



Grenfell Tower Inquiry

Day 90

February 15, 2021

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1 Monday, 15 February 2021  
 2 (10.00 am)  
 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to  
 4 today's hearing. As before, I'm joined by my fellow  
 5 panel members, Ms Thouria Istephan and Mr Ali Akbor.  
 6 MS ISTEPHAN: Good morning.  
 7 MR AKBOR: Good morning, everyone.  
 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Before we go back to our witness for  
 9 today, who is going to be Mr Meakins, could I just  
 10 remind those of you who are not actively involved in the  
 11 hearing to keep your cameras and microphones switched  
 12 off at all times, please, unless for some reason you  
 13 need to intervene.  
 14 Well, we can now go back to Mr Meakins, who will  
 15 continue giving evidence this morning.  
 16 Are you there, Mr Meakins?  
 17 MR VINCE MEAKINS (continued)  
 18 THE WITNESS: I am, good morning.  
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good morning, nice to see you. You  
 20 can see me and hear me clearly, can you?  
 21 THE WITNESS: I can, sir, thank you very much.  
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you very much. We don't need  
 23 to do the affirmation, because you did that on Thursday.  
 24 But I think we probably should just do the housekeeping:  
 25 can you confirm that you're in the room from which

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1 you're giving evidence on your own?  
 2 THE WITNESS: I am.  
 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good, thank you.  
 4 Can you confirm that you don't have any other  
 5 documents or materials with you?  
 6 THE WITNESS: I don't.  
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.  
 8 Can you confirm that your mobile phone is in another  
 9 room and that you don't have any other electronic device  
 10 with you that is capable of receiving messages?  
 11 THE WITNESS: I can.  
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good. Thank you very much.  
 13 Well, the system is the same as it was last week.  
 14 Your legal representatives are, as it were, in their  
 15 virtual hearing room following proceedings. If we have  
 16 problems with sound or vision, we will have a short  
 17 break while we resolve them, but I hope we won't. If  
 18 you need to attract my attention for any reason, please  
 19 just put your hand up or indicate in some way.  
 20 Is there anything that you would like to raise or  
 21 any questions you have before we continue?  
 22 THE WITNESS: Not at this stage, sir, no.  
 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Right, thank you very much.  
 24 In that case, I will invite Ms Grange to continue  
 25 putting questions to you.

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1 Yes, Ms Grange.  
 2 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (continued)  
 3 MS GRANGE: Yes, thank you, Mr Chairman.  
 4 Good morning, Mr Meakins.  
 5 A. Good morning.  
 6 Q. When we broke off last Thursday, I had just been asking  
 7 you about whether you recall a visit to Merxheim in  
 8 France in July 2015. You said that you remembered  
 9 attending a sales meeting at that time. You said that  
 10 because you were new to the company, and just  
 11 a few weeks into the job, you were a little apprehensive  
 12 at the time. Do you remember telling us that?  
 13 A. Yes, I do, yeah.  
 14 Q. Before we pick up on some documents which we believe  
 15 were presented to that meeting, I just want to look at  
 16 what you say in paragraph 7 of your witness statement on  
 17 page 2, this is {MET00053164/2}. If we look at  
 18 paragraph 7 there, in the second half of the page,  
 19 I just want to pick it up in the second sentence in the  
 20 second line. You say there:  
 21 "I did from time to time attend internal Arconic  
 22 training sessions which will have included technical  
 23 presentations given by Claude Wehrle (who manages  
 24 [Arconic's] Technical Sales Support Team). These  
 25 training session were typically delivered by PowerPoint

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1 presentations coupled with a talk about the products  
 2 offered by [Arconic]. I do not remember the details of  
 3 these training sessions but they would not have gone  
 4 into detail about Building Regulations or other specific  
 5 technical requirements for the UK market. They may have  
 6 touched on fire performance at a high level but I do not  
 7 recall any training about specific fire performance  
 8 requirements in the UK."  
 9 So that's what you told us in your witness  
 10 statement.  
 11 Can we just look at some documents now. If we can  
 12 go to {MET00053158\_P07/107}. This appears to be — it's  
 13 in a pack of documents that are all together —  
 14 a technical news presentation by Mr Claude Wehrle, and  
 15 we can see it's dated 2 July 2015 at the bottom of that  
 16 slide. Do you see that there?  
 17 A. Yes, I do, yeah. This was two months into my employment  
 18 with the company, if I remember, so it would have been  
 19 about eight weeks, yes.  
 20 Q. Yes, I understand that, but as we've just discussed, you  
 21 do recall going to Merxheim in July —  
 22 A. As I mentioned, yeah, vaguely, vaguely remember going to  
 23 Merxheim. It was my first time in Merxheim, so yes,  
 24 yes, I vaguely remember it.  
 25 Q. Okay.

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1 Then if we go on to the next page,  
 2 {MET00053158\_P07/108} — so this is a technical news  
 3 presentation, and at 108 we can see the topics that are  
 4 covered here. It says:  
 5 " ■ 2015's news.  
 6 " ■ Technical requests .... How to do."  
 7 So it appears that these are topics that Mr Wehrle  
 8 is presenting.  
 9 Now, if we then go to page 109 of the document  
 10 {MET00053158\_P07/109}, we can see there is a heading  
 11 "Certifications and Technical approvals", and he's  
 12 dealing with the Reynolux and the Reynobond products  
 13 below that.  
 14 Then at page 110 {MET00053158\_P07/110}, if we move  
 15 on to that, we can see there there's a heading  
 16 "Limitation for perforations", and then at the bottom of  
 17 that text, in the middle of the page, it says:  
 18 "New tests launched on Reynobond black core and  
 19 Reynobond FR ... trying to follow the new requested  
 20 designs."  
 21 Do you see that there?  
 22 A. I do.  
 23 Q. You have told us in your statement that you were aware  
 24 that the colour of the core for ACM PE was changed in  
 25 July 2015. That's right, isn't it?

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1 A. I don't remember saying July 2015, but the core was  
 2 changed throughout my employment at Arconic —  
 3 Q. Yes.  
 4 A. — at some stage. But I don't remember it being in  
 5 2015. I just started with the company, so it would have  
 6 been at some stage.  
 7 Q. I see.  
 8 Looking at this, does it appear likely that it was  
 9 at this sales meeting in July 2015 that you learnt about  
 10 that change to the black core?  
 11 A. If I'm perfectly honest, I don't remember this slide or  
 12 this presentation whatsoever. So this is, like, the  
 13 first time I've ever read it. It was obviously there,  
 14 but due to, I guess, nerves or some — you know, it was  
 15 my first sales meeting, I hadn't really taken on  
 16 board — I don't remember any of this.  
 17 Q. I see. Well, let's just keep going through it to see  
 18 whether any of it jogs any other memories.  
 19 If we go to page 113 {MET00053158\_P07/113}, there is  
 20 a heading, "Competition products analyze", and there is  
 21 a target there, to:  
 22 "Update the competition database in order to compare  
 23 our products to others direct or indirect competitors."  
 24 Do you see that?  
 25 A. Yes, I do, yeah.

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1 Q. Then the next few slides deal with communication with  
 2 the technical team. If we look at page 114  
 3 {MET00053158\_P07/114}, there is a heading there, it  
 4 says, "2 good and efficient ways of communication", and  
 5 then we see those two ways set out in green in this  
 6 slide: front sales or internal sales through to the  
 7 technical department, with the arrow, and then key  
 8 accounts through to the technical department.  
 9 Do you see that?  
 10 A. I do.  
 11 Q. This theme continues in the next slide at page 115  
 12 {MET00053158\_P07/115}. We can see then it says, "The  
 13 non efficient ways of communication", it would appear  
 14 with the technical department. It appears to be saying  
 15 in this slide that customers, distributors, architects,  
 16 general contractors, engineering departments, going  
 17 straight through to the technical department, is, it  
 18 would appear, something that's being discharged. Do you  
 19 see that?  
 20 A. I do, yes.  
 21 Q. Can you remember that message being conveyed to you  
 22 during this technical presentation or at the sales  
 23 meeting?  
 24 A. During this technical presentation, I don't remember any  
 25 of these slides. However, I do remember later on in my

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1 employment the technical department were not so happy  
 2 about contractors/fabricators contacting them directly;  
 3 they would rather go through a salesperson or  
 4 an external guy, yeah, but I don't remember those slides  
 5 at all, unfortunately.  
 6 Q. I see.  
 7 A. I can't remember that.  
 8 Q. I want to go on within the slide pack now and look at  
 9 page 118 {MET00053158\_P07/118}. So this is part of the  
 10 same pack, and this is titled here "Technical  
 11 Quizz[sic]". We can see that it relates to the sales  
 12 meeting on 2 July 2015 from the smaller writing at the  
 13 bottom of this page. Then there are some initials  
 14 there, PVO. Do those stand for Philippe Vonthron?  
 15 A. I can't be sure. I wouldn't know, no, I'm sorry.  
 16 Q. Are they likely to have been Philippe Vonthron? He was  
 17 in Claude Wehrle's team, wasn't he?  
 18 A. Could well have been yeah. Sorry for talking over you.  
 19 Could well have been.  
 20 Q. It appears that this presentation was also part of the  
 21 sales meeting from July 2015. If we look at page 119  
 22 {MET00053158\_P07/119}, one slide on, we can again see  
 23 there is a date, June 2015, at the bottom of this slide  
 24 pack, and we can see some information about who within  
 25 the technical department is managing what. Do you see

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1 that?  
 2 A. I do, yes.  
 3 Q. What we appear to be being told is that CWE,  
 4 Claude Wehrle, is managing certain things,  
 5 product/system certification, regulatory watch, with the  
 6 blue line, and then, for example, Philippe Vonthron at  
 7 the bottom of the page with the green lines managing  
 8 other aspects of technical team work, including fire  
 9 certifications. Can you see that?  
 10 A. I can.  
 11 Q. Again, do you recall receiving an explanation at this  
 12 sales meeting as to what the different roles were of  
 13 those within the technical department?  
 14 A. This was obviously at the sales meeting, these slides.  
 15 I just cannot remember the slides, I'm afraid, so — it  
 16 was too early on for me, it was a new position. Maybe  
 17 I just didn't take it in fully because it was a new  
 18 sales meet for me, so I can't remember, I'm ever so  
 19 sorry.  
 20 Q. I appreciate you don't remember these particular slides,  
 21 that's your evidence, but do you remember receiving  
 22 presentations from the technical team at that July 2015  
 23 sales meeting?  
 24 A. No, I don't, no. I honestly can't remember  
 25 presentations that took place at that meeting. They

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1 clearly did, but they're not clear in my mind enough for  
 2 me to say I fully remember the presentations, because  
 3 I'm afraid I really can't remember them being presented.  
 4 They obviously were, but I don't remember them.  
 5 Q. I see.  
 6 If we can go now to page 120 {MET00053158\_P07/120},  
 7 one page on within that presentation, the technical quiz  
 8 presentation, what this presentation appears to do in  
 9 the following slides is ask a question and then give  
 10 an indication of what the answers were. So it would  
 11 appear that either this was done as some form of quiz or  
 12 as some form of presentation.  
 13 We note that it's in English, this presentation, and  
 14 this isn't a translation, this was how it was provided  
 15 to the Inquiry. Does this suggest that it was delivered  
 16 to personnel able to speak English?  
 17 A. Every presentation we went to, the majority of the  
 18 slides were in English, because obviously the two  
 19 English people there didn't speak French, and of course  
 20 an international language. So, yeah, it was done in  
 21 English.  
 22 Q. Yes. That's really helpful. So I think what you're  
 23 saying is during these technical presentations, they  
 24 would be presented in English; is that correct?  
 25 A. Yeah, the majority of the slides would be, yes.

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1 Q. Yes. Was that the case for the whole of the sales  
 2 meeting that you attended in France, that you would  
 3 commonly converse in English as opposed to French?  
 4 A. Generally, yes, it would be English. Occasionally  
 5 they'd go into French, you know, with the French  
 6 representatives, or those that weren't so strong in  
 7 English. There weren't so many of those, but there were  
 8 a few guys that would, you know, be spoken to in French,  
 9 but in general it was English, yes.  
 10 Q. So does it follow that the majority of those attending  
 11 these sales meetings had a good command of English?  
 12 A. Oh yes, yes.  
 13 Q. If we go to page 123 {MET00053158\_P07/123} within this  
 14 technical quiz presentation, here we can see reference  
 15 to a question about different cassette systems, what  
 16 cassette systems should be recommended for  
 17 an installation in a horizontal configuration, and you  
 18 can see that the answer has been given with a green  
 19 cross.  
 20 If you go to the next slide, 124  
 21 {MET00053158\_P07/124}, we can see a similar set of  
 22 questions about the rivet system there this time. Do  
 23 you see that?  
 24 A. I do, yes.  
 25 Q. So this appears to be a way of conveying information,

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1 for example about the technical requirements to do with  
 2 the cassette and the rivet systems; yes?  
 3 A. Yes, from what I can see, yes.  
 4 Q. If we go on to page 129 {MET00053158\_P07/129}, here we  
 5 can see a section headed "Fire Certification" of this  
 6 presentation, and the question is:  
 7 "The fire test according to the Euronorms EN13501 is  
 8 a test based on ..."  
 9 Then the answer is given that it's the product plus  
 10 the fixing system, and not, for example, the product  
 11 only. Do you see that?  
 12 A. I do, yes.  
 13 Q. So do you have a recollection of receiving some tuition  
 14 at this sales meeting about fire performance?  
 15 A. I'm really sorry, I don't. I don't remember any of  
 16 these slides whatsoever, which is unfortunate. I just  
 17 can't remember any of that — them slides.  
 18 Q. Okay.  
 19 I just want to keep going for a few more pages. If  
 20 we now look at page 130 in this presentation  
 21 {MET00053158\_P07/130}, we can see here that there's  
 22 a question, number 12:  
 23 "What is the fire reaction classification for  
 24 Reynobond FR in accordance with the EN13 501 standard?"  
 25 And you get given the answer, which is that it's

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1 a B—s1, d0. Do you see that?  
 2 A. I do see it, yes.  
 3 Q. Then if we go on to page 131 {MET00053158\_P07/131}, the  
 4 next page, here the question is 13:  
 5 "What is the fire reaction classification for  
 6 Reynobond PE (CASSETTE system) in accordance with  
 7 EN13 501 standard?"  
 8 Do you see that?  
 9 A. I do see it, yes.  
 10 Q. You're being told it's not a B, it's not a C, but it's  
 11 an E. Do you see that in this slide?  
 12 A. I do, yes.  
 13 Q. Then at the next page, 132 {MET00053158\_P07/132},  
 14 question 14:  
 15 "What is the fire reaction classification for  
 16 Reynobond PE (RIVETED system) ..."  
 17 There you're told that the answer is that it's a C  
 18 there. Do you see that?  
 19 A. I do see it, yes.  
 20 Q. Now, you told the Inquiry in your evidence last week  
 21 that you were not made aware by Arconic, whether in your  
 22 training or subsequently, of the European  
 23 classifications for PE cassette and PE rivet. You said  
 24 that at {Day89/141} and {Day89/142} of your evidence  
 25 last week.

13

1 It would appear to be the case that, at this  
 2 presentation, those present were informed of these  
 3 European classifications in July 2015. Do you accept  
 4 that?  
 5 A. Well, in my defence, you know, I'd started with the  
 6 company, I was eight weeks into my employment, this was  
 7 all very new to me. I wouldn't have taken that on board  
 8 and understood really what it meant, because I was just  
 9 a newbie to the company. If I'm absolutely honest, this  
 10 wouldn't have gone in, in my head, and I wouldn't have  
 11 taken it on board. You know, it was all a sort of  
 12 bombardment of technical things that they were flashing  
 13 up on the screen, I guess that — I can't even remember  
 14 the slides. So, yeah, it was just very new to me, only  
 15 being eight weeks and still on my training. I don't  
 16 remember it.  
 17 Q. At these sales meetings, would you be provided with  
 18 a hard copy pack of the presentations that you were  
 19 receiving during the time there?  
 20 A. On some meetings, later on down the years, I remember  
 21 having some sort of literature that we could perhaps  
 22 take with us. But in general it was on slide. You  
 23 would see it — I think you could probably have a copy  
 24 of the presentation if you asked for it, but nothing  
 25 really in hard format. It was done via, obviously, the

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1 presentation, overhead projectors.  
 2 Q. Do you ever remember asking for a copy of the technical  
 3 presentations that you received?  
 4 A. I can't — I think I had so much information given to me  
 5 when I first started, with folders of people's names,  
 6 what they do, it was just — I had a big pack of —  
 7 an induction pack, I guess. At that stage I wouldn't  
 8 have asked for any sort of copy of the presentation, no.  
 9 Q. Would you agree that these presentations demonstrate  
 10 that the sales team were expected to know technical  
 11 material, at least at some level of detail?  
 12 A. Looking at that presentation that you've just shown me,  
 13 I assume they would have expected you to have some  
 14 sort of knowledge. But, as I said, I can only go back  
 15 to — my defence is I was — it was all very new to me,  
 16 I was eight weeks into the employment, and, you know,  
 17 I would have hopefully picked it up along the line, but  
 18 this was very, very new to me.  
 19 Q. Yes.  
 20 Can we look now at page 134 {MET00053158\_P07/134} of  
 21 the same presentation. This is still within the fire  
 22 certification section. So this says 15, and the main  
 23 question appears to be about the Reynodual product:  
 24 "Does the [Reynodual] get the A1 classification in  
 25 accordance with EN13 501 standard."

15

1 Then there is a table below which is giving fire  
 2 performance information about different Arconic  
 3 products. We can see that the Reynobond A2 has been  
 4 ringed in the middle of the page, and in that central  
 5 column under "Fire class" it says "Non contribution to  
 6 fire". Then in the far right—hand column there is  
 7 a column for "Typical application", and it says that the  
 8 A2 product can be used in "All type of building façades  
 9 and internal use".  
 10 Then we can see what's said below that about the FR  
 11 product, "Reynobond B1 (Called FR)". In the middle of  
 12 the page it says "Very limited contribution to fire",  
 13 and the typical application is said to be "Maximal  
 14 building height of 28m to 35m depending the country".  
 15 Then below that we have the PE product, it's titled  
 16 "Reynobond B2 (Called PE)", and in the middle column,  
 17 "Fire class", we can see it says "Flammable", and the  
 18 euro classification is said to be C to E, and then in  
 19 the typical application on the right—hand column we can  
 20 see it says, "Maximal building height of 8m to 12m  
 21 depending the country".  
 22 Do you see that?  
 23 A. I do, yes.  
 24 Q. Now, do you have any recollection of being given  
 25 guidance at this time of what the applications were for

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1 different Reynobond products?  
 2 A. I don't recall seeing this slide again, so this to me  
 3 is — I'm digesting it as we're speaking. I think at  
 4 that early stage when I'd gone to this sales meet  
 5 I would have expected to have sort of learnt things down  
 6 the line, but nothing was explained to me in depth apart  
 7 from this slide that you're saying was at the sales  
 8 meet, so no.  
 9 Q. I see.  
 10 You told us in your evidence last week that you were  
 11 not told there was a difference in the type of  
 12 applications that the different cores could be used for,  
 13 nor were you told by anybody at Arconic on the technical  
 14 team not to use PE at certain heights.  
 15 Now, do you agree that if you had seen this slide,  
 16 it does deal with common maximum height restrictions  
 17 associated with the use of different Reynobond products,  
 18 including the PE-cored Reynobond?  
 19 A. I think looking at this slide that you've just shown me,  
 20 I don't know if it appears, and I've never seen that  
 21 ever since throughout my employment with the company, so  
 22 this is the first time I've actually seen this, talking  
 23 to you. It would have obviously helped, I guess. But  
 24 no, the first time I've seen the slide, so it's new to  
 25 me.

