because I want to ask some
 7 detailed questions about what you say. You say:
 8 "The details were submitted in the initial
 9 submission. I also discussed the material with the
 10 Harley's engineer who had informed me that the cladding
 11 system had been fitted to many buildings throughout
 12 England and Wales to buildings of a similar height and
 13 construction ."
 14 For reference purposes, you say the same thing at
 15 paragraph 66 of your first statement {RBK00033934/7}.
 16 We don't need to go back to that.
 17 Can you remember who the Harley engineer was?
 18 A. He was introduced to me as the Harley engineer.
 19 Q. Who was?
 20 A. The person I met was -- as I say, I believe I describe
 21 him in my police statement as a young person in mid-20s
 22 to late 20s.
 23 Q. Right. Would that be Ben Bailey?
 24 A. I believe so, but I can't be certain .
 25 Q. What led you to think that he was an engineer?

1 A. That's what -- how he was introduced to me.
 2 Q. Who introduced you?
 3 A. That would have been the contractor, I believe
 4 Simon Lawrence.
 5 Q. Right.
 6 A. Not Simon Lawrence, Simon O'Connor.
 7 Q. Simon O'Connor, he was the project manager --
 8 A. Project manager at that time.
 9 Q. -- at that time.
 10 A. Yeah.
 11 Q. Did he use the word "engineer"?
 12 A. That's the word -- as I say --
 13 Q. Right.
 14 A. -- that was my understanding of his role .
 15 Q. When you say, "I also discussed the material with the
 16 Harley's engineer", was that on one occasion or on
 17 a number of occasions?
 18 A. I know I definitely did then. It may have come up in
 19 conversations at other times.
 20 Q. What materials in particular do you remember discussing
 21 with Ben Bailey?
 22 A. Well, I asked -- sorry, excuse me. I asked if the
 23 system had been used before on buildings of similar
 24 heights, high-rise buildings, and I was told that the
 25 system had been used elsewhere.

1 Q. You say, "I asked if the system had been used before";
 2 what system were you asking about?
 3 A. The cladding system.
 4 Q. Yes, but were you asking about ACM with Celotex or were
 5 you asking about --
 6 A. Yes, yes.
 7 Q. You were?
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Right.
 10 A. Well, that's the understanding I have of the system.
 11 Q. Right.
 12 Can we go to your first statement, please, at page 7
 13 {RBK00033934/7}. Under the question at paragraph 64,
 14 you are asked:
 15 "What advice or information was available, and what
 16 assessments were made, about the components that
 17 comprised the exterior of the building, their fire
 18 safety, fire-resistance and compliance with safety
 19 standards (including information or advice from
 20 manufacturers of relevant components)?"
 21 At 65 you say:
 22 "I was provided with initial drawings and details
 23 and discussed the works with the architect and his
 24 specialist consultant dealing with fire matters. I also
 25 had a brief discussion with the engineer from the

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1 contractors installing the cladding system to the
 2 exterior of the building at the commencement of the
 3 works to the exterior."
 4 Just focusing on that -- we'll come to paragraph 66
 5 in a moment -- was that brief discussion that you refer
 6 to, and indeed the discussion with the architect, in or
 7 around September 2014?
 8 A. I couldn't say. Sorry.
 9 Q. Right.
 10 When you say there, "I had a brief discussion with
 11 the engineer from the contractors", again, who was that?
 12 A. That was the person that I was referring to in what
 13 I said previously.
 14 Q. Right, so the young person?
 15 A. Yeah.
 16 Q. Right.
 17 Then if we look at paragraph 66 of your first
 18 witness statement, you say this:
 19 "During that discussion I recall that I was advised
 20 by the engineer that tests had been carried out to the
 21 metal framework supporting the cladding. I also recall
 22 that I was advised that the system had been fitted to
 23 many buildings throughout England and Wales to buildings
 24 of a similar height and construction."
 25 Did he, this engineer, give you any more detail

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1 about the tests that were carried out?
 2 A. We were talking about proof testing of the fixings.
 3 Q. What relevance would those tests have to compliance with
 4 B4?
 5 A. Not with B4 but with structure, so that the cladding
 6 system doesn't come off the building.
 7 Q. I see. You had no discussion therefore with him about
 8 tests in relation to the combustibility of the materials
 9 to be used in the rainscreen?
 10 A. As I say, I don't recall that, whether that happened or
 11 not, but I saw -- the thing that stood out for me when
 12 writing this was we talked about proof testing the
 13 framework, because we looked at the fixings, as I say,
 14 because it was -- that was the stage of works at that
 15 particular time.
 16 Q. While we're on this page, you can see that you say that
 17 he assured you that the system had been fitted to many
 18 buildings throughout England and Wales to buildings of
 19 a similar height and construction. Did that assurance
 20 lead you to conclude that you didn't need to exercise
 21 any further scrutiny?
 22 A. No.
 23 Q. What effect on your mind did that assurance have?
 24 A. That the system had been used before, it was not
 25 a bespoke system, it was a system that had been used

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1 elsewhere.
 2 Q. From a Building Control perspective, what relevance did
 3 that have?
 4 A. As I say, that it was a system that had been used
 5 throughout the country and had been approved by other
 6 Building Control authorities, that it wasn't something
 7 that was new.
 8 Q. But to put it bluntly, Mr Hoban, so what?
 9 A. So what?
 10 (Pause)
 11 Sorry ...
 12 Q. Well, so what if other authorities had done it?
 13 A. Yeah, well --
 14 Q. Your job was to exercise independent scrutiny, was it
 15 not?
 16 A. Yeah, well, I -- as I say -- as well, yes.
 17 Q. And therefore did you think that this assurance might
 18 have led you to some complacency given that, as you were
 19 being told, it had been used elsewhere and passed by
 20 other Building Control officers?
 21 A. I don't know whether complacency -- it gave me
 22 an assurance that the system had been used elsewhere.
 23 Q. If you go back to point e, please, at paragraph 34 of
 24 your second statement, if we can just go back to that,
 25 {RBK00050416/11}, you say in answer to the question:

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1 "Did you request sight of any fire tests reports in
 2 relation to the cladding?"
 3 Answer: "No."
 4 Why not?
 5 A. When referring to that, that's the actual -- a fire test
 6 report is a specific document that lays out how the test
 7 is done.
 8 Q. Indeed.
 9 A. I felt that a BBA certificate and LABC registered plans,
 10 registered details, was an acceptable standard. As
 11 I say, generally a fire test report is many pages. It
 12 sets out how the test -- and it's not something that
 13 I would have understood fully.
 14 Q. Do we take it from that that you were never trained to
 15 carry out any kind of exercise to substantiate the
 16 fire resistance rating of a construction in order to
 17 check to make sure it demonstrates compliance?
 18 A. No, that's not the case. As regards test certificates
 19 themselves. That's a sort of very specialist subject
 20 that a fire engineer would understand. As
 21 a Building Control officer, I don't -- it's not
 22 something I would have that knowledge.
 23 Q. At this point, whenever it was --
 24 A. Yeah.
 25 Q. -- either late 2014 or early 2015, had you already

1 looked up the BBA certificate?
 2 A. I can't -- as I say, I can't recall.
 3 Q. And the same I suppose would apply in relation to the
 4 RS5000?
 5 A. Yeah, it's the same.
 6 Q. Right.
 7 You also, I think, failed to ask or didn't ask for
 8 comprehensive details of the cladding system, including
 9 the crown, did you?
 10 A. We got some detail, some details, but not comprehensive
 11 details.
 12 Q. No.
 13 Now, if you go a little bit further down this page,
 14 11, you can see f, the question:
 15 "What contemporaneous records (if any) did you make
 16 which reflected your understanding that the exterior of
 17 the building would be compliant with the
 18 Building Regulations?"
 19 You say there:
 20 "I cannot say for certain whether such notes were
 21 made but had I made such notes they would have been on
 22 file and most probably weeded out."
 23 Do you agree that the question of whether the façade
 24 complied with the Building Regulations was an important
 25 one?

1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. And so should have been recorded somewhere?
 3 A. Well, I had recorded them in my notes, but, as I say, it
 4 may have been weeded out at the end.
 5 Q. Right.
 6 Do you remember making a record of your views about
 7 whether or not the rainscreen cladding system and its
 8 parts complied with Approved Document B?
 9 A. I cannot recall.
 10 Q. If we go to --
 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Sorry, can I just ask this: the
 12 system for granting Building Control approval probably
 13 contemplates some formal recognition of that fact,
 14 doesn't it?
 15 A. There's --
 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: When you approve the full plans
 17 application or whatever it might be.
 18 A. There's no actual requirement to get the plans approved,
 19 or fully approved. You make an application and you can
 20 build. It's not a requirement of the regulations that
 21 you actually get full written approval.
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I'm just wondering whether
 23 there ought not to have been some formal record of the
 24 fact that you were satisfied that the exterior would
 25 comply with the regulations.

1 A. There was -- we didn't have in place -- well, there was
 2 that sheet that I mentioned but, as I say, it's -- it
 3 would have been good practice for the contractor to do
 4 that, but it's not a requirement of the regulations, so
 5 I couldn't say, "You must get formal approval".
 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I see that, but I was just
 7 looking at it from your point of view, whether the
 8 Building Control officer wouldn't need to record in some
 9 formal way his satisfaction with something as important
 10 as that.
 11 A. Well, as I say, it would have been on that sheet
 12 I mentioned or my notes.
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, thank you.
 14 Yes, Mr Millett.
 15 MR MILLETT: Mr Hoban, can I ask you to go to
 16 {RBK00033934/8}, your first statement, and go to
 17 paragraph 67. This is at the top of that page, and you
 18 say:
 19 "I also looked up information on the insulation."
 20 Then you say in the third line:
 21 "I was also advised at the initial meeting on site
 22 by the specialist consultant that the cladding would
 23 comply with the standards set out in Approved
 24 Document B."
 25 I just want to show you what you then say in your

1 second witness statement about that. Can we please have
 2 your second witness statement up at page 14
 3 {RBK00050416/14}. I'm sorry to jump around between your
 4 two statements, but I think it's important that you see
 5 what you do say there.
 6 In paragraph 40 the question is:
 7 "With reference to para 65, please state ..."
 8 A. Sorry, where are we, sorry?
 9 Q. Page 14.
 10 A. Yeah.
 11 Q. And at the top it says, under paragraph 40:
 12 "Reference to para 65 ..."
 13 That's the statement I've just shown you:
 14 "... please state ..."
 15 Then under b --
 16 A. Yeah.
 17 Q. -- the question is:
 18 "With reference to the statement that you 'discussed
 19 the works with the architect and his specialist
 20 consultant dealing with fire matters ..."
 21 Then (iii), where you are being asked about
 22 paragraph 65 of your first statement, you say at
 23 paragraph 40b there:
 24 "The main meeting where this occurred was
 25 24.11.14 ..."

1 Yes?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. You say, I think, that the specialist consultants were
 4 employees from Max Fordham, Exova and Siderise. Do you
 5 see that?
 6 A. Yeah.
 7 Q. And you can't recall the specific individuals.
 8 Is it your evidence that those three companies were
 9 represented at a meeting on site on 24 November 2014?
 10 A. There was a number of people there. I can't actually
 11 recall -- that's why I asked for records of who those
 12 persons were at that particular meeting.
 13 Q. Right.
 14 Now, Exova didn't go to site in 2014.
 15 A. Didn't they?
 16 Q. So would you be prepared to accept that you are mistaken
 17 about Exova's presence at that meeting?
 18 A. Yeah. Correct then.
 19 Q. Mr Ashton of Exova gave evidence and he said -- and this
 20 is {Day17/121:12} in answer to questions from
 21 Ms Grange -- that he categorically didn't advise you or
 22 anyone else from RBKC Building Control that the cladding
 23 would comply with the standards in Approved Document B.
 24 That's what he said.
 25 Do you accept that you weren't given any assurances

1 of that kind by Exova?
 2 A. As I say, it was my understanding that there was
 3 somebody from Exova there. It certainly wasn't
 4 Mr Ashton because I know Mr Ashton, I worked with him
 5 when I first went into local government.
 6 Q. So who else from Exova do you recall?
 7 A. Well, I knew Mr Pearson.
 8 Q. Right.
 9 A. But, as I say, it's a meeting a long time ago, there was
 10 quite a number of people at that meeting, and who those
 11 companies were, I can't recall all of those. It was my
 12 understanding that Exova were there, or, you know, it
 13 was a full list of the consultants, but I may have been
 14 mistaken.
 15 Q. Right.
 16 A. But that's my memory.
 17 Q. Who else would the specialist consultant have been,
 18 then?
 19 A. Sorry?
 20 Q. Who would the specialist consultant be that you're
 21 referring to, dealing with fire matters that you have
 22 referred to?
 23 A. Well, as I say -- well, dealing with the cladding and
 24 the insulation -- well, Siderise are a company. I don't
 25 know whether, as I say, they were there. As I say,

1 I was -- and Max Fordham would have been dealing with
 2 the insulation, or would have had an input into it.
 3 Q. Let's see if we can just get to the bottom of this
 4 a little bit more closely.
 5 Could you please go to {MAX00004666}, please, and
 6 just look at page 1. This is the first page of an email
 7 chain, and if we look at page 1 at the bottom, we can
 8 see that this is an email change between Matt Smith of
 9 Max Fordham and Claire Williams of the TMO on
 10 24 November 2014. This is then replied to by
 11 Claire Williams the next day, as you can see from the
 12 top email.
 13 In the email from Matt Smith, he says:
 14 "Evening Claire
 15 "1. We had a meeting this morning with Building
 16 Control regarding the proposed smoke extract system with
 17 Rydon, J S Wright, Studio E and the smoke extract system
 18 supplier (PSB)."
 19 Do you see that?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. The email doesn't say that Siderise was there.
 22 A. No, well --
 23 Q. Do you think you might be mistaken about that?
 24 A. I may have -- as I say, there was a number of people --
 25 quite a number of people at that meeting.

1 Q. You can also see -- and we can look at the whole of the
 2 email if you like -- that the meeting was about the AOV
 3 system, the smoke extract system, and not about the
 4 cladding.
 5 A. Cladding was brought up at that meeting.
 6 Q. It may have been brought up, but it wasn't the subject
 7 of the meeting, was it?
 8 A. No, it wasn't. It wasn't.
 9 Q. If we go to the notes on Acolaid, this is at
 10 {RBK00052478/5}, please. You can see there that here is
 11 your note of that meeting.
 12 A. Yeah.
 13 Q. "Notes: meeting on site with myself, Paul Hanson and
 14 various persons from the design team to go through their
 15 proposals with particular regard to the fire strategy
 16 for the scheme. [see below]."
 17 Then there is an email that's cut and pasted into
 18 this document:
 19 "Hi Paul,
 20 "Further to our telephone conversation regarding the
 21 proposed AOV system at Grenfell Tower. I'd like to meet
 22 with yourselves to present the proposed design ..."
 23 It's from David Bradbury at JS Wright, as you can
 24 see.
 25 So looking at that, again, it is right, isn't it,

1 I think, that the subject matter of the meeting was the
 2 AOV system and not the cladding?
 3 A. Yes, but, as I say, it was -- that was the principle
 4 point. We did --
 5 Q. These notes don't recall any confirmation of any kind
 6 from any consultant that the cladding system would
 7 comply with the guidance in Approved Document B, do
 8 they?
 9 A. I recall them saying, "Yes, we will do that" at the
 10 meet -- whether it's the contractor or what, that they
 11 would provide that information.
 12 Q. Sorry, what information?
 13 A. Sorry, we went through the four schemes, the four
 14 methods of complying with B4. They said, "Yes, we'll do
 15 that".
 16 Q. Who said, "Yes, we'll do that"?
 17 A. Somebody at the meeting. That's my recollection at the
 18 time.
 19 Q. When you say in your statement "the specialist engineer"
 20 or "specialist consultant", can you recall what
 21 specialism?
 22 A. No, I can't, sorry.
 23 Q. I put to you that these notes don't record any
 24 confirmation from any consultant of any specialism that
 25 the cladding would comply with Approved Document B. If

1 a statement to that effect had been made, I have to
 2 suggest to you that you would have recorded it in your
 3 note, as seen here on the document in front of us.
 4 A. That's my recollection at the time. I didn't put it in
 5 the note.
 6 Q. Right.
 7 Are you quite sure it was the four routes to
 8 compliance as opposed to three?
 9 A. The four, as I mentioned, those are the four that are
 10 mentioned in Approved Document B.
 11 Q. The reason I ask is because the BCA guidance that came
 12 out in June of 2014 referred to three routes to
 13 compliance, and it was only in revision 1 in June of
 14 2015 that there were four options referred to.
 15 A. Could we have a look at the approved document, please?
 16 Q. Yes, indeed, CLG -- which part do you want to look at?
 17 A. I don't know. See, when I was responding to that
 18 particular question, I had the approved document that
 19 I had at home, and whether that was the approved
 20 document that I was using at the time, it may have
 21 superseded that, if you can ... I was using --
 22 Q. Right.
 23 A. It could have been with the amendments.
 24 Q. All right. Well, I don't want to get bogged down in
 25 this.