17

1 Q. I see. But it's likely that you saw this slide, isn't  
 2 it, at the July sales meeting, given we know you  
 3 attended that meeting, and given this was clearly  
 4 a technical presentation that was meant to be  
 5 informative to personnel selling Reynobond products?  
 6 A. It's likely that I would have seen this slide, yes,  
 7 I just can't remember, and it frustrates me that I can't  
 8 remember seeing the slide, or any of the slides that  
 9 you've shown me. I can only put that down to being  
 10 a bit nervous about being at the first sales meet and  
 11 all the new people that were there and all the new  
 12 products that were being sort of thrown at me. So, yes.  
 13 Q. Did that kind of information ever prompt you to enquire  
 14 about what the position was in the UK about the use of  
 15 PE and whether it was restricted at certain heights?  
 16 A. At that stage of my employment, no, it didn't. I use  
 17 this word, and I don't like using it, but I assumed that  
 18 everything that we had was ready for us to go into  
 19 the — or has been put into the UK market for many  
 20 years. From what I understand, PE has been in the UK  
 21 for over 30 years, and in my opinion I honestly believe  
 22 that that product was a safe product to use in the UK,  
 23 or else I would never have been using it, and that's as  
 24 simple as that.  
 25 Q. I see. But I think you told us last week that you would

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1 have known that it wasn't the correct product for  
 2 certain applications; that's right, isn't it?  
 3 A. It would have been down the line, yes. At that stage of  
 4 my employment, eight weeks into the employment,  
 5 I wouldn't have had that knowledge, I wouldn't have  
 6 asked the questions, and I wouldn't really have digested  
 7 what that was. But later on, as I've said, obviously  
 8 you're aware of what product to put in what application.  
 9 Q. Yes, I see.  
 10 Can I just look at two more of these slides. Can we  
 11 go back to the slide pack and look at page 136 now of  
 12 that same document {MET00053158\_P07/136}. So this is  
 13 question number 17, and the question is:  
 14 "What is the meaning of the different letters in the  
 15 classification B—s1, d0?"  
 16 Do you see that there?  
 17 A. I do see it, yes.  
 18 Q. And you're being told that the B relates to the spread  
 19 of fire and energy released, the s1 to smoke opacity,  
 20 and then d0 is debris and flaming drops. Do you see  
 21 that?  
 22 A. I do, yes.  
 23 Q. Then we have some pictures which appear to include some  
 24 of the European tests, the single burning item test, on  
 25 the right in those images. Do you see those images?

19

1 A. I do see the images, yes.  
 2 Q. Then if we go to page 137 {MET00053158\_P07/137}, the  
 3 next slide, this is also part of question 17, the  
 4 question is:  
 5 "What is the meaning of the different letters in the  
 6 classification B—s1, d0?"  
 7 What we can see is there are some technical graphs  
 8 below that, then on the right-hand side there is a title  
 9 with a little arrow next to it in red:  
 10 "The propagation speed of the fire in function of  
 11 total energy liberated by the samples."  
 12 We have a table which talks about "Time to reach the  
 13 flashover" and then the Euroclass. What we see is this  
 14 is giving you some indication of how long it takes to  
 15 reach flashover as it's been defined in a particular way  
 16 here, against different Euroclasses, and we can see that  
 17 for E, at the bottom of this table, the time to  
 18 flashover appears to be less than two minutes to get to  
 19 E, whereas for B or better the time to get to the  
 20 flashover is greater than 20 minutes. Can you see that?  
 21 A. I can, yes.  
 22 Q. So can you remember coming away from this sales meeting  
 23 with an understanding, at least in general terms, that  
 24 the Euroclass B and above were the better classes, and  
 25 down to E was the worst fire performance?

20

1 A. We're talking about 2015, June. No, I can't say I ever  
 2 come away from that meeting with a better knowledge or  
 3 any knowledge of this. I don't remember seeing the  
 4 slide at that time, because, as I say, I was very new to  
 5 the company, as you're aware. So I'm sorry, no, I can't  
 6 remember any of this sticking in.

7 Q. Do you remember getting the clear message that the fire  
 8 performance of the Reynobond PE cassette panels was by  
 9 far the worst performance?

10 A. I can't say that I do, no. I didn't take — as I said,  
 11 I didn't take it on board, because I was very new to the  
 12 company, so I can't ... wouldn't have taken it on board  
 13 that the — any of the products were not fit for  
 14 purpose, if that's what we're saying.

15 Q. I see.  
 16 Let's move on now. I want to ask you about the 2008  
 17 BBA certificate for the Reynobond panels.  
 18 Before you joined Arconic, were you aware of what  
 19 the BBA, the British Board of Agrément, was? Did you  
 20 know what it was?

21 A. I knew a British Board of Agrément was a Kitemark, it  
 22 was the standard, independent document that not  
 23 everybody used, but it was there for the construction  
 24 industry if need be.

25 Q. So that was your understanding of what the purpose of

21

1 a BBA certificate was; yes?

2 A. In my opinion — yes, yes, I thought it was there for  
 3 confidence in, you know, buying materials, perhaps.

4 Q. How regularly did you provide the BBA certificate to  
 5 your customers?

6 A. I wouldn't have personally provided the BBA certificate  
 7 to my customers. It would have been — are we talking  
 8 about, sorry, Arconic here or Alcoa/Arconic, when I was  
 9 working for them, or are we talking about other  
 10 companies?

11 Q. No, I'm talking about your time at Arconic.

12 A. Arconic, yeah. No, the BBA certification, if it was  
 13 ever needed, would have been sent via the office, either  
 14 the internal staff, or generally it would have been the  
 15 technical staff would have forwarded on the BBA if they  
 16 needed a BBA.

17 Q. I see. So did you ever use it as a marketing tool,  
 18 a document that could be used to support the sales that  
 19 you were trying to achieve?

20 A. We were asked for the BBA, yes, on several occasions,  
 21 and we didn't have the BBA for certain materials, as  
 22 you're aware. For the A2 material that we were trying  
 23 to launch, there was no BBA, so therefore we couldn't  
 24 sell it in the UK, because we were asked if it did have  
 25 the BBA. The competitors had a BBA certification for

22

1 their A2 material, and that was, you know, a bonus for  
 2 them, but we didn't have one. I know we were working on  
 3 it and I was asking over and over again, you know, "When  
 4 are we going to get some sort of BBA?" Unfortunately it  
 5 never came to issue. We never actually got the BBA for  
 6 the A2 materials.

7 Q. Okay.  
 8 To your knowledge, did customers rely on this  
 9 BBA certificate when deciding whether to use the  
 10 Reynobond panels for their project?

11 A. Not all customers. There were certain customers that  
 12 would say that you need a BBA for the UK market, and  
 13 they would insist on having the BBA. But that didn't —  
 14 that wasn't in all the cases, you know, some of them  
 15 were just — because it was an independent piece of  
 16 paper, they weren't really interested in the BBA. But  
 17 the majority of people did want a BBA because our  
 18 competitors had one as well.

19 Q. Yes.  
 20 Can we look at your witness statement about the 2008  
 21 BBA certificate now. It's page 32 of your statement  
 22 {MET00053164/32} at paragraph 97. It's right at the  
 23 bottom of that page. You say this:  
 24 "I am not in a position to make a determination as  
 25 to whether [or] not the product supplied for the

23

1 Grenfell Tower project fell within the scope of the BBA.  
 2 By way of example only, in the 'Behaviour in relation to  
 3 fire' section of the BBA certificate there are  
 4 references to fire performance tests having been  
 5 conducted on grey/green, gold and metallic grey painted  
 6 Reynobond. The BBA certificate states that the fire  
 7 test performances may not be achieved for different  
 8 colours. None of the colours referenced in the BBA  
 9 certificate were supplied for the Grenfell Tower  
 10 project. In those circumstances the BBA certificate  
 11 notes that the customer should perform a test or  
 12 assessment 'in accordance with Approved Document B'."

13 So in your witness statement, you're bringing to our  
 14 attention a number of particular aspects of the  
 15 BBA certificate, including the colour limitation, and  
 16 that it notes that the customer should perform a test or  
 17 assessment in accordance with ADB.

18 Can we look, then, at that BBA certificate. This is  
 19 {BBA00000047}. Here we have the certificate.

20 Now, you told us in your evidence last week that you  
 21 only ever glanced over it. That was at {Day89/122} last  
 22 week.

23 I'm going to ask you again: is it really your  
 24 evidence that you never read this certificate during the  
 25 time that you worked as Arconic's sales manager?

24

1 A. Yeah, if you could just — if I could just explain the  
2 whole situation here.  
3 First of all, as you're aware, I had absolutely  
4 nothing to do with the Grenfell Tower project. The  
5 document that you — the statement that you've just read  
6 out was a statement that I would have added after the  
7 fire, because I'd done obviously a lot more research  
8 into what the BBA was about and what it said on that BBA  
9 after the tragedy. But before that, absolutely, I would  
10 have glanced over the BBA and not really, as I've  
11 mentioned before to you, understood the ins and outs of  
12 the BBA. But obviously since the tragedy, the fire,  
13 I've looked. But as I said, I had nothing to do with  
14 the Grenfell Tower, so it was very difficult for me to  
15 comment.  
16 Q. Yes, I see.  
17 Did you understand that the certificate makes claims  
18 about the fire performance of the Reynobond panels?  
19 A. Sorry, are we talking ... can you repeat that question?  
20 Q. So focus on the period 2015/2016. Did you understand  
21 that the BBA certificate made claims about the fire  
22 performance of the Reynobond panels?  
23 A. I knew, as I mentioned before, that there was a class 0  
24 mentioned in the BBA, spread of flame, but that's about  
25 as far as it went, I'm afraid.

25

1 Q. If we could look within it at that first page again, in  
2 the middle of the page there is a heading in capitals  
3 "Key factors assessed", do you see that?  
4 A. I do see it, yes.  
5 Q. Yes, we have that nice and clearly now.  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. Then three headings underneath that in bold, it says  
8 "Behaviour in relation to fire", and it says:  
9 "In relation to the Building Regulations for  
10 reaction to fire, the panels may be regarded as having  
11 a Class 0 surface in England and Wales, and a 'low risk'  
12 material in Scotland ..."  
13 Now, can you just tell us: what did you understand  
14 that to mean, "the panels may be regarded as having  
15 a Class 0 surface in England and Wales"?  
16 A. As I've mentioned before, the class 0 surface — class 0  
17 I took as spread of flame, so it meant that the flame  
18 would spread across the material, and that's about it,  
19 if I'm honest. I don't really know any more about that.  
20 Q. Did you understand that all Reynobond panels could be  
21 taken to have a class 0 surface based on that statement  
22 in this certificate?  
23 A. Oh, I assumed that they would have been, all of the  
24 products, because I was never — the really frustrating  
25 thing for me is the fact that it was never actually

26

1 brought up to me that the certificate wasn't good enough  
2 for the UK market by any of my customers or the  
3 technical team, never sort of mentioned any of this. So  
4 I took it as, yes, we had the BBA certification and it  
5 was class 0, it was spread of flame, and it was good  
6 enough for the UK market.  
7 Q. Just to be absolutely clear, I think you started  
8 answering this way in that answer, but I want to have  
9 your evidence clearly: did you understand that that  
10 covered all Reynobond panels, this certificate?  
11 A. I understood it covered everything that we had, the PE  
12 and the FR at the time, because we didn't have the A2,  
13 as you're aware, so ...  
14 Q. I see, so the limitation on colour that you explained to  
15 us in your witness statement, that was not a limitation  
16 that you were aware of at the time that you were using  
17 the certificate in 2015/2016; is that right?  
18 A. That's the truth, yes, I didn't realise that the colours  
19 made a difference really, obviously until it was delved  
20 into, you know, and I looked into it at a later date.  
21 Q. So your understanding at the time was not that only  
22 certain colours were covered in the certificate; that's  
23 right, isn't it?  
24 A. That's correct, yes.  
25 Q. If we now look at page 3 of the certificate

27

1 {BBA00000047/3}, there is a heading there "General" on  
2 page 3. Do you see at the top of that page we've got  
3 the heading "General", and then the third paragraph down  
4 says this:  
5 "It is important for designers, planners,  
6 contractors and/or installers to ensure that the  
7 installation of the cladding is in accordance with the  
8 Certificate holder's instructions and the information  
9 given in this Certificate."  
10 Now, can you help us as to what that meant?  
11 A. I can't, I'm afraid, no. I don't understand really what  
12 it means.  
13 Q. Were you ever aware of any certificate holder's  
14 instructions that were relevant to the installation of  
15 these panels?  
16 A. I'm sorry, can you repeat that question? I don't quite  
17 understand the question.  
18 Q. Yes.  
19 A. Sorry.  
20 Q. So if we look back at the certificate, the part we just  
21 read, if we could bring it back up on the screen, in  
22 that third paragraph under "General" it says:  
23 "It is important for designers, planners,  
24 contractors and/or installers to ensure that the  
25 installation of the cladding is in accordance with the

28



1 Certificate holder's instructions ..."

2 My question is: were there any certificate holder's

3 instructions that were relevant to the installation of

4 this cladding?

5 A. No, I don't remember seeing any, no.

6 Q. Then below that there is a heading "Technical

7 Specification", and item 1 is a description, and then

8 under 1.1, that first paragraph, if we pick it up in the

9 second line, at the very end of the second line in the

10 second sentence, it says here:

11 "The panels are available either plain edged,

12 (riveted system) or flanged (cassette system) to suit

13 architectural requirements ..."

14 Do you see that there?

15 A. I do see that, yes, yes.

16 Q. It's telling you that these panels are available in two

17 different configurations, either a riveted system or

18 a cassette system.

19 Then at the bottom of the page in figure 1, if we

20 can have a look at that, we can see a diagram of

21 a riveted system on the left and a cassette system on

22 the right.

23 Now, when you were dealing with this certificate and

24 providing it to customers as necessary, were you aware

25 that it made reference to both the riveted and the

29

1 cassette systems within it?

2 A. If I'm absolutely honest, no, I didn't. I would have

3 glanced over it and seen it, but it wouldn't have made

4 any major impact on me. I mean, it would have either

5 been a cassette or a flat-fix, those were the two main

6 ones.

7 Q. But did you assume that the information in the

8 certificate was relevant to both the riveted and the

9 cassette version of the product?

10 A. Well, looking at the information that you've shown me,

11 yes. But otherwise I wouldn't have digested this, no.

12 Q. Now, we know, having looked at those slides from the

13 sales meeting in July 2015, that there was a difference

14 between the fire performance of rivet and cassette-fixed

15 panels.

16 Can we agree that this certificate doesn't make any

17 distinction as to the fire performance of rivet versus

18 cassette-fix?

19 A. If there's no information on there, then I assume no.

20 Yes.

21 Q. Did you ever question why the difference in fire

22 performance between the rivet and cassette wasn't made

23 clear in this BBA certificate?

24 A. No, I didn't.

25 Q. Did it ever occur to you that that was a distinction

30

1 that ought to have been made clear in this

2 BBA certificate?

3 A. No, it wouldn't have occurred to me, because, as

4 I mentioned before, I mean, the first time I'd seen

5 these slides that were given at the sales meet, it was

6 all very new to me. I wouldn't have at that early stage

7 assumed or thought that it would have made any

8 difference.

9 Q. We saw in those slides that you were made aware that the

10 PE cassettes achieved a Euro classification of E. Did

11 you ever ask why the Euro classification of E wasn't

12 anywhere in this certificate for the PE cassettes?

13 A. No, because, as I've mentioned before, I don't remember

14 them slides, I don't remember even having that

15 presentation presented to me. Genuinely, hand on heart,

16 I was new to the company and just don't remember that

17 early back. So I wouldn't have asked that question, I'm

18 sorry.

19 Q. Let's look at section 6 of the certificate on page 5 of

20 it {BBA00000047/5}, if we could have the document back,

21 page 5, please. "Behaviour in relation to fire" is at

22 section 6, and at 6.1 we're told that:

23 "A standard sample of the product, with a grey/green

24 Duragloss ... coating, when tested for reaction to fire,

25 achieved a classification of B-s2, d0 ..."

31

1 Then we are told that a fire retardant sample with

2 a gold-coloured finish achieved a classification of

3 B-s1, d0. So the Euro classification on this

4 certificate is being said to be basically a B, with some

5 difference in the smoke and droplets figures.

6 Were you aware that the Euro classification referred

7 to in the BBA certificate was a B, basically a B?

8 A. No, I wasn't aware.

9 Q. Did you understand at 6.1 that the reference to

10 a standard sample of the product was referring to the PE

11 product?

12 A. No, I wasn't.

13 Q. So it's your evidence, is it, that you didn't ever

14 notice that that B classification was different to the C

15 and the E which are the classifications that were in

16 that technical presentation from July 2015?

17 A. I'm sorry, once again, I didn't digest this in 2015 and

18 I wouldn't have known, no.

19 Q. Did you ever come to understand that there were any

20 inaccuracies about the BBA certificate at any time prior

21 to the Grenfell Tower fire?

22 A. What I don't understand is if there were such big

23 inaccuracies in the BBA certification, why this was

24 never raised or brought to my attention. I understand

25 I could have looked at this in depth, this BBA

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1 certification , but no was the answer to that, because  
 2 nothing was ever raised, nothing was ever brought to my  
 3 attention to say that this BBA certification had what it  
 4 had on it.  
 5 Q. Were you ever aware of any concerns at all about the  
 6 BBA certificate that were drawn to your attention by  
 7 customers?  
 8 A. I can't remember any customers coming forward to me and  
 9 actually saying, "This is wrong, this BBA", for whatever  
 10 reason.  
 11 Q. Do you ever remember them coming forward and saying,  
 12 "This is unclear, we need greater clarity than that  
 13 which is provided in the BBA certificate"? Do you ever  
 14 recall that happening?  
 15 A. I can't recall a specific instance, no. I don't  
 16 remember anybody actually asking me for a different BBA  
 17 or why it was in the BBA certification. If I'd have  
 18 been asked that question, then it sounds like all I'm  
 19 doing is putting my questions to the technical team, but  
 20 that's what happened. If I had a customer,  
 21 a fabricator , a main contractor or whoever it may have  
 22 been, or a specifier , ask questions about the BBA  
 23 certification , it would have automatically been diverted  
 24 to the technical team at Merxheim, and that generally  
 25 would have been — my contact would have been

33

1 Claude Wehrle, head of technical.  
 2 Q. Yes. Yes, I see.  
 3 Did your clients ever ask for the underlying test or  
 4 classification reports that underpinned this  
 5 BBA certificate? Did you ever get that kind of request?  
 6 A. I can't recall having the requests, nothing sticks out  
 7 in my mind, nobody actually confronted me personally.  
 8 That's not to say that they wouldn't have contacted  
 9 France themselves and asked the question.  
 10 Q. Yes, I see.  
 11 Going back to the certificate now, and staying on  
 12 that same page in section 6, page 5 {BBA00000047/5}, we  
 13 get some more information at 6.2 and 6.3.  
 14 At 6.2, it states that:  
 15 "A fire retardant sample of the product, with  
 16 a metallic grey ... finish , when tested in accordance  
 17 with BS 476—6 ..."  
 18 And then:  
 19 "... when tested in accordance with BS 476—7 ...  
 20 achieved a Class 1 surface spread of flame."  
 21 Can you see that at 6.2?  
 22 A. Yes, I can, yeah.  
 23 Q. Can you see that it only refers there to  
 24 a fire retardant sample achieving those test results?  
 25 Do you see that?

34

1 A. I can see that, yes.  
 2 Q. Then below that it says, at 6.3:  
 3 "As a consequence of sections 6.1 [where we get the  
 4 Euro classifications ] and 6.2 [where it's referring to  
 5 some BS standard tests], the products may be regarded as  
 6 having a Class 0 surface in relation to Approved  
 7 Document B of The Building Regulations ..."  
 8 Now, did you understand from paragraph 6.2 that it  
 9 was a fire retardant sample which had achieved the  
 10 stated results in the BS 476 series tests?  
 11 A. I understand that by looking at the document now, as we  
 12 speak, but at that time I wouldn't have understood that.  
 13 I wouldn't have — I would have — I didn't read it —  
 14 I didn't digest it , so I didn't sort of take it on  
 15 board, no.  
 16 Q. Does it follow, then, that you never questioned why  
 17 there is no reference to the PE or standard sample of  
 18 the product undergoing similar tests to BS 476—6 and 7?  
 19 A. That's correct, I wouldn't have questioned that, because  
 20 I assumed, the word used — I don't like using it, as  
 21 I've said , but I would have assumed that the document  
 22 would have been, you know, up to scratch, if you like .  
 23 Q. Yes.  
 24 Did you know, prior to the Grenfell fire , that  
 25 BS 476 testing was relevant to national class 0?