1 A. Yeah.
 2 Q. Were you aware at the time that, in fact, the BCA
 3 guidance of June 2014 referred to three options, and it
 4 wasn't until June 2015 that four options were
 5 introduced?
 6 (Pause)
 7 A. If that's the case, that's the case.
 8 Q. Okay.
 9 A. As I say, I can't ... I can't recall when those
 10 amendments -- obviously I -- when the amendments come
 11 in, we look at them. But as documents progress,
 12 I wouldn't be able to say, "Yes, that's on that
 13 particular date" or "That's on that particular date" as
 14 regards to Approved Document B.
 15 Q. Right.
 16 Now, can we go, please, to {RYD00018989}. This is
 17 an exchange of emails we saw earlier on in your
 18 evidence. It's the exchange in late September 2014
 19 which culminates with Neil Crawford sending you the
 20 current Exova study, as it was then, and remained, which
 21 is issue 3 of the OFSS.
 22 If you look at the second email down, the second
 23 paragraph down -- this is the 24 September email --
 24 Mr Crawford says to you:
 25 "I believe yourself and Paul Hanson sat down earlier

1 in the year and did an initial appraisal of the proposed
 2 layout changes to the lower levels with Bruce Sounes
 3 from our office . I have included Paul's initial
 4 mark-ups of the fire strategy from this time as well as
 5 a new set which shows that there has been some
 6 simplification to the arrangement on these floors ."
 7 So "these floors" relates to the lower levels .
 8 Now, when you described the purpose of that meeting
 9 as being to discuss the fire strategy for the scheme, do
 10 you mean the fire strategy for the lower four floors ,
 11 which then became the outline fire safety strategy
 12 prepared by Exova?
 13 A. Could you repeat that, sorry?
 14 Q. Yes. At this time --
 15 A. Yeah.
 16 Q. -- let me put it slightly differently -- were you
 17 focusing on the fire strategy only for the lower four
 18 floors .
 19 A. No, no, it would have been the whole building.
 20 Q. Right.
 21 Would it be likely that, if you were told by
 22 a specialist consultant at the meeting in November that
 23 the proposals would comply with ADB, I have to suggest
 24 to you that it's more likely that that was a reference
 25 to the lower floors or the smoke extract system and not

1 to the cladding system?
 2 A. It wasn't my understanding at the time.
 3 Q. All right .
 4 Now, in your second statement you referred to the
 5 24 November 2014 meeting as the "main meeting". We can
 6 go back to that if you like to look at it, but you
 7 remember referring to it as a "main meeting"?
 8 A. Yes, as I say, it was to introduce -- as I say,
 9 obviously we had meetings, but there was -- as I say,
 10 there was a number of consultants at that particular
 11 meeting.
 12 Q. Is it your evidence that you discussed the fire
 13 performance of the works at site meetings other than the
 14 24 November 2014?
 15 A. Yes, it would have come up, yes, in passing.
 16 Q. Do you have any recollection of when those meetings,
 17 other than the 24 November meeting, took place?
 18 A. No. As I say, what would happen when I go into site,
 19 I would sign in and then get the PPE, and either
 20 somebody would collect me from the hut or the office at
 21 the front of the building or I'd go up to the office
 22 myself, and usually would stop and look at various
 23 drawings, find out what was going on, and then somebody
 24 would collect me. It was primarily Jack Sullivan or
 25 Jason North that would usually take me out on site, but

1 Simon Lawrence took me out with Paul on one occasion, or
 2 Simon Lawrence --
 3 Q. I'm going to cut through this, I'm afraid. My question
 4 was a simpler one: do you have any recollection of when
 5 meetings other than the 24 November meeting happened
 6 when the fire performance of the cladding took place?
 7 A. I can't give you specific --
 8 Q. Right.
 9 Do you remember having any discussion at all about
 10 the fire performance of the cladding system
 11 specifically ?
 12 A. It doesn't stand out, sorry.
 13 Q. Right.
 14 I'm then going to turn to a different topic, and
 15 we're going to look at cavity barriers, if we may.
 16 Now, going back to the full plans application, would
 17 you expect the cavity barrier strategy to have been
 18 decided upon by the time the full plans application was
 19 made?
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. That being so, would you expect cavity barriers to be
 22 shown in the drawings which accompanied the full plans
 23 application?
 24 A. I would, but they didn't.
 25 Q. Indeed. Given that they would but they didn't, did you

1 think to chase up some plans which did?
 2 A. I did ask for information.
 3 Q. Yes, that's not quite an answer to my question.
 4 Given that the norm would be that the full plans
 5 application would have drawings which did show
 6 cavity barriers, my question is: given that the drawings
 7 you saw didn't, did you think to chase up drawings which
 8 did show cavity barriers?
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. Right. You say yes, you did think about it; did you do
 11 it?
 12 A. Oh, yes, I do believe I did.
 13 Q. You did? Right. Let's see how we go with this.
 14 In the early part of 2015, do you remember that you
 15 were provided with some further drawings, further to
 16 those you had been shown in September and November 2014,
 17 showing the location of cavity barriers? Do you
 18 remember that in general?
 19 A. I got some details, some details.
 20 Q. I'm going to take you to two drawings and then ask you
 21 some questions at the end.
 22 Let's start with the email we saw before, this
 23 morning, {RYD00034134}. This is Neil Crawford's email
 24 to you of 6 March 2015. I say it's to you; it's to
 25 Paul Hanson, but it's copied to you, and it enclosed or

1 attached some drawings as well as the Harley spec that
 2 we looked at earlier this morning. You can see that he,
 3 Neil Crawford, had received these drawings from
 4 Kevin Lamb, working for Harley, on 3 March. You see
 5 that just below it.
 6 Now, one of these drawings was C1059 201 rev D, and
 7 we can find that at {RYD00034136}. Can we just go to
 8 that. This one is revision D, dated 3 March 2015, and
 9 we can see on it that, if you look at the top right-hand
 10 side, there is a cavity barrier in line with the
 11 compartment floor there. Do you see?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Towards the bottom of the picture.
 14 A. Yeah.
 15 Q. Do you see there is a cavity barrier running in line
 16 with the compartment floor?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Yes? At the bottom left we can see a cavity barrier in
 19 line with the compartment wall; do you see that there
 20 running up?
 21 A. Mm.
 22 Q. Yes? Sorry, is that a yes?
 23 A. Yes, sorry.
 24 Q. Thank you.
 25 When you received these drawings in copy under the

1 Crawford 6 March email, did you open them and look at
 2 them, do you think?
 3 A. I can't recall. I may have. As I say, I can't --
 4 I believe I would have, but I can't say for certain.
 5 Q. Right.
 6 Was 6 March 2015 the first time, do you think, that
 7 you had been provided with details of the cavity barrier
 8 strategy for the external wall?
 9 (Pause)
 10 A. I can't be certain.
 11 Q. Did you actually study this drawing, do you think, or
 12 something like it, which showed cavity barriers in these
 13 positions?
 14 A. There was a number of drawings sent to me with some
 15 sections as well, and I think the question was in
 16 relation to fire times on the firebreaks, wasn't it? Is
 17 that correct?
 18 Q. Well, we'll come to that.
 19 On the assumption that you did look at what you were
 20 sent, did you notice from this drawing that there were
 21 no cavity barriers indicated at the head, jamb or cill
 22 of the windows?
 23 A. It was my understanding that the framework supporting
 24 the windows would act as the cavity barrier.
 25 Q. Well, let's look at a different document, {SEA00002499}.

1 This is an email sent to you later in March by
 2 Neil Crawford, and he sends you a typical bay drawing.
 3 Again, we can see the cavity barriers in line with
 4 the compartment floor and walls, can't we?
 5 A. Mm.
 6 Q. Yes. Looking at this one, did you notice that there
 7 were no cavity barriers indicated at the head, jamb or
 8 cill of the windows?
 9 A. It was my understanding that the framework supporting
 10 the window would act as a cavity barrier.
 11 Q. What was the basis of that understanding, Mr Hoban?
 12 A. If you look at Approved Document B, it calls up that
 13 a steel frame -- framework over a certain thickness can
 14 act as a cavity barrier.
 15 Q. Yes, I don't want to argue with you, but that's right,
 16 isn't it, only if it's made of a particular material,
 17 like steel?
 18 A. Metal -- steel, yes.
 19 Q. Steel, not aluminium.
 20 A. Yes, from my understanding it was steel.
 21 Q. Not aluminium?
 22 A. No, not aluminium.
 23 Q. Given that these were not steel, how could they have
 24 acted as a cavity barrier?
 25 A. My understanding was that it was steel.

1 Q. Who told you that?
 2 A. I can't say. It was always my understanding that the
 3 framework supporting the window was of a thickness of
 4 steel that could act as the cavity barrier.
 5 Q. Well, it could as a matter of theory under ADB. My
 6 question is: did you ever see any drawing, any plan, any
 7 note or have any discussion --
 8 A. I --
 9 Q. -- let me finish the question, please -- about steel
 10 being the material used in those positions to act as
 11 a cavity barrier?
 12 A. That was, as I say, my understanding.
 13 Q. But I want to get to the bottom of the source of your
 14 understanding.
 15 A. I can't answer that. I can't recall.
 16 Q. Right. But it's right, isn't it, I think you have to
 17 accept, that there isn't a single drawing, certainly
 18 that you were ever sent, that showed that steel was to
 19 be used in that location?
 20 A. If we look at the sections, some of the notes, it was
 21 always -- as I say, if we look through the sections that
 22 were sent to me ...
 23 Q. Well, are you saying that there are drawings that you
 24 saw which said that steel was to be used at the head,
 25 jamb and cill of the windows to act as cavity barriers?

1 A. It was -- as I say, it was my understanding that it was
 2 a steel frame that was --
 3 Q. Right.
 4 A. -- supporting.
 5 Q. But I'm trying to get to the bottom -- and perhaps you
 6 can't help me any further -- of the basis or source of
 7 your understanding.
 8 A. I can't give you any ... any other ...
 9 Q. Did you -- I'm sorry, I'll wait for you to have a drink.
 10 (Pause)
 11 Do you agree that there ought to have been
 12 cavity barriers in those locations, so head of the
 13 window --
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. -- jamb and cill, to comply with Approved Document B?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. And particularly diagram 33 of Approved Document B.
 18 A. Yeah, and as I mentioned in my email, I highlight that
 19 particular diagram in some of my emails.
 20 Q. Well, we'll come to that.
 21 Did you ever say to Studio E or to Rydon or to
 22 Harley at any time, "There are no cavity barriers shown
 23 on these drawings at the head, cill or jamb of the
 24 windows, what are you going to do about it"?
 25 A. I can't recall.

1 Q. Did you ever discuss the cavity barrier strategy with
 2 Mr Crawford on site?
 3 A. As I say, I can't recall. Sorry.
 4 Q. Did you check on site to see if cavity barriers were
 5 installed around the windows?
 6 A. When I went to site, the windows were generally -- they
 7 were either not in or they were in and covered in.
 8 Q. Yes, and my question is: did you ever make a check to
 9 see whether cavity barriers had been installed around
 10 the windows where they were already in?
 11 A. I couldn't see.
 12 Q. Did you not ask to see, to check?
 13 A. As I say ...
 14 Q. Do you agree that checking on site is one of the primary
 15 functions of a Building Control officer?
 16 A. I saw the other cavity barriers going in, which were
 17 exposed, but the windows were enclosed at the time.
 18 Q. Did you not ask for a window to be removed so you could
 19 check what was behind it to make sure that the window
 20 opening, as an opening under diagram 33, was adequately
 21 protected by a cavity barrier?
 22 A. I didn't ask.
 23 Q. Why?
 24 A. I saw the other ones, and I saw the other works going on
 25 inside the building, and they were doing the

1 firestopping in the other areas, and in the
 2 cavity barriers, and I just felt it -- at the time,
 3 I didn't ask. In hindsight, yes, I can see that that --
 4 I should have, but at the time I didn't consider it
 5 necessary.
 6 Q. Did you give conscious thought to whether it was
 7 necessary and decide that it wasn't or did you just not
 8 consider it at all?
 9 A. No. I perhaps didn't consider it at all at that time.
 10 As I say, I saw the other works going on, which I was
 11 happy with, and I saw the -- as I say, it -- the works
 12 that I saw were -- what I saw were of an adequate
 13 standard, so I didn't feel -- to take it any further.
 14 Q. Are you telling us that because what you did see was to
 15 an adequate standard, you didn't check this particular
 16 compliance requirement?
 17 A. No, I didn't. As I say, they were covered -- when
 18 I would go on site, either the windows were in or the
 19 windows hadn't been done.
 20 Q. Do you accept that your failure to identify the missing
 21 cavity barriers generically around the windows on this
 22 building was a fundamental failing on your part?
 23 A. I should have checked -- as I say, I saw the other ones
 24 and I didn't feel it was necessary to have a window
 25 exposed.

1 Q. I'm bound to put it to you, Mr Hoban, that that failure
 2 to check the window openings for the presence of
 3 cavity barriers fell below the standards of a reasonably
 4 competent Building Control inspector. Do you accept
 5 that?
 6 (Pause)
 7 A. As I say, in hindsight, yes, but I didn't see it as
 8 an issue at the time.
 9 Q. Now, going back to the question of steel, can I just
 10 show you one drawing, {HAR00006598}, please. This is
 11 a drawing -- this is an email, actually, in the first
 12 instance, which provides revised rails and full set out
 13 information attached for W1 and cladding, and here is
 14 a drawing that was sent to you. That shows, if we look
 15 at L10 -- I'm afraid it's going to have to be blown up,
 16 but if you look at the right-hand side of this drawing,
 17 and it may be difficult to see it, you can see on the
 18 right-hand side -- perhaps it's too difficult to see --
 19 that the framework is composed of aluminium. It's
 20 item L10.
 21 A. I can't see that.
 22 Q. It may not be easy to see it, but ...
 23 (Pause)
 24 A. No, I can't see it.
 25 Q. No, it's difficult to tell. It is difficult to tell,

1 but would you accept, I think, this much: that the
 2 drawings you were sent showed that the framework was
 3 aluminium and not steel?
 4 A. Sorry, I can't see it.
 5 Q. Perhaps we should scroll down to the bottom of the
 6 drawing.
 7 Ah, okay, right, now --
 8 A. Here you go.
 9 Q. What I want to look at is the right-hand side, item L10.
 10 If you go down a bit further, there it is, you can see
 11 L10:
 12 "PPC Aluminium louvre with [apertures]."
 13 And:
 14 "New double glazed PPC Aluminium central."
 15 Do you see that?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. No reference to steel there at all.
 18 If you checked this drawing, you would have realised
 19 that the framework was not steel but aluminium, wouldn't
 20 you?
 21 A. No, that's referring to the window.
 22 Q. Yes, but there is no other reference to anything around
 23 the windows to show that there was a steel bracket or
 24 angle which would operate as a cavity barrier.
 25 A. My reading of the drawing is that there's an angle there

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1 that is steel.
 2 Q. How do you get to that?
 3 A. Well, there is an angle supporting it underneath. It's
 4 not -- there's no note.
 5 Q. No, there's no note.
 6 A. No.
 7 Q. So why did you think it was steel?
 8 A. That was my understanding at the time.
 9 Q. Right.
 10 Did you ever have any discussion or did you ever
 11 check, either by looking at drawings or discussions
 12 on site, whether there were cavity barriers installed at
 13 the junction between the crown and the cladding at the
 14 top?
 15 A. I looked at that and my understanding of the requirement
 16 for cavity barriers, it wasn't required under that
 17 particular aspect.
 18 Q. What was the reasoning that led you to that conclusion?
 19 A. Because it wasn't a concealed space.
 20 Q. I see. So the crown wasn't a concealed space?
 21 A. Yeah.
 22 Q. I see.
 23 A. And --
 24 Q. But it was --
 25 A. And it describes in the table where they're to be

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1 provided, and it doesn't call up that particular area.
 2 Q. Did you not understand from diagram 33 that the top of
 3 a cavity had to be closed?
 4 A. It is closed.
 5 Q. You say, "It is closed"; closed by what?
 6 A. A cavity barrier. If we scroll down, or scroll up,
 7 I should say --
 8 Q. Let's go to the top of this. I'm not sure this --
 9 A. Yeah.
 10 Q. Yes, we can see it.
 11 A. If we can scroll up a bit, please.
 12 Q. Yes. Which bit are you referring to?
 13 A. Sorry, can we scroll up a bit more, please?
 14 Q. I think you mean scroll down, do you?
 15 A. Scroll down, sorry.
 16 Q. Right.
 17 A. Right. My understanding was the cavity barrier at the
 18 head would act as that.
 19 Q. Cavity barrier ... can you point out on this drawing,
 20 given that this shows where the crown is --
 21 A. Do you mind if I come over?
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, can you describe it?
 23 A. Right. Where the roof is, there is a cavity barrier
 24 directly above the window head at roof level.
 25 MR MILLETT: I see. Are you referring to the small

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1 cross-hatched box?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Immediately above the window?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. You say that closes the space adequately for the
 6 purposes of diagram 33? Is that what you are saying?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. Right, I follow.
 9 Was that a decision or conclusion you reached at the
 10 time when looking at this drawing?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. I follow.
 13 A. I believe so.
 14 Q. I'm now going to turn to a different topic or a subtopic
 15 of cavity barriers, which is the question of the type of
 16 cavity barriers used at Grenfell Tower. I want to begin
 17 with your exchanges about Studio E about that subject in
 18 March 2015.
 19 Can we start with {SEA00000252}. This is an email
 20 addressed to Paul Hanson from Neil Crawford, copied to
 21 you, 6 March 2015. It's the one we've now seen,
 22 I think, three times this morning in the course of your
 23 evidence, because it encloses the diagrams and, indeed,
 24 the Harley spec as well.
 25 He says:

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1 "... this reminded me of another issue."
 2 Again, I've read this to you before, but I will go
 3 back to it :
 4 "Where we are over cladding what fire rating do we
 5 need to allow for within the wall build up between
 6 apartments (see below and attached)?"
 7 We can see here that Neil Crawford was going
 8 straight to Paul Hanson rather than raising a query via
 9 you, and that was contrary to your request at the
 10 beginning of your involvement, as we saw yesterday. Was
 11 that -- sorry, you wanted to say something?
 12 A. No, sorry, no.
 13 Q. Was that quite a common occurrence on this project?
 14 A. No, it happened from time to time, because again, there
 15 were times where I wasn't available , and maybe they had
 16 difficulty contacting me. As I say, I was attending
 17 a couple of hospitals at the time, and also looking
 18 after my mother, so there may have been times where it
 19 was difficult to get in contact with me.
 20 Q. Right.
 21 A. So ...
 22 Q. Did you think that this was something about the external
 23 wall construction, so the cladding system, or something
 24 about internal walls, in other words walls between
 25 compartments?

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1 A. I think there was some confusion. They used the word
 2 "firebreaks ", and the approved document goes on about
 3 cavity barriers and firestopping .
 4 Q. Indeed.
 5 A. And that's where I believe there was some confusion.
 6 Q. Just focusing on this email, when you received it , where
 7 Neil Crawford states the issue -- it's a simpler
 8 question than that -- did you think this was something
 9 to do with the external wall construction or something
 10 interior to the building?
 11 A. I'm not certain at this stage, as I say, because there
 12 was some confusion at the time.
 13 Q. Right.
 14 Let's go to {SEA00012927}. This is Paul Hanson's
 15 reply to Neil Crawford of 10 March 2015, copied to you,
 16 and he says this is really your area because it's a B3
 17 matter. Then he goes on:
 18 "... but effectively , if you mean fire resistance ,
 19 the walls between apartments are compartment walls so
 20 the construction should achieve the same fire time as
 21 the elements of construction for the building - the fire
 22 time depends upon the height of the building as
 23 described in 1.A of Table A2 ADB."
 24 First of all , did you agree with that response?
 25 A. I think Paul was just giving them guidance to ... he was

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1 referring to a particular area, but I still believe
 2 there was some confusion in the answer.
 3 Q. All right . But as far as the answer goes, did you in
 4 your own mind agree with it?
 5 A. As regards fire times for the building, yes.
 6 Q. Okay.
 7 You can see from this that it was being put on to
 8 your desk as a B3 matter --
 9 A. Yeah.
 10 Q. -- from that, and we can then see Mr Crawford's reply
 11 the next day {SEA00000260}. This is 11 March 2015 now.
 12 He then makes it clear in this email which we are
 13 waiting for -- he says, "Hi Paul/John", so this was
 14 coming to both of you:
 15 "To clarify what we were trying to understand here
 16 was the requirement for fire stopping within the wall
 17 build up where the cladding cassettes are mounted over
 18 the old cladding. Are you saying these should mirror
 19 the internal compartments (ie 60min and 120min [60min
 20 horizontally at floors])?"
 21 Following that email, did you now understand his
 22 query to be relating to firestops or to cavity barriers?
 23 What did you think?
 24 A. At the time I thought it was to do with firestopping .
 25 Q. Right.