35

1 A. No. No, I can't honestly say I did.  
 2 Q. Then just finally on this certificate , we can see the  
 3 colour limitation , if we can go back to section 6 on  
 4 page 5. We can see at section 6.4 in the middle there  
 5 it says:  
 6 "These performances may not be achieved by other  
 7 colours of the product ..."  
 8 Do you see that?  
 9 A. I do see that, yes.  
 10 Q. And that those colours should be confirmed by, and in  
 11 England and Wales it's said it should be confirmed by  
 12 test or assessment in accordance with Approved  
 13 Document B.  
 14 Now, I think it follows from your earlier answers  
 15 that you weren't aware of that colour limitation prior  
 16 to June 2017; is that right?  
 17 A. That's correct, yes.  
 18 Q. So does it also follow that you would have never said to  
 19 your customers that certain colours were not covered by  
 20 this certificate ?  
 21 A. I was unaware of that. I can't recall ever talking to  
 22 any customers about certain colours, because I wouldn't  
 23 have been aware of it, so ... yes.  
 24 Q. Yes, thank you.  
 25 I want to move on now to ask you about your general

36

1 awareness of cladding fires .  
 2 In the years before you commenced your role at  
 3 Arconic, so this is before May 2015, did you ever become  
 4 aware of any domestic or international cladding fires ?  
 5 A. I only found out after the Grenfell fire that there were  
 6 various different fires , and one of them I think was in  
 7 Dubai or somewhere, with regards to a similar material.  
 8 But, no, prior to the Grenfell fire , I was unaware that  
 9 there were any major fires in the ... in the countries,  
 10 if you like .  
 11 Q. So you hadn't heard of the fire at Lakanal House in  
 12 Southwark in 2009 resulting in six fatalities ?  
 13 A. No, I hadn't, no.  
 14 Q. And were you aware of any fires in the UAE prior to  
 15 starting at Arconic?  
 16 A. No, I was unaware of any fires that stood out in my mind  
 17 in the UAE.  
 18 Q. What about after starting at Arconic, between May 2015  
 19 and the Grenfell fire , were there ever any discussions  
 20 with anybody within Arconic about either domestic or  
 21 international cladding fires ?  
 22 A. I'm sorry, I'm trying to think. I can't recall ever  
 23 having a conversation with anybody about certain fires  
 24 that took place while I was -- in them years at Arconic,  
 25 no.

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1 Q. Okay.  
 2 Now, in terms of marketing material that was  
 3 available to you, I want to ask you some questions about  
 4 that now.  
 5 You mention in your witness statement a number of  
 6 marketing brochures that were available to you, and  
 7 I want to look at one of those which was available when  
 8 you began working at Arconic.  
 9 If we can go to {ARC00000456}, and we may need the  
 10 offline , high-quality version of this brochure.  
 11 So this is a Reynobond/Reynolux brochure which we  
 12 believe is entitled "Transform — Create — Fascinate".  
 13 Do you recall that?  
 14 A. I remember this brochure, yes.  
 15 Q. Yes. It looks like it was a folded brochure from the  
 16 way that it's presented here. Is that right?  
 17 A. If my memory ... yeah, I do believe it was a folded  
 18 document, yes. Yeah.  
 19 Q. There is a date that we've seen on this brochure, which  
 20 appears to date it at August 2014, 08/2014. I can't see  
 21 that at the moment, but we'll come back to that.  
 22 Yes, there is a date in the bottom right-hand  
 23 corner, 5 August 2014, can you see that?  
 24 A. Yes, I do see it, yes.  
 25 Q. Did you use this brochure yourself to promote Reynobond

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1 sales?  
 2 A. No, I didn't, not this particular brochure. If  
 3 I remember rightly, I think this brochure was given to  
 4 me as some sort of handover from Deborah French, or  
 5 a similar brochure that was slightly out of date, so we  
 6 never used them anymore.  
 7 Q. I see.  
 8 A. So, yeah, this wouldn't have been presented to  
 9 customers, I don't think. I don't remember. I remember  
 10 seeing the brochure.  
 11 Q. If we could pan back out of this brochure, and if we can  
 12 go to page 2 of it {ARC00000456/2}. Actually, I think  
 13 this might be page 2 already.  
 14 What we can see, in the left-hand page, on the side,  
 15 can you see, is that it says it has a core of PE or FR.  
 16 That's in the labels on the left-hand side.  
 17 A. Yeah, I can barely see that. Can we blow it up  
 18 slightly ?  
 19 Q. Yes, if we blow up the bottom left-hand side of this  
 20 page.  
 21 A. That's brilliant , thanks. I can see that.  
 22 Q. Yes, so what we can see is that it says that the core is  
 23 either PE or FR.  
 24 A. FR.  
 25 Q. And then it talks about a pre-painted aluminium sheet

39

1 below that.  
 2 I just want to look at the first page of this  
 3 brochure on the left-hand side. Is there an earlier  
 4 page to this brochure? I think there should be a page  
 5 before this, actually, looking at it now. The reference  
 6 I have is {ARC00000456}.  
 7 (Pause)  
 8 Perhaps if we could bring up that without bringing  
 9 up the offline version , could we just bring up  
 10 {ARC00000456}.  
 11 Yes, so this actually is the first page of the  
 12 brochure. So here we can see on the right-hand side the  
 13 heading "Transform — Create — Fascinate", and I think  
 14 what we were looking at in the better version was page 2  
 15 of it .  
 16 Now, at the bottom of this page, if we could blow up  
 17 the bottom left of this page, we see some fire  
 18 classification information, and with Europe -- it's not  
 19 very clear on the page, but you can take it from me --  
 20 what we get is the FR is said to be a B. So all we can  
 21 see in this table is the fire performance for Europe of  
 22 the FR panel. There is no reference in this brochure to  
 23 the class 0, the national classification , and there is  
 24 no reference at all to the fire performance of Reynobond  
 25 PE.

40

1 Now, can you help us as to why that information  
 2 wasn't included in this brochure?  
 3 A. I'm afraid I can't. I don't know why that information  
 4 wasn't put into the brochure. Since I've seen the front  
 5 of the brochure, it looks slightly different from the  
 6 up-to-date — I guess you've got an up-to-date brochure  
 7 that we would have used later on, but this — I can't —  
 8 no, I can't answer that. I don't know why the PE  
 9 wasn't ...  
 10 Q. Okay. Yes, we have a much clearer picture of that table  
 11 now, thank you —  
 12 A. Yeah, I can see it.  
 13 Q. — on the page here, and you can see there that the  
 14 EN 13501 classification is given for FR as a B, but  
 15 there is nothing for the PE core, for the standard core.  
 16 A. No.  
 17 Q. If we pan back in that first page and look to the far  
 18 right-hand column at the top. If we could pan out,  
 19 I want to go to the right-hand part of this page.  
 20 Yes, can you see there on the far right-hand side we  
 21 have an image of a high-rise building. Can you see  
 22 that?  
 23 A. On the front page, yes, I can, yeah.  
 24 Q. Yes. Yet there is nothing in this brochure to suggest  
 25 that the PE core might be unsuitable for use at certain

41

1 heights. Again, does it follow that you can't help us  
 2 with that either?  
 3 A. Yeah, I'm not sure if these buildings that they've put  
 4 in there, the high-rise buildings, were projects from  
 5 the UK, or they could have been — I'm not sure if they  
 6 used this brochure in Germany and just translated it  
 7 into German as well as in French. But, no, I can't  
 8 answer that. I don't know why.  
 9 Q. I see. I mean, this material is in English and my  
 10 understanding is this was an English version of the  
 11 brochure.  
 12 A. Of course, yes, yes, I understand, it's just that the  
 13 picture on there — I'm not sure if they left the same  
 14 picture in there. I don't know (inaudible) it would  
 15 have been taken in a European country. But no, I can't  
 16 answer that question, I'm afraid, I'm sorry.  
 17 Q. I see. But can we agree that someone would have to  
 18 study this document pretty hard to notice that there was  
 19 a PE version of the product, we saw that in the little  
 20 label on page 2, but the fire performance of that  
 21 product is nowhere set out in this brochure? Can we  
 22 agree that?  
 23 A. I think, yes, someone would have had to look at that to  
 24 find out there wasn't the PE in there, because I didn't.  
 25 Q. I see.

42

1 I now want to ask you about some of the  
 2 presentations that you gave in your role as UK sales  
 3 manager to promote Reynobond.  
 4 If we could look at paragraph 17 of your witness  
 5 statement now on page 5 {MET00053164/5}. Here you tell  
 6 us — I'm going to read it with you — it says:  
 7 "I inherited a PowerPoint slide deck which  
 8 I understood from the marketing team at [Arconic] had  
 9 been prepared by my predecessors for presentations  
 10 designed to be delivered to the Royal Institute of  
 11 British Architects ('RIBA') as part of its continuing  
 12 professional development programme. In order to deliver  
 13 any presentation to RIBA under that programme,  
 14 a provider (including a manufacturer of product) would  
 15 need to be accredited by RIBA which would then also  
 16 involve the payment of considerable fees to RIBA. I do  
 17 not know if any version of the presentation was ever  
 18 in fact delivered to RIBA."  
 19 Then you say that there is a copy of the slide deck  
 20 in your exhibits.  
 21 Then you go on, just below that, you say:  
 22 "My only contribution to the content of those slides  
 23 was to make adjustments to the title page, including my  
 24 name and position as UK and Ireland sales manager for  
 25 Reynobond Architecture and Corporate Identity. My

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1 understanding was that this slide deck had been prepared  
 2 by my immediate predecessor, Deborah French, in 2014.  
 3 When I reviewed that slide deck, I considered that it  
 4 would require some amendment if it were to be used in  
 5 a presentation to any architects (whether at individual  
 6 practices or as part of a CPD programme for RIBA). As  
 7 it happens I never got round to making those adjustments  
 8 for any architect audience, but because the slide deck  
 9 contained useful information regarding fabrication,  
 10 I did use the slides at some meetings with fabricator  
 11 customers or target customers."  
 12 Then you go on and you say you never presented to  
 13 the RIBA on this.  
 14 So it would appear that you did use these slides at  
 15 some meetings with fabricator customers or target  
 16 customers; is that right?  
 17 A. That's correct, the slides would have been used, or the  
 18 presentation would have been used, to bring back the  
 19 fabricators that unfortunately left and weren't using us  
 20 over the years. They'd used us in previous years, but  
 21 my aim was to bring on as many fabricators as possible,  
 22 and the slide deck was useful, really, just for them to  
 23 get an idea of what Reynobond was about, really, and  
 24 hopefully bring them back on board with us. So, yeah,  
 25 that's all it was used for.

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1 Q. Who were the target customers that you presented these  
2 slides to, can you recall?  
3 A. Target customers, as I say, they would be old  
4 fabricators that we sort of worked with previously and  
5 then they sort of dispersed and didn't use us over the  
6 years, and I guess, you know, some subcontractors or  
7 main contractors. Yeah. I just can't remember exactly  
8 which clients they would have been. But they would —  
9 the majority of them would have been fabricators. I did  
10 a lot of my work with fabricators.  
11 Q. Okay.  
12 You go on in that paragraph to tell us that you also  
13 delivered this to a number of architects' practices, but  
14 you can't remember who now. Is that right?  
15 A. I don't recall ever sort of presenting the presentation  
16 to an architectural practice on the full CPD programme  
17 because it mentions, you know, Reynobond in there quite  
18 a lot, and as you are probably aware, RIBA is not about  
19 the specific products, it's about — it would have been  
20 about an ACM product in general —  
21 Q. Sorry, Mr Meakins, I'm going to interrupt. You say in  
22 that paragraph that you didn't present this as part of  
23 a formal RIBA presentation, but you do tell us in that  
24 paragraph that you did present to a number of  
25 architects' practices, but you can't recall who know; is

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1 that right?  
2 A. Yeah, it would have been early on. They would have had  
3 an idea of what we did via that CPD, yes.  
4 Q. Can we just look at those slides for this presentation  
5 that you're referring to. If we can go to  
6 {MET00053183/61}. So is this the presentation that you  
7 were talking about in that paragraph with your name at  
8 the bottom there?  
9 A. Yes. I didn't change any of the presentation  
10 whatsoever, it was just my name along the bottom,  
11 really, yeah. That was the only piece of information we  
12 had, or only slides we had, yeah.  
13 Q. We can see it's titled "Rainscreen Facades — A Guide To  
14 Design, Aluminium Composite Material, Introduction to  
15 Reynobond".  
16 Then if we can just look through the slides, if we  
17 look at page 64 {MET00053183/64}, there are some  
18 learning aims of this CPD, and it includes, at item 1,  
19 aluminium composite material, what it is and how it's  
20 manufactured, and then 2, "Testing & sustainability &  
21 other benefits"; do you see that there?  
22 A. I do, yes.  
23 Q. Then if we look at page 66 {MET00053183/66}, you're  
24 explaining there what aluminium composite material is.  
25 A. That's correct.

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1 Q. Including there the thermoplastic core in the centre;  
2 yes?  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. Then if we go to page 68 {MET00053183/68}, this slide  
5 sets out some primary applications, and do you see  
6 there's an image of a high-rise building on this slide?  
7 A. I do, yes.  
8 Q. Do you agree that you were using this presentation to  
9 market Reynobond for use in high-rise applications?  
10 A. I'd honestly say I wasn't using all the slides in this  
11 presentation, I was doctoring it for the audience. So  
12 if it had been an architectural practice, these —  
13 certain slides wouldn't have been used. This was the  
14 whole presentation, and I don't recall ever using the  
15 whole presentation to a customer. It would have just  
16 been certain slides for certain audiences, people  
17 that — it would have made sense for them to see.  
18 Q. I see. Are you saying that you deliberately doctored  
19 the presentation and didn't present this slide to  
20 certain people?  
21 A. It's not that I doctored it, I took some of the slides  
22 out that weren't relevant to what they were looking for.  
23 If they were looking for a certain product or they were  
24 looking for certain information, instead of going  
25 an hour's long presentation or a 15 — three-quarters of

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1 an hour presentation that really wasn't relevant to  
2 them, I would take out what was relevant and what wasn't  
3 relevant. So I can't recall ever showing that  
4 particular slide to any architectural practice.  
5 Q. I see. What about —  
6 A. Does that make sense? Or is that ...?  
7 Q. — to a fabricator, would you have used these slides to  
8 market it for high-rise applications to fabricators?  
9 A. Again it would have been — fabricators, the slides  
10 would have been, you know, how we manufacture the  
11 product at Merxheim. The build-up — they would already  
12 know what a build-up of an ACM was, so I wouldn't have  
13 bothered showing them that slide, but they would have  
14 got an idea of how we go about making the material in  
15 Merxheim, and how — I think there were slides in there,  
16 if you were to look at the whole presentation, about the  
17 fabrication of the material and how it's fabricated. We  
18 would talk about that, and various different things.  
19 But very rarely — I can't remember ever showing the  
20 whole presentation to anybody, because a lot of it, to  
21 be honest, was — it is relevant or it was out of date.  
22 It just wasn't the right sort of information that people  
23 would want to know —  
24 Q. I see.  
25 A. — in my opinion.

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1 Q. Can we look at page 71 of the presentation now  
 2 {MET00053183/71}. Here we can see that you have  
 3 a title, "ACM Availability & Configurations", and you  
 4 have got the two different types of core: PE and FR,  
 5 fire resistant.  
 6 What did you say to your potential clients about PE  
 7 and FR when you got to this slide? Did you provide more  
 8 information about those cores?  
 9 A. I can't recall ever — I would have presented that, yes,  
 10 because it's a standard sort of slide to the right  
 11 people. I would have mentioned PE, we do a polyethylene  
 12 core, and we do an FR core, and they're the thicknesses  
 13 and the widths of the sheets, and that's as far as it  
 14 would have gone. Questions and answers would have been  
 15 asked at the end, or as we were going on, you know, it  
 16 was a very informal sort of presentation.  
 17 Q. How did you describe the differences between those two  
 18 products when you got to this slide?  
 19 A. Well, I would use the PE core as a standard core. We  
 20 always called it a standard core, because that's what  
 21 I believed it was, it was a standard core that we'd  
 22 sort of produced for many, many years, along with all  
 23 other competitors for 30 years, and then they introduced  
 24 the FR, fire resistant, core that we also did, that we  
 25 were very proud of. I mentioned before under Alain, our

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1 sales manager at the time, we were promoting the FR core  
 2 quite heavily.  
 3 So we would have mentioned that we do a standard  
 4 core, a PE core, and an FR core, but that's as far as it  
 5 would have gone.  
 6 Q. Yes, thank you.  
 7 Can we go to page 73 of the presentation now  
 8 {MET00053183/73}. This is a slide that's entitled "ACM  
 9 Testing Ensures Confidence", and we can see that the  
 10 second bullet point down says "BBA Certified", and it  
 11 gives the number of the 2008 BBA certificate there.  
 12 Then we can see, two up from the bottom, under  
 13 "Material Integrity", it says:  
 14 "Supported by full European Certification + Testing  
 15 Requirements."  
 16 Do you see that there?  
 17 A. I do see it, yes.  
 18 Q. So that would suggest that you were informing customers  
 19 about European certification requirements, as well as  
 20 that there was a BBA certificate; yes?  
 21 A. Yes, as I said, I didn't put this presentation together,  
 22 so these slides would have been in that presentation  
 23 that I would have inherited. I don't —  
 24 Q. Mr Meakins, I understand that, but in your witness  
 25 statement you have clearly said that you did deliver

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1 this presentation to a number of fabricators and  
 2 a number of architects' practices, and I'm just seeking  
 3 to understand, when you delivered it, what you were  
 4 referring to during those presentations. Yes?  
 5 A. Yes, sorry, yeah, I fully understand. Yeah, I would  
 6 have mentioned — well, you can see in there — we had  
 7 a BBA certification.  
 8 Q. Yes, I was asking you about the European  
 9 classifications. If we bring that slide back up, we can  
 10 see under "Material Integrity" it says, "Supported by  
 11 full European Certification + Testing Requirements";  
 12 yes?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. So would you have informed those you were presenting to  
 15 what those full European certification and testing  
 16 requirements were when you got to this slide?  
 17 A. If they would have asked what that meant, that  
 18 particular section, I would have had to revert back to  
 19 the technical team and ask them to send any  
 20 documentation that they required to prove that that's  
 21 what we did have, yes.  
 22 Q. I see.  
 23 Did you ever inform potential customers of the  
 24 actual European classifications of the products in your  
 25 presentation, ie that the rivet and cassette

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1 respectively got a C and an E classification  
 2 respectively?  
 3 A. Me, personally, no, I wouldn't have given those  
 4 documents out. That would have gone through the  
 5 technical team. As I say, they may well have asked  
 6 Merxheim directly and gone around me after the  
 7 presentation. But no, I didn't, not personally.  
 8 Q. Were you ever instructed not to provide that particular  
 9 information, that Euroclass information? Were you ever  
 10 told not to provide that unless specifically asked?  
 11 A. No, I don't recall ever being told not to provide any  
 12 document. I would have asked the question to why we  
 13 wouldn't provide the document if it's asked for. So,  
 14 no.  
 15 Q. I see.  
 16 Then if we look at page 85 {MET00053183/85},  
 17 finally, on this presentation, we can see, under the  
 18 heading "Manufacture of ACM", on the right-hand side  
 19 under "ACM Bonded Painted Panels", you have  
 20 transformation, bending and profiling, and then  
 21 application, you have hanging systems, cassette,  
 22 riveted. So you have the different applications for the  
 23 products there; yes?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. Did you ever explain to customers that the cassette

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1 version of the product achieved a different fire  
 2 classification under the Euro system to the riveted one?  
 3 A. No, I wouldn't have done, because that question, I don't  
 4 recall ever being brought up. So if it had have been,  
 5 then I would have — as I say, I would have looked  
 6 further into it and asked the technical team to provide  
 7 some further information on that, but that was never  
 8 asked.  
 9 MS GRANGE: Okay, thank you.  
 10 Mr Chairman, I think that would be a good moment for  
 11 the morning break, if that's appropriate for you.  
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, and that suits you, does it?  
 13 MS GRANGE: Yes, it does.  
 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good, all right.  
 15 Yes, well, we will stop now for a short break,  
 16 Mr Meakins. Please remember not to talk to anyone about  
 17 your evidence while we're on the break. We will come  
 18 back at 11.35, please.  
 19 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you. Thank you.  
 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: We will see you then. Thank you  
 21 very much.  
 22 THE WITNESS: Bye bye.  
 23 (11.17 am)  
 24 (A short break)  
 25 (11.35 am)

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1 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Welcome back, everyone. We will  
 2 check that Mr Meakins can see and hear us well, and then  
 3 we will continue with his evidence.  
 4 Are you there, Mr Meakins?  
 5 THE WITNESS: I can hear you clearly, sir, yes.  
 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you, and you are ready to  
 7 carry on?  
 8 THE WITNESS: I am, sir, yes.  
 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good. Thank you very much.  
 10 Yes, Ms Grange, when you're ready.  
 11 MS GRANGE: Yes, thank you.  
 12 Yes, Mr Meakins, I'm now going to move on to ask you  
 13 some questions about your specific involvement in the  
 14 Grenfell Tower project.  
 15 Now, we have already seen that there was a gap of  
 16 around four or five months between your appointment and  
 17 Deborah French having left Arconic in December 2014.  
 18 Were you made aware when you started with Arconic  
 19 that Peter Froehlich and Gwenaelle Derrendinger had been  
 20 helping out on the UK side until your arrival?  
 21 A. I was aware that the internal team were sort of covering  
 22 any calls that would have been made directly into  
 23 France, into the office, but I wasn't sure — I wasn't  
 24 aware that it was Gwen and Peter.  
 25 Q. I see.