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1 A. At that time.
 2 Q. Why was that?
 3 A. I can't ... I think my understanding was that it was
 4 firestop -- or firestopping inside or it was --
 5 as I say, I think there was some confusion at the time.
 6 Q. Right.
 7 Did you ever have any experience of advising on
 8 cavity barriers in an external wall construction? I say
 9 advising; doing your job --
 10 A. In a building of this height?
 11 Q. Well, let's start with buildings of a height below
 12 18 metres.
 13 I'll put the question again.
 14 A. Yes.
 15 Q. As a Building Control officer --
 16 A. Oh, yes, yes.
 17 Q. You did? What about buildings over 18 metres?
 18 A. This was the first time.
 19 Q. This was the first . So you thought there was some
 20 confusion.
 21 Let's move on, then. Go to {RBK00048732}, please.
 22 This is Paul Hanson's email to you, having received this
 23 email from Neil Crawford, and he says:
 24 "Hi John,
 25 "I am not sure what is being referred to it may be

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1 that he means the external enclosure to the building -
 2 therefore it is a B4 matter can you deal with (sic).”
 3 “Regards.
 4 “Paul Hanson.”
 5 When you received that email, did you agree with his
 6 interpretation of the question that was being asked of
 7 both of you?
 8 A. Sorry, could you repeat the question?
 9 Q. Yes. When you received that email, where he says it’s
 10 a B4 matter, did you agree with him that it was a B4
 11 matter?
 12 A. At that time, I felt it was -- could have been a B3 or
 13 a B4 matter, I believe .
 14 Q. Right.
 15 A. Because when considering part B, you’ve got to take into
 16 account other parts of part B.
 17 Q. Were you clear in your own mind about what Neil Crawford
 18 was asking by this point?
 19 A. No, I don’t think I was.
 20 Q. Did you and Paul Hanson, apart from this email here,
 21 discuss the requirements for compartmentation in the
 22 external wall?
 23 A. Yeah, I believe I got some guidance from him.
 24 Q. At this point?
 25 A. At this point or soon after .

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1 Q. Right. Was that guidance in writing or on the telephone
 2 or a meeting?
 3 A. No, Paul and I would have discussed it in the office .
 4 Q. Right. Do you remember what he told you?
 5 A. No, I think we ... as the email chain transpires ,
 6 I asked for one standard, then I agree for a standard of
 7 30 minutes.
 8 Q. Right.
 9 Just as a side question, Mr Crawford in his evidence
 10 suggested that this issue had been discussed on site
 11 before 3 March 2015. Do you recall that?
 12 A. I don’t recall , no.
 13 Q. Right.
 14 Can we move on, then, to {SEA00012953}. This is
 15 an email from Ben Bailey, the Harley project manager,
 16 who was now in charge, on 18 March 2015 to Neil Crawford
 17 and Simon Lawrence, and it’s copied to others within
 18 Harley, but also to you, Mr Hoban, as we can see.
 19 A. Yeah.
 20 Q. He says, and this is to Neil Crawford:
 21 “The firebreak supplier (who it seems was involved
 22 with Grenfell at the specification stage) has made
 23 a comment and I’d like to clarify what firebreaks are
 24 required.
 25 “Could you confirm what the vertical and horizontal

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1 requirement is please, the spec and supplier technical
 2 rep say very different things!”
 3 Did this help you clarify the issue that had arisen
 4 earlier?
 5 A. No.
 6 Q. He has referred here to the specification . I think you
 7 hadn’t seen that, had you?
 8 A. No. I don’t believe I had.
 9 Q. Did you ask -- I don’t think we’ve seen you do this , but
 10 I don’t think you asked to see the specification at that
 11 point.
 12 A. No.
 13 Q. Why is that?
 14 A. As I say, I just -- I may have just -- I was copied in
 15 on it . As I say, I just read it and ...
 16 Q. Right.
 17 We can then see that this is discussed. There is
 18 an email at {SEA00012963}, if we go there, please. This
 19 is an email from you to Neil Crawford on 20 March, so
 20 two days later , after Mr Bailey’s question which he had
 21 copied you in on. You say to Neil Crawford:
 22 “Thank you for returning my call this morning.
 23 “Further to my conversation with you today, I would
 24 confirm that the fire time for the new Elements of
 25 Structure [new columns, beams, sections of compartment

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1 floor etc.] in Grenfell Tower is 120 minutes, as
 2 specified in section 1a of Table A2, Appendix A of
 3 Approved Document B.
 4 “I would also draw your attention to diagram 33 of
 5 Approved Document B and highlight the detail between
 6 compartment floors and external cladding. In the
 7 meantime should you wish to discuss any other aspects of
 8 the project Neil, then please do not hesitate to call
 9 me, my direct line contact number is ...”
 10 In the first part of that email you have referred to
 11 his returning your call that morning, the morning of
 12 20 March 2015. Can you recall what you discussed during
 13 that call?
 14 A. No, I can’t, sorry.
 15 Q. Did he clarify for you that the query was about
 16 cavity barriers as opposed to firestops?
 17 A. Maybe. I can’t be certain .
 18 Q. Right.
 19 Now, you refer here to two things, don’t you? You
 20 refer first to the fire time for new elements of
 21 structure which had to be 120 minutes for
 22 Grenfell Tower.
 23 A. Yeah.
 24 Q. Was that what you discussed with Neil Crawford that
 25 morning, do you think?

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1 A. It was perhaps one of the items, but I can't be certain.
 2 Q. All right.
 3 The other thing you refer to is diagram 33, and you
 4 highlight, as we see, the detail between compartment
 5 floors and external cladding, you can see that.
 6 What were you seeking to tell Neil Crawford by
 7 giving him this information?
 8 A. That he should look at that particular diagram.
 9 Q. Right. How was that relevant to the issue that you were
 10 addressing, did you think, at the time?
 11 A. Maybe that some of the drawings that were sent to me
 12 didn't show or showed very little detail as regards --
 13 Q. Right. You certainly don't spell that out in your email
 14 to him, do you?
 15 A. No.
 16 Q. Why is that?
 17 A. Well, I'm just drawing his attention -- I would expect
 18 him to understand that requirement and I'm just
 19 highlighting that particular -- it's just the way I have
 20 actually gone about drawing his attention to it.
 21 Q. Can we then move to {SEA00013034}. This is an email run
 22 which starts, or rather ends, as these things tend to,
 23 at the top of page 1, but the email I want to show you
 24 is the second email down on page 1, where Neil Crawford
 25 emails you on 27 March 2015, copied to Terry Ashton and

1 Paul Hanson, and he says:
 2 "Hi John
 3 "There has been a lot of conversation on site about
 4 the cavity fire barrier requirements to be fitted
 5 between the existing concrete external wall panels and
 6 the new external rain screen aluminium cassettes.
 7 "Can you please see the proposal by the cladding
 8 contractor below and confirm if this is acceptable to
 9 you."
 10 You see that?
 11 A. Yeah.
 12 Q. Now, if we look down to the email immediately below it,
 13 you can see that there is an email from a gentleman
 14 called Ricky Kay at Siderise sent the day before,
 15 26 March 2015, to Ben Bailey. So this is now coming on
 16 to you. He, Mr Kay, tells Mr Bailey:
 17 "Hi Ben,
 18 "Apologies for the delay ...
 19 "Please find below extract from the Approved
 20 Document B ..."
 21 If you go over to page 2 {SEA00013034/2}, you can
 22 see there is an extract from table A1 --
 23 A. Yeah.
 24 Q. -- where he says, having set it out:
 25 "Here you can see that it clearly states that

1 30 minutes fire integrity and 15 minutes insulation is
 2 all that is required from a cavity fire barrier."
 3 You see what he says there. He goes on to say --
 4 and I'm summarising -- that they're offering 90 minutes'
 5 integrity and 30 minutes' insulation, which exceeds the
 6 requirements.
 7 In the next paragraph, he says:
 8 "120 minute fire rating is generally the industry
 9 standard for curtain wall to concrete slab edge
 10 firestopping where the firestop is located on the inside
 11 of a building and is considered to be a continuation of
 12 the floor slab."
 13 A. Yeah.
 14 Q. Now, after that email comes, I think you speak to
 15 Neil Crawford again. Do you remember that?
 16 A. Er --
 17 Q. After you see this email?
 18 A. I don't recall it, but, as I say, I most probably did.
 19 Q. We can pin that down in a document, {SEA00013022},
 20 please. This is an email from Neil Crawford also on
 21 27 March 2015, and he reports the conversation that he
 22 has had with you to Simon Lawrence. If you look at the
 23 top of that page, can you see he says:
 24 "Hi Simon
 25 "Have spoken with John and he wasn't happy with

1 Harley's email as we are talking about fire stopping as
 2 opposed to cavity barriers."
 3 The Harley email is the one that you saw earlier,
 4 which is Ben Bailey's to Simon Lawrence, where he says,
 5 "See below the email from the firebreak supplier", and
 6 I know it's a complex email chain, but my question is:
 7 do you remember having a conversation with Neil Crawford
 8 again after having received what Siderise had sent?
 9 A. I had a number of conversations with him.
 10 Q. Right. Do you remember telling him that you weren't
 11 happy with Harley's email because the issue was about
 12 firestopping and not cavity barriers?
 13 A. Maybe. As I say, it's ... it's so long ago. As I say,
 14 I had a number of conversations with him, it's --
 15 Q. Right.
 16 A. You know, I ...
 17 Q. It looks, on the face of these emails, that as at
 18 27 March, your view was that firestops were required in
 19 the cladding and that those should be 120 minutes.
 20 A. I think there was -- as I say, there was still some
 21 confusion -- I think they used the word "firebreaks" or
 22 there was some confusion, and then I went and had
 23 a conversation with Paul and we had some other drawings
 24 sent to us, and then that's -- at a later stage, we got
 25 to the end of it, because I think there's some more

1 emails that come.
2 Q. There are, we're going to go to them, although it will
3 probably be after lunch.
4 Just to be clear about this, are you saying that you
5 had a conversation with Paul Hanson at this stage, late
6 March 2015?
7 A. I believe I did -- we had discussions --
8 Q. At this stage?
9 A. In the office, yes.
10 Q. The reason I ask is that we have seen that this
11 conversation starts on 6 March and this confusion lasts
12 for a number of weeks, and still, it seems, hasn't been
13 cleared up by 27 March.
14 A. Yeah, well, they hadn't come back -- they started
15 originally with Paul back on 6 March and then I --
16 as I say, I got involved at a -- what date did I start
17 getting -- my emails start?
18 Q. 6 March is when it starts.
19 A. Was it? Sorry.
20 Q. Yes, yes. So are you saying that this confusion had
21 really --
22 A. Had gone on.
23 Q. During that time, Neil Crawford never made it clear to
24 you precisely what it was he was asking?
25 A. I think, as I say, there was still confusion.

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1 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I think that's a convenient --
2 well, it's a moment, anyway. I am afraid I am in the
3 middle of this run.
4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I think it would be best to
5 stop in any event.
6 Mr Hoban, I think it's time we all had a break for
7 some lunch. So we will stop now. We will come back at
8 2 o'clock, please.
9 Again, please don't talk to anyone about your
10 evidence or anything to do with it.
11 THE WITNESS: No, thank you.
12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? Thank you.
13 (Pause)
14 Thank you, 2 o'clock, please. Thank you.
15 (1.02 pm)
16 (The short adjournment)
17 (2.00 pm)
18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, Mr Hoban, are you ready to
19 carry on?
20 THE WITNESS: Yes.
21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.
22 Yes, Mr Millett.
23 MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.
24 Mr Hoban, can we go back to {SEA00013034}, which is
25 the email from Neil Crawford to you of 30 March. We saw

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1 this email string earlier, and this is now the top of
2 the email sent on that day at 12.49:
3 "Hi John
4 "Ben Bailey from Harley's is who you might ask for."
5 And he gives you his phone number.
6 Had you spoken to Neil Crawford again in the days
7 before that email?
8 A. I believe so, but I can't be absolutely certain. As
9 I said, we had a number of conversations over the time.
10 Q. Did you ask to speak to someone at Harley or was this
11 Mr Crawford suggesting it?
12 A. I can't recall. Sorry.
13 Q. Did you speak to Ben Bailey?
14 A. You know, this is five years ago.
15 Q. You don't remember whether you did or you didn't; is
16 that what you are saying?
17 A. I don't -- yes, yes.
18 Q. Now, if we go to {SEA00013036}, please, we can see that
19 about an hour half later on the same day, at 14.22, you
20 email a group of people including Ben Bailey and
21 Ricky Kay at Siderise, as you can see, and also
22 Terry Ashton at Exova. You say that your
23 interpretation -- and I'm summarising -- of diagram 33
24 is that the detail between compartment floors and the
25 cladding is not a cavity barrier and should be

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1 a firestop to at least 120 minutes. I'm summarising the
2 email.
3 Were you aware of any debate within the industry or
4 within BCO circles about whether diagram 33 required
5 a firestop or a cavity barrier within a rainscreen
6 cladding system?
7 A. I believe I had subsequent discussions with Paul
8 afterwards, and, as I say, there was a confusion about
9 the word "firebreak" or "firestopping" and
10 "cavity barrier", and that's where I believe the
11 confusion arose.
12 Q. Indeed.
13 A. But in answer to your question --
14 Q. Right.
15 A. -- sorry, I'm not aware, as far as I can recall.
16 Q. Now, we then go to {SEA00000265}, which is the next
17 email from Neil Crawford the following day,
18 31 March 2015, and he says:
19 "Hi John
20 "Unfortunately this problem is not going away.
21 "The subject of fire barriers is raising a lot of
22 concern on site not least because of program and cost.
23 I have forwarded a copy of diagram 33 and the typical
24 floor detail and we are all miffed [I think he might
25 mean mystified, I'm not sure] as to why this detail is

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1 not a cavity barrier in this location - please see
 2 attached. The relationship between the back of slab and
 3 cladding remains the same as the original cladding
 4 (concrete) is retained and therefore the integrity of
 5 this relationship at floor level has not been affected.
 6 The new cladding constitutes an additional layer applied
 7 on top not a new floor slab interface and therefore the
 8 interpretation is that this constitutes a cavity barrier
 9 and not a fire stop. This has now become something of
 10 an issue on site due to program bottle neck and so your
 11 earliest response to this would be appreciated ..."
 12 Now, he annotated a copy of diagram 33 and he
 13 attached that to the email. Do you remember seeing
 14 that?
 15 A. Not now.
 16 Q. Right.
 17 A. Not now, as --
 18 Q. Okay. I will just put it up in front of you and see if
 19 you do. It's {EXO00001296}. You can see that here is
 20 diagram 33, and he puts in red writing in a box in the
 21 left-hand bottom corner of the diagram:
 22 "Our firestopping is in the grey location and not
 23 between floor slab/back of retained concrete cladding."
 24 You see that.
 25 Did you have any thoughts about that?

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1 A. I can't recall, sorry.
 2 Q. Right.
 3 Let's go to {HAR00013719/2}, which is the final
 4 email in this run, where you write to Neil Crawford,
 5 copied to Simon Lawrence, on 1 April 2015, and you say:
 6 "Thank you for your email and for the attached
 7 drawing, showing typical cladding details. The matter
 8 has now become more clearer.
 9 "I would advise you that I have no adverse comments
 10 to make on the proposals shown on your drawing 1279 (06)
 11 110 rev. 00, with regards to compliance with Parts B2
 12 and B3 in Schedule 1 of the building regulations."
 13 Did you mean parts B3 and B4 there?
 14 A. It should have meant B2, B3 and B4.
 15 Q. It should have meant B2, B3 and B4?
 16 A. B2, B3 and B4.
 17 Q. I see.
 18 Now, we can see that you now have no comments. No
 19 adverse comments.
 20 A. No adverse comments.
 21 Q. What caused you to change your mind?
 22 A. I believe I had discussions with Paul. As I say, it's
 23 so long ago -- as I say, it became clearer. It just
 24 became clearer --
 25 Q. What was it that clarified your mind?

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1 A. I'd only be guessing and I --
 2 Q. No, we don't want you to guess.
 3 Was this the first time in your career that you had
 4 been asked to give a view on cavity barriers within
 5 a rainscreen cladding system, do you think?
 6 A. Yes, it was the first time.
 7 Q. Was this the first time that you had looked at
 8 diagram 33 in the context of a rainscreen cladding
 9 system?
 10 A. Yes, as a rainscreen cladding system, yes, but not --
 11 Q. When you -- I'm sorry.
 12 A. Sorry.
 13 Q. When you said -- I'm so sorry, did you want to continue
 14 your answer?
 15 A. But obviously I looked at it in relation to other
 16 buildings that I'd dealt with.
 17 Q. When you said you had no adverse comments to make, as we
 18 can see here from this email, did you mean in relation
 19 to the cladding system as a whole, as detailed on the
 20 drawing he was sending you to which you refer, or do you
 21 mean just the cavity barrier issue that had prompted
 22 Neil Crawford to send you the drawing in the first
 23 place?
 24 A. The cavity barrier. I should have perhaps made it
 25 clearer --

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1 Q. Right.
 2 A. -- at that stage.
 3 Q. Right. I see. It may just be worth looking at the
 4 drawing itself. It's {SEA00013045}.
 5 A. Or -- sorry, may I qualify that?
 6 Q. Yes.
 7 A. In relation to the horizontal and the Siderise
 8 cavity barriers.
 9 Q. At the compartment floors and walls?
 10 A. Yeah.
 11 Q. I see. So you weren't dealing with the cavity barriers
 12 round the windows question?
 13 A. No, I was dealing with the horizontal --
 14 Q. Right.
 15 A. -- and the vertical.
 16 Q. I see. Well, this is the drawing that you were sent,
 17 and there is nothing on here, I think you can take it
 18 from me, that actually tells you what the rating of the
 19 cavity barrier to be used was.
 20 Do you recall noting that there wasn't anything
 21 about the rating?
 22 A. I think in other emails there was -- referring to the
 23 standard.
 24 Q. Well, yes, we certainly saw the Ricky Kay email earlier,
 25 but there is nothing in the drawing about it. Did that

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1 not ring a bell with you, or an alarm bell particularly?
 2 A. No, as I say, we were discussing the standard of the
 3 fire barriers in various previous emails, and it was
 4 a question of whether it was 120 or the lower standard.
 5 Q. Yes.
 6 Just moving on, then, while we're on this drawing,
 7 you can see that it's dated 24 September 2013 and this
 8 is now March 2015; did you wonder why you were being
 9 sent a drawing of that antiquity at this point in the
 10 project?
 11 A. Well, that was the drawing that was proposed, so I --
 12 Q. Indeed it was.
 13 A. -- assumed that was what they were working to, you know,
 14 they were giving me an up-to-date -- or a drawing that
 15 they were constructing because that's the drawing that
 16 was sent to me.
 17 Q. Did you not go back to them and say, "Well, why are you
 18 sending me a drawing that's 18 months out of date?"
 19 A. Well, I don't know whether it was 18 months out of date.
 20 Q. Okay. If we just blow up the "Proposed Section -
 21 Typical Bay" on the top right -- we may not be able to
 22 see enough of it. I'm not sure we can see enough of it
 23 for me to ask my question. But did you realise that
 24 this -- that may help. You can see, I think, from --
 25 there we are, if we just go across, you can see from the

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1 various references to H92, so the fifth bubble down,
 2 there is a reference to "zinc cladding", and also
 3 halfway down, "zinc", and two-thirds of the way down,
 4 reference to zinc, or at the very bottom also, "H92
 5 zinc". Did it not strike you that you were being sent
 6 a drawing which described zinc panels in circumstances
 7 where you knew by this stage that the swap had been made
 8 to ACM?
 9 A. I was focusing on the question that they asked in
 10 relation to cavity barriers.
 11 Q. Right.
 12 A. So I felt I was answering their question as regards that
 13 particular item.
 14 Q. We can see that this drawing doesn't show
 15 cavity barriers at jamb or cill level round the windows.
 16 Again, did it strike you as something from this?
 17 A. As I mentioned to you before, it was my view that there
 18 was cavity barriers by framework supporting the windows.
 19 Q. Right.
 20 Now, can we then turn to some questions about
 21 workmanship. I think you say in your second statement
 22 at paragraph 34g [RBK00050416/11] that you weren't
 23 trained to check on the tested and specified method of
 24 installation of cavity barriers?
 25 A. That was in relation to -- sorry, in relation to

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1 cladding systems. Sorry. I should have been more clear
 2 in my answer.
 3 Q. That's all right, but in relation to cladding systems?
 4 A. Yes.
 5 Q. That's probably good enough for my purposes.
 6 Did that lack of training mean that, in relation to
 7 this rainscreen system, you were not able to identify
 8 whether cavity barriers were properly cut into position?
 9 A. No.
 10 Q. And whether horizontal barriers were installed in
 11 a vertical orientation?
 12 A. No, as --
 13 Q. What about the ability to spot whether cavity barriers
 14 which had an intumescent strip had been installed with
 15 the strip facing the wrong way, so into the building,
 16 would you have been trained to spot that and pick it up?
 17 A. I would pick it up through reading the documents, but
 18 I didn't any, as it were, formal training. That's
 19 something that I would know through reading the
 20 documentation, that that was the way it was to be done,
 21 as I say, because the vertical barriers had to be
 22 close-fitting to the actual cladding system themselves.
 23 Q. Yes.
 24 A. And the lugs would have been at a different centre to
 25 the horizontal ones, and the horizontal barriers had

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1 a gap in order that it ventilated.
 2 Q. Now, Ben Bailey, who was the project manager of Harley
 3 on the site from February 2015 onwards, has said to
 4 the Inquiry, having been shown some photographs taken of
 5 the building after the fire, that he was shocked to
 6 discover that there were horizontal cavity barriers
 7 installed in a vertical position, and also, what is
 8 more, the wrong way round, with the intumescent strips
 9 facing into the building.
 10 Why did you not pick those errors up as part of your
 11 inspections?
 12 A. The areas I saw were fine, as I say, they were -- it was
 13 a process that they were putting the barriers in and
 14 covering up as they went, and the areas that I saw were
 15 okay.
 16 Q. Did you check the installation of vertical and
 17 horizontal cavity barriers --
 18 A. I --
 19 Q. -- and their correctness as part of your routine visits?
 20 A. When I went up on the climber, yes, I did.
 21 Q. You did.
 22 Can I ask you to go to {BSD00001422}, please. This
 23 is an email from Neil Crawford to Terry Ashton of
 24 18 September 2014. You're not copied in on this, but he
 25 says to Terry Ashton in the second sentence:

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1 "Having just finished several weeks of fire stopping
 2 checks on the Kensington Aldridge Academy where
 3 John Hoban crawled into almost every conceivable cavity
 4 possible with a torch (including nearly falling through
 5 a suspended ceiling!) we need to be clear on our
 6 position before going to building control."
 7 So when you were going into these cavities , were you
 8 looking at firestopping or cavity barriers themselves on
 9 that project, KALC?
 10 A. It would be a mixture.
 11 Q. Why didn't you take the same thorough approach on the
 12 Grenfell Tower project that you were taking on --
 13 A. I did.
 14 Q. You didn't, so far as we can see it , crawl into almost
 15 every conceivable cavity with a torch, did you?
 16 A. I think he's over exaggerating there in his description .
 17 As I say, this was suspended ceilings, this sort of
 18 thing.
 19 Q. Right.
 20 A. So, as I say, it 's internally , as I say, looking at
 21 cavity barriers in suspended ceilings .
 22 Q. Did you actually ever get to see cavity barriers on site
 23 before parts of them were covered up by layers of
 24 insulation?
 25 A. There was works in progress and I saw them working on

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1 them.
 2 Q. Right.
 3 A. And, as I say, I -- you know, what I saw at the time was
 4 satisfactory .
 5 Q. Well, we have heard some evidence earlier in
 6 the Inquiry, and I'm summarising it, that the
 7 cavity barriers , when fitted, wouldn't be exposed for
 8 very long because the wind would remove them, and they
 9 needed to be held in place, essentially , by the
 10 application of the insulation .
 11 My question is: did you ever see the fitting of the
 12 cavity barriers before the insulation was applied and
 13 covered them up?
 14 A. I went at a moment in time and I saw what I saw on those
 15 particular days.
 16 Q. I know, but I'm just asking you whether when you went
 17 and saw what you saw on those particular days, did you
 18 ever see cavity barriers fitted before they were covered
 19 up by insulation?
 20 A. I can't recall .
 21 Q. Did you ever notice on site that horizontal
 22 cavity barriers on the spandrels at the compartment
 23 floor lines were located at a distance from the head of
 24 the window, so some way up the spandrel panel?
 25 A. Not on the ones that I viewed.

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1 Q. Right.
 2 Did you ever notice that the Studio E drawings
 3 showed a cavity barrier immediately at the head of the
 4 window?
 5 A. In the floor line , in line with the floor? Yes.
 6 Q. Did anybody tell you, when you went to site on the
 7 occasions you did, that a decision had been made to
 8 raise the cavity barrier even higher than had been shown
 9 in the Harley drawings to a position higher than that so
 10 as to avoid penetrating the EPDM membrane around the
 11 windows?
 12 A. No.
 13 Q. Did you ever yourself measure the distance of the
 14 cavity barrier above the windows from the head of the
 15 window itself?
 16 A. I looked at them on site and saw that the ones that
 17 I checked were in line with the floor .
 18 Q. Did you ever see a mock-up or jig or physical model,
 19 created either by Harley or by Osborne Berry, which
 20 showed the precise location where the cavity barriers
 21 should be and measure that against the drawings?
 22 A. I wasn't invited to see a mock-up.
 23 Q. Right.
 24 Can I just ask you one or two questions, then, about
 25 the windows.

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1 Can I start with {RYD00024038}. This is an email
 2 from Neil Crawford of 18 November 2014, and I showed you
 3 this this morning. It refers to changes being made to
 4 the design of the windows, and he refers there to the
 5 need to make a planning application . He asks you
 6 whether you have any issues with the general operation.
 7 You can see that .
 8 What did you understand at that time to be the
 9 proposed changes to the windows?
 10 A. I can't recall , sorry.
 11 Q. Did you appreciate that, by reducing the size of the
 12 windows and moving them out to sit in the cladding line ,
 13 that would produce a gap where fire could break out of
 14 a flat and into the cladding?
 15 A. As I say, my understanding was that there was
 16 a framework attached to the existing structure that
 17 would act as a support and a cavity barrier to the
 18 window.
 19 Q. This is the reference you made to a steel --
 20 A. Yeah.
 21 Q. -- barrier this morning, is it?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. I see.
 24 Can I ask you to look at paragraph 21 of your first
 25 statement on page 3 {RBK00033934/3}. At paragraph 21

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1 you say, in answer to the question:
 2 "What elements or aspects of the interior of the
 3 building at the time of the fire failed to comply with
 4 what elements or aspects of what regulations ..."
 5 Et cetera.
 6 You say:
 7 "As far as I can tell now, the windows were not
 8 fitted in accordance with the Building Regulations.
 9 They were not complaint as it appeared the fire barriers
 10 were not installed correctly and the fire stopping
 11 hadn't been sealed correctly."
 12 Are you referring only to the cavity barriers around
 13 the windows here?
 14 A. Well, it -- sorry ...
 15 (Pause)
 16 Q. When you say "the fire barriers were not installed
 17 correctly", what fire barriers are you talking about
 18 there?
 19 A. The angle.
 20 Q. The angle of what?
 21 A. The angle supporting the windows.
 22 Q. Is that what you mean by fire barrier?
 23 A. Yes, and obviously if there was any tolerances, that
 24 they would be filled up with appropriate materials,
 25 because it goes on to say in the regulations how they

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1 should be -- it describes how cavity barriers should be
 2 fitted .
 3 Q. Are you referring to anything else there, do you think,
 4 in terms of non-compliance? Or are you just saying that
 5 that angle, as you call it, was not installed correctly?
 6 (Pause)
 7 A. Sorry, bear with me for a moment, please.
 8 Q. Yes, of course.
 9 (Pause)
 10 A. Well, again, the question -- I haven't answered it fully
 11 when I have been answering that question, it would
 12 appear, because it says what aspects of the interior .
 13 As I say, I don't know what other aspects of the
 14 interior -- you know, whether the doors weren't -- or
 15 the new doors weren't -- when the fire occurred, weren't
 16 effectively self-closing .
 17 As far as when I did my final inspection, the doors
 18 were fire resisting doors, the smoke stopping that I saw
 19 was -- yeah, the firestopping that I saw in my
 20 inspections were okay. We could be talking about
 21 whether the mechanical ventilation system didn't work
 22 properly on the evening.
 23 Q. Just focusing on windows, can we go to paragraph 33 of
 24 your second statement, and I would like to look at
 25 page 9 {RBK00050416/9}, which is the question you're

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1 asked at the foot of that page under e:
 2 "Did you ever raise concerns about the compliance of
 3 the windows at any stage during the project?"
 4 If you turn to page 10 {RBK00050416/10}, you can see
 5 your answer. You say:
 6 "Possibly. Do you remember site visits I would make
 7 physical noted(sic) in my A3 notebook and raise any
 8 concerns with the site manager or the person escorting
 9 me. I have been informed RBKC cannot locate my
 10 notebook."
 11 Then if you look at f, which is the question:
 12 "Did you inspect the fitting of the windows during
 13 the project - if so, what did you observe?"
 14 You say:
 15 "No, I may have seen parts of the fitting process
 16 but I did not inspect the actual fitting of the windows
 17 in its entirety."
 18 Is it more likely that you didn't inspect the
 19 windows on site at all?
 20 A. I did.
 21 Q. How could you have raised questions of compliance of the
 22 windows if you didn't inspect their actual fitting in
 23 their entirety?
 24 A. Well, the areas I saw were okay, from what I saw.
 25 Q. But if you don't see the whole of the fitting and just

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1 rely on bits of it --
 2 A. Well --
 3 Q. -- how can you be satisfied in your mind that it
 4 complies with the Building Regulations?
 5 A. As I say, as part of the process when doing your job,
 6 you're not a resident clerk of works, you're coming in
 7 and looking at a particular stage of the work and you're
 8 making a judgement at that particular time, and you've
 9 got to take into consideration the standard of work
 10 going on elsewhere in the building.
 11 Q. Indeed, but my question really is: why weren't you
 12 approaching this on the basis that you needed to see
 13 precisely what was going into the windows by way of
 14 materials and design and making sure that each and every
 15 element, both as procured and as fitted, complied with
 16 the Building Regulations?
 17 A. As I say, I went in from time to time and what I saw was
 18 satisfactory .
 19 Q. But if you were going in from time to time, you were
 20 going to miss things that might have been
 21 unsatisfactory .
 22 A. I can't be there 24 hours a day, I mean -- or
 23 seven hours a day. You know, I'm going and doing
 24 a visit, I'm spending a certain amount of time looking
 25 at the project in a whole. As I say, I look at all

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1 various aspects of the building, you know, what's going
 2 on in other parts of the building, and, as I say, I've
 3 got -- I can only spend so much time there, and, as
 4 I say, what I saw at the times were okay.
 5 Q. Why couldn't you have approached it on the basis that
 6 you would take a particular window set and ask Rydon or
 7 Harley to show you precisely how it was built up, how it
 8 was fitted, check it against the drawings, and then do
 9 a spot check of the rest of the building to make sure
 10 that there were no generic flaws?
 11 A. I didn't.
 12 Q. I know, and my question is: why didn't you?
 13 A. But, as I say, what I saw at the time when I was going
 14 and doing my visits, there were no issues as far as
 15 I was concerned.
 16 Q. We'll come to site visits in just a moment.
 17 Before I leave this question, did you look in the
 18 gaps between the new window and the old window where
 19 insulation had been installed?
 20 A. I don't recall.
 21 Q. Did you ever inspect a window or a window set from
 22 inside a flat rather than from outside on the hoist?
 23 A. I can't recall.
 24 Q. One or two questions on the crown.
 25 We've seen one or two drawings of the crown that

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1 I showed you earlier. Did you ever ask for full details
 2 of the design of the crown?
 3 A. I saw drawings of the crown and I inspected the crown.
 4 Q. Did you appreciate at the time that the crown could have
 5 been a mechanism for external fire spread?
 6 A. As I said in my -- previously, there was, in my view, no
 7 requirement for additional cavity barriers under the --
 8 under Approved Document B.
 9 Q. Did you ever actually inspect the crown on site?
 10 A. I did, and I did with Paul Hanson.
 11 Q. Did you note what it was comprised of?
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. ACM panels with a PE core?
 14 A. Well, as I say, ACM panels.
 15 Q. Did you and Paul Hanson when you inspected it have
 16 a conversation about what the panels were made of at the
 17 crown?
 18 A. I don't recall.
 19 Q. Right.
 20 A. If I may, that was a meeting that Paul and I attended at
 21 the request of Simon Lawrence, because there was
 22 an additional power cable being installed in the
 23 building and he wanted our advice on that, so we did
 24 a full inspection of the building on that particular
 25 day.

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1 Q. Right.
 2 A. As I say, we went up to the roof and we looked at that.
 3 Q. Do you remember when roughly?
 4 A. As I say, it was the time when they were putting this --
 5 or about to put an additional power cable in the core.
 6 Q. You say you inspected the entirety of --
 7 A. We walked the building, we looked round the -- we looked
 8 round the lower levels, we went up and looked at the
 9 lobbies at various levels, and we went up and looked at
 10 the crown, as I say.
 11 Q. We may come to that in the course of your evidence about
 12 the site visits, to which I now want to turn, if I can,
 13 as a new topic.
 14 Can we turn to your first witness statement and look
 15 at paragraph 84 at page 9 {RBK00033934/9}. You say:
 16 "Inspections were carried out by myself,
 17 Paul Hanson, John Allen, Parvinder Virdee. Also, in
 18 August/September 2015, I was absent following an
 19 operation and I was informed by the project manager that
 20 one of my colleagues visited the site in my absence."
 21 Just on that, I think it's right that you came back
 22 from leave on 8 October 2015. I think you say that
 23 elsewhere.
 24 A. Well, I had an operation, as I say, in August and I was
 25 off for some time.

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1 Q. Yes.
 2 A. And then I had some leave in September, and I also had
 3 some leave in October.
 4 Q. But I think you came back in early October?
 5 A. No, I came in in between.
 6 Q. Okay.
 7 Now, looking at what's said there, because you
 8 mention your operation --
 9 A. Yeah.
 10 Q. -- how was it decided which of the Building Control
 11 officers would undertake individual inspections, just
 12 generally?
 13 A. A phone call would come in for a request for a visit and
 14 either -- I believe John Allen may have allocated, but
 15 if he wasn't there it may have been José Anon.
 16 Q. I see.
 17 A. So ...
 18 Q. I see.
 19 What system did you have in place generally in
 20 RBKC's Building Control department to make sure that you
 21 communicated effectively amongst yourselves about those
 22 visits?
 23 A. When I -- personally, when I went to a job for somebody
 24 else, I would inform them and put the note in, in
 25 Acolaid.

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1 Q. In Acolaid?
 2 A. But I would also inform somebody that I'd been to their
 3 site . But I don't know whether there was any actual
 4 written policy as regards that.
 5 Q. If you turn to page 10 {RBK00033934/10} of your first
 6 statement, and look at paragraph 101, you say:
 7 "Following such inspections, if my
 8 conclusions/recommendation were of a minor nature and
 9 I was confident that the builders would deal with the
 10 matters I raised my concerns would simply be noted in my
 11 notebook and recorded on Acolaid accordingly."
 12 If you over the page now, please, to page 11
 13 {RBK00033934/11}, at paragraph 102, you say:
 14 "If my concerns were serious, in addition to the
 15 above, I would return to check that my recommendations
 16 had been implemented. If they had not then I would
 17 escalate it to my line manager and take according action
 18 which could include serving formal notice to correct the
 19 works."
 20 A. Yes.
 21 Q. Can you give us an example of what you would consider to
 22 be a serious matter, or a serious concern?
 23 A. Right. I had a project where they hadn't put the drains
 24 in correctly and covered over the drains, and I could
 25 see that they had been done incorrectly. They also did

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1 put the staircase incorrectly, and they put some
 2 steelwork in incorrectly .
 3 Now, with that, I actually met the owner of the
 4 property and we went through all the issues, and they
 5 agreed to open up informally and correct these issues --
 6 or they were in the process of correcting these issues
 7 before I left .
 8 Q. On the Grenfell Tower project -- I'm so sorry.
 9 A. Sorry. Another example would be if I saw people doing
 10 dangerous work practices, I would -- you know,
 11 excavating unsupported -- carrying out excavations
 12 without supporting -- putting temporary works in
 13 properly, I would call the office and get one of the
 14 dangerous structures surveyors to go and look at it
 15 accordingly.
 16 Q. Yes. Thank you.
 17 On the Grenfell Tower project, do you recall having
 18 any serious concerns that required you to return to
 19 check that your recommendations had been implemented, as
 20 you put it?
 21 A. Well, there was -- at the end, I did a number of visits .
 22 I did a letter, writing what I saw at that time.
 23 I would -- as regards firestopping that I could see
 24 exposed, for example in the cupboards, in the cores,
 25 and, say, making good in partitions, I could see those

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1 at my next visit, so they were minor matters. But,
 2 you know, I could -- obviously important matters, but
 3 I could see that they had been done. I don't recall
 4 ever escalating anything on Grenfell .
 5 Q. Going back to this question of mock-ups that we talked
 6 about just a little bit earlier on this afternoon,
 7 Mr Berry, Grahame Berry of Osborne Berry, gave evidence
 8 on Day 41 that somebody from Building Control had seen
 9 a mock-up that they had done showing where the
 10 cavity barriers were to go. Our reference to that is
 11 {Day41/45:8} to {Day41/46:10}.
 12 I think you said you never saw such a mock-up; is
 13 that right?
 14 A. Correct. I don't know who went in my place.
 15 Q. Right. He also said -- and this is {Day41/55:9-19} --
 16 that there were occasions when work was left uncovered
 17 and could have been inspected. Do you agree with that
 18 from what you saw?
 19 A. No, not from what I saw.
 20 Q. How would you be able to check for compliance of the
 21 insulation with the Building Regulations, both in terms
 22 of the product being used and design and installation,
 23 if it had been covered up by the rainscreen panels when
 24 you inspected?
 25 A. I saw certain aspects when I visited .

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1 Q. You did?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. You say certain aspects; can you --
 4 A. Well, I saw the insulation -- as I say, they would go
 5 down and they would -- as I say, I could see what they
 6 were using at the time when I visited .
 7 Q. Were you ever offered the opportunity to undertake
 8 a site visit while the wiring and pipework and
 9 firestopping and cavity barriers and insulation or any
 10 of those were still exposed?
 11 A. Well, it was an ongoing process and I would see those
 12 when I came in.
 13 Q. Right. So it would depend very much on what you saw on
 14 the day, is I think what you are saying?
 15 A. Yes. I did, or we did ask for ... obviously we
 16 witnessed tests on various services, we were called in
 17 specifically to witness tests on various services, and,
 18 as I say, I mentioned about the visit where they called
 19 us specifically in to look at this additional cable.
 20 Q. Do you remember whether Osborne Berry took you up the
 21 building in the mast climber to see what had been
 22 installed before the cladding panels were installed?
 23 A. I would -- as I say, the point of contact would be the
 24 office .
 25 Q. Yes.