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1 When you started in your role, the first order for  
 2 Reynobond 55 PE at Grenfell Tower had already been  
 3 placed in March 2015, and it was in the process of being  
 4 supplied to the tower; is that correct?  
 5 A. I understand it to be, yes.  
 6 Q. Now, if we go to your witness statement now, at page 5  
 7 {MET00053164/5}, paragraph 16, I want to pick this up  
 8 around seven lines down in paragraph 16. There is  
 9 a sentence beginning, it's kind of in the middle of that  
 10 paragraph, "In practical terms". You say there:  
 11 "In practical terms therefore this initial period,  
 12 which included Peter Froehlich coming over to the UK and  
 13 introducing me to existing customers of [Arconic], meant  
 14 that I started my active role as UK Sales Manager in  
 15 approximately early July 2015."  
 16 Yes?  
 17 A. Yes, that's correct, yeah.  
 18 Q. So is it right that Peter Froehlich had actually come to  
 19 the UK to introduce you to Arconic's customers? Is that  
 20 right?  
 21 A. Yes, that's correct, yeah, he was over for about  
 22 three days, if I remember rightly, introducing me to  
 23 fabricators, yes.  
 24 Q. Did that include him introducing you to CEP?  
 25 A. I do — yes, we did, we visited CEP, yes.

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1 Q. Yes, so you met Mr Blades at CEP?  
 2 A. Yes, I did, yeah.  
 3 Q. What about any other UK fabricators? Were you  
 4 introduced to any of them with Mr Froehlich?  
 5 A. From memory, I guess we would have visited Argonaut and  
 6 Genius Facades Systems.  
 7 Q. Yes.  
 8 A. I can't remember exactly who they would have — but  
 9 definitely it would have been Genius Facades Systems and  
 10 CEP would have been one of them, I believe.  
 11 Q. Did you meet anyone from Harley Façades, the cladding  
 12 subcontractor for the Grenfell project?  
 13 A. No, we wouldn't have had any contact with Harley,  
 14 Harley Façades.  
 15 Q. Were you made aware that Arconic had previously been  
 16 involved in a number of cladding projects with Harley?  
 17 A. No, I can't recall ever being told this. Harley were  
 18 new to me, so ...  
 19 Q. Okay.  
 20 If we can look at your witness statement now, page 7  
 21 {MET00053164/7}, just on from this, at paragraph 21, you  
 22 say this:  
 23 "When I started work for [Arconic] the first order  
 24 for the supply of product to CEP Architectural Facades  
 25 Limited ('CEP') in relation to the Grenfell Tower

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1 project had already been processed. It would have been  
2 referred to, even if only in passing, as part of my  
3 induction though I do not remember exactly when or by  
4 whom. However, this was an old project as far as I was  
5 concerned and I did not take an active interest in it.  
6 I focused instead on new opportunities."

7 Then you say:

8 "Prior to the fire I did not have any details about  
9 the Grenfell Tower project (including its height, how it  
10 was to be re-clad or what other materials were to be  
11 used in the project) beyond some administrative details  
12 where I was copied in by virtue of being the Reynobond  
13 UK Sales Manager, as explained below."

14 What do you mean there when you say that it was  
15 "an old project as far as I was concerned"? You say  
16 that in the fourth line.

17 A. Yeah. When I started with the company, I inherited the  
18 CRM system, and on that system there are lots of  
19 projects that I would have had absolutely no sort of  
20 part in, I wouldn't have even know what the projects  
21 were. There were lists and lists of projects that were  
22 halfway through, projects that were sort of complete.  
23 From my understanding was any projects when I started  
24 with the company would have — my name would have been  
25 put to them from Deborah French to VM, so I would have

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1 just automatically — they would have updated the system  
2 with a VM next to the projects.

3 Now, all of those projects, because I was brand new  
4 to the company, were just new to me, I had absolutely no  
5 idea about what they were. As far as I was concerned,  
6 Grenfell Tower could have been a bungalow in somewhere,  
7 I had no idea what it was whatsoever. So they're all  
8 new to me, these projects.

9 Q. I see.

10 Would it be more accurate to say that it was  
11 a project that was ongoing in terms of the supply of  
12 Reynobond panels, rather than saying that it was an old  
13 project?

14 A. I was unaware that it was ongoing. I didn't know that  
15 the project was ongoing. The — what I'm trying to  
16 explain to you there, because you look a bit confused,  
17 the project was — had started way before my time,  
18 I think — whatever year it was, 2014, 2013, something  
19 like that, years before I started with the company, and  
20 I guess what had happened was the material was purchased  
21 in phases.

22 Now, when I started with the company, I would have  
23 literally been there a couple of weeks and there would  
24 have been an order placed for another phase of the  
25 Grenfell Tower, but I had no idea — I would have just

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1 been cc'd in on that email because I was now the guy in  
2 the UK, but I hadn't completed any of my training and  
3 I just wouldn't have known what that project was,  
4 I would have just known it was just being ... it was  
5 there in the system and that was it, really.

6 Q. I see.

7 Now, you talked about the CRM, the customer  
8 relationship management database, and we discussed that  
9 in the first day of your evidence. Can we just go to  
10 that now, it's at {MET00077778}.

11 This is an extract from that CRM database, and we  
12 can see at the top, "Project Details", it's entitled  
13 "Grenfel[sic] Towers", in the plural. Do you see that  
14 there?

15 A. Yes, I can see that, yes.

16 Q. And we can see under that, under "Key Project  
17 Information":

18 "Project Name: Grenfel Towers.

19 "Name Details: Harley Mark Harris."

20 Then we can see there is "Potential Reynobond  
21 3,500 [square metres]" on the right-hand side there.

22 If we can then look at the bottom of this page, if  
23 we can look at the bottom half of it, there's an entry  
24 or a heading there "Sales Detail Information", just  
25 above the dotted lines, and then underneath that, it

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1 says:

2 "Activity: ARC — [Reynobond] Architecture.

3 "Main Activity: ARC — [Reynobond] ARCHITECTURE."

4 On the right-hand side it says there, "Owner:  
5 Vince Meakins". Do you see that there?

6 A. That's correct. That's what I said. Everything was  
7 changed into my name. Every project on that system had  
8 my name under it —

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. — when I started with the company.

11 Q. Yes, because you were now the UK sales manager for the  
12 Reynobond product.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Yes.

15 Just a few lines above that we get some project  
16 detail information, if we can look just a little bit  
17 above that, on the page. Yes, so two headings up,  
18 "Project Detail Information", we can see it says,  
19 "Origin: Influencer" and then it says "Type of Building:  
20 Residential". Do you have that?

21 A. I can see type of building, yes.

22 Q. And it says, "Type of Market: Public"; yes?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So is it right that you were aware of this information,  
25 that it was the sale of Reynobond and it was being

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1 provided to a public residential building?  
 2 A. No, because I didn't look at this, this CRM system.  
 3 I had no reason for me to look at that particular  
 4 project. If you — sorry, can you go up to the last  
 5 page that we looked at, prior to this one?  
 6 Q. The top of the page?  
 7 A. Yeah, the top of the page, if you wouldn't mind.  
 8 Thank you. I mean, every project where it says "Sales  
 9 Stage" it says "Closed/Won".  
 10 Q. Yes.  
 11 A. That means that that project is closed, it's finished,  
 12 it's won. So any status that would come up like that on  
 13 the CRM system I wouldn't even bother opening,  
 14 I wouldn't look at it, because as far as I was concerned  
 15 that project had been won, it's closed and the project  
 16 is now finished. So I wouldn't have had any dealings  
 17 with it whatsoever.  
 18 Q. I see.  
 19 Did you ever speak to anybody within Arconic about  
 20 the Grenfell Tower project, to Peter Froehlich  
 21 for example?  
 22 A. I can't recall ever talking to Peter Froehlich about the  
 23 Grenfell Tower project, because it wasn't my project.  
 24 I had absolutely no dealings with the Grenfell project,  
 25 so I can't recall ever talking to Peter.

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1 Q. But were you aware that there was a project called  
 2 Grenfell Tower or Grenfell Towers?  
 3 A. I would have been aware because of the email that I was  
 4 cc'd in on that I may have browsed over at the time, but  
 5 as I said before, I wouldn't have known what type of  
 6 building that was or what type of project it was,  
 7 because I just wouldn't have looked at it.  
 8 Q. What core did you understand was being supplied for the  
 9 project? Was it PE core or FR core, as far as you  
 10 understood it?  
 11 A. As far as I understood it, I had no idea what core had  
 12 been ordered, I had no idea of anything about the  
 13 project, so I wouldn't have had any idea of what was  
 14 ordered on that project. And I wouldn't have known, it  
 15 was a very early stage for me, as I said before. I'd  
 16 been with the company at that time four weeks. So that  
 17 and all the other hundreds of projects that were on  
 18 there, I just wouldn't have known what was ordered for  
 19 that Grenfell project.  
 20 Q. I see.  
 21 You say you weren't positively aware of what core it  
 22 was; did you make any assumption as to what core it was?  
 23 A. I would never have made any assumption to what core it  
 24 was, because I was unaware of the project. I didn't  
 25 know anything about the project. I wouldn't have made

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1 any guesses to what the project or what the core was.  
 2 Q. Now, we know from the documents that there were four  
 3 orders of Reynobond PE 55 processed by Arconic between  
 4 March 2015 and December 2015. The first order was  
 5 before your time, that was in March 2015, and then there  
 6 were three other orders: there was one on 6 July 2015,  
 7 there was one on 5 October 2015, and there was one on  
 8 11 November 2015.  
 9 Do you remember those orders being placed?  
 10 A. I personally don't remember the orders because they  
 11 would have gone direct through into the office, and  
 12 I guess it would have been Gwen that would have picked  
 13 the orders up. But, no, I don't remember them sticking  
 14 out in my mind that they were — because they weren't  
 15 a project that I had worked on, I had no involvement in  
 16 the project, so they would have just been orders that  
 17 would have gone via the office. They wouldn't have come  
 18 to me directly, if that makes sense.  
 19 Q. I see.  
 20 Can we just look for a moment at what  
 21 Ms Derrendinger says in her witness statement. This is  
 22 {MET00053191/44}, paragraph 139. So she says here:  
 23 "On 11 November 2015, I was copied into an email  
 24 from Deborah Talbot (CEP) to Vince Meakins (who by this  
 25 point had settled into his role as Reynobond sales agent

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1 in the UK) and also copied to Neil Wilson (CEP)."  
 2 So is that right, that certainly by this time you  
 3 had settled into your role as the Reynobond sales agent  
 4 in the UK?  
 5 A. I guess so. I mean, I — as you know, I started in the  
 6 May, so I would have been with the company a few months  
 7 by that time, yes.  
 8 Q. Yes. And as a result, we can see in the documents that  
 9 you were included in the relevant correspondence about  
 10 the supply of Reynobond to Grenfell Tower.  
 11 Can we just look at some of that. If we go to  
 12 {ARC00000194}, this is an email dated 20 July 2015, if  
 13 we look at the top email. It's from Marie—Claude Jordan  
 14 to Neil Wilson of CEP, and it copies in Deborah Talbot  
 15 of CEP, Ms Derrendinger of Arconic, and it also copies  
 16 in you. Do you see that?  
 17 A. I do see it, yes.  
 18 Q. The subject is "Grenfell Tower — London", and the  
 19 importance is high. Do you see that?  
 20 A. I can see that, yes.  
 21 Q. You would have seen emails like this, wouldn't you,  
 22 about the orders of Reynobond to Grenfell Tower?  
 23 A. Can I just make it quite clear that I was cc'd in on  
 24 most emails. I had quite a few emails, as you can  
 25 probably see, come through in a week. So I would have

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1 had an email flash up. If I'd sort of taken a lot of  
 2 notice over it — it did say "High", so I probably would  
 3 you have browsed over it, but because of the project  
 4 name, I wouldn't really have taken an awful lot of  
 5 notice of it.  
 6 Q. Did you understand from this description, the subject,  
 7 "Grenfell Tower — London", that this was a tall building  
 8 project?  
 9 A. I can't honestly say I would have taken that in  
 10 consideration. I would have just read it as a London  
 11 project, and that would have been all. I wouldn't have  
 12 needed to delve into it any more than that.  
 13 Q. I see. But were you aware that this project was a tall  
 14 building project from the description "Grenfell Tower"  
 15 in London?  
 16 A. Reading this email now — I don't recall ever reading  
 17 that email, but reading it now, yes, I would say that it  
 18 would be a high-rise building of some type.  
 19 Q. The attachment to this email, if we can go to this now,  
 20 is at {ARC00000195}. This is the order acknowledgement  
 21 for the order of Reynobond PE in July 2015, so the  
 22 second order. So here is the order acknowledgement, and  
 23 we can see in the middle of the page that it relates to  
 24 Reynobond 55 smoke silver metallic, and on the right,  
 25 after Reynobond 55, each time we can see it says PE four

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1 times in this document. Do you see that?  
 2 A. I can see that clearly, yes.  
 3 Q. Now, would you have looked at this order acknowledgement  
 4 and been aware that it was PE that was being provided to  
 5 Grenfell Tower?  
 6 A. No, I can't ever remember seeing this document, and  
 7 I certainly wouldn't have questioned it being PE,  
 8 because I was unaware of what type of building it was.  
 9 Now looking at the email that you've shown me, it says,  
 10 you know, a high building in London. But at that stage  
 11 I would never have put the two together.  
 12 Q. But wouldn't you have wanted to have been aware of what  
 13 the existing projects were so that you could develop  
 14 your knowledge of your customer base and potential  
 15 future sales with those clients?  
 16 A. This was a project that I had absolutely nothing to do  
 17 with, as you're aware. My remit was to bring on new  
 18 fabricators, grow the UK market with the FR product, and  
 19 move forward with Reynobond as best as we could. We had  
 20 lots of things in the pipeline, like the A2 product and  
 21 everything else that we were talking about on regular  
 22 basis. So, no, old projects for me were there in the  
 23 pipeline, they had finished, they'd been closed as far  
 24 as I was concerned, so I wouldn't have looked any  
 25 further into that project, because it states on there

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1 it's closed, it's finished. So, as far as I was  
 2 concerned, that project was finished. It didn't give  
 3 any other information about who was dealing with the  
 4 project apart from CEP. So, no, I wouldn't have looked  
 5 any further into that at my stage in the employment.  
 6 Q. Are you saying that you weren't aware that this was  
 7 a large order of Reynobond panels for this project?  
 8 A. No, I wasn't saying that, I do realise it was a large,  
 9 looking at it now, volume of material for the project,  
 10 yes.  
 11 Q. Yes.  
 12 Let's have a look at another email,  
 13 {MET00053161/87}. This is an email from you to  
 14 Peter Froehlich on 28 August 2015. Do you see that?  
 15 A. I do see that, yes.  
 16 Q. Again, here, the subject is "Grenfell Towers Order" in  
 17 the plural.  
 18 A. Yes.  
 19 Q. And you say:  
 20 "Hi Peter,  
 21 "I have just spoken to Neil at Omnis he informs me  
 22 that the above order was placed with us in two lots  
 23 3000m2 July and 3600m2 in August. (the material is in  
 24 their yard)."  
 25 And it's signed by you.

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1 So it's right, isn't it, that at the time you wrote  
 2 this, you must have been aware that a significant  
 3 quantity, over 7,000 metres squared, has been ordered  
 4 for a project called Grenfell Towers; yes?  
 5 A. Yes, that would have been correct, yes.  
 6 Q. Now, we know that practical completion of Grenfell Tower  
 7 occurred in July 2016, and it's right, isn't it, that  
 8 there was no warranty issued by Arconic for  
 9 Grenfell Tower?  
 10 A. I've no idea. I have no idea what warranties were —  
 11 I had no dealings with Grenfell Tower whatsoever, so  
 12 I wouldn't know about warranties.  
 13 Q. Would warranties ever fall under your remit? Was that  
 14 ever a matter for you to deal with and organise in  
 15 relation to particular projects?  
 16 A. Warranties would have predominantly come from the tech  
 17 team, depending on what the build-up of the project was,  
 18 where it was, it had a lot to do with that. So  
 19 generally it would have come from Merxheim in France.  
 20 Q. But would you be aware that a warranty was being sought  
 21 in relation to a project where you had managed to secure  
 22 the sale?  
 23 A. Where I secured the sale?  
 24 Q. Yes.  
 25 A. If the project was finished and completed by the

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1 fabricator, he would have then asked for a warranty,  
 2 yes.  
 3 Q. Yes, and they'd have come to you in the first place?  
 4 A. It wouldn't have come from me directly, it would have  
 5 come from France, in the technical team.  
 6 Q. Is it right that the process for getting a warranty at  
 7 this time would have been that someone on the project  
 8 would have filled in an application questionnaire?  
 9 A. I believe that was later on, yeah, in my employment, we  
 10 introduced that, yes.  
 11 Q. To your knowledge, was the subject of a warranty for the  
 12 panels at Grenfell Tower ever raised or discussed?  
 13 A. There was no communication between me and Grenfell Tower  
 14 or anything to do with any warranties whatsoever.  
 15 Q. Right.  
 16 Now, I want to ask you at this point about some  
 17 emails exchanged on a project relating to the Queensway  
 18 project. Do you recall that?  
 19 A. I vaguely remember Queensway, yes.  
 20 Q. Yes. I'm going to look at two particular exchanges: one  
 21 in July 2015 and then one later in the year, in  
 22 November/December 2015.  
 23 If we can look first at exchanges that took place in  
 24 July 2015, and if we can go to {MET00053180/1}. Now, at  
 25 the bottom of this page, we can see an email from

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1 Deborah French on 30 July 2015 at 6.51, and we can see  
 2 Debbie French now has the Taylor Maxwell email address,  
 3 that's who she is working for now, and she says:  
 4 "Morning Gwen  
 5 "We have a project we are working on where we are  
 6 specifying Reynobond and the architect is looking for  
 7 details on fire rating."  
 8 Sorry, I should have said this is sent to  
 9 Ms Derrendinger. Then she says:  
 10 "Could you forward to both myself and Chris Taylor  
 11 copies of current fire certificates for RB [Reynobond]  
 12 55 4mm PE core could you also put a description together  
 13 so we can explain the class of fire rating and length of  
 14 burn time, if you could also include the same info for  
 15 the FR core as well please."  
 16 Do you have that?  
 17 A. I can see this, yes.  
 18 Q. Yes.  
 19 Then immediately above that, at the top of this  
 20 page, we can see that a follow-up email is sent by  
 21 Deborah French to Ms Derrendinger, and it copies in you  
 22 this time, as well as others at Taylor Maxwell. Can you  
 23 see that?  
 24 A. I can see that, yes.  
 25 Q. She says:

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1 "Dear Debbie,  
 2 "Please find attached the document requested."  
 3 Sorry, I should have gone to the email below that.  
 4 Do you see Deborah French follows up on 30 July and  
 5 said:  
 6 "Should have said we have to achieve class 0 rating  
 7 both riveted and cassette panels."  
 8 Do you have that?  
 9 A. I can see that, yes, yeah.  
 10 Q. Then you're copied in at the top of that page. We can  
 11 see an email from Ms Derrendinger, and she is attaching  
 12 a document which appears to be entitled "Class 0  
 13 Summary", Reynobond 55, can you see that?  
 14 A. I can see that, yes.  
 15 Q. So, in short, we've got a query from Deborah French, now  
 16 at Taylor Maxwell, about the fire properties of  
 17 Reynobond 55, or the fire performance of the  
 18 Reynobond 55 PE and FR cores, and she specifically says  
 19 that they've got to achieve class 0 for both rivets and  
 20 cassettes, and a document is provided, and you are  
 21 copied in to that.  
 22 A. That's correct.  
 23 Q. Now, the document she attached is at page 3 of this same  
 24 document run {MET00053180/3}, if we could go to page 3.  
 25 This is what was provided. It's called a "Class 0

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1 Summary Report", it's by Exova Warringtonfire, and we  
 2 can see it's dated 5 November 2012.  
 3 If we look at page 4 now {MET00053180/4}, which is  
 4 the next page in this summary report, and if we blow up  
 5 the top half of that page, we can see there is a table  
 6 which sets out some results to BS 476-6 and 7, and what  
 7 we can see in the table is that this table relates to  
 8 the Reynobond FR product. Can you see that?  
 9 A. I can see that, yes.  
 10 Q. Beneath the table there is a heading, we've got it on  
 11 the screen, "Opinion" at the bottom. Exova are saying:  
 12 "We consider the results of the tests to  
 13 BS 476:Part 6 ... and ... Part 7 ... demonstrate that  
 14 the product, as tested, complies with the requirements  
 15 for Class 0, as defined in paragraph A 13(b) of Approved  
 16 Document B, 'Fire Safety' ..."  
 17 So you're copied in on that.  
 18 Do you recall this exchange? Do you remember this  
 19 happening?  
 20 A. I don't remember seeing this email, no, or this  
 21 document.  
 22 Q. So it appears that Arconic have been asked for reports  
 23 showing that Reynobond was class 0, and what has been  
 24 attached was a report for the FR panel, not the PE  
 25 panel.