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1 A. The Rydons office, because they're the principal
 2 contractor.
 3 Q. The reason I ask is that Ben Bailey, in his statement at
 4 paragraph 13 -- for the reference, {HAR00010060/5}, no
 5 need to have it up -- says that Osborne Berry took you
 6 up the building to see what had been installed before
 7 the cladding panels went on.
 8 A. No, that's not --
 9 Q. Do you say that's wrong?
 10 A. As I say, there was a procedure where I would go in,
 11 sign in and go to the office, and then a Rydons person
 12 would escort me round the building.
 13 Q. Did you ever make a visit to site where Osborne Berry
 14 accompanied you or attended your visit?
 15 (Pause)
 16 A. There were workmen there, but -- and there was
 17 a gentleman, I think his name was Taff, but as a -- who
 18 may have been there when I was with Rydon.
 19 Q. Right. Taff is Mark Osborne.
 20 A. Is he? Oh, right.
 21 Q. You remember someone called Taff?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Did you go round the building with Taff?
 24 A. No, I would go round the building with a Rydon person.
 25 Q. Did you discuss the cladding works with anyone from the

1 clerk of works, such as, for example, Jon White?
 2 A. I met him on two occasions, on -- well, I met him on
 3 three occasions, actually. The first time, when I was
 4 introduced to him; a second time, I did a joint
 5 inspection on the mast climber, which I can't remember
 6 the date; and then on 12 January 2016 there was the
 7 graduate who had joined us, we did a joint inspection
 8 that day with him. We didn't do the inside of the
 9 building, but we met him at the mast climber and we went
 10 with a -- it may have been, and I can't be absolutely
 11 certain, David Hughes, but there was certainly a Rydons
 12 representative and the clerk of works.
 13 Q. Was the clerk of works present more than on three
 14 occasions during your site inspections, or just the
 15 three that you can recall?
 16 A. That's the only time I actually recall seeing him, but
 17 obviously he had a role where he was there on a -- all
 18 day on certain days.
 19 Q. What did you understand the scope of his role to be?
 20 A. I thought he was a resident clerk of works.
 21 Q. Performing a traditional clerk of works role --
 22 A. Yeah.
 23 Q. -- or performing something different?
 24 A. No, traditional clerk of works.
 25 Q. Did anyone ever tell you that he was only there as the

1 eyes and ears of the TMO?
 2 A. No, that's not the case. That's --
 3 Q. I just want to ask you one or two questions about --
 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Sorry, had you finished? You
 5 sounded as though you wanted to say a bit more.
 6 A. No, as I say, it was my understanding that -- there was
 7 another clerk of works there as well dealing with the
 8 services. There were two clerk of works.
 9 MR MILLETT: I just want to ask you one or two questions
 10 about the record of your inspections before we turn to
 11 the inspections themselves.
 12 Can we go to your second statement at page 20
 13 {RBK00050416/20}, please, and look at paragraph 51b.
 14 You say there, in answer to the question:
 15 "... please describe how any information was
 16 recorded and disseminated in practice?
 17 "My understanding is that we were expected to place
 18 all site notes on Acolaid. In practice this did not
 19 occur. In respect of how I worked, I would make notes
 20 in my notebook, my outlook calendar, and sometimes on
 21 Acolaid."
 22 When you refer to an expectation that
 23 a Building Control officer would place all notes on
 24 Acolaid, whose expectation was that?
 25 A. Well, it's my expectation in the office.

1 Q. How was that expectation communicated? Was there
 2 a written policy or statement or guidance or something
 3 like that?
 4 A. I don't know whether there was any written policy note,
 5 or I don't recall. As I say, there was, back in,
 6 I think, 2006, John Jackson did a document in response
 7 to the performance standards.
 8 Q. Yes. I think it's a yes or no: was there a written
 9 policy or guidance as to putting site notes on to
 10 Acolaid?
 11 A. If it was, it would have been that document.
 12 Q. Okay.
 13 A. I don't recall any other policy -- may I just say that
 14 I did request copies of all policy documents from
 15 the council, and, as I say, I wasn't given access to --
 16 or I was given access to certain documents.
 17 Q. I think the council would say, or they would ask me to
 18 say, that they had given disclosure of all relevant
 19 documents in their possession, for the record, to make
 20 that clear.
 21 Can I then ask you a question: you say, "In practice
 22 this did not occur", in other words placing all site
 23 notes on Acolaid; my question is: why did you not adhere
 24 to the policy in practice?
 25 A. Well, I did, but on looking at -- going back through my

1 records, there are some notes missing.
 2 Q. Why is that?
 3 A. I can't explain, it's not consistent with the way I did
 4 my work.
 5 Q. Would you accept that without a comprehensive record of
 6 site visits, it wouldn't be possible for anybody to
 7 verify what was done in the course of considering
 8 a Building Control application?
 9 A. Yeah.
 10 Q. Can we then turn to frequency of inspections. You've
 11 already told us, I think, that you decided to do one
 12 once a month.

13 Can I go to Mr Hughes' witness statement, he was
 14 Rydon, at {RYD00094213/12} and I want to show you
 15 paragraph 61.1.
 16 He summarises his interaction with Building Control,
 17 and he starts in that subparagraph by saying:
 18 "On 30th October 2015 was my first contact with RBKC
 19 Building Control when I requested a site visit from
 20 John Hoban on 2nd November 2015, so Steve [Blake] and
 21 I could discuss the project with him."
 22 Then if you go over the page {RYD00094213/13} to
 23 paragraph 61.2, he says:
 24 "I requested that John Hoban visit site to inspect
 25 the cladding on 11th November 2015 to discuss what he

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1 required to see to sign it off. We went up the west and
 2 north elevations ..."
 3 Then if you go over the page again, please, to
 4 paragraph 61.5 {RYD00094213/14}, this is at a later
 5 stage again, he says:
 6 "I arranged for John Hoban to visit site on
 7 12th January 2016 at 9am to go up the mast climbers
 8 again."
 9 At the bottom of that page in paragraph 61.8 he
 10 says:
 11 "I requested a visit by John Hoban following which
 12 he attended site on 12th May 2016 and walked round the
 13 lower 4 floors."
 14 He's identified four occasions in his evidence on
 15 which he asked you to make a visit.
 16 Was it common practice for your visits to arise as
 17 a result of a request from the contractor rather than
 18 a proactive decision yourself to inspect the site?
 19 A. I would have ... we had what was known as site
 20 inspection reports, so it would come up when you had
 21 done your last visits, and we would go through that and
 22 use that as an aid to prompt us to visit. But sometimes
 23 that was unreliable, because for some unknown reason
 24 jobs would not show up on those site inspection reports,
 25 and we would -- I would have monthly meetings with

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1 John Allen and we would go through my job sheets.
 2 Q. How do you account for the fact that at least four of
 3 these visits to Grenfell Tower arose as a result of your
 4 being asked to attend by Rydon as opposed to going along
 5 voluntarily?
 6 A. Well, I knew they were due. He kept -- I would have
 7 gone myself, but he called me.
 8 Q. Can you look at {RBK00044888}. This looks as if it's --
 9 A. If I may, sorry, if we go back, as I say, there was
 10 a time when John Allen went in my absence in March.
 11 I had a -- I wasn't available.
 12 Q. March 2016?
 13 A. Yes, so there was March.
 14 Q. Yes.
 15 Can we go to {RBK00044888}, please, and this is from
 16 you. It looks like an Outlook entry. It's a strange
 17 document, because it looks like an email from you, but
 18 it bears David Hughes' legend and details at the bottom.
 19 Can you explain this document?
 20 A. No. I think what it -- well, it's obviously -- it's
 21 a prompt for me to visit. We had a process in the
 22 office where we would put our visits on, in our Outlook
 23 calendar, and there was also -- we had some spreadsheets
 24 that were shared amongst the surveyors, so that we could
 25 actually see where people were to -- on a particular

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1 day, and if somebody wasn't in for some unknown reason,
 2 we would have access to the list of visits that they had
 3 and those visits could be picked up.
 4 Q. I see.
 5 How did you arrange visits in practice with Rydon?
 6 Did you send the calendar invite to them or an email or
 7 a phone call? How was it done in general?
 8 A. Could be a phone call.
 9 Q. Right.
 10 A. I don't know whether I sent emails as well.
 11 Q. Now, I want to turn to --
 12 A. If --
 13 Q. I'm so sorry, do you want to --
 14 A. No, sorry.
 15 Q. That's okay. Do you want to finish the answer? Is
 16 there anything else you want to tell us?
 17 A. As I say, it was a site that you couldn't just walk
 18 into. There's a number of sites like that,
 19 an appointment would have to be made, and, as I say,
 20 because you needed somebody to walk round -- there
 21 needed to be one of Rydon's staff to accompany you on
 22 the site. It wasn't like you could walk -- you know,
 23 walk in off the street.
 24 Q. No, no, I understand that, I just wondered how it was
 25 that the contact was made.

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1 A. Yeah.
 2 Q. I want to ask you some questions about some of the
 3 specific site inspections you made, and I just want to
 4 be clear: I'm not going to ask you about every single
 5 one. We have the clerk of works' reports and we have
 6 Rydon's progress reports to tell us when they considered
 7 and some of the content about it, so I'm going to try to
 8 take this economically if I can.

9 I want to set it in some context chronologically
 10 too. We have already discussed your site visits in
 11 2014, and I think we've got your pre-start visit on
 12 29 August, a visit on 29 September 2014, we discussed
 13 your site meeting on 24 November 2014, and there was,
 14 according to Acolaid, a further site visit on
 15 27 November 2014, and I mention those to get the
 16 chronology straight.

17 There is a meeting then on 16 January 2015, and we
 18 can get that from {JRPO0000168/2}. This is a clerk of
 19 works site inspection report dated 4 February 2015. If
 20 we can go to page 1, we can get the date. This is
 21 4 February 2015. It's report number 3. They're all in
 22 the same format, I should just say, but the inspection
 23 date is set out there in each of them at the top
 24 right-hand corner.

25 If we go to page 2, you can see under "Review site

1 inspection log: Building Control":
 2 "Last building control site visit was Friday 16th
 3 January 2015, and commented on the fire proofing the
 4 sockets (putty pads or similar), to the partition walls,
 5 and the fire proofing and [acoustic] details in the
 6 partitions. These will be inspected when work is
 7 carried out."

8 Was that you who conducted that visit, do you think?

9 A. I can't be certain.

10 Q. The reason I ask is that there is no record of this
 11 visit in Acolaid. Are you able to explain that?

12 A. As I say, it may be that it didn't take my note. As
 13 I mentioned, some of my notes are not there.

14 Q. Yes, I know, and is this one of them?

15 A. It may be.

16 Q. Okay.

17 Then if we turn on to the next meeting, this is
 18 {JRPO0000169/1}, please, to start with. This is the
 19 inspection date 17 February, and if we go to page 2
 20 {JRPO0000169/2} we can see again under "Review site
 21 inspection log: Building Control", you can see there it
 22 says:

23 "Last building control site visit was Tuesday 17th
 24 February [and it's 2015], with no issues."

25 Again, do you recall that visit?

1 A. I can't recall at this stage.

2 Q. The reason I ask is your Acolaid notes don't have any
 3 records of visits between November 2014 and May 2015.
 4 Again, do you know why that's not in there?

5 A. As I say, I know I did visits and, as I say, I don't
 6 know why -- it's not consistent with the way I would
 7 normally work.

8 Q. Let's move on, then, to the spring of 2015, and I want
 9 to ask you about meetings or site visits on
 10 7 or 15 May 2015.

11 If we start with {RYD00041667}, please, this is
 12 Rydon's progress report number 11 reporting on the
 13 progress period 17 April 2015 to 15 May 2015. Can we
 14 look at page 12 {RYD00041667/12}, item 7,
 15 "Building Control", do you see it says:

16 "Building Control were on site on Friday 15th May to
 17 inspect the top 3 floors for insulation, fire break and
 18 window installation on three elevation."

19 Did you undertake those inspections on 15 May?

20 A. I can't recall, sorry.

21 Q. You don't remember, therefore, what procedure was
 22 followed for the inspection of the windows at that
 23 inspection, nor whether the inspections would have
 24 included the window trim or something like that?

25 A. Mm.

1 Q. No?

2 A. This was May --

3 Q. May 15.

4 A. May 15 ... I don't know whether -- as I say, there was
 5 a stage in April where I got another area from
 6 John Allen to look at the -- to look after, and there
 7 was a time where I didn't -- there was a gap in order
 8 that I deal with those particular jobs before going into
 9 hospital and having an operation. So I was given, as
 10 I say, approximately 50, I think it was about 55 jobs,
 11 and I felt that it was a priority to go round and look
 12 at those particular jobs to find out what stage they
 13 were.

14 I didn't have, as I say, any major concerns, and
 15 there was two clerk of works on the job and there was
 16 a number of levels of supervision on site. As I say,
 17 there was Rydon's own guys and then obviously the
 18 subcontractors' foremen and, as I say, two clerk of
 19 works. So my main priority at that stage was obviously
 20 dealing with this new area that I was dealing with, and
 21 jobs where things were not going right, and could
 22 escalate into major problems.

23 Q. I understand about your workload.

24 A. Yeah, but what I'm trying to explain is how
 25 I prioritised at that particular time --

1 Q. I understand.
 2 A. -- when making judgements when to visit.
 3 Q. Yes, I understand.
 4 In your last answer just now, you said that you had
 5 no major concerns and there were two clerks of works on
 6 the site, as well as Rydon's own guys and
 7 subcontractors' foremen. Does that tell us that you
 8 were relying on them to get it right?
 9 A. No.
 10 Q. Because they're not Building Control officers.
 11 A. No, I'm not relying on them to do my job, but I can --
 12 I have to prioritise where I visit, and I can only do so
 13 many visits in a day, in a week, and, as I say, I have
 14 to look and prioritise where I need to go.
 15 Q. Did you not say to John Allen, "Look, I'm overstretched,
 16 I can't do all these jobs properly" --
 17 A. I did.
 18 Q. -- "I've got to give most of my attention to this
 19 specialist complex project"?
 20 A. I did ask for help in I think it was April 2015, because
 21 when he gave me the new area I felt that I was being --
 22 or that I was struggling with my workload. I made
 23 a number of suggestions about what we should do with
 24 Celia's area and the work in there, and none of those
 25 suggestions were taken up. I felt I was in a position

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1 that I couldn't refuse. I was instructed to deal with
 2 that additional area, and I had to take it on.
 3 Q. Are you sure in your own mind that those managing you
 4 knew clearly what the difficulties were that you were
 5 going through?
 6 A. Yes. You know, as I say, I was -- I had health issues
 7 going on, which sometimes I had to go home early from
 8 work or -- because I was unwell. I was going to various
 9 hospital appointments. I was going -- which obviously
 10 I let my manager know. I was -- I mentioned to him
 11 about my high blood pressure on a couple of occasions.
 12 As I say, you know, I told him about this, but I felt
 13 I was in a position -- I felt I was unable to say no to
 14 him.
 15 Q. Really?
 16 A. Mm.
 17 Q. Were there no facilities or resources offered to you or
 18 provided to you to support you, to make sure that you
 19 could do your Building Control job on Grenfell to the
 20 best of your ability?
 21 A. As I said, I pointed this out to -- I felt I couldn't
 22 escalate it any further. I just felt that I had to do
 23 that. I did say on a number of occasions in the office
 24 that we needed more staff. I felt that we were
 25 under-resourced. As I say, we were -- we lost six

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1 people in -- well, sorry, September 2013, when five of
 2 my colleagues retired and Michael Winn passed away, and
 3 then subsequently Hilary Wyatt left -- or not left, she
 4 went into the planning department, and I got her area,
 5 and then, as I say -- and then I got Celia's area in the
 6 April, and I was told I was in a better position than my
 7 colleagues to deal with that, and I -- you know, I was
 8 coming in at weekends to try and keep on top of my work.
 9 I used to go to bed at night with a notebook, thinking
 10 about what -- you know, about jobs, and some nights
 11 I wasn't sleeping at all.
 12 Q. You said that you didn't feel you could escalate it
 13 further or didn't feel you could say no. Why couldn't
 14 you?
 15 A. Just that's what I felt. You know, the decision -- in
 16 the past, decisions were made by managers, you know,
 17 they made the decisions. We weren't brought in for --
 18 to discuss those proposals. It was, "This is what
 19 you're doing".
 20 Q. So was there a means of escalating it to somebody higher
 21 up the management chain?
 22 A. I felt I couldn't do that.
 23 Q. I just want to understand why you felt that. Was it
 24 a culture in the department --
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. -- or just a natural diffidence on your part?
 2 A. No, no, I felt, you know, it was a culture within the
 3 department.
 4 Q. Coming back to the site visits themselves, can I ask you
 5 to look at {ART00004173/3} and {ART00004173/4} together
 6 so we can look at item 5.1 at the bottom of that page.
 7 I should say this is the note of progress meeting
 8 number 11 on site on 19 May 2015. If we look at the
 9 bottom of page 3, 5.1, under "Health and Safety":
 10 "Building control visited site on the 15th of May to
 11 inspect the top 3 floors for insulation, fire break and
 12 window installation on three elevations and had no
 13 adverse comments."
 14 Do you see that?
 15 A. Mm.
 16 Q. Now, just noting that, can I ask you to go to
 17 {JRP00000160}, please. This is JRP's inspection report.
 18 The inspection date is 12 May 2015. If we go to page 2
 19 {JRP00000160/2}, under the Building Control section it
 20 reads:
 21 "Last building control site visit was Friday 15th
 22 May 2015, The only observation was that further details
 23 of the cladding fire breaks were required, Rydon to
 24 confirm if they have done this."
 25 What were the further details of the cladding

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1 firebreaks required?
 2 A. I think I was asking for further information for our
 3 records.
 4 Q. Further information about what?
 5 A. Well, I got limited information from them.
 6 Q. Limited on what? What was it about the cladding
 7 firebreaks which you needed further details of?
 8 A. Well, they, as I say ...
 9 (Pause)
 10 I can't be certain, but, as I say, obviously I've
 11 asked for information -- as I say, I was asking for
 12 information to be --
 13 Q. Did you get further information that you asked for?
 14 A. Some I did, some I didn't.
 15 Q. Right.
 16 We saw just now the Rydon note that you had had no
 17 adverse comments, and yet here we see the
 18 Building Control section of the JRP report saying that
 19 you wanted further details .
 20 A. Well, as regards, you know, the location of the breaks
 21 as, you know --
 22 Q. Is that what it was about?
 23 A. Yes, that's what I believed to be at the time.
 24 Q. I see.
 25 Can we go back to your second witness statement at

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1 page 10 {RBK00050416/10}, please, and just pick up
 2 a point we looked at, I think, earlier, at paragraph 33f
 3 where you were asked:
 4 "Did you inspect the fitting of the windows ..."
 5 We saw this before, you said:
 6 "No, I may have seen parts of the fitting process
 7 but I did not inspect the actual fitting of the windows
 8 in its entirety."
 9 That's a general answer to a general question.
 10 A. Yeah.
 11 Q. At this point in time, so May 2015, did you have the
 12 opportunity at that point to inspect the windows on this
 13 visit, 15 May 2015?
 14 A. I can't recall, sorry.
 15 Q. Right.
 16 Is there a reason why you might not have undertaken
 17 a more detailed inspection at that time?
 18 A. As I say, I went and I recorded what I saw, but, as
 19 I say, there was nothing that stood out at the time.
 20 Again, I would, as I say, go to site. I may have,
 21 I don't know, how many visits to do, so I would spend,
 22 you know, the time --
 23 Q. Do you accept that you yourself had an opportunity at
 24 that stage to intervene and stop any poor design of the
 25 window or manner of installation?

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1 A. I didn't see that at the time.
 2 Q. You didn't see it, right.
 3 Did you, on that inspection, compare what you were
 4 seeing in relation to the windows and the firebreaks, as
 5 you call them, with the drawings and double check that
 6 what was being installed at that stage was in accordance
 7 with the drawings you had?
 8 A. I wouldn't physically take the drawings up on to the
 9 climber with me. As I say, I would see that they were
 10 installed -- or the ones that I saw were at the
 11 appropriate level.
 12 Q. The compartment floors and walls, I think you say?
 13 A. Yeah, and, as I say, they had -- at the columns at
 14 various points they were working on those.
 15 Q. Right. Can we go to an email {RYD00089251}, please.
 16 This is an email from Danny Osgood of Rydon,
 17 19 June 2015, to Simon O'Connor of Rydon:
 18 "Simon,
 19 "All queries concerning firebreak were addressed and
 20 closed out. Building control have stated they do not
 21 need to return until we begin to hang panels."
 22 Did you say that?
 23 A. No.
 24 Q. Did you tell Danny Osgood --
 25 A. No, I actually -- I don't recall ever meeting or seeing

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1 Danny Osgood on site.
 2 Q. Did you tell anyone at Rydon that Building Control don't
 3 need to return until they begin to hang panels?
 4 A. No, no.
 5 Q. How can you account for that email?
 6 A. That's what he -- I -- you know, that's what he's told
 7 his manager, but that is not the case. As I say,
 8 I don't actually recall ever meeting the gentleman.
 9 Q. Right.
 10 Mr Osgood was asked about this conversation at
 11 {Day30/152:16}, and he said that it could well have been
 12 you that told him that Building Control didn't need to
 13 return until hanging of the panels began.
 14 A. No, that's not the case. As I say, I don't ever recall
 15 meeting the gentleman on site.
 16 Q. Moving on to 17 August 2015, our records indicate that
 17 there was no Building Control inspection at all in the
 18 period June and July 2015.
 19 A. Correct.
 20 Q. Was there a decision that none should take place?
 21 A. Pardon?
 22 Q. Was there a positive decision that there should be no
 23 Building Control visits in those two months?
 24 A. As I say, I was dealing with the new area that I was
 25 given, and I needed to establish what was going on on

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1 those particular jobs, plus the new work that was coming
2 in, and where there were problem issues on site, that
3 I deal with them. So it was a question of prioritising
4 my work at that time.

5 As I say, from my previous visits to the job,
6 I didn't see anything that I considered an escalation.
7 As I say, I had worked with a lot of these people before
8 on -- or the consultants on the job before. It had
9 a project manager, it had two clerk of works. On lots
10 of my jobs there was no form of supervision or project
11 manager, the workmanship could be of a very poor
12 standard, there could be -- I could go on site and there
13 would be no drawings on site or they were doing things
14 in a dangerous manner. So those I considered to be
15 a higher priority at that stage.

16 Q. Are you saying that because Grenfell Tower, to your
17 understanding, had a team of experienced professionals,
18 you were less ruthless and rigorous than you would have
19 been if they'd not been there?

20 A. No, no -- well, I can only do so much in a day,
21 Mr Millett, and I have to prioritise my work.

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. And, as I say, I have to, as I say, make judgements. If
24 I had more time and I had less work, I could have spent
25 more time on my other jobs. You know, I had, I don't

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1 know, at that time, maybe 120, 130 jobs to --

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. You know, every job has got, you know, different
4 challenges.

5 Q. Yes, I understand that. But by my question I was simply
6 seeking to understand the rationale for the
7 prioritisation, and I think you are telling us that you
8 prioritised these other jobs over Grenfell because of
9 the presence of people whom you thought were experienced
10 professionals.

11 A. No, that was one consideration. As I say, the other
12 consideration was what I had seen before on site.

13 Q. Now, here we have a period of three months that goes by
14 from 15 May until 17 August --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- during which time -- do you want to interrupt me?
17 Yes, please.

18 A. If I may. I believe José Anon went in in my absence.

19 Q. Right. Do you know when?

20 A. I don't, because his note's not there. I believe he was
21 called in in my absence. Also, Parvinder Virdee was
22 called in on a dangerous structure at some stage, and he
23 was called out by -- one weekend, I believe, by either
24 the council or the police to look at the cladding,
25 because a report went in.

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1 Q. Now, did you have a discussion with José Anon about his
2 site visit that you can now recall before you made your
3 site visit in the August of 2015?

4 A. As I say, I know he went to site and, as I say, he told
5 me that he had been to site at some stage, and
6 Parvinder Virdee also told me that he had been called
7 out. Sorry.

8 Q. Yes, my question is whether you had a discussion with
9 Mr Anon about his site visit so that you could then,
10 when you came back to it in the August of 2015,
11 understand what it is he had seen and decided on?

12 A. I think he just told me -- as I say, I'm -- I shouldn't
13 speculate.

14 Q. All right.

15 A. I'm sorry.

16 Q. Now, I think you were off in September --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- 2015. Do you think it was José Anon who attended in
19 September 2015?

20 A. I couldn't tell you.

21 Q. Right. Now -- because you deal with it in your witness
22 statement at paragraph 84. Can I just ask you to look,
23 please, at {RYD00055130}. This is a photograph which
24 was taken in October 2015, and we can see if we look at
25 it that on the left-hand side there are some insulation

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1 panels with Kingspan branding on it. We may need to
2 blow that up a little bit, but you can actually see
3 Kingspan branding.

4 Do you remember seeing Kingspan branding from your
5 visits in the autumn of 2015?

6 A. No. No, I don't recall seeing those.

7 Q. Did you know that Kingspan insulation panels had been
8 fitted to this building?

9 A. Not at the time, or up to when I cleared the job, no.

10 Q. Did nobody from Rydon or Harley or Studio E tell you
11 that, in lieu of Celotex RS5000 panels, some Kingspan
12 Kooltherm K15 panels had been ordered and put on the
13 building?

14 A. No.

15 Q. If you had known or seen that, what would you have done,
16 do you think?

17 A. I would have gone and looked at the BBA certificate.

18 Q. Right.

19 Can we then go to November 2015 and look at
20 {RBK00052478/4}, please. This is a note of your site
21 visit on 2 November 2015, "Cladding inspection and
22 meeting with new project manager". Do you see that?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Who was the new project manager that you met?

25 A. I believe it was David Hughes.

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1 Q. David Hughes, yes.
 2 What did your cladding inspection involve, do you
 3 remember?
 4 A. I don't think I -- I think I may have just popped in
 5 that particular day. He may have phoned me to introduce
 6 himself to me.
 7 Q. Right.
 8 A. And I may have had -- unable to actually do a visit --
 9 as I say, without -- I mention about my visits in the
 10 past. I haven't had access to those. As I say, there
 11 is -- there are spreadsheets, I believe, whether they
 12 have been retained, that would show everybody's visits
 13 on those particular days. So, you know, as I say, it
 14 may give an indication of how many visits I was doing on
 15 that particular day.
 16 Q. Let's go to {RBK00010782}, please.
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, are we going to have
 18 a break?
 19 MR MILLETT: Yes. We could take one now or we could get to
 20 the next site inspection.
 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Have you got a few more site
 22 inspections?
 23 MR MILLETT: I have, yes. It would be sensible to finish
 24 this one off before moving on to the next inspection.
 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Finish this one and then

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1 I think we ought to break.
 2 MR MILLETT: I'll keep it as short as I can.
 3 {RBK00010782}. This looks like a message sent to
 4 yourself on 2 November. It looks like a diary note of
 5 some kind, and it says:
 6 "Visited site met site manager and [Harley]
 7 representative went up on hoist to look at new cladding
 8 on eastern and western elevations 90% of cladding on
 9 main elevations complete columns 50% complete, seen
 10 horizontal Siderise cavity barriers where panels are to
 11 be fix just after hoist is taken down, some minor
 12 repairs ... Subcontractor is aware of the matter and is
 13 schedule to carry out such make good. Works progressing
 14 steadily no adverse comments to make."
 15 Then there are some 16 exclamation marks.
 16 A. I may have --
 17 Q. Can I just ask the question, rather than just leaving
 18 you to comment at large.
 19 First of all, who was the Harley representative that
 20 you met on site?
 21 A. I'll explain why people weren't named in our notes. We
 22 were instructed some time -- some years previously that
 23 we weren't to put the names of the people that we
 24 actually met in our site notes. It was something to do
 25 with data protection issues, because originally when

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1 I started in the District Surveyor's Service, I would
 2 always put the name of the person and their title, what
 3 their actual involvement, whether it be the architect,
 4 the owner or the building contractor --
 5 Q. I'm going to cut you off, Mr Hoban, I'm sorry, because
 6 time is getting short. I just want an answer to the
 7 question, if you can remember: who was the Harley
 8 representative? You can tell us.
 9 A. I can't, sorry.
 10 Q. Okay, you can't.
 11 When you say you went up the hoist to look at the
 12 new cladding, do you know what that inspection entailed,
 13 can you remember?
 14 A. It may have been to look at the actual panels, see if
 15 panels were damaged and whether any windows were
 16 damaged. As I say, there would be a section that would
 17 be exposed where the mast climber was, and that refers
 18 to the Siderise cavity ...
 19 Q. You have put 16 exclamation marks at the end of the
 20 message. What did that --
 21 A. I think I may have -- you know, when you are working on
 22 a computer, sometimes you put your hand and --
 23 Q. In his oral evidence to the Inquiry -- {Day30/153:3} --
 24 Mr Osgood said that he recalled a discussion with you
 25 on site about cavity barriers, and said that the

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1 conversation contained something to the gist, to the
 2 effect, of how good an install it was.
 3 Was it your view that the standard of the
 4 cavity barrier installation was remarkably good?
 5 A. No. It would be just -- whether it was --
 6 Q. Did you --
 7 A. As I say, I don't believe I would have said that.
 8 Q. Did you say anything to Mr Osgood about the quality of
 9 the installation?
 10 A. Not that I recall. As I say, I don't actually recall
 11 ever meeting him. Whether he was there that day, as
 12 I say, my usual point of contact was -- as I say, it was
 13 Jason and Jack at the start, and then when David Hughes
 14 came on, he usually accompanied me.
 15 MR MILLETT: Right.
 16 Mr Chairman, is that convenient?
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, I think we will have a break
 18 now.
 19 THE WITNESS: All right, thank you.
 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Hoban, we will stop now and come
 21 back at 3.40, please, and don't discuss your evidence
 22 with anyone over the break.
 23 THE WITNESS: Right, thank you.
 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.
 25 (Pause)

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1 3.40, please.
 2 (3.26 pm)
 3 (A short break)
 4 (3.40 pm)
 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, Mr Hoban, are you ready to
 6 carry on?
 7 THE WITNESS: Yes, thank you.
 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.
 9 Mr Millett .
 10 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman.
 11 Mr Hoban, I would like to move forward in time to
 12 17 January 2016, and I would like to go to Mr Hughes'
 13 statement, please, at {RYD00094213/13}, and I would like
 14 us to look together at paragraph 61.4. He says:
 15 "Steve Blake and I had a meeting on site with the
 16 two senior building control surveyors, John Hoban and
 17 Paul Hanson (fire regulations) on 7th January 2016, also
 18 in attendance was Neil Crawford, the architect from
 19 Studio E."
 20 Do you recall that meeting?
 21 A. I don't recall it, but I've seen minutes from a meeting.
 22 Q. He goes on:
 23 "The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what
 24 would be required to achieve Building Control completion
 25 prior to handover to the client. We initially met in

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1 the site office for the first part of the meeting and
 2 then walked the relevant parts of the building."
 3 Now, Mr Crawford also says that that meeting was
 4 also to discuss BC sign-off, and I just put in the
 5 reference: that's paragraph 251 of his witness
 6 statement, {SEA00014275/76}.
 7 Now, do you agree that the purpose of that meeting
 8 was to discuss what would be required to achieve
 9 Building Control completion?
 10 A. Yeah, we talked about further visits and we also talked
 11 about ... I'd be guessing. As I say, it was to talk
 12 about sign-off. As I say, the ...
 13 Q. Right. There is a minute of the meeting --
 14 A. Yeah.
 15 Q. -- to which Mr Hughes refers, as you can see, and we're
 16 going to go to that in a moment. Perhaps it might be
 17 quicker to do that.
 18 Before I do, do you remember walking round the
 19 relevant parts of the building with Steve Blake,
 20 Paul Hanson and Neil Crawford?
 21 A. My memory -- as I say, I know there was minutes, that
 22 would confirm that we were -- Paul and I were there.
 23 Q. Right.
 24 A. I can't recall it from memory.
 25 Q. You see, if that was the purpose of the meeting, it

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1 would have been an important meeting, and therefore
 2 an important meeting to have a note of on Acolaid.
 3 A. Yeah.
 4 Q. Yes.
 5 Let's go to the note, then. It's {TMO10017227}, and
 6 this is Rydon's minutes of the meeting with
 7 Building Control.
 8 It's got no date on it, but you are on the
 9 distribution list of that meeting. Can you see,
 10 "Distribution", all those above?
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. And you are one of those present: Hughes, Blake, Hoban,
 13 Hanson and Crawford.
 14 Do you remember looking at this or seeing this
 15 document at the time, do you think?
 16 A. Yeah, I think we -- Paul and I responded to that in
 17 an email. I recall seeing an email that Paul
 18 mentioned --
 19 Q. Yes, you're right.
 20 A. -- he is speaking to me and --
 21 Q. You're right, and we will come to that.
 22 Looking at this document, take it from me that there
 23 is no mention in this document of the cladding or the
 24 insulation. Was that discussed at this site visit or
 25 not, do you know?

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1 A. As I said, I can only go by the minutes of the meeting
 2 at that stage.
 3 Q. Right.
 4 Now, can we go to your second witness statement and
 5 look at pages 9 and 10. Let's have both of those up
 6 together, if we can. At the bottom of 9 {RBK00050416/9}
 7 you're asked the question:
 8 "Did you ever raise concerns about the compliance of
 9 the windows at any stage during the project?"
 10 We looked at this before, and over at the top of
 11 page 10 {RBK00050416/10} we can see your answer:
 12 "Possibly. During site visits I would make physical
 13 [notes] ..."
 14 Et cetera, we saw that before.
 15 Then you say:
 16 "Additionally, email from David Hughes on 12.01.16
 17 at 1620 states that raised (sic) the issue of
 18 firestopping during a site visit. This could relate to
 19 the windows but without sight of my notes I cannot be
 20 sure."
 21 That's what you say in your statement.
 22 Let's look at the email, {RYD00063791}. It's
 23 an email from David Hughes of 12 January 2016, as you
 24 say, and it follows a site visit. So it says:
 25 "Hi John

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1 "Following your visit to site and our discussion,
2 your only comment on the minutes was that there was no
3 mention of fire stopping to penetrations through walls &
4 floors .
5 "Please could you confirm this is correct?"
6 Now, the email below it was his email to you and
7 Paul Hanson, as you can see --
8 A. Yeah.
9 Q. -- of 8 January asking you and Paul Hanson for
10 confirmation that the minutes were accurate.
11 Do you remember whether you discussed that email,
12 8 January, and the attached minutes, with Paul Hanson
13 when you received them?
14 A. I believe so, and the reason for that is that Paul
15 answered that we --
16 Q. He does, and he does that on 13 January, you are right
17 and we will come to that in a moment. But let me just
18 take it in stages.
19 In response to David Hughes' 12 January email, did
20 you have any comment -- rather, had you made any comment
21 during the visit about firestopping to penetrations
22 through walls and floors, do you remember?
23 A. By that email, yes.
24 Q. I see.
25 A. Yeah --

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1 Q. So did you make a comment about that at the meeting
2 which wasn't recorded in the minutes?
3 A. Yes, I believe so, because that was something that
4 we ... on reflection now, as I say, that was something
5 that wasn't in the minutes that we highlighted hadn't
6 been included in the minutes.
7 Q. I see. Okay.
8 The reason I'm curious is because David Hughes is
9 asking you on 12 January to confirm your comment, and
10 I was wondering how he got to know about your comment.
11 You say it was an email from Paul Hanson, I think you
12 say.
13 A. Yes. I believe Paul and I may have ... again, I'm --
14 it's my understanding that Paul and I looked at the
15 minutes and looked at their content and said, "Oh, they
16 haven't mentioned the firestopping".
17 Q. Right.
18 Let's look at the email we have, which is
19 {RBK00003863}. This is an email from Paul Hanson of
20 13 January to David Hughes. You see that?
21 A. Yeah.
22 Q. It's copied to you. You're the last person on the copy
23 list .
24 A. Yeah.
25 Q. It's copied to a cast of thousands:

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1 "Dear Dave,
2 "I have reviewed the minutes and confirm they are
3 accurate regarding my reference (means of escape). In
4 addition John Hoban (RBKC building control) did also
5 mention about fire stopping particularly above door
6 frames."
7 Now, that's 13 January.
8 A. Yeah.
9 Q. Do you accept that these documents, the email of the
10 12th and 13th that I'm showing you, suggest that your
11 comments at the 7 January meeting weren't made in
12 relation to the windows, but only about firestopping in
13 relation to --
14 A. Yeah, yeah, yes, it would appear so.
15 Q. They were concerned with firestopping through walls,
16 floors and above door frames, but not windows?
17 A. Not windows.
18 Q. We then go back a day in time, {RBK00001122}. This is
19 an email from you to John Allen --
20 A. Yeah.
21 Q. -- dated 13 January 2016, so the same day as the email
22 we've just been looking at, but here you're referring to
23 site visits with Kas. Now, Kas is the young gentleman
24 you referred to, I think, as the graduate who had come
25 in to assist. The subject here is "Kas visits with

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1 myself 12th January 2016", and there you see five sites
2 which were visited, and the second of those is
3 Grenfell Tower, where you say:
4 "Checking new external cladding to existing tower
5 block, identifying defects [controllable under the
6 building regulations] on new panels, brief introduction
7 on fire breaks/fire cavity barriers, including location
8 of where cavity barriers on cladding panels should be
9 provided for this particular project."
10 What was the purpose of that email?
11 A. John Allen had asked me or asked surveyors to say what
12 they were taking Kas out for. As I say, he had just
13 joined us in the New Year. He was a graduate, and he
14 was -- it's the first time he had been introduced to
15 Building Control matters.
16 Q. Right. Were these five site visits all on 12 January?
17 A. On reflection, maybe I put the date wrong on that,
18 because it may have been an earlier date.
19 Q. Right. I was going to ask you because, looking at this,
20 it looks as if there was a site visit with Kas on
21 12 January, as well as the visit you paid on 7 January,
22 as we've seen before.
23 A. Yeah, yeah.
24 Q. Do you think that's wrong?
25 A. Yeah, I think it could have been --