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1 Now, did you understand at this time that only the  
 2 FR—cored version of the product satisfied class 0? Was  
 3 that your understanding?  
 4 A. That would have been my understanding probably later on.  
 5 I mean, what year was this, do we know? 2015 again?  
 6 Q. Yes, these emails are being sent in July 2015.  
 7 A. Yeah, July 2015, I would have been with the company  
 8 four weeks, so I wouldn't have understood the  
 9 difference.  
 10 Sorry, could we go back? Was this the Queensway  
 11 project, did you say?  
 12 Q. Yes, that's our understanding.  
 13 A. Was that a project that was started way before my time  
 14 of employment again? I think it was a project that  
 15 I had no dealings with again.  
 16 Q. I see. But what we see is you're copied in to these  
 17 emails about test reports.  
 18 Can we go now to {ARC00000669}. This picks up the  
 19 email trail we've just been looking at.  
 20 Now, at the very bottom of page 1 we can just see  
 21 the header to the email. We can see on 31 July 2015,  
 22 Deborah French is sending an email to Danny McQuaid and  
 23 Grahame Byrne there, cc'ing in Chris Taylor and you,  
 24 you're cc'd, and the heading, the subject, is "RE: Fire  
 25 rating certificates and documents Reynobond arch",

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1 architecture.  
 2 Then if we look at page 2 {ARC00000669/2}, at the  
 3 top of page 2, the email says this:  
 4 "We need to make sure we only order FR core if  
 5 project needs to achieve an 'O' fire rating — if we  
 6 don't highlight this to genius they only order PE only  
 7 and it won't have the rating required."  
 8 Do you see that?  
 9 A. Yes, I do, yes.  
 10 Q. So Deborah French is saying very clearly that they need  
 11 to make sure that they order FR core if it needs to  
 12 achieve class 0. Then she says to you:  
 13 "Vince can you please confirm if FR is the same cost  
 14 to us as PE."  
 15 Do you see that? So although you're only cc'd —  
 16 A. I see that.  
 17 Q. Sorry. Although you're only cc'd, you're asked  
 18 a question in this email by Deborah French.  
 19 A. Absolutely.  
 20 Q. And can you recall her clearly stating that if the  
 21 project needed class 0 rating, then it was an FR core  
 22 that needed to be ordered?  
 23 A. Looking at this email, I know she's asked for an FR  
 24 price, so because Debbie had already worked for the  
 25 company prior to me, obviously, she was my predecessor,

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1 I would assume she would have known that FR was more  
 2 expensive to PE, so my reply to that, as you can see,  
 3 is, "Yes, it does cost more than FR — more than PE, and  
 4 it's based on projects". But as for the FR core, if her  
 5 client needed an FR—rated core, then that's what she  
 6 would have put forward.  
 7 Q. Right. I see.  
 8 If we scroll up page 1 {ARC00000669/1}, at the  
 9 bottom of the page, you reply on 31 July at 10.37, we  
 10 can see in the second half of the page. You say:  
 11 "Hi Debbie  
 12 "FR is priced on an individual job bases[sic] and  
 13 additional cost would apply.  
 14 "Kind regards  
 15 "Vince ..."  
 16 You don't correct her in that email and say, "No,  
 17 actually, both the PE and the FR get class 0", do you?  
 18 A. Well, no, because I — reading the email, at that time  
 19 I assumed she needed an FR project — FR material, so  
 20 I wouldn't have corrected her, no.  
 21 Q. Well, she says a bit more than that. She doesn't just  
 22 say, "I want FR", she says, "If it needs to be class 0,  
 23 I need FR" is what she is saying. Did that strike you  
 24 as something significant when you read that?  
 25 A. No, I didn't honestly read into the email, so it didn't.

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1 Q. Did you think to yourself: well, hang on, I've got  
 2 a BBA certificate that says all of these panels have  
 3 class 0, there's something going on here? Did that  
 4 occur to you?  
 5 A. No, it didn't occur to me, no.  
 6 Q. Were you in fact aware at that time that only the FR  
 7 core could be shown to be class 0?  
 8 A. The time — I can't recall when this email was sent.  
 9 Can you remember what date it had on that email?  
 10 Q. Yes, 31 July 2015.  
 11 A. 2015, July 2015. Again, I wouldn't have been aware. It  
 12 would have been very early on in my employment, so, no,  
 13 I wouldn't have looked into that.  
 14 Q. I see.  
 15 Now, in that exchange we just looked at, we saw  
 16 a reference to Genius, which we understand to refer to  
 17 Genius Facades; that's right, isn't it?  
 18 A. That's correct, yes.  
 19 Q. We heard a little bit from Debbie French about who they  
 20 were.  
 21 It's right, isn't it, that John Simmons and  
 22 Grahame Smith were involved in both Genius Facades and  
 23 Simco? Is that right?  
 24 A. I believe they were the same business, yes, part of the  
 25 same business, yeah.

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1 Q. And Grahame Byrne worked at Genius Facades; yes?  
 2 A. Yes, he did, correct.  
 3 Q. And Genius Facades was a customer of Arconic, wasn't it?  
 4 A. I do believe it was, yes.  
 5 Q. And also they were a customer of Taylor Maxwell; yes?  
 6 A. They were, yes.  
 7 Q. And they were involved in the Queensway project; that's  
 8 right, isn't it?  
 9 A. I believe they were. I'm not 100% sure on that, but  
 10 I believe they were, if you're telling me they were.  
 11 Q. Can we now look at an exchange that happens a few months  
 12 later in relation to this same project. This is in  
 13 November/December 2015.  
 14 If we can go to {ARC00000672/4}, we can see an email  
 15 from Grahame Byrne here at Genius Facades to Paul Mears  
 16 at Taylor Maxwell on 24 November 2015. He says this:  
 17 "Paul,  
 18 "I have had confirmation from Alcoa that if a  
 19 class 0 spread of flame is required then we will have to  
 20 supply the F.R core Reynobond."  
 21 Do you see that?  
 22 A. I do see that, yes.  
 23 Q. So he is saying he has had confirmation from Arconic  
 24 that if a class 0 spread of flame is required:  
 25 "... then we will have to supply the F.R core

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1 Reynobond.  
 2 "I hope this helps ...  
 3 "Grahame."  
 4 Then if we can go up to page 2 now {ARC00000672/2},  
 5 the email at the bottom of that page is from  
 6 Lee Homewood of Kovara Projects. It's on  
 7 24 November 2015, and it's to Paul Mears and  
 8 Grahame Byrne at Genius Facades, and he says this:  
 9 "Paul/Grahame,  
 10 "Note your response below, please can you confirm  
 11 what the PE Core does achieve?  
 12 "We attach copies of the Reynobond BBA Agreement  
 13 Certificate and also list of certification taken from  
 14 Reynobond website, both documents seem to suggest that  
 15 the PE core achieves Class 0 spread of fire?  
 16 "I am a little concerned given I have already  
 17 forwarded the attached to the M/C [main contractor] when  
 18 they asked the question about performance in relation to  
 19 fire, the extra over rate you quoted to go the FR Core.  
 20 "I think the system is going to come under close  
 21 scrutiny with regards what testing has been carried out  
 22 especially as the building is over 18m high and  
 23 questions are already being asked about the suitability  
 24 of the Kingspan K15 Insulation above this height, have  
 25 you carried out any testing on the system and have you

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1 previously installed above 18m?  
 2 "From my understanding of the Building Regulations  
 3 in relation to Fire (which is very limited) in Buildings  
 4 over 18m high, the external wall surface must achieve  
 5 Class 0 (national class) or class B—s3, d2 or better  
 6 (European class), in the [agreement] certificate  
 7 clause 6.1 it states the 'standard sample' achieves  
 8 B—s2, d0 which is better [than] the min requirement?"  
 9 Then you can see at the bottom he says:  
 10 "See below extract."  
 11 If we go down a page {ARC00000672/3} — now, you can  
 12 take it from me — we've checked this carefully on the  
 13 documents — that the image that was then embedded in  
 14 that box on page 3 was diagram 40 from Approved  
 15 Document B. Perhaps we can just bring diagram 40 up  
 16 side by side with this email, if we can look at  
 17 {CLG00000224/97}. So that's diagram 40 from Approved  
 18 Document B, which is what was imported into this email.  
 19 Then the email continues, if we keep those documents  
 20 both up on the screen, it says:  
 21 "Please can you review all of the above and come  
 22 back to me with conclusive test data to confirm, can you  
 23 speak to Reynobond and see if they can offer the FR core  
 24 at same rate as the PE core?  
 25 "I will give you a call ..."

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1 Now, we will see in a moment that this chain gets  
 2 forwarded to you.  
 3 Do you recall seeing this email and seeing this  
 4 extract from diagram 40 of Approved Document B?  
 5 A. No, I'm sorry, I can't recall seeing this document.  
 6 Again, it was 2015, I think, by looking at the dates.  
 7 You know, I keep saying this, but, I mean, it was  
 8 November, I'd been in the company a few months, I had  
 9 lots of emails coming through, I was bombarded with  
 10 them, actually. I just can't remember seeing this  
 11 particular document at all.  
 12 Q. Yes, this is six months into your employment now as UK  
 13 sales manager.  
 14 A. Actively two months in the field. I was training for  
 15 a good three months, three or four months in—house, and  
 16 just, you know, visiting customers for the first  
 17 four months, with all due respect, you know, I was still  
 18 new to the product, so it was very new to me.  
 19 Q. You're now saying your training lasted three or  
 20 four months, did it?  
 21 A. No, I mean to get absolutely, you know, au fait with all  
 22 of these documents and know the ins and outs of  
 23 technical details and fire regulations takes a lot  
 24 longer than a few months.  
 25 Q. I see.

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1 Let's look up the chain, then. What we can see at  
 2 the bottom of page 1 {ARC00000672/1} and top of page 2,  
 3 this email string was forwarded to you by Grahame Byrne  
 4 on 25 November 2015. So we can see there, 25 November,  
 5 to you, copying in Ms Derrendinger, and subject  
 6 "Queens Way". If we go to the top of page 2  
 7 {ARC00000672/2} we can see what Grahame Byrne asks you.  
 8 He says this:  
 9 "Vince,  
 10 "Can you please have a look at the email below as  
 11 there seems to be some confusion regarding the spread of  
 12 flame and Reynobond.  
 13 "Also they are asking if there is any movement on  
 14 the rates for this project if F.R core is required."  
 15 Now, do you recall this? This is a client raising  
 16 questions about why the BBA certificate says that all  
 17 the panels are class 0 when they're now being told that  
 18 only the FR panel is class 0. Do you remember this?  
 19 A. I can't honestly say I remember this, but I know what  
 20 I would have done with it: it would have been forwarded  
 21 straight on to the technical team for them to give me  
 22 some advice.  
 23 Q. I asked you this morning if you were ever aware of any  
 24 concerns being raised about the BBA certificate. This  
 25 was such a concern, wasn't it?

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1 A. I'm sorry, I understand what you're saying, but it  
 2 wouldn't have stood out in my mind at that time.  
 3 I would have just forwarded it straight to the technical  
 4 team and, to me, it wasn't a real concern. It's  
 5 something that could have been dealt with and sorted  
 6 once the technical team would have looked at it.  
 7 Q. Yes.  
 8 Let's look on page 1 now of the email chain  
 9 {ARC00000672/1}. What we can see is that, this email  
 10 having been sent to you in November, on 1 December, at  
 11 the bottom of that page, you're being chased for  
 12 a response:  
 13 "Vince,  
 14 "I am being chased for this information I need  
 15 something back from you this morning so I can go back to  
 16 the client."  
 17 Then if we go above that, we see your response, also  
 18 on 1 December, and you say this:  
 19 "Hi Grahame,  
 20 "As per our telephone conversation earlier, I have  
 21 forwarded your mail to technical so they can confirm in  
 22 an email all that we have spoken about.  
 23 "(Understanding that it would look better coming  
 24 from them)  
 25 "Hopefully this should help, as for the FR prices,

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1 I will discuss with Peter but I am pretty sure we will  
 2 not offer FR core for PE at the same price."  
 3 Now, just looking at what you say in that first  
 4 paragraph, it would appear that you have given some  
 5 information over the telephone which then you are  
 6 inviting technical to confirm what that information was;  
 7 is that right?  
 8 A. No, it's not right. I would have discussed with Grahame  
 9 the price of the FR being more expensive. But as for  
 10 the technical side, that would have directly went  
 11 straight to France. And I vaguely remember waiting for  
 12 a reply, and I still don't think we got a reply,  
 13 you know, on the time we needed it. It took very —  
 14 a long turnaround.  
 15 Q. So where you say in that email "I have forwarded your  
 16 mail to technical so they can confirm in an email all  
 17 that we have spoken about", are you saying that you  
 18 hadn't imparted any technical information over the  
 19 telephone to Mr Byrne prior to that email?  
 20 A. I think what I'd done is I've worded that incorrectly.  
 21 What I meant was the conversation that we'd had prior to  
 22 the email would have been about the price of the  
 23 materials. I mean, if you would speak to Grahame Byrne,  
 24 I'm sure he would tell you the same thing.  
 25 Q. Well, you then say "Understanding that it would look

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1 better coming from them", so what you're saying is it  
 2 will look better if technical will confirm this in  
 3 writing, but the strong implication from this email is  
 4 that you have imported some technical information to  
 5 Mr Byrne over the telephone; yes?  
 6 A. No, that's incorrect. The "Understanding that it would  
 7 look better coming from them", what I meant was by that  
 8 is I just haven't got the technical ability to answer  
 9 that question, so it would look much more professional  
 10 if it was coming from the technical team and explaining  
 11 to them exactly what they needed.  
 12 Q. So you can't recall what you told Mr Byrne about whether  
 13 all the panels had class 0 or only the FR panel?  
 14 A. I can't recall even having the conversation with  
 15 Mr Byrne.  
 16 Q. If we now go, following this chain forward, to  
 17 {MET00053180/30}, so this is carrying on with this  
 18 story.  
 19 The second email down in the chain is from  
 20 Claude Wehrle back to you on 3 December, and he says:  
 21 "Dear Vince,  
 22 "The BBA certificate for Reynobond is still valid.  
 23 "Concerning the point 'spread of flame', please note  
 24 that our Reynobond FR is classified 'B—s1, d0' when  
 25 tested in accordance with the European Standard

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1 EN 13501.  
 2 "Please find as attached document our valid  
 3 certificate ."  
 4 Do you see that?  
 5 A. I do see that, yes.  
 6 Q. So Mr Wehrle is telling you that the BBA certificate for  
 7 Reynobond is still valid, and then he is telling you  
 8 that the FR panel is classified as B in accordance with  
 9 the European Standard; yes?  
 10 A. Yeah, from that email, yes, definitely .  
 11 Q. So Mr Wehrle must have thought that you would understand  
 12 what he meant when he was referring to that European  
 13 classification ; yes?  
 14 A. I assume so, or he was just telling me so I could then  
 15 forward that information on to the client .  
 16 Q. Did you think that this satisfactorily answered the  
 17 query that had been raised? That query was: does the PE  
 18 panel have class 0?  
 19 A. Well, if I recall this — vaguely, this would have  
 20 been — we needed an answer quite quickly on this  
 21 project. I think I was being pestered by Grahame Byrne  
 22 for an answer, so anything that would have been sent  
 23 from the technical team would have just been forwarded  
 24 straight to Grahame, and I wouldn't have looked into  
 25 what was necessarily put in the email. I thought that

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1 would have answered their question. If it hadn't  
 2 answered their question, I'm sure they would have come  
 3 back to me and then I'd have had to dig a little deeper.  
 4 Q. So is it your evidence that you didn't notice that  
 5 Mr Wehrle hadn't clearly answered the question: does the  
 6 PE get class 0?  
 7 A. I'm afraid so, yes, I didn't look at that email. It  
 8 would have just been forwarded, as you know, on to the  
 9 client .  
 10 Q. If we can look now at page 38 of that same document run,  
 11 {MET00053180/38}, what we can see here is an email from  
 12 a lady called Aneira Beament, who is, we believe, at  
 13 Taylor Maxwell, to Deborah French, and copying in  
 14 someone else at Taylor Maxwell, on 3 December 2015.  
 15 You're not copied in to this. She says:  
 16 "Hi Debbs,  
 17 "As discussed, reference the above, I understand  
 18 that Kovara Projects are expecting an order from  
 19 Osborne's next week for 1700m2 Genius Discrete ACM. The  
 20 building is over 18m in height and therefore requires  
 21 a Class 0 rated product in respect of fire spread."  
 22 Then she says:  
 23 "We have quoted Kovara for PE core Reynobond panels,  
 24 and also included an uplift on the quote for FR core  
 25 panels. However, Kovara have used the PE core price

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1 based on the information in the BBA certificate which  
 2 states ..."  
 3 Then she sets out information in the  
 4 BBA certificate.  
 5 Then in the final paragraph, she says:  
 6 "The client are very unlikely to accept an uplift in  
 7 cost at this stage, and as such we are at risk of losing  
 8 the order to Alucabond[sic], who supply only class 0  
 9 rated panels to the UK. My understanding is that Kovara  
 10 want to support us, however we need to find a way to  
 11 supply the Reynobond FR core material at the same cost  
 12 as we have currently quoted for the PE core.  
 13 "Appreciate your help with this."  
 14 Then if we go up to page 37 {MET00053180/37},  
 15 one page up in this string, there is an email at the  
 16 bottom of that page at 9.17 on 4 December 2015 from  
 17 Grahame Byrne of Genius Facades to you, again subject,  
 18 "Queens Walk, Reading — Reynobond Fire Rating", and he  
 19 says this:  
 20 "Vince,  
 21 "I need you to have a look at the attached email  
 22 below from [Taylor Maxwell] and come back to me as soon  
 23 as you can.  
 24 "This F.R uplift is becoming a real issue."  
 25 So would you have read the email below, which was

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1 again asking questions about whether or not the PE core  
 2 had class 0?  
 3 A. If I'm honest, I would have read the email from Grahame  
 4 saying, "This F.R uplift is becoming a real issue",  
 5 because we'd been talking about the price of the FR over  
 6 the PE and how he needed a reduction in price, so  
 7 I wouldn't have read the email that had come through, it  
 8 would have just been the fact that he needed a better  
 9 price for FR.  
 10 Q. I see. So —  
 11 A. And that is out of my hands. That would have been Peter  
 12 at the time who would have been able to give them  
 13 a better price for the FR material.  
 14 Q. I see. So is it your evidence that even though he says,  
 15 "I need you to have a look at the attached email below  
 16 from [Taylor Maxwell]", you just wouldn't have looked at  
 17 that email, but would have just addressed an issue about  
 18 the FR pricing uplift?  
 19 A. It depends on where I was and what I was doing at the  
 20 time this email would have come through. I may have  
 21 looked at it, scanned over the email. But because it  
 22 was their client, it's not my client, I would assume it  
 23 was just about the FR uplift in price, so I wouldn't  
 24 have taken that on in depth.  
 25 Q. But surely you would have wanted to understand the

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1 reason why you were being asked to provide FR at PE  
2 prices?  
3 A. No, we get asked that a lot, we get asked —  
4 I remember — this is 2015 again, isn't it? I know  
5 it's — I keep relaying back to that, but again, it was  
6 very new to me, even though I had been with the company  
7 a few months, you know, I had a lot to digest, had a lot  
8 to take in. It was a big job for me, being the only UK  
9 manager — sales manager in the UK. So I would have  
10 looked at that email, I would have scanned my eye over  
11 it, but I wouldn't have taken it in absolute — the  
12 reasons to why they needed the FR over the PE. The  
13 thing that would've stood out to me is the fact they  
14 needed the PE material at the same cost as FR. Well,  
15 that just didn't happen, we couldn't do that.  
16 Q. Surely as a big job — I mean, this is being flagged as  
17 a big project which is important — you would have paid  
18 this considerable attention, wouldn't you?  
19 A. I think — I didn't have a dealing in Queensway, so,  
20 again, it would have been — it's not my project,  
21 I don't know what the project was, I wasn't involved in  
22 the project, so this would have been a project that  
23 I would have inherited, so I would assume that  
24 Genius Facades would have known all about the project  
25 and what they needed and what they didn't need for the

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1 project. Be that right or wrong, you know, at that time  
2 I had a lot of information to take on board that year,  
3 being it was a brand new job, I was hoping he knew what  
4 he needed and he had everything he needed for the job.  
5 I didn't ever get involved in this project as far as  
6 the emails that were sent to and from asking me for  
7 better prices on the job.  
8 Q. Okay.  
9 Can we go now to {ARC00000683/4}, this continues the  
10 email chain. We can see this is an email dated  
11 8 December 2015 from Grahame Byrne at Genius Facades,  
12 addressed to you and Ms Derrenderinger, cc'ing  
13 Peter Froehlich, again subject, "Queens Walk — Reynobond  
14 Fire Spread", and he says:  
15 "Vince,  
16 "Please see below an email that I have received from  
17 Taylor Maxwell. Again this is due to the confusion  
18 within [your] BBA certification."  
19 Pausing there, you would have been aware in  
20 December 2015, yes, upon reading this email, that there  
21 was confusion about the BBA certificate?  
22 A. If I'd have read the email, yes. 2015 again, so fairly  
23 new to the company, but I would — reading that email,  
24 you would have thought there had been some sort of  
25 confusion with regards to the BBA certification.

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1 Q. Yes. I mean, why wouldn't you have read this email;  
2 it's addressed to you?  
3 A. Exactly.  
4 Q. So he says "Please see below", et cetera, and then he  
5 says:  
6 "Can we please get this sorted as soon as possible  
7 as it has been going on for a while.  
8 "Would you be able to obtain a formal response from  
9 [Reynobond's] technical department RE the spread of  
10 flame?  
11 "You'll be aware of the discrepancy between  
12 Reynobond's BBA & literature regarding fire spread of  
13 their PE and FR core panels from recent conversations  
14 with Paul & Debbs."  
15 Now, is that right, that you were aware of the  
16 discrepancy between Reynobond's BBA and literature  
17 regarding fire spread of their PE and FR core panels  
18 from recent conversations with Paul and Debbie French;  
19 yes?  
20 A. No, I don't recall having a conversation with  
21 Debbie French and Paul. I very rarely had  
22 a conversation at all with a client of Debbie's.  
23 I mean, Debbie used to work for the company, so she  
24 could answer most of the questions that needed to be  
25 answered with her clients. She knew Reynobond, she knew

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1 Arconic inside out, so there was no real cause for me to  
2 talk to her about a PE or an FR core, and not a lot had  
3 changed since she'd left and I'd started, so there was  
4 no reason for me to sort of get too involved. She knew  
5 and she had been working for that period that the area  
6 was vacant with clients for Reynobond.  
7 Q. So are you saying that this email didn't raise any alarm  
8 bells for you, that there was said to be confusion about  
9 your BBA certificate and that there was a discrepancy  
10 between BBA's literature and other conversations that  
11 had been had with Arconic?  
12 A. I'm saying I would have read the email, I would have  
13 forwarded the email on to the technical department as  
14 requested, and hopefully they would have got back to  
15 Grahame with the correct answers that he needed, but  
16 that's as far as I would have taken it.  
17 Q. In the final paragraph, Grahame Byrne says:  
18 "The architect/client are now asking for a letter  
19 from Alcoa explaining why the FR core is required to  
20 achieve Class 0 rating, when their literature indicates  
21 a PE core will achieve class 0.  
22 "Regards,  
23 "Grahame."  
24 It's a simple question, isn't it?  
25 A. It is.

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1 Q. Why is Arconic saying that you have to use FR to get  
 2 class 0 when your BBA literature suggests that the PE  
 3 will achieve class 0? It's a very straightforward  
 4 question, isn't it?  
 5 A. Yes, and I would expect it to have a straightforward  
 6 answer to the question from the technical team.  
 7 Q. I see. But it was a question you fully understood at  
 8 the time; yes?  
 9 A. I can't say I fully understood it, but I took it on  
 10 board, I read it and I sort of — any issues or anything  
 11 that I was unaware of or not completely satisfied with  
 12 giving a correct answer, I would forward the email  
 13 directly to the technical team for their advice and how  
 14 to approach it.  
 15 Q. If we go now to the bottom of page 3 in this string  
 16 {ARC00000683/3}, in the same document, what we can see  
 17 is that you forward this email to Claude Wehrle,  
 18 Peter Froehlich and Ms Derrenderinger. Do you see that  
 19 there?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. On 8 December 2015 at 9.43, and you say:  
 22 "Good morning Claude,  
 23 "Please can you take a look at the email below and  
 24 respond accordingly as requested."  
 25 Then we can see Claude Wehrle's response in the next

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1 email up on page 3. This email is coming back to you,  
 2 and he says this, he says:  
 3 "Dear all,  
 4 "Indeed, in accordance with the British Standards  
 5 (BS 476), both Reynobond PE and Reynobond FR are well  
 6 classified when tested for spread of flame.  
 7 "Nevertheless, in Europe, all the product should be  
 8 tested in accordance with European Standard EN 13501  
 9 since 2000. And when tested like this, there is a big  
 10 difference between those 2 products (PE and FR)."  
 11 Do you see that there?  
 12 A. I do, yes.  
 13 Q. Taking that in stages, what did you understand him to  
 14 mean in that first sentence when he says that both PE  
 15 and FR are "well classified when tested for spread of  
 16 flame"? What did you understand that to mean?  
 17 A. I would — looking at that — at this now, because  
 18 I can't remember this email exactly or this text or  
 19 whatever it is, it's going back quite a few years,  
 20 I would assume that, reading that, we were covered in  
 21 accordance to British Standards both for PE and FR.  
 22 Q. But he hasn't answered the —  
 23 A. (inaudible)  
 24 Q. Sorry, Mr Meakins.  
 25 He hasn't answered the very simple question, has he?

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1 He hasn't answered the question whether the PE is  
 2 class 0. He hasn't answered that in this email, has he?  
 3 A. It doesn't appear he has, no.  
 4 Q. Did you notice that at the time?  
 5 A. No, I'm sorry, I didn't, no.  
 6 Q. Did you notice that he then tells you that when tested  
 7 in accordance with the European Standard, there is a big  
 8 difference between those two products? Did you notice  
 9 that?  
 10 A. I didn't. I can't honestly say I did, no.  
 11 Q. Well, this is a very short email. Wasn't that pretty  
 12 important information for you to be aware of, that when  
 13 tested in accordance with European Standards, there is  
 14 a big difference between those two products? And we are  
 15 talking clearly about fire spread here, from the title  
 16 of the email.  
 17 A. If I'm absolutely honest, it's the time again, the  
 18 period that, you know, I was working, it was early on in  
 19 my employment. However, gone to Peter, and I would  
 20 expect, if there was a problem with that email, for it  
 21 to be flagged up by Peter or someone with a little bit  
 22 more knowledge about the fire standards. I didn't  
 23 really take that — I didn't digest it.  
 24 Q. I see. You say you didn't digest it, but did you come  
 25 away with a clear understanding, from reading that, that

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1 there was a big difference between how those two  
 2 products performed in fire based on European testing?  
 3 A. No, because I didn't actually take on board that last  
 4 part of the paragraph. I wouldn't have actually  
 5 digested it. I would've taken it on board in my mind,  
 6 I'm not sure what I was doing when the email had come.  
 7 So, no, if I'm honest, I didn't take it massively on  
 8 board. It would have just been: it's been dealt with  
 9 and it's been sorted.  
 10 Q. We can see that you forward Mr Wehrle's response on to  
 11 Mr Byrne at Genius Facades. We can see that at the very  
 12 bottom of page 2 and on to page 3 of this chain. If we  
 13 look first at page 2, right at the very bottom there, on  
 14 9 December 2015, it's from you, and then if we go over  
 15 the top of the next page, we can see it's to  
 16 Grahame Byrne at Genius Facades and you say:  
 17 "Hi Grahame,  
 18 "Please see response from Claude below.  
 19 "Hope this helps, catch up later."  
 20 Then if we go up to page 2 {ARC00000683/2}, we can  
 21 see Mr Byrne's response, which is sent to you. This is  
 22 on 9 December 2015. It's back to you, from Mr Byrne,  
 23 copying in Mr Wehrle, Claude Wehrle, and he says this:  
 24 "Vince,  
 25 "I can not send the information provided to the

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1 Architect/Client I need more detail.  
 2 "This is a little confusing again as it is saying  
 3 that both PE and FR have spread of flame. Is it that  
 4 the PE core has a spread of flame but not a Class 0  
 5 spread off flame. If the PE core has a spread of flame  
 6 what is it classed as?  
 7 "Again the architect/client are asking for a letter  
 8 from Alcoa explaining why the FR core is required to  
 9 achieve Class 0 rating, when their literature indicates  
 10 a PE core will achieve class 0.  
 11 "Have they read the information incorrectly and both  
 12 are classified as having spread of flame but only the FR  
 13 is classified as Class 0.  
 14 "Claude states the following  
 15 "Indeed, in accordance with the British Standards  
 16 (BS 476), both Reynobond PE and Reynobond FR are well  
 17 classified when tested for spread of flame.  
 18 "Again this needs to be expanded on what is PE  
 19 classified as and what is FR classified as.  
 20 "...  
 21 "Grahame."  
 22 Do you see that?  
 23 A. I do see it, yes.  
 24 Q. So Mr Byrne was not content with the information that  
 25 had been provided, was he?

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1 A. It doesn't seem that way, no.  
 2 Q. Did you speak to Mr Wehrle at this time about this and  
 3 the pressing that you were getting from Genius Facades  
 4 on this question?  
 5 A. I would have done, for sure. I mean, anything like this  
 6 would have been forwarded on and asked for him to give  
 7 more of a detailed reason or answer to the question,  
 8 you know, so it would have been forwarded straight to  
 9 the technical team.  
 10 Q. Did you press Mr Wehrle to give a more detailed answer?  
 11 A. I would have asked Mr Wehrle, if it said there for  
 12 a letter, that they were asking for some sort of letter  
 13 of explanation, as you can see, "Can we possibly do  
 14 something because, you know, we need — this client  
 15 needs this information and I can't give them the  
 16 information, please can you do it".  
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Mr Meakins, Ms Grange, I'm sorry to  
 18 interrupt you, but I'm very conscious that, in answer to  
 19 a lot of questions, Mr Meakins is telling us what he  
 20 would have done. What I would like to know a bit more  
 21 clearly is whether Mr Meakins can remember his reaction  
 22 to any of these emails and, if he can, what he did, and  
 23 if he can't, whether he is simply speculating about what  
 24 he thinks he would have done.  
 25 Can you help, Mr Meakins?

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1 A. Yes, I understand, sir. I think, to be perfectly  
 2 honest, I can't quite remember a lot of these emails,  
 3 and I'm speculating, which is not the right thing to do.  
 4 I'm assuming, which is not a good thing to do, that  
 5 I would have sent the emails on to the technical team  
 6 in — you know, to deal with them in a technical level,  
 7 because I was very confused and couldn't answer their  
 8 questions. I hope that helps, sir.  
 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: That's helpful, thank you. I mean,  
 10 you are perfectly entitled to tell us what you normally  
 11 did in the course of dealing with things, which is just  
 12 another way of saying "What I would have done", but it's  
 13 quite important in some cases for us to know to what  
 14 extent you can actually remember something.  
 15 So when you tell us, for example, that you did not  
 16 read or did not digest an email, I think it would be  
 17 helpful if we could understand whether you can remember  
 18 that you didn't bother to read it, or that you can't  
 19 remember whether you read it or not.  
 20 A. I understand, sir, and in this circumstance I can't  
 21 remember if I read it or not, would be the answer.  
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Right. Okay.  
 23 Well, sorry to interrupt you, Ms Grange.  
 24 MS GRANGE: No, that's very helpful, thank you.  
 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.

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1 MS GRANGE: Yes.  
 2 Do you remember having to press Claude Wehrle to  
 3 provide more information on this general topic?  
 4 A. I remember sending an email to Claude of some type  
 5 asking for an answer, yes.  
 6 Q. Do you remember speaking to him on the telephone and  
 7 pressing him to provide further information?  
 8 A. No, I can't remember a conversation on the telephone.  
 9 Q. If we look at page 1 now of this chain {ARC00000683/1},  
 10 we can see Mr Wehrle's response to Mr Byrne and to you,  
 11 having been asked for more information.  
 12 So in that second email from the top, 9 December, he  
 13 says to you and Mr Byrne:  
 14 "Dear all,  
 15 "Both of the results shown in the chart [below] gave  
 16 us a 'Class B summary report'.  
 17 And he has set out in a table results that he says  
 18 Reynobond PE and Reynobond FR get: 0.9, 0, class 1,  
 19 class 1.  
 20 Then he says this:  
 21 "The analysis I did is that our 2 products are  
 22 class B when tested in accordance with BS476 Part 6&7.  
 23 "This is not an exception, as in France, for  
 24 example, both products are classified M1 in accordance  
 25 with NF 92—504."

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1 Then he says this {ARC00000683/2}:  
 2 "The BS and NF test are not sensitive enough to make  
 3 a significant difference between our 2 products.  
 4 "I stay at your disposal for any further question."  
 5 So we can see here that Mr Wehrle is stating in this  
 6 email that, according to his analysis, the two products,  
 7 PE and FR, get class 0.  
 8 Do you recall ever asking for any underlying  
 9 information that supported that analysis, any test  
 10 certificates, any certifications which showed that it  
 11 was classified as class 0?  
 12 A. I'm sorry, I don't remember — I don't recall reading  
 13 that email.  
 14 Q. Then we see Mr Byrne's response to Mr Wehrle at the top  
 15 of this chain on page 1 {ARC00000683/1}, again on  
 16 9 December 2015. He says:  
 17 "Claude,  
 18 "Thank you for the information I will pass this to  
 19 the Architect/Client.  
 20 "I am sure they will come back and ask why they have  
 21 been advised by Alcoa to use F.R instead of P.E to get  
 22 the Class 0 spread of flame if the both preform the  
 23 same?  
 24 "If they do come back to me I will contact you  
 25 again."

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1 Do you see that there?  
 2 A. I do, yes.  
 3 Q. Do you remember discussing this with anyone at this  
 4 stage?  
 5 A. I'm afraid I don't, no, sorry.  
 6 Q. Do you remember being aware, even in general terms, that  
 7 the information Mr Wehrle was providing was suggesting  
 8 that the difference between the two products was evident  
 9 when tested to the European classification system?  
 10 A. No, I'm sorry, I don't.  
 11 Q. If we can go now to {ARC00000685}, this is an email from  
 12 Mr Byrne on 9 December 2015 at 16.36. Mr Byrne comes  
 13 back to Mr Wehrle and cc's you, and he's attaching the  
 14 BBA certificate to his email and he says:  
 15 "Claude,  
 16 "I am sorry and thought that I would have something  
 17 back from the Architect/client.  
 18 "Please see below question which has come back from  
 19 the Architect.  
 20 "I have looked at the information that you provided  
 21 and as fair [sic] as I can see they are correct but can  
 22 you please confirm that I have understood the  
 23 information correct."  
 24 Then the question that has come back from the  
 25 architect is then set out, and it says this:

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1 "The Queens Walk project requires materials to be  
 2 class 0 rated for fire spread. Based on the attached  
 3 BBA certification, is it correct that we can use PE core  
 4 material?"  
 5 So a simple question is coming back again. Do you  
 6 see that?  
 7 A. I do.  
 8 Q. Do you remember in general terms that there was a lot of  
 9 pressing by Genius Facades relating to this project  
 10 about getting more detailed information on fire  
 11 performance?  
 12 A. I do remember that they were after some answers, yes.  
 13 Q. Now can we go to {ARC00000688/4}. This is carrying on  
 14 this story.  
 15 So we can see that you sent an email on  
 16 10 December 2015 to Tom Dunn of Genius Facades saying  
 17 that you had spoken to Claude Wehrle and he was going to  
 18 ring Tom. You say:  
 19 "Hi Tom,  
 20 "I have spoken to Claude earlier, he said he was  
 21 going to discuss with you the current issues.  
 22 "Has he called you?"  
 23 Then what we see in this chain is Tom Dunn then  
 24 chases about getting a call from Claude Wehrle. There  
 25 is then obviously a missed call where Mr Wehrle does

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1 call Genius Facades but doesn't get through.  
 2 Then at the very top of this chain, we can see on  
 3 page 1 {ARC00000688/1}, a number of jpeg attachments are  
 4 sent by Mr Wehrle to Grahame Byrne, Tom Dunn at Genius,  
 5 and copying you in. Actually, you're not copied, it's  
 6 sent to you as well. The subject is, "Re: FR/PE  
 7 Question", and there's a number of attachments with jpeg  
 8 files that are sent.  
 9 Now, I just want to break off at this point and look  
 10 at Mr Wehrle's witness statement, where he explains to  
 11 us what these images were. If we can go within  
 12 Claude Wehrle's statement, that's {MET00053190/32}, at  
 13 paragraph 112, Mr Wehrle says:  
 14 "On 10 December, I spoke to and received a further  
 15 mail from Vince and then from Tom Dunn requesting that  
 16 I call Grahame[sic], which I tried to do without  
 17 success. We did speak on 11 December 2015 and following  
 18 that I sent Genius some photos which were taken during a  
 19 Polish fire test in 2005 which was a more stringent (and  
 20 perhaps rudimentary) test than the EN13501—1 test, but  
 21 I thought most clearly demonstrated the difference  
 22 between the PE and FR products. The following day,  
 23 I provided a letter to Genius which confirmed that the  
 24 BS476 part 6&7 test does not distinguish between the PE  
 25 and FR products as both are classified 'Class 0' when

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1 tested in accordance with that standard. I notice noted  
 2 that:  
 3 "Those 2 products are very different in their  
 4 behaviour when exposed to a flame."  
 5 And we will look at that letter in a moment.  
 6 Now, do you remember looking at these images of the  
 7 Polish fire test that Mr Wehrle sent to you and to  
 8 Genius at this time in December 2015?  
 9 A. No, I don't remember looking at the images.  
 10 Q. Can we just have a look at those, and this may help as  
 11 to whether you can recall looking at them.  
 12 If we can go to {ARC00000693}, these are images  
 13 taken from the PE core Reynobond test. You can actually  
 14 see, if we blow up the top half of that photograph,  
 15 there is a reference on the sample to "AL PE". Do you  
 16 see that?  
 17 A. I do, yes.  
 18 Q. It's dated 22 July 2005. So these are the images from  
 19 the Polish tests.  
 20 There were three photographs taken of that PE test.  
 21 This was the first one, and then Mr Wehrle also sent, if  
 22 we can go to the next one, which is {ARC00000691}, there  
 23 is the second image taken from that Polish test of the  
 24 PE-cored ACM. Can you remember seeing that image?  
 25 A. I can't remember, no, I'm sorry. Again, I was hoping

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1 that Claude Wehrle would have just dealt with the  
 2 technical issue that they were after, so I honestly  
 3 can't remember opening that.  
 4 Q. Well, he appears to be sending these images because what  
 5 he is saying is these tests show much more clearly what  
 6 the difference is between the PE and the FR product;  
 7 yes?  
 8 A. I assume so, yes.  
 9 Q. Then there is another image of the PE test taken after  
 10 the fire is extinguished. This is {ARC00000692}. We  
 11 can see there that the panels have been completely  
 12 consumed by fire in that test; yes?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. Then he sent two images of the FR core test, the Polish  
 15 test, if we can go to them, they are {ARC00000694}.  
 16 That's the FR test. And then if we can look at  
 17 {ARC00000695}. So that appears to be the FR test after  
 18 the flame and the crib have been extinguished. You can  
 19 see the extent of damage afterwards.  
 20 Can we just put up two images side by side from that  
 21 run. I want to put up {ARC00000691} and {ARC00000694}.  
 22 Now, I appreciate we don't know how long it is into  
 23 these two tests, but we've seen what the end result is.  
 24 These photos are pretty striking, aren't they?  
 25 A. Oh, sorry, you're — yes, you can see the fire, yes.