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1 Q. Could this have been a reference to what had been
 2 discussed at the 7 January meeting, only five days
 3 before?
 4 A. When I went with Kas, as I say, it was the two of us, as
 5 I say -- and Mr Allen, all the surveyors that were left
 6 were taking Kas out on different days and --
 7 Q. Yes. Do you remember when it was that you visited with
 8 Kas and checked the things you say here you checked?
 9 A. That will be reflected in the spreadsheets that
 10 I mentioned. I can't -- it was early January.
 11 Q. Right. So would it have been 7 January even though he
 12 wasn't on the circulation list of the note we saw?
 13 A. I can't be certain.
 14 Q. If that is right, then is this a reliable record of what
 15 was checked at the 7 January meeting by you in
 16 accompaniment with Kas?
 17 A. These are the things that I looked on with Kas on
 18 a particular day and, as I say, the only way we can
 19 check that is against those spreadsheets.
 20 Q. What qualifications did Kas have to undertake
 21 inspections?
 22 A. Well, he came as a graduate. He had finished a degree
 23 in building surveying, I believe, the June before, and
 24 he had had some work experience. So he was -- he got
 25 taken on as a Building Control surveyor, but this was

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1 the first time he was working as a Building Control
 2 surveyor. So I was introducing him to what the job was,
 3 as I say, for example -- for example Portobello Road was
 4 an opening, so got the drawing out, measured the timber
 5 work.
 6 Q. Yes.
 7 Now, you say in this that you gave a brief
 8 instruction on firebreaks, fire cavity barriers,
 9 including the location of where cavity barriers on
 10 cladding panels should be provided for this particular
 11 project.
 12 What did your brief introduction of firebreaks/fire
 13 cavity barriers comprise?
 14 A. It would be just talking about the approved document.
 15 Q. I see. Did you --
 16 A. And where they should be, as I say --
 17 Q. What did you tell him about where they should be?
 18 A. In accordance with the drawings -- not with the
 19 drawings, with the approved document.
 20 Q. At this stage, January 2016 --
 21 A. Yeah -- sorry, perhaps I'm not explaining myself
 22 correctly. As I say, we were going there and I said,
 23 "This is panels -- these are the panels" -- we're
 24 looking at the finished job and I said, "Well, there is
 25 a barrier at the -- at floor level, there is a barrier

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1 at the compartment level, and there's a barrier at the
 2 window level".
 3 Q. Did you --
 4 A. We didn't actually -- we would have saw perhaps the
 5 physical one on where the climber was, but the rest
 6 would have been covered up.
 7 Q. I see. So how could you teach him, as it were, about
 8 the location of where cavity barriers on the cladding
 9 panels should be if they were all covered up by panels?
 10 A. It was just a brief introduction. As I say, he had --
 11 two weeks before he had never been -- or he may have
 12 been involved in making applications to the
 13 Building Control, but he had now become
 14 a Building Control officer, so he was -- I was taking
 15 him out and saying --
 16 Q. Let's move on to March 2016. Can we go to
 17 {RBK00010780}, please. This is an email from John Allen
 18 to David Hughes, copied to you, on 24 March 2016. He
 19 says:
 20 "David, thank you for meeting with me today.
 21 "My overall impression is that you are completing
 22 the works to a high standard.
 23 "Here are the items that I noted this morning in a
 24 more legible format.
 25 "1. Cladding nearly complete.

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1 "2. Ensure thermal insulation completely fills
 2 voids.
 3 "3. Nursery - no markings on fire resisting
 4 glazing.
 5 "4. Firestopping being carried out to a high
 6 standard including in between voids in steel deck."
 7 Et cetera.
 8 Did you speak to John Allen following his visit on
 9 24 March 2016?
 10 A. I can't recall. I most probably would. I think
 11 I wasn't available that day; I had either a hospital
 12 appointment for myself or my mother. I wasn't -- as
 13 I say, I wasn't available. It could have -- may have
 14 been a medical appointment at my doctor's, but I wasn't
 15 available and he did the visit for me.
 16 Q. Do you have a recollection in general of a discussion,
 17 though, about his visit with him, even though I know you
 18 weren't there yourself?
 19 A. As I say, I may have -- as I say, I would be only
 20 guessing. As I say, he copied me in on it.
 21 Q. Did you take any steps to ensure that the matters
 22 identified in his email would be followed up by you at
 23 your next visit?
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. What steps were those?

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1 A. Well, I visited and then we went through -- I did
 2 a more -- I did another list, I believe, at a later
 3 stage.
 4 Q. Right.
 5 I think the next visit we have for you is
 6 4 May 2016, and is it right that on that date you
 7 attended a demonstration of the smoke control system
 8 with Paul Hanson?
 9 A. I may have, yes.
 10 Q. Do you remember what your role was at that
 11 demonstration?
 12 A. We went along and we witnessed the operation of the
 13 actual system with the closing and the opening of the
 14 vents, the operation of the actual air intake, because
 15 I believe that some of the windows didn't open on the
 16 ground floor, and I think we highlighted this in a note
 17 to the contractor. So we were witnessing the operation
 18 of the actual system itself.
 19 Q. Were you content with the new smoke control system as
 20 you saw it demonstrated to you at that visit or were
 21 there still outstanding items that you thought should be
 22 fixed?
 23 A. Well, the windows, as I mentioned, and I mentioned that
 24 Paul was waiting for some calculations -- velocity
 25 calculations on the system --

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1 Q. I see. Can we then --
 2 A. -- and obviously the commissioning certificate.
 3 Q. I see.
 4 Can we then turn to a meeting on 12 May 2016. Go,
 5 please, to {RYD00091475}, and I would like to show you
 6 the second email down in that chain. This is an email
 7 from David Hughes to you on that date, 12 May, subject:
 8 "Building Control - Findings from today's visit to
 9 Grenfell Tower". Do you see that?
 10 A. Mm.
 11 Q. He says:
 12 "Hi John
 13 "Thanks for visiting today.
 14 "To confirm the works that still need to be
 15 done ..."
 16 And then he sets out a list.
 17 Those all I think relate to the lower four floors,
 18 don't they?
 19 A. Yeah.
 20 Q. Now, he recalls in his statement, Mr Hughes -- this 61.8
 21 of his statement {RYD00094213/14} -- and he says --
 22 rather than take you to it, I'll just tell you what he
 23 says:
 24 "I requested a visit by John Hoban following which
 25 he attended site on 12 May 2016 and walked around the

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1 lower 4 floors."
 2 I think I showed you that earlier on this afternoon.
 3 Do you recall making a visit to site on 12 May 2016?
 4 A. I believe I did. Did I write an outstanding works
 5 letter or a letter of comfort at that stage?
 6 Q. Well, I'm asking you: do you recall making the visit?
 7 A. You know, offhand, I can't recall, but --
 8 Q. Right.
 9 A. I believe that I wrote a letter to Rydons.
 10 Q. There is no record of this visit on Acolaid.
 11 A. Yeah.
 12 Q. Do you know why that is?
 13 A. As I said before, I don't know why that note isn't
 14 there.
 15 Q. No. And --
 16 A. Yeah.
 17 Q. -- I'm told that you're correct, that you did write
 18 an outstanding works letter to Rydon, but that doesn't
 19 explain the absence of any note of this meeting on
 20 Acolaid.
 21 A. As I say, whether -- as I say, whether I put the note in
 22 and didn't click the tick box to save, you know ...
 23 Q. Right.
 24 Now, this was the first visit that you had made
 25 since 15 March, although we've seen the visit made by

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1 Mr Allen --
 2 A. Yeah.
 3 Q. -- on 24 March, I think it was.
 4 Do you know why there was such a long break between
 5 those visits? There wasn't one in April, for example.
 6 (Pause)
 7 A. I'm trying to think what was going on at the time.
 8 (Pause)
 9 As I say, it may be that, again, as I say,
 10 prioritising my visits. As I explained earlier on,
 11 there may have -- again, there may have been certain
 12 things going on as regards my particular visits at the
 13 time.
 14 Q. Is it fair to assume that you made no inspection of the
 15 façade on this visit, 12 May 2016?
 16 A. I think maybe all that work had been complete at that
 17 stage.
 18 Q. Right.
 19 Given that the last visit for which we have any
 20 reliable documents or notes is your visit on 12 January,
 21 or perhaps 7 January more accurately, given what you
 22 have told us this afternoon, where you did check the
 23 external cladding, et cetera, can I ask why you didn't
 24 use this opportunity, this mid-May visit, to inspect the
 25 defects that you had identified on the earlier visits?

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1 A. They would have been done. I did -- you know, otherwise
 2 I would have called them up.
 3 Q. I see.
 4 Did you undertake any checks to the cavity barriers
 5 on this visit, the mid-May visit?
 6 A. Internally, yes, but I -- at this stage, I don't know
 7 whether there was any external works for me to look at
 8 at that stage.
 9 Q. You see, in January, when you went with Kas, it looks as
 10 if you had specifically instructed that the location of
 11 the cavity barriers on cladding panels should be
 12 provided for this particular project, we saw that.
 13 A. Well, they would make good as they went down.
 14 Q. Right. But did you check that what you said should be
 15 done was done?
 16 A. I didn't physically come back and check because, as
 17 I say, they would do that as they went down.
 18 Q. And then they would be covered up with rainscreen
 19 panels, wouldn't they?
 20 A. Yeah.
 21 Q. So why didn't you in mid-May say, "I would like you to
 22 take a couple of panels off so that I can check
 23 absolutely that what I asked to be done in January has
 24 been done"?
 25 A. Well, it wouldn't be possible because the climber -- as

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1 they take the climber down, they make good.
 2 Q. Indeed, but you, as the Building Control officer, could
 3 ask them to uncover parts of the work that you hadn't
 4 had an opportunity to inspect at that point, couldn't
 5 you?
 6 A. But there would be no climber there for us to get up.
 7 Q. And that presumably was as a result of not undertaking
 8 sufficiently frequent inspections so that --
 9 A. No, no.
 10 Q. -- you could still undertake your inspections while the
 11 mast climber was still in place.
 12 A. As I say, as they take the mast climber, they put the
 13 panels on.
 14 Q. So are you saying it was actually never possible to
 15 undertake an inspection of what was underneath a panel
 16 once a panel was on?
 17 A. No, no.
 18 Q. You are saying that or you are not saying that?
 19 A. At the end of the project, as I say, they were making
 20 good and putting the panels on as they progressed down,
 21 and I didn't come back.
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think we're getting at
 23 cross-purposes.
 24 Would it be right to understand that if you had
 25 wanted to, you could have asked them to dismantle panels

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1 so that you could look behind them before they took the
 2 mast climbers down at all?
 3 A. No. As I say, the mast climber was there. They were
 4 making good those --
 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No, no, I haven't got to the making
 6 good point --
 7 A. Oh, sorry.
 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- or striking the mast climbers.
 9 I'm just wanting your help on this: if you had been told
 10 by Rydon or by Harley they were going to start striking
 11 the mast climbers in a week or two weeks' time, could
 12 you at that point have gone along and asked them to
 13 remove some individual panels so that you could check
 14 behind them while there was still access available?
 15 A. If I had come back, yes.
 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. But once they start taking the
 17 mast climbers down, they make good as they go --
 18 A. Yeah.
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- and after that there is no access
 20 to anything?
 21 A. No, there is not an opportunity.
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I thought so.
 23 MR MILLETT: Yes.
 24 So my question again is: why was it that you
 25 couldn't do an inspection while the mast climbers were

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1 in place, before the rainscreen cladding covered up the
 2 cavity barriers and the insulation and the rails,
 3 et cetera, to make sure that what was going in
 4 underneath the rainscreen cladding conformed with the
 5 Building Regulations?
 6 A. As I say, I'm not ... I can only spend so much time on
 7 a job, as I mentioned previously. I'm not there every
 8 day. You have to -- I have to make judgements on
 9 whether I go to this particular job or that particular
 10 job where there's problems and I can see that there are
 11 major issues. I didn't see that here. So I'm making
 12 judgements on what I consider to be an immediate
 13 priority to deal with at a given time.
 14 Q. Yes.
 15 A. As I say, I do so many visits a day, I have to do my
 16 other works as well, so there's only a certain amount of
 17 time that I can spend doing inspections.
 18 Q. Was there not a time, whether in mid-May 2016 or at
 19 an earlier time, when on any of these site visits you
 20 could see from the mast climbers that they were about to
 21 hang a panel over finished insulation and
 22 cavity barriers, and say, "Before you do that, before
 23 you cover it up, I just want to check the workmanship
 24 and the compliance"?
 25 A. I did, I did.

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1 Q. Do you remember doing that?
 2 A. Yes.
 3 Q. Can you remember specifically, or even roughly, when you
 4 did that?
 5 A. When I went up on the climbers, they were working on
 6 those areas.
 7 Q. Right.
 8 Can we then move to June 2016 and go to
 9 {RBK00013224}, please. This is a letter from
 10 Paul Hanson to Rydon dated 2 June 2016, and it reads --
 11 A. No, it's from me.
 12 Q. I'm so sorry, it's from you. Just turn to the second
 13 page of that {RBK00013224/2}. It's actually from
 14 John Allen. Sorry, that's why I asked you. It's from
 15 John Allen, not from you. It does say on the first page
 16 "Please ask for: John Hoban", as you can see, but it is
 17 written by John Allen.
 18 It reads:
 19 "With reference to a recent site inspection of
 20 Grenfell Tower carried out by John Hoban with yourself
 21 yesterday afternoon."
 22 Et cetera.
 23 Pausing there, do you recall a site inspection of
 24 Grenfell Tower carried out by you with David Hughes on
 25 1 June 2016?

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1 A. Yeah, I would have done that.
 2 Q. You don't.
 3 Can we go to {RBK00052478}, please, and go in there
 4 to halfway down the page, where you can see 1 June 2016,
 5 and this is your site visit recorded, and it says:
 6 "Site visit today with site manager, outstanding
 7 matters listed below, also see [council]'s letter dated
 8 2nd of June 2016 [which I've just shown you] ...
 9 "With reference to a recent site inspection of
 10 Grenfell Tower carried out by John Hoban with yourself
 11 yesterday afternoon."
 12 Then what's set out below is essentially a cut and
 13 paste of the letter which John Allen had written to --
 14 A. I wrote that letter.
 15 Q. You wrote the letter?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. But John Allen signed it and you were the asked for
 18 person.
 19 It's right, isn't it, that this is simply a cut and
 20 paste of that letter?
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Did you actually make any notes during your inspection?
 23 A. Yes, in order to construct that letter.
 24 Q. I follow. So the letter was based on your notes?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. If we look above that entry, we then can see that there
 2 is an entry for 7 July 2016:
 3 "Works controllable under the building regulations
 4 now complete. Clear job."
 5 Does that tell us that you by then had satisfied
 6 yourself that all outstanding works had been completed
 7 so far as Building Control was concerned?
 8 A. I went back, I went back.
 9 Q. You went back?
 10 A. As I say, I was dealing with family matters at the time
 11 and I was in and out of the office.
 12 Q. Right.
 13 A. So that's not a complete note, but I had been back to
 14 check these items off.
 15 Q. When did you go back, do you think?
 16 A. On that date, I believe, on the 7th of --
 17 Q. I see.
 18 A. As I say, I was away from the office quite a lot at that
 19 time. As I say, I -- so there was days where I was
 20 coming in and going early, or there was days when I was
 21 off, in order to deal with family matters.
 22 Q. Just to give this a final pinpoint on the documents, can
 23 you go to {RBK00002993}, please. This is an email which
 24 shows an appointment which was booked for you attend at
 25 the building on 30 June 2016. Do you see that?

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1 A. Yeah.
 2 Q. "I have put a visit in the diary for John Hoban on the
 3 30/06/2016."
 4 Then if you go to {RBK00003023}, we can see that
 5 David Hughes sends an email dated 27 June 2016 to you
 6 and to others:
 7 "Hi John
 8 "I've just spoken to someone in your office and
 9 booked a timeslot of 11am to 1pm for the final
 10 walkaround at Grenfell Tower. I've got the keys to the
 11 boxing club so we can check the items on the list from
 12 the letter of comfort."
 13 The letter of comfort, was that the letter written
 14 by John Allen --
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. -- we saw, which you drafted --
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. -- 2 June, I think? Yes.
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. Does that final walk-around accord with your
 21 recollection of the purpose of that visit?
 22 A. I think there were still some outstanding minor matters,
 23 but I believe I went back on 7 June to do the final
 24 inspection because, as I say, there was still
 25 outstanding -- there was items that hadn't been cleared

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1 off from that.
 2 Q. What did you inspect on that final occasion, do you
 3 remember?
 4 A. I think it -- can we go back to the letter of comfort,
 5 if I may?
 6 Q. Yes, of course. That is at {RBK00013224}.
 7 A. I think it could have been to do with the floor surface
 8 to --
 9 Q. Is that item 4?
 10 A. Yeah.
 11 Q. That's in the entrance door to the community room in the
 12 main entrance lobby?
 13 A. Yeah, I think they had to get some surface to fix that.
 14 Q. There is nothing in that comfort letter about the
 15 exterior cladding, is there?
 16 A. No.
 17 Q. Right.
 18 Can we then turn to a different topic altogether,
 19 which is regulation 38.
 20 At the time of your involvement in the
 21 Grenfell Tower project, Mr Hoban, were you aware of
 22 regulation 38 of the Building Regulations?
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. Were you aware that the person carrying out the work was
 25 required to give fire safety information to the

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1 Responsible Person -- capital R, capital P -- as defined
 2 under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005?
 3 A. Yes.
 4 Q. And they were required to do that not later than the
 5 date of the completion of the work; do you recall that
 6 as an obligation?
 7 A. In detail -- when regulation 38 came in, we had -- well,
 8 there was a number of amendments, and we were given
 9 an in-house talk by John Jackson. I believe it came in
 10 some years previously --
 11 Q. 2005.
 12 A. 2000 -- yes.
 13 Q. Well, that was the date of the Regulatory Reform Order.
 14 Perhaps it's simpler to go to --
 15 A. No, no, the regulatory reform came in, but regulation 38
 16 came in at a later stage, did it, or not?
 17 Q. Well, I just want to understand whether you, at the time
 18 of the project, when it was certainly in force,
 19 understood --
 20 A. Oh, yes, yes, yes.
 21 Q. Yes, okay.
 22 Now, let's have a look at the regulation. It's
 23 {BMER0000004/24}. This is actually part of Ms Menzies'
 24 report to the Inquiry. She sets out on page 24 the
 25 regulation, and I want to look at regulation 38.2. This

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1 is just for convenience. It says there:
 2 "The person carrying out the work shall give fire
 3 safety information to the responsible person not later
 4 than the date of completion of the work, or the date of
 5 occupation of the building or extension, whichever is
 6 the earlier."
 7 Then there is a definition under subsection (3)(a)
 8 of "fire safety information", and it's:
 9 "... information relating to the design and
 10 construction of the building or extension, and the
 11 services, fittings and equipment provided in or in
 12 connection with the building or extension which will
 13 assist the responsible person to operate and maintain
 14 the building or extension with reasonable safety."
 15 Did you understand at the time that this requirement
 16 applied to Grenfell Tower?
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Did you understand that, under regulation 17 of the
 19 Building Regulations, which we can go to if you need it,
 20 a local authority should not issue a completion
 21 certificate until it is satisfied that, among other
 22 things, regulation 38 has been complied with?
 23 A. When we were given the talk about this particular
 24 regulation, we -- or I know I asked the question if we
 25 needed all that information to be sent to us, and I was

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1 told, and it was common practice in the office, that we
 2 didn't need all that information in order to sign the
 3 job off, and that was the practice in the office.
 4 Q. Right.
 5 How would you, as a Building Control officer working
 6 at RBKC, satisfy yourself that regulation 38 had been
 7 complied with before issuing a completion certificate on
 8 any project?
 9 A. By asking if they had done it.
 10 Q. By asking who?
 11 A. The contractor if they provided that information to the
 12 responsible -- to the building owner.
 13 Q. I see. So does that tell us that although you would ask
 14 whether they had done it, you didn't want to see what it
 15 was that they had done?
 16 A. That's what we were told.
 17 Q. Okay.
 18 In respect of Grenfell, did you take any steps to
 19 satisfy yourself that regulation 38 had been complied
 20 with?
 21 A. I believe I asked David Hughes if he had sent the
 22 information. We got certain certificates and that, and
 23 as far as I can recall, he said that he would -- he was
 24 sending the information to TMO.
 25 Q. Right.