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1 Q. Do you remember looking at these photographs and seeing  
 2 how differently these two products performed in fire?  
 3 A. No, I don't. No, I'm sorry, I don't.  
 4 Q. Can we agree that, had you looked at these photographs,  
 5 you would have appreciated that they performed very  
 6 differently in fire?  
 7 A. If I'd have read the email that had come through and the  
 8 pictures and opened it up at a later date — it was very  
 9 early on, as I say, in my employment again — I probably  
 10 would have done for sure. But at that moment in time  
 11 I — you know, I can't say.  
 12 Q. So is your evidence that you just can't tell us, you  
 13 can't say whether or not you looked at these images at  
 14 this time or not?  
 15 A. I didn't look at the images and I didn't read the email  
 16 in full, so I wouldn't have seen these pictures at that  
 17 time, I'm afraid, I'm sorry.  
 18 Q. But wasn't this vitally important information for you to  
 19 be aware of when you're selling these products to the UK  
 20 market?  
 21 A. I would have — I was really hoping, as I mentioned  
 22 before, that the technical team would have answered all  
 23 the questions that needed to be answered for the client.  
 24 I'm afraid I didn't look at the photographs or read the  
 25 email in depth. I assumed that the product that we had

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1 was fit for purpose, as it had been the prior 30 years  
 2 it had been installed in the UK. So I assumed that the  
 3 product was fit for purpose, or the products.  
 4 Q. What we've seen is in a series of emails Mr Wehrle is  
 5 trying to convey, at least at the end of these chains,  
 6 that the products are performing very differently under  
 7 fire, and that the national test, the class 0 test, and  
 8 indeed the French national test, doesn't expose those  
 9 differences. Were you not aware of that?  
 10 A. I can see that now. I don't think it was explained to  
 11 me in any urgency that this is the case. It should have  
 12 been, looking back on it, you know, that these — this  
 13 should have been quite clearly put to me that, you know,  
 14 these two products are completely different, and it  
 15 wasn't.  
 16 Q. If we can go to {ARC00000696}, this is Mr Wehrle on  
 17 14 December saying to you, Grahame Byrne and Tom Dunn:  
 18 "Dear Grahame,  
 19 "Following our phone call on Friday, please find  
 20 enclosed a document on ALCOA letter head to confirm the  
 21 discussion.  
 22 "I hope this document, added to the photos I sent on  
 23 Friday, will help to unlock the situation.  
 24 "I stay at your disposal for any further question."  
 25 As Mr Wehrle referred to in his witness statement,

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1 and we saw earlier, he wrote a letter on this project on  
 2 Alcoa headed letter paper about this question.  
 3 If we can just go to that letter, this is at  
 4 {ARC00000699}. It was an attachment to that email. We  
 5 can see it here, it's to Genius Facades, dated  
 6 14 December 2015, and he says:  
 7 "Dear partners,  
 8 "We kindly are coming back to you concerning the  
 9 issues you have on the Reynobond fire reaction class in  
 10 UK.  
 11 "The British Standard BS476 part 6&7 are not  
 12 relevant to distinguish between our Reynobond PE and our  
 13 Reynobond FR. Both are classified 'Class 0' when tested  
 14 in accordance with this standard.  
 15 "But those 2 products are very different in their  
 16 behavior when exposed to a flame. This difference is  
 17 shown when tested in accordance with the European  
 18 standard EN 13501 where following classes are achieved:  
 19 "Reynobond PE: class E.  
 20 "Reynobond FR: class B—s1, d0.  
 21 "If further help and advice is required then please  
 22 let us know and we will be happy to look for  
 23 a solution."  
 24 Now, do you remember reading this letter?  
 25 A. I remember Grahame getting a letter, and — but I don't

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1 remember the ins and outs of the letter.  
 2 Q. Do you have a recollection of reading it, even if you  
 3 don't remember the detail of what was in it?  
 4 A. No, I don't, I'm afraid, I'm sorry.  
 5 Q. Wasn't this a fairly unusual step for Mr Wehrle's team  
 6 to have to issue technical information in a formal  
 7 letter?  
 8 A. I wasn't sure. I mean, I'd never come across it before,  
 9 so I wasn't entirely sure if that was the right sort of  
 10 thing that people — or the common sort of thing that  
 11 a fabricator or someone would ask for. So, you know,  
 12 I can't answer that question, I'm afraid. I'd never  
 13 come across it before.  
 14 Q. Given that you hadn't come across it before, and we've  
 15 seen it's a pretty short letter, it doesn't take long to  
 16 read, isn't it likely that you would have read it and  
 17 digested it at the time?  
 18 A. No, it's not. I mean, I would have started — as I said  
 19 before, anything technical initially in 2015, when I'd  
 20 started with the company, when this letter was being  
 21 sent, I would have just hoped that the issue with the  
 22 products that the customer had would have been rectified  
 23 by the technical team and I wouldn't have actually  
 24 digested that in full.  
 25 Q. This letter tells you that the PE is class E, contrary

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1 to the statement in the BBA certificate that it was  
 2 class B. Surely you noticed that; no?  
 3 A. No, I'm afraid I didn't, I'm sorry.  
 4 Q. But did you come away with the clear message that the  
 5 national testing didn't flush out sufficiently what the  
 6 true fire performance differences were between these two  
 7 products?  
 8 A. No, I'm afraid I didn't, sorry, because I didn't digest  
 9 it.  
 10 Q. Would you agree that Genius Facades and their client had  
 11 to press very hard for the information about the  
 12 difference between the PE and the FR products?  
 13 A. I would agree to that, yes, they were asking me to  
 14 contact Claude in the technical on several occasions,  
 15 yes.  
 16 Q. Yes, they had to come back again and again —  
 17 A. They did.  
 18 Q. — before they got any proper information about the fire  
 19 performance of those products; you accept that?  
 20 A. I do accept that, that's correct, yes.  
 21 Q. Following this episode, did you tell customers that  
 22 Reynobond PE was a European class E product that  
 23 performed badly in fire?  
 24 A. In answer to your question, no, I didn't ever specify  
 25 any PE on my projects, so that would never have come up.

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1 Q. So you're saying that after this point, you just never  
 2 discussed PE with anybody?  
 3 A. No, I'm not saying that. I would have discussed PE as  
 4 a standard core, as I mentioned before, and the FR being  
 5 a retardant — a fire retardant core. But the projects  
 6 that I was dealing with, the new projects that were  
 7 coming up, were generally specified an FR product.  
 8 Q. But if they weren't, would you tell customers that  
 9 Reynobond PE was European class E and performed badly in  
 10 fire?  
 11 A. It would depend on what the circumstances were, depend  
 12 on what the building was. If the building was obviously  
 13 a large tower, then the PE conversation would never have  
 14 come up, because they wouldn't be specifying that on the  
 15 building. If it was, you know, a low-rise building,  
 16 again, I wouldn't have asked that question because they  
 17 were specifying the PE product, hopefully knowing what  
 18 it was, you know. It had been sold into the UK for  
 19 many, many years, and I assumed that they would  
 20 understand what a PE product was, a standard core.  
 21 Q. Did you ever question whether it was right to continue  
 22 to supply Reynobond PE given its E classification and  
 23 its poor performance in fire?  
 24 A. Of course, after the tragedy, the fire, we stopped  
 25 manufacturing the product, and of course then that —

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1 Q. Sorry, Mr Meakins, I'm not asking about after the fire.  
 2 I'm asking about after this episode with Genius Facades  
 3 and this letter being written, did you ever question  
 4 whether it was right to continue to supply Reynobond PE  
 5 given its E classification and its poor performance in  
 6 fire?  
 7 A. Did I ever question it, sorry, with my peers, with  
 8 Arconic? No, I didn't, I'm afraid. No, I didn't.  
 9 Q. Can you help us as to why not?  
 10 A. Because I assumed, as I said before, that the product  
 11 was fit for purpose in the UK. The BBA obviously was  
 12 stating different things, and where it came for  
 13 specifications on the architectural side, then the  
 14 question — the PE never come up. So I never had  
 15 that — I never had the reason to question or mention  
 16 that, because it was very rarely specified, and if it  
 17 was then it would have been changed.  
 18 Q. What about existing projects which were ongoing where PE  
 19 was being supplied to those projects? Did you ever  
 20 question whether it was appropriate to continue to  
 21 supply those products to projects like the  
 22 Grenfell Tower project?  
 23 A. I understand. I, again, didn't have any dealings with  
 24 those projects, so I was unaware of what was specified  
 25 for the projects at the time and, no, I never

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1 questioned, because I was never asked the question.  
 2 MS GRANGE: Mr Chairman, I note the time. That's a good  
 3 moment for a break in any event. Thank you.  
 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.  
 5 Now, you haven't finished with Mr Meakins, I take  
 6 it?  
 7 MS GRANGE: No, I'm afraid I haven't, and I've got probably  
 8 around an hour still to go with him, I'm afraid. I will  
 9 review my notes over the lunch hour, and I'll be as  
 10 quick as I can this afternoon, but I do have some more  
 11 questions I would like to put to this witness this  
 12 afternoon.  
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Yes, very well. Thank  
 14 you very much.  
 15 Well, there you are, Mr Meakins. We're going to  
 16 have a break now so we can all get some lunch. We'll  
 17 come back at 2 o'clock, please.  
 18 THE WITNESS: Okay, sir.  
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Please remember not to talk to  
 20 anyone about your evidence or any aspect of it over the  
 21 break.  
 22 THE WITNESS: Of course.  
 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And we will see you a bit later on.  
 24 2 o'clock, please. All right? Thank you very much.  
 25 2 o'clock, everyone, thank you.

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1 (1.03 pm)  
 2 (The short adjournment)  
 3 (2.00 pm)  
 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome  
 5 to the resumption of the hearing. We're going to  
 6 continue hearing evidence from Mr Meakins.  
 7 Mr Meakins, can you hear me and see me?  
 8 THE WITNESS: I can hear you clearly, sir, and see you  
 9 clearly.  
 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, and you are  
 11 ready to go on, are you?  
 12 THE WITNESS: Yes, I am, yes.  
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you.  
 14 Yes, Ms Grange, then, when you are ready.  
 15 MS GRANGE: Yes, thank you very much.  
 16 Yes, Mr Meakins, I now want to ask you some  
 17 questions about the Booth Muirie technical guidance, and  
 18 if we can look first at {MET00053158\_P05/80}.  
 19 So this is an email from you to Mr Lionel Marconnet  
 20 at Arconic, copying in Mr Wehrle, Claude Wehrle, and  
 21 it's on 11 April 2016, and the subject is "Booth Muirie:  
 22 ACM fire safety", and you have attached the Booth Muirie  
 23 technical note from March 2016. You say in the email:  
 24 "Good morning Lionel/Claude,  
 25 "I have been forwarded this document, which

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1 Booth Muirie have produced and are now circulating to  
 2 their customers/clients."  
 3 And you say:  
 4 "Well worth a read.  
 5 "Please let me know your thoughts.  
 6 "Kind regards  
 7 "Vince ..."  
 8 Do you recall sending that email?  
 9 A. I do recall sending the email, yes.  
 10 Q. If we go down to page 81 {MET00053158\_P05/81}, the next  
 11 page of this clip, this is the Booth Muirie guidance  
 12 document from March 2016 which you forwarded to your  
 13 colleagues in Merxheim in that email.  
 14 Now, do you remember reading this guidance?  
 15 A. I remember, yes, casting my eye over the document  
 16 several times and then forwarding it on to Lionel and  
 17 Claude, yes.  
 18 Q. So your email indicates that you thought it was  
 19 interesting. Why did you think it was interesting  
 20 enough to send to your colleagues in France?  
 21 A. I think there's some information on there that could be  
 22 relevant to our industry — well, is relevant to our  
 23 industry, and any sort of information that we gather  
 24 when we're out and about with clients and customers,  
 25 then we automatically send it back to France for

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1 their — so they can have a good look and see what's  
 2 going on in the UK market.  
 3 Q. Yes. I mean, this was technical information on fire  
 4 performance routes, wasn't it?  
 5 A. Yes, I do believe there was some technical performance  
 6 in there, yeah.  
 7 Q. So you must have had at least some understanding of  
 8 those technical requirements to appreciate that this was  
 9 significant guidance; yes?  
 10 A. I was talking to Booth Muirie about it, so, yes, it was  
 11 very clear that there were certain things in there when  
 12 you read it that was relevant to us, so that's why  
 13 I sent it to Merxheim.  
 14 Q. Yes, and if we can look again at that first page of the  
 15 guidance on page 81 {MET00053158\_P05/81}, what we can  
 16 see is that essentially it sets out — if we can pan out  
 17 a little bit, there are four routes to compliance that  
 18 this document sets out, and what it does is in option 1  
 19 it's saying that all materials need to be  
 20 non-combustible or of limited combustibility, that's  
 21 route 1, route 2 is a full system test to 8414, route 3  
 22 is a desktop assessment, and route 4 is a holistic  
 23 fire-engineered approach. So those are some routes  
 24 which will be familiar to the panel. But what we see  
 25 here in route 1 is that it's saying that to be

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1 compliant — we can see this in the second line  
 2 onwards — with ADB, you have to restrict all  
 3 significant elements of each and every layer of the wall  
 4 to non-combustible or limited combustibility materials.  
 5 Yes?  
 6 A. Sorry, yes, yes.  
 7 Q. And therefore this was pretty important guidance, wasn't  
 8 it, because it presented a real problem for you  
 9 marketing both your PE and your FR panels in the UK;  
 10 that's right, isn't it?  
 11 A. Sorry, this was a document that was done in-house from  
 12 what I understand, so it was actually put together by  
 13 Euroclad. So it was their view, it wasn't a document  
 14 that was legally put out there to everybody, you know,  
 15 it was something that they'd put together, this is what  
 16 I understood it to be, explaining certain aspects.  
 17 Q. I understand that. I understand that this was some  
 18 industry guidance that was put together. But I'm going  
 19 to ask the question again: this was pretty important  
 20 guidance, wasn't it, because it presented a real problem  
 21 for you marketing the PE and FR panels in the UK; yes?  
 22 A. Well, as I said, it was an interesting read. It's  
 23 something that I think I would have liked to hear more  
 24 back from France, ie the technical and Lionel Marconnet,  
 25 with their view to what they actually thought about the

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1 document.  
 2 Q. Did you appreciate at the time that this guidance, if  
 3 followed by others, would stop you being able to sell  
 4 Reynobond PE and indeed Reynobond FR panels in the UK?  
 5 A. No, I didn't look at it like that, no.  
 6 Q. You didn't. So did you have any opinion on the  
 7 significance of this guidance when it came out?  
 8 A. In all honesty, I know that Booth Muirie worked very  
 9 closely with Alucobond on their A2 materials, so I saw  
 10 that as a marketing document to market their A2 material  
 11 in the marketplace. But, no, I didn't think it was  
 12 anything that would sort of damage, you know, us from  
 13 using the FR or PE. I didn't look into it like that.  
 14 I'd sent it off for analysis to France for them to give  
 15 me some technical feedback, because I wasn't aware of  
 16 what actually all of it really meant.  
 17 Q. I see.  
 18 If we look at the second page of the guidance on  
 19 page 82 of this clip {MET00053158\_P05/82}, we see some  
 20 tables, and if we look at the layer 3 table, what we can  
 21 see is it's telling you whether certain materials meet  
 22 the non-combustible or limited combustibility  
 23 requirement. What we can see is that the PE-cored ACM  
 24 by Reynobond, the last line, does not meet it. We can  
 25 also see that the Reynobond FR, in the section below

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1 that, where it says "B1-s1, d0 Core" on the left, then  
 2 fourth line down, Reynobond FR, that also, "No", does  
 3 not meet the non-combustible or limited combustibility  
 4 requirements.  
 5 Do you remember seeing this table at the time?  
 6 A. I can remember casting my eye over it and seeing all the  
 7 other competitors on there having the same sort of  
 8 non-combustibility as "no", so I thought it was very  
 9 interesting that it was just the A2 core, but because  
 10 this wasn't — you know, it was their look on the whole  
 11 thing, this is why I sent it to France for them to give  
 12 me some more feedback that I didn't get. So, you know,  
 13 it was — it would have been good to have got some  
 14 sort of feedback on the technical side to give me some  
 15 more information on exactly what it meant.  
 16 Q. I see. Did you ever get a response from  
 17 Lionel Marconnet or Claude Wehrle after you had sent  
 18 them this document?  
 19 A. I can honestly say I don't remember ever getting  
 20 a response back.  
 21 Q. Okay.  
 22 Some questions now about the FR core increasing in  
 23 popularity.  
 24 You told the Inquiry last week that your main remit  
 25 was to sell the FR Reynobond product, and that you were

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1 told by Alain Flacon, when he was managing director, to  
 2 focus your efforts on the sales of that FR product. Do  
 3 you remember, that was your evidence?  
 4 A. That's absolutely correct, yes.  
 5 Q. And you said that you were told this at a sales meet.  
 6 Can you help us as to when that sales meet took place  
 7 that you were told to focus on FR?  
 8 A. Sorry, that would have been a very early sales meet  
 9 because Alain was then the sales manager then, sales  
 10 director, and I just recall them, you know, wanting to  
 11 move forward with the FR — sorry, can you hear me? Can  
 12 you hear me okay?  
 13 Q. Yes.  
 14 A. To move forward with the FR product. As I mentioned  
 15 before, we had a PE product, but I took the PE product  
 16 to be a standard core product and the FR to be more of  
 17 an advanced product that we — everyone had moved  
 18 forward already with this sort of product. So, yeah,  
 19 I recall Alain saying that early on in the sales meets  
 20 and saying wherever we can, you know, we need to really  
 21 focus on the FR product because we're putting a lot of  
 22 effort into it, to manufacture it.  
 23 Q. Were you told why you had to focus your efforts on the  
 24 FR product?  
 25 A. No, we were just told that the FR product needs to be

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1 focused, no reason as to why.  
 2 Q. You told the Inquiry last week that when you started  
 3 with Arconic, you did not understand that the UK was  
 4 a PE market, and you said:  
 5 "We had a big focus on FR as well as PE so it was  
 6 pretty much 50/50."  
 7 That's what you said in your evidence last week.  
 8 A. Absolutely. In my opinion, when you open — when I went  
 9 into the market, obviously I was talking to various  
 10 different fabricators and people that we could get  
 11 involved with on the fabrication side, and it was very  
 12 much FR, you know, everyone was talking Alucobond FR and  
 13 wanting to move forward — you know, and specifying FR.  
 14 So it was — there was PE, but it was mainly, when I was  
 15 about, in my time, the FR product.  
 16 Q. I see. So did you mean that when you joined Arconic,  
 17 that Arconic itself sold pretty much 50/50 PE and FR?  
 18 A. I wouldn't say we sold, I would say we were looking at  
 19 producing more FR for the market. So we would  
 20 certainly — wherever need be, the FR product would be  
 21 put forward.  
 22 Q. I see.  
 23 Ms French told us in her witness statement that she  
 24 couldn't recall any occasion on which she had sold the  
 25 FR product. Can you help us as to why there is such

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1 a difference between the two of you and yet you're only  
 2 four months apart in terms of how you recall the market?  
 3 A. Yes, I would say that Ms French was working with two  
 4 main fabricators, which were Genius Facades Systems and  
 5 I guess — I think she worked with CEP, and very few  
 6 fabricators, so they were probably predominantly coming  
 7 back with projects that warrant an FR. Well, we know  
 8 that's different now, but they were obviously asking for  
 9 FR or ordering FR material via the office or via Deborah  
 10 or through Deborah.  
 11 When I started with the company, my remit was to  
 12 bring on new clients, clients that we'd lost due to  
 13 neglect in the past, the likes of Sotech, Argonaut and  
 14 all the other fabricators that we used to work with, and  
 15 they were indicating, and indicated from the very  
 16 beginning, that they only used FR products. Very, very  
 17 few only used PE. So that's when I was opened up to FR.  
 18 Sotech used a lot of Alucobond with — and they are an  
 19 FR product.  
 20 Q. Okay.  
 21 Can we look at something Mr Schmidt tells us in his  
 22 witness statement. If we can go to his second witness  
 23 statement, {MET00053187/14}, paragraph 44. So he says  
 24 there, I'll read it with you:  
 25 "Although [Arconic] wanted to further reduce the

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1 cost of FR, our general push towards FR was successful,  
 2 as by 2015, the overall sales from Merxheim of Reynobond  
 3 FR for architecture exceeded the sales of Reynobond PE  
 4 for architecture ..."  
 5 Then he exhibits a graph, and then he says:  
 6 "Furthermore, in relation to UK sales, FR moved from  
 7 accounting for approximately 3% of sales in 2014 to 30%  
 8 of sales in 2015 and 34% of sales in 2016. Whilst the  
 9 UK market was therefore lagging behind other countries,  
 10 as ACM PE was popular and the market was slow to respond  
 11 to change, the position was moving, and the percentage  
 12 of UK sales which were FR did increase between 2013–2016  
 13 (inclusive)."  
 14 We can see that there.  
 15 So the figures that Mr Schmidt gives is that there  
 16 is a big increase from 2014 to 2015, it goes from 3% to  
 17 30%, but then only a small increase in the percentage of  
 18 sales into 2016, that's 30% to 34%.  
 19 If, as you say, the market was 50/50, can you  
 20 account for why there was only a small increase in sales  
 21 between 2015 and 2016, in terms of the FR product?  
 22 A. Well, I think we work as specification sales managers,  
 23 so we work on specifying products for the future, and  
 24 this can sometimes take up to two years of hard work on  
 25 a project before we're actually specified and before we

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1 win the project. So there were lots of projects that  
 2 I was working on with fabricators and the like that  
 3 wouldn't come to light until the end of 2016, 2017, 2018  
 4 in some cases, so there were lots of projects in the  
 5 pipeline that were FR.  
 6 Q. I see, okay.  
 7 Can we look at another document which helps us on  
 8 the sales of PE in the UK. This is at {META00000763},  
 9 and it's an Excel spreadsheet, so we may need that  
 10 bringing up on the screen. It's the first tab that  
 11 I need.  
 12 (Pause)  
 13 Yes, thank you. So this is a spreadsheet. The  
 14 title of it is "Sales of PE in the UK 1998 to 2017", and  
 15 in this first tab we can see, year on year, what the  
 16 square metrage was of Reynobond that was sold, and then  
 17 the revenue. What we can see is that the metre squared  
 18 figure of PE sold in 2015 is 33,000 metres squared. Do  
 19 you see that, towards the bottom of those figures?  
 20 A. Yes, I can see that, yes.  
 21 Q. Then in 2016, 18,337; do you have that?  
 22 A. I can, yeah, I can see that, yeah.  
 23 Q. So there is a drop in the metreage squared of PE as  
 24 between 2015 and 2016, but we still have around  
 25 18,337 metres squared of PE being sold in 2016. Do you

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1 see that?  
 2 A. I do see that, yes.  
 3 Q. So it's right, isn't it, that significant quantities of  
 4 PE did carry on being sold in 2016?  
 5 A. Absolutely, and I can explain to where it was sold. The  
 6 PE would have predominantly been sold into the CID  
 7 market. Now, I know Deborah French didn't actually get  
 8 involved in the CID market, it was just the  
 9 architectural market. I had a big turnaround when  
 10 I started, and the corporate identification market was  
 11 a big thing.  
 12 Q. Yes, I understand.  
 13 A. And that warranted PE material, so they would order the  
 14 PE material, and that's probably a lot where that would  
 15 come from.  
 16 Q. I see. So you're saying that, on your experience, sales  
 17 of PE to architecture dropped, but it was the other  
 18 sales that kept it up?  
 19 A. Absolutely.  
 20 Q. Yes, I see.  
 21 Mr Wehrle in his witness statement tells us that, in  
 22 2015, the prices of Reynobond FR and PE were almost  
 23 identical. He says that the price of the FR was around  
 24 €26.71 and the PE €26.06.  
 25 Was that your experience, that the price of the two

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1 products was almost the same?  
 2 A. No, it wasn't the same, not in the UK, I'm afraid.  
 3 I believe you could drop lower with the PE, but I think  
 4 he's got it mixed up, because we were always about £2  
 5 a square metre more in FR than we were in PE. So I'm  
 6 not sure where we've got the same figures, because that  
 7 just would not have been the case. It was more  
 8 expensive to produce the FR.  
 9 Q. Yes.  
 10 A. And we would never have sold FR at the same price as PE.  
 11 Q. Yes, so I think we can agree, can we, that Arconic,  
 12 certainly in the UK, was not able to offer the FR core  
 13 at the PE standard price?  
 14 A. Never, no.  
 15 Q. No.  
 16 Mr Wehrle also says that the UK market was slow to  
 17 shift to the FR core compared with other countries.  
 18 Would you agree with that?  
 19 A. I would say when I started there was plenty of  
 20 opportunity to have an FR — FR projects. So, yeah,  
 21 I would say they were probably slower than most of our  
 22 competitors, yes.  
 23 Q. Can we look at some emails now on this,  
 24 {MET00053158\_P06/99}.  
 25 Now, this is an email dated 3 May 2016 from

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1 Alain Flacon to a number of personnel within Arconic,  
 2 cc'ing Lionel Marconnet and Claude Wehrle and others.  
 3 This appears to be — and maybe you can help us, does  
 4 this seem to be an email sent to the French sales team?  
 5 A. Claude ... yes, that seems to be predominantly French  
 6 people in there, yes, so I would say so, yes.  
 7 Q. We can see that the email reads:  
 8 "Good morning all,  
 9 "As you know, the fire safety classifications for  
 10 Reynobond building products in France show a discrepancy  
 11 between NF P92—501 and its equivalent under EN 13501."  
 12 Then the discrepancies are then set out in tables  
 13 below. So you can see that under the Norme Française,  
 14 the national French tests, it's getting an M1  
 15 classification for rivet and cassette, but he has set  
 16 out what it's getting under the EN 13501 test as well,  
 17 and it's getting a C and an E. He does the same for  
 18 Reynobond PE and Reynobond FR. Do you see that?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. Then if we look at the text below the table, he says:  
 21 "This ambiguous situation is open to interpretation  
 22 and, in particular, gives control offices the option to  
 23 check the M classification as a priority, as the  
 24 European classification is more complex to understand  
 25 and to use.

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1 "You or your customers regularly specify our  
2 Reynobond products on large-scale architectural  
3 projects. As such, Alcoa Architectural Products finds  
4 itself as a knowledgeable entity, and therefore accepts  
5 its responsibility and image as a specialist in this  
6 field .  
7 "In view of the potential calorific benefits of  
8 Reynobond FR (vs. Reynobond PE), and consequently its  
9 superior performances, we have taken the proactive habit  
10 of favouring FR as the only solution in our  
11 specifications ."  
12 Then in bold text we see it says this :  
13 "As from today, I ask you to go even further and to  
14 systematically confirm in writing the requirement for FR  
15 for all projects on which a Reynobond specification is  
16 involved, regardless of the nature and size of the  
17 building project .  
18 "If you have any questions about the application of  
19 these instructions , please contact Claude, who will give  
20 you all the necessary information to justify this choice  
21 and advise the specifiers as best as possible regarding  
22 this solution , which is by far the safest .  
23 "I am counting on your active cooperation ..."  
24 So it would appear that, based on this email in  
25 May 2016, the French sales team were directly instructed

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1 to stop recommending PE and sell only FR in France,  
2 regardless of the application .  
3 Now, were you aware of that?  
4 A. I've never seen that email, so, no, I was unaware of  
5 that .  
6 Q. In fact, Alain Flacon goes further and asks the team to  
7 systematically confirm to customers in writing that FR  
8 is required regardless of the nature and size of the  
9 building project . So it's quite a stringent instruction  
10 that's being brought in here .  
11 So, just to be clear , is it your evidence that you  
12 were never aware that there had been this change to how  
13 Reynobond was being sold in France?  
14 A. No, I was unaware of how it was being sold in France .  
15 It's the first time I've seen that email .  
16 Q. Did you ever receive a similar instruction or anything  
17 along similar lines in the UK?  
18 A. Well, later on, we obviously stopped producing the PE  
19 product and it was only just the FR, and then we  
20 obviously ceased production of FR as well and stopped  
21 the Reynobond production completely . But, no, up until  
22 the fire , the tragedy at Grenfell , there was nothing  
23 said to me to stop selling or producing or putting  
24 forward the PE product .  
25 As I've mentioned before, I was involved quite

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1 heavily in the corporate identification side with fast  
2 food chains, well known fast food chains, that were  
3 purchasing PE on quite a regular basis . So fabricators  
4 were still using that for the corporate identification  
5 market in the UK .  
6 Q. I see . Okay .  
7 Just some questions now about the A2 product .  
8 In your witness statement — we don't need to turn  
9 it up, this is at paragraph 20, page 7  
10 {MET00053164/7} — and you have mentioned it in your  
11 evidence already, you have said that one of your main  
12 disadvantages was being unable to offer any A2 product  
13 in the UK market other than Reynodual . That's right,  
14 isn't it ?  
15 A. That's absolutely correct , yes .  
16 Q. I think, as you confirmed before, Reynodual was two thin  
17 skins of aluminium only; that's right , isn't it ?  
18 A. That's correct , there was no core in a Reynodual .  
19 Q. Did you ever sell Reynodual for architectural use? Was  
20 it ever used in that way?  
21 A. I'm afraid it was a brilliant — it was a fantastic  
22 product, and it was unfortunately not viable in the UK  
23 market because it was so very, very expensive, so  
24 therefore it was up against the likes of A2 products and  
25 we were losing due to the price of the materials .

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1 That's the only reason . The product itself was a superb  
2 product .  
3 Q. I see , yes .  
4 If we can look at Mr Schmidt's second witness  
5 statement, now, {MET00053187/7}, I want to look at what  
6 he says at paragraph 17 .  
7 In this paragraph, he's explaining at the beginning  
8 what the different products are . In the second line you  
9 can see he talks about the Reynobond PE, FR and A2  
10 product . Then a few lines down, in the fifth line , he  
11 says :  
12 "The 'A2' reference comes from the class that the  
13 product achieves when tested to European standard ..."  
14 Then he gives the European Standard .  
15 Sorry, just above that, he said that the A2 has  
16 a core made of 90% mineral content plus 10%  
17 polyethylene, and that made it of limited  
18 combustibility .  
19 Were you made aware of what the composition was of  
20 the A2 product by Arconic?  
21 A. No, I was never told what the make-up of the A2 product  
22 was, but we understood that obviously its rating was  
23 a non-combustible rating, so it was a lot better product  
24 for high-rise buildings, and that's what was being  
25 specified a lot of the time on buildings .

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1 Q. If we look back at that paragraph, I just want to ask  
 2 you about some other points that Mr Schmidt makes in  
 3 this paragraph about the A2 product.  
 4 So if we pick it up in the seventh line on the  
 5 right—hand side, it begins "AAP", he says:  
 6 "[Arconic] started to manufacture Reynobond A2 at  
 7 Merxheim in late 2016 with the launch of A2 product from  
 8 the Merxheim production line being in January 2017  
 9 (which was after the supply of the material which was  
 10 used on Grenfell Tower)."  
 11 Just pausing there for a moment, were you aware of  
 12 that? Were you told that there had been a launch of  
 13 an A2 product that was then available to be sold in late  
 14 2017?  
 15 A. Yes, there was a launch of the product, the A2 product.  
 16 Unfortunately it wasn't for the UK market. There was  
 17 a launch, but the UK market — we couldn't go ahead with  
 18 the product, purely because we didn't have a BBA, we  
 19 didn't have — there was a lot of stuff that we needed  
 20 to finish off. Our lead times were very, very poor on  
 21 the product, and we could only produce it in certain  
 22 colours. So it just wasn't viable for the UK market.  
 23 Everybody was asking for various different colours. And  
 24 it was quite expensive as well, again, for the UK  
 25 market.

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1 Q. I see.  
 2 If we go back to that paragraph, he then continues,  
 3 this is picking paragraph 17 up ten lines down, it's  
 4 pretty much just over halfway down that paragraph, he  
 5 says:  
 6 "From 2014, [Arconic] had made limited sales of  
 7 Reynobond A2, with the product at that time being  
 8 manufactured by a third party in China, and returned to  
 9 [Arconic] as a finished product for sale (I have been  
 10 asked whether that product was publicly advertised by  
 11 [Arconic] at the time of the supply of the material used  
 12 on Grenfell Tower, and having spoken to colleagues  
 13 understand that it was not. It would however have been  
 14 available if requested by a customer)."  
 15 Now, we wanted to ask: were you aware of that? Were  
 16 you aware that, from 2014, Arconic had been able to  
 17 manufacture via a third party in China a Reynobond A2  
 18 product?  
 19 A. No, I was never aware that we had an A2 product all the  
 20 way through from the time I started in 2015 until we  
 21 launched it in 2017. If I had have been then obviously  
 22 I would have been, you know, promoting that product.  
 23 I'm not sure — you mentioned something about it being  
 24 manufactured in China. Yeah, I'm not sure about that.  
 25 I'd never been asked or was aware of a product that we

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1 could put into the UK market.  
 2 Q. I see. So on your understanding, the A2 product wasn't  
 3 available to sell in the UK at the time of the  
 4 Grenfell Tower project, so 2014 through to the end of  
 5 2015?  
 6 A. Yeah, we had — I had no A2 product for the UK market.  
 7 Q. I see.  
 8 Can we look at another piece of marketing literature  
 9 now. This is a brochure called "Fire safety in  
 10 high-rise buildings" from 2016. This is a piece of  
 11 marketing material that you have specifically referred  
 12 to in your witness statement as having been available.  
 13 If we look at what you say in your statement at  
 14 page 16 {MET00053164/16}, paragraph 49, in  
 15 paragraph 49.1 we can see you are talking about  
 16 brochures that were available in 2014 when you began  
 17 working for Arconic, then if we could go over the page  
 18 {MET00053164/17} to look at paragraph 49.3.4, you talk  
 19 about this document, "Reynobond Reynolux Fire Safety in  
 20 High-rise Buildings — Our Fire Solutions Leaflet", and  
 21 you say this:  
 22 "This followed introduction of the new product  
 23 towards the end of 2016, namely an A2 core ACM panel."  
 24 So is it right that this new piece of literature,  
 25 "Fire safety in high-rise buildings", was introduced at

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1 the time that Arconic had an A2 product available; yes?  
 2 A. It was released, I do believe, the A2 product, at the  
 3 BAU exhibition in Germany that I attended. So, yeah, we  
 4 introduced it then, and I can't remember if that was  
 5 2017 or 2016, but there was a leaflet with the A2  
 6 material that we'd released.  
 7 Q. Yes. Let's have a look at that leaflet now, and we may  
 8 need the native version to get a clean copy of it. It's  
 9 at {ARC00000465}. It's entitled "Reynobond/Reynolux,  
 10 fire safety in high-rise buildings". There we go.  
 11 So I think this was a folded brochure again, and it  
 12 would appear that the front page appears on the  
 13 right-hand side of this screen. It says:  
 14 "Aluminium solutions for façades and roofs cladding.  
 15 "Fire safety in high-rise buildings.  
 16 "Our fire solutions."  
 17 Do you have that?  
 18 A. I can see the brochure, yes.  
 19 Q. Is this the brochure that you were referring to in that  
 20 part of your statement?  
 21 A. I don't believe it is, actually. I can't remember  
 22 seeing this particular brochure. Obviously the title is  
 23 the same, but I can't be absolutely 100% sure that that  
 24 is the exact brochure, because there were — I remember  
 25 there were two, I think, brochures for the A2 product.

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1 Q. I see. Well, this is the version that we have. In the  
 2 middle of the page, in very tiny text, there is a date,  
 3 you can take it from me it says 12/2016 —  
 4 A. Okay.  
 5 Q. — dating this document to December 2016.  
 6 It was provided to us in English, so it would appear  
 7 to be for the English market, yes, or the  
 8 English-speaking market?  
 9 A. Yes, of course, yes, yes.  
 10 Q. If we look on the far left under "Test methods and  
 11 certifications", we can see, if we could blow that far  
 12 left page up, it basically says:  
 13 "Test EN 13501 ..."  
 14 "The European fire certification EN 13501 ... is the  
 15 most complete test when it comes to fire. When other  
 16 tests do not take into account major factors, the  
 17 European fire certification EN 13501—1 does."  
 18 So it's very much saying you need to look at the EN  
 19 testing.  
 20 There we have, underneath it, a table. I'm sorry  
 21 it's not as clear as it perhaps could be, but I can help  
 22 you with some of what's in there. What we can see is  
 23 a table with ticks against what's tested by certain  
 24 testing, and we can see in the top line it does say  
 25 EN 13501 and all the boxes are ticked. So flame spread,

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1 smoke production and burning droplets are all ticked.  
 2 Then it has an ASTM test underneath that, and then it  
 3 has BS 476—6 and 7, and it's making clear that flame  
 4 spread is tested by that with the tick, but smoke  
 5 production and burning droplets are not.  
 6 So that's what's said there, that this European test  
 7 is the most complete test.  
 8 Then if we go to the bottom of the page, we can see  
 9 different European classification standards. It goes  
 10 down from A1 to D. We note that there is no E or F on  
 11 here. Did you notice that at the time?  
 12 A. I don't recall seeing this particular brochure,  
 13 actually. I know we had one, but this one — I don't  
 14 remember seeing these charts or these ...  
 15 Q. I see.  
 16 If we can go down now to the second page  
 17 {ARC00000465/2} and look at the far left—hand side, if  
 18 we could look at the top of the page on the far  
 19 left—hand side, it says, "The fire solutions from  
 20 Arconic Architectural Products", and it says:  
 21 "Fire is a key issue when it comes to buildings."  
 22 And underneath that in the black text it says:  
 23 "When conceiving a building it is crucial to choose  
 24 the adapted products in order to avoid the fire to  
 25 spread to the whole building. Especially when it comes

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1 to facades and roofs, the fire can spread extremely  
 2 rapidly.  
 3 "Important to take the 'fire characteristic' into  
 4 account when starting the construction or refurbishment  
 5 of a building in order to protect the people and assets  
 6 while limiting fire propagation. It is especially  
 7 crucial for public establishments such as hospitals,  
 8 schools, offices, etc."  
 9 Then it says on the right—hand side in the black  
 10 text:  
 11 "Buildings are also classified according to their  
 12 height and destination (public buildings, industrial  
 13 buildings, housings ...): it will also define which  
 14 materials are safer to use. Another important rule when  
 15 it comes to the height of buildings concerns the  
 16 accessibility of the fire brigade to the fire in the  
 17 building. As soon as the building is higher than the  
 18 firefighters' ladders, it has to be conceived with  
 19 an incombustible material."  
 20 So that is the very clear advice that's being given  
 21 in this brochure.  
 22 Underneath that, we can see there's diagrams, and do  
 23 you see on the right—hand side there is a building  
 24 diagram with a ladder next to it, and you can see it's  
 25 telling you where on the building you should be using

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1 the three cores: A2 at the top, FR then underneath that,  
 2 I think 30 metres, and then below 10 metres it's saying  
 3 PE. Do you have that?  
 4 A. I do, yes, I can see that.  
 5 Q. Then the caption in small black writing — you can't  
 6 read this on this version, I'm afraid, but it says:  
 7 "As soon as the building is higher than the  
 8 firefighters' ladders, it has to be conceived with  
 9 an incombustible material."  
 10 So it repeats that part again.  
 11 Underneath that there is a heading "Advantages of  
 12 our products", if we can just go down the page, and here  
 13 it says in blue:  
 14 "Reynobond Architecture with FR or A2 cores,  
 15 Reynodual and Reynolux aluminium composite panels and  
 16 sheets represent the ideal material because of several  
 17 advantages."  
 18 One of those advantages, you can see the blue  
 19 bullet, is "Limit fire propagation", and the first  
 20 bullet point says:  
 21 "Architecture aluminium composite panels and their  
 22 respectively fire—retardant and incombustible  
 23 properties, the fire propagation is limited. The cores  
 24 of our product are main keys: the cores are mainly  
 25 mineral (FR: approx. 70% minerals; A2: approx. 90%

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1 mineral)."

2 Then in the middle on the right-hand pages, if we  
3 can come back out, we see that there are tables giving  
4 the fire performance of the FR and the A2 product, and  
5 note there is nothing said here at all in these tables  
6 about the fire properties of the PE product.

7 Now, do you agree that this shows that, certainly by  
8 this time, Arconic knew full well that PE should not be  
9 sold for tall buildings?

10 A. I will say I've never seen this copy of — or this — of  
11 this document. I knew that we had a document out there,  
12 but it wasn't this one. Do you know if this had been  
13 printed or this —

14 Q. Mr Meakins, I've just been informed, this is the  
15 document that you exhibit to the paragraph of your  
16 witness statement that I just showed you.

17 A. Yes, but as I said, I think there's two documents. This  
18 particular document I've not seen. I know the document  
19 that we had at BAU was not this one. So I don't know  
20 where this particular one has come from, or even if it  
21 was actually printed, or