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1 Let's see if we can be as precise as we can, doing
 2 the best you can with your recollection .
 3 You say you think you asked or you believe you asked
 4 David Hughes?
 5 A. No, I believe I asked.
 6 Q. Do you remember when you asked him?
 7 A. Towards the end of the project .
 8 Q. Right. This was just a conversation, was it, or was
 9 there an email or letter or something from Rydon?
 10 A. No, no, no, it was a conversation, because we talked
 11 about information that he needed to send to me, certain
 12 certificates .
 13 Q. Right.
 14 Did you record the assurance he had given you
 15 anywhere in writing on your files ?
 16 A. I didn't .
 17 Q. Why is that?
 18 A. I just didn't .
 19 Q. Given that this was a regulatory matter and placed
 20 a statutory obligation on --
 21 A. I believe that was the practice in the office . If you
 22 go through our records, that's the way it was done in
 23 the office .
 24 Q. So you are saying that the practice in the office was
 25 simply -- is this right? -- to get an assurance from the

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1 contractor that they had provided the responsible person
 2 with the relevant information for compliance with
 3 regulation 38 and then you didn't record that?
 4 A. If you go through the council's records, I believe
 5 that's what you will find .
 6 Q. Right.
 7 Completion certificate , and this is my last-but-one
 8 topic, and they're very short topics .
 9 You, I think, were responsible for arranging the
 10 completion certificate for Grenfell Tower?
 11 A. Correct .
 12 Q. Could we look at {RBK00018811}. This is the completion
 13 certificate itself , and we can see that it's got
 14 an electronic signature of John Allen there .
 15 A. Yeah .
 16 Q. Did you need his agreement before you issued the
 17 completion certificate ?
 18 A. No .
 19 Q. Did you apply his electronic signature or did he, do you
 20 think?
 21 A. That was on the system. It was standard. All letters
 22 were -- automatically had his signature .
 23 Q. Oh, I see. So what did you fill in, then?
 24 A. I just printed it out .
 25 Q. Yes, but --

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1 A. Sorry --
 2 Q. You say it's a standard form. I just want to try and
 3 get a feel for what is --
 4 A. Acolaid would process that. Maybe I might have ... if
 5 you put in certain information into Acolaid, it gets
 6 that information out automatically. It's into the
 7 actual computer system itself .
 8 Q. I see. So if you want a completion certificate , you
 9 just press a button on the Acolaid and out it pops with
 10 John Allen's signature on it and all the details filled
 11 in?
 12 A. Yes .
 13 Q. I follow .
 14 Do you accept that , given that you hadn't satisfied
 15 yourself that regulation 38 had been complied with, but
 16 had just had an assurance from David Hughes that that
 17 was the case, as you say, you shouldn't have issued
 18 a completion certificate on that basis alone?
 19 A. That was the way it was done in the office .
 20 Q. I follow that that's what you're saying to us, but do
 21 you accept that, as a matter of the regulation, you
 22 shouldn't have done it?
 23 A. As I say, that's how we were told to deal with it at the
 24 time .
 25 Q. Do you also accept that you shouldn't have issued or

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1 procured the issue of a completion certificate because
 2 the refurbishment didn't comply in particular with
 3 requirement B4 of the Building Regulations?
 4 A. As far as I was concerned, it did comply with B4.
 5 I wouldn't issue a certificate if I knew it didn't
 6 comply .
 7 Q. But now we know that the exterior of the building did
 8 not comply .
 9 A. Yes .
 10 Q. Do you accept now that that certificate should not have
 11 been issued?
 12 A. Oh, yes, I accept that now. At the time, when I issued
 13 that, I issued that with the understanding that it did
 14 comply .
 15 Q. Final topic for you, at least at this stage, and that's
 16 the weeding of the paper file .
 17 As I understand it, at RBKC -- is this right? --
 18 once a project was complete, there was a practice of
 19 weeding the paper file ?
 20 A. Correct .
 21 Q. The file would be weeded by -- is this right? -- the
 22 surveyor with responsibility for the file , or by
 23 somebody else?
 24 A. Sometimes -- mainly the surveyor --
 25 Q. I see .

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1 A. -- doing the job. It was weeded sometimes by other
 2 people or managers if people had left .
 3 Q. What documents or information would be retained on the
 4 file after the weeding process?
 5 A. There would be the structural drawings, plans, sections
 6 and elevations showing the constructional details ,
 7 certificates if they'd been printed out. That would
 8 generally be it. We wouldn't keep design calculations ,
 9 as I say, because in a job like this , you know, it could
 10 be hundreds of pages.
 11 Q. As the Building Control surveyor responsible for the
 12 Grenfell Tower project, would it have been you who
 13 weeded the Grenfell Tower --
 14 A. I believe so.
 15 Q. -- project file after completion?
 16 Can you remember what it was in general that you
 17 discarded and what it was that you retained?
 18 A. I can't .
 19 Q. Did you consult Paul Hanson about which documents
 20 relating to B1 and B5 should be retained?
 21 A. No, he would have his own records on that.
 22 Q. Right.
 23 A. We would keep -- sorry. We would keep the consultation
 24 documents, sorry, you know, because we had consulted
 25 with the Brigade on two occasions and we had letters

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1 back from them.
 2 Q. Those would stay on the file .
 3 Was there any process by which your weeding would be
 4 supervised by your line manager, so that you would have
 5 some sort of management input into what it was you were
 6 weeding?
 7 A. Originally , some years ago, we would have to go to our
 8 managers with the weeded file in order that they could
 9 unlock Acolaid in order to process the certificate , but
 10 a decision was made that that was no longer necessary.
 11 Q. Right. But after that decision was made -- you say some
 12 years ago, but when was that, just so I get a feel for
 13 that?
 14 A. I can't remember. John Jackson was the manager then.
 15 Q. So long before the Grenfell Tower project?
 16 A. Yes.
 17 Q. I see, okay.
 18 A. Yes. What happened, many years ago, the managers
 19 decided that they wanted files weeded in order to
 20 process them onto the council system, so -- and we
 21 actually -- at one stage we were tasked to do weeding,
 22 maybe an hour or some period, and then, as I say, that
 23 certain managers weeded the files in order that they
 24 could be transposed on to microfiche or on to a computer
 25 record.

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1 Q. Right.
 2 A. So it was something that the managers -- due to us
 3 moving, we didn't have archive storage in the council's
 4 offices anymore.
 5 Q. Just a short point: is it right that no line manager you
 6 had on this project checked what you did and didn't weed
 7 on the Grenfell file?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. Is it possible that you weeded the whole file so that
 10 nothing was left?
 11 A. No, no.
 12 Q. Can I just show you a document, {RBK00052479}. This is
 13 an email from John Allen to Jago Williams within RBKC on
 14 15 June 2017. This is the day after the fire . He says:
 15 "Morning Jago, I have [been] unable to find the
 16 electronic or paper file for Grenfell ..."
 17 In the fourth line down he says:
 18 "It may be that John weeded everything and nothing
 19 remains."
 20 Was that realistic , that you could have weeded the
 21 entire file --
 22 A. No.
 23 Q. -- so that there was nothing left of it?
 24 A. No.
 25 Q. Do you agree that weeding a file to the point where it's

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1 not possible to tell what has and what doesn't have
 2 Building Control approval could make it more difficult
 3 to enforce --
 4 A. Yes, as I say, it was a decision made by managers that
 5 the files would be weeded.
 6 Q. Yes.
 7 A. It's not something I agree with, but we were instructed
 8 to do that. As I say, I don't think it's a good -- it's
 9 not, you know -- well, it shouldn't be the case, you
 10 should keep all information, in my view. But --
 11 Q. Yes.
 12 A. -- the managers decided this is what they wanted done.
 13 MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you.
 14 Mr Chairman, I have two short questions which, if
 15 I don't ask now, I will have to ask after a natural
 16 break anyway.
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You are going to want a break,
 18 aren't you?
 19 MR MILLETT: Well, we are going to want a break. I would
 20 rather ask these questions now so that those outside
 21 this room know that they have been asked, rather than
 22 asking us to ask them again, which will just take up
 23 time, if I may.
 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, yes.
 25 MR MILLETT: Thank you.

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1 First, can I just remind you of what you said in
 2 your evidence yesterday, where you said --
 3 {Day45/29:3-7} -- that you attended a training course
 4 presented by Celotex which you thought was in 2005.
 5 That's what you said.
 6 Can we go please to {RBK00050786}. Now, this is
 7 your application for membership of the ABE.
 8 A. Yeah.
 9 Q. It's signed by you at the bottom, I think, on
 10 1 November 2012.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. You can see that, and you have put in two referees
 13 there.
 14 A. Yeah.
 15 Q. The reason I want to show you this is it attaches
 16 a training log.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. We can see that starts on I think it's page 10
 19 {RBK00050786/10} of this document. Can we go to that.
 20 You can see it starts there, and there it is.
 21 Is this an RBKC document or is it one that you put
 22 together yourself for the purposes of this application,
 23 do you think?
 24 A. We had a log originally, as I say, and, as I say, it was
 25 something that was set out and I would put in -- fill in

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1 where the gaps or the dates --
 2 Q. Right.
 3 A. -- when I attended visits -- attended courses.
 4 But as you scroll down, if we may.
 5 Q. Yes, can we scroll down.
 6 A. Ah, Celotex, 2005.
 7 Q. Yes. I was going to come to that.
 8 A. Sorry, no, 2002.
 9 Q. That's right, 22 May 2002.
 10 Before I get to that, I just wanted to ask you
 11 whether this was your document or an RBKC document?
 12 A. This is a document that I had on my computer at the
 13 time.
 14 Q. But you compiled it yourself, did you, rather than it
 15 being a formal RBKC document?
 16 A. Yes, it's something that I had on my desktop, for want
 17 of a better word.
 18 Q. Going to the first page in the top right-hand corner, it
 19 says "Update: November, 2012", so does that mean that
 20 this was a complete record of all the training you had
 21 done up to that date?
 22 A. No.
 23 Q. Would it include RBKC internal training within the
 24 Building Control department?
 25 A. No.

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1 Q. It wouldn't?
 2 A. No.
 3 Q. So what did it not include?
 4 A. As I say, in-house -- where we had tutorials or
 5 in-house --
 6 Q. Okay.
 7 A. -- sorry, discussions about the new regulations.
 8 Q. Now, if we go to page 11 {RBK00050786/11} we can see
 9 what you pointed out, which was a Celotex seminar on
 10 22 May 2002.
 11 A. Yes.
 12 Q. Was that arranged for you by RBKC or is that something
 13 you attended yourself off your own bat?
 14 A. No, it would have been a lunchtime --
 15 Q. That was a lunchtime seminar?
 16 A. -- seminar that we would have from time to time.
 17 Q. Right. That was the one you were referring to
 18 yesterday, was it?
 19 A. Yes.
 20 Q. So we can now date that, 2002.
 21 If we go to the bottom page 11, it stops, because
 22 this is the end of the document, on 7 November 2005.
 23 Does that tell us that you did no training, even
 24 in-house training, between 7 November 2005 and
 25 November 2012?

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1 A. No, that's not the case.
 2 Q. So why does this document run out of steam on 7 November
 3 2005?
 4 A. I didn't have -- I'd just completed the -- I'd filled in
 5 every page that I could on it, on what was on my
 6 desktop.
 7 Q. I see. Did you have a continuation sheet held
 8 elsewhere?
 9 A. No, I wouldn't be able to do spreadsheets.
 10 Q. Right.
 11 Going to a different topic, we've seen some -- many,
 12 but not all -- of your inspections between August 2014
 13 and July 2016.
 14 Were you of the view over that period that the
 15 number and the frequency of site visits that you were
 16 in fact carrying out was appropriate, or did you think
 17 that you could and should have done more but were just
 18 unable to do so?
 19 A. My day was full. I was, as I say, doing -- I was doing
 20 as many site visits as I could at that particular time,
 21 in relation to my workload.
 22 Q. Yes. That doesn't quite answer my question, though. My
 23 question really is: even though you were, as you
 24 explained to us, doing as much as you could for reasons
 25 you have given us, did you think that you could and

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1 should have done more, but were simply unable to do so
2 because of the pressure of work and the other pressures
3 on you?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What would you have wanted to do?

6 A. As I say, I would have liked to have just one area and,
7 you know, focus on that area and the work that I had in
8 that particular area.

9 MR MILLETT: Right.

10 Now, finally, before the break -- Mr Chairman, if
11 that's all right -- one document I need to show you.
12 I think I should.

13 I showed you this morning an LABC certificate for
14 RS5000 which we have on their site. Can I just show you
15 a different version ...

16 I am told I don't need to ask that question. I'm
17 not quite sure why, but I'm sure there's a good reason.

18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Always listen to your junior.

19 MR MILLETT: It may be necessary to go back to that after
20 the break if it's appropriate.

21 Mr Chairman, Mr Hoban, I've come to the end of my
22 prepared questions, and indeed some of my unprepared
23 questions. It's normal that we take a break now.

24 Mr Chairman, should we do that?

25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think we should.

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1 Mr Hoban, I'm very conscious that the afternoon has
2 gone on longer than perhaps most of us would have
3 wished, but it was important to let counsel finish
4 asking his questions.

5 THE WITNESS: Yes.

6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: At this stage I think he needs
7 a minute or two just to check that everything has been
8 covered, and sometimes we have questions sent in by
9 people who are not in the room but are watching
10 remotely.

11 So we will have a break now, I'm going to say until
12 4.50. I know it seems a little while, but it does take
13 time to organise these things.

14 So would you like to go with the usher, and not talk
15 to anyone, of course, while you're out of the room about
16 your evidence or anything to do with it, and at 4.50 we
17 will see if there are any more questions.

18 THE WITNESS: Right.

19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.

20 (Pause)

21 I think that should give you enough time,

22 Mr Millett.

23 MR MILLETT: I think it should, Mr Chairman.

24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 4.50, please.

25 (4.40 pm)

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1 (A short break)

2 (4.50 pm)

3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Hoban, we will see if
4 Mr Millett has found any more questions for you.

5 Yes, Mr Millett.

6 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, we have had a number of questions
7 coming in from core participants but, on careful
8 reflection, we feel we have covered them all
9 sufficiently for our purposes.

10 Which, Mr Hoban, takes me to a final question which
11 we do ask of people from time to time who have
12 particular responsibility for spheres of activity, and
13 it is this: we have been through two days of evidence
14 now and we have looked at a lot of material and you have
15 said a lot of things about it, and we are extremely
16 grateful to you. Looking back on all of that material,
17 and looking back on your involvement in the project as
18 a whole, is there anything you would like to tell us
19 that you think you should have done or would have done
20 differently?

21 A. Yes, I wish I was able to have been given more time to
22 deal with the particular project. I wish I'd been more
23 formal in letter-writing with -- when requesting
24 information. I also wish that, round the events of June
25 in 2016, I'd taken more time away in order that I could

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1 have been able to be more focused at that particular
2 time with my day-to-day things.

3 MR MILLETT: Yes. Well, Mr Hoban, thank you very much
4 indeed. Do you want to add something else?

5 A. Yes.

6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Hoban, when you came in at the
7 beginning of your evidence, I said that you would be
8 given a chance to say what I think you want to say to
9 the people who have been affected by the tragedy. Would
10 you like to take that opportunity now?

11 THE WITNESS: Yeah. I would like to add a few other things,
12 if I may.

13 In my considered opinion, the Building Regulations
14 at that particular time, particularly the approved
15 documents, were ambiguous and confusing, and we can see
16 that with particular reference to Approved Document B in
17 the new volume that has come out, because it's a lot
18 more clear.

19 (Pause)

20 It's a lot more clearer now.

21 The other thing or observation I would like to make
22 is that in the period from 2013 to 2017, when I left
23 Kensington, the Building Control department, they lost
24 ten surveyors who had, you know, 230 years' experience,
25 and there was one replacement, who was a graduate, and

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1 I don't believe that's the correct way to run
 2 a department. That's my own personal view.
 3 The other thing I'd like to say is that if we had
 4 a regulatory body like we had with the Greater London
 5 Council, and the regulations and Building Acts and
 6 constructional byelaws that we had at that particular
 7 time, and a support network of the experts that
 8 administered the regulations at that time, I don't think
 9 we'd be in a position where we are now, you know,
 10 sitting here talking about people that lost their lives .
 11 And also, all these buildings with flammable
 12 cladding, and the stress and the uncertainty that leaves
 13 with the people living in those buildings now, you know,
 14 as I say, we've got hundreds, hundreds and hundreds of
 15 buildings with materials that could cause a fire at any
 16 time, and it's still up there. That's what I would like
 17 to say about that.
 18 I would like to have a moment, if I may, just to
 19 compose myself, because I want to talk to people -- the
 20 people that were directly affected by the tragic events
 21 that happened on 14 June three years ago.
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You take your time.
 23 THE WITNESS: Yeah, thank you.
 24 (Pause)
 25 I am truly heartbroken about what happened that

1 night, particularly for those who lost their lives ,
 2 you know, the children, the brothers and sisters , sons
 3 and daughters, fathers , mothers, grandfathers and
 4 grandmothers that lost their life . I also have never
 5 forgotten the people that night that got out with their
 6 lives . Their lives have changed so dramatically since
 7 then, and likewise the people or the families that lost
 8 loved ones that night. You know, their lives will never
 9 be the same, and I just want to say that I'm truly
 10 heartbroken for them.
 11 Thank you.
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Hoban.
 13 Can I just thank you on behalf of all of us for
 14 coming here to give your evidence. It's taken longer
 15 than I think we expected, and it's probably been a very
 16 difficult experience for you. We are truly grateful to
 17 you for coming along and it's been very valuable to hear
 18 what you have been able to tell us. So thank you very
 19 much indeed.
 20 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now you are free to go.
 22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.
 24 (The witness withdrew)
 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Millett, that is that for

1 today, I think.
 2 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, it is , and I think that is
 3 that for the week, and we will start again on Monday
 4 morning with the next witness, who I believe is
 5 Mr John Allen.
 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you very much.
 7 Well, that's it for today and for this week. We
 8 will resume at 10 o'clock on Monday.
 9 Thank you all very much.
 10 (5.00 pm)
 11 (The hearing adjourned until 10 am
 12 on Monday, 5 October 2020)
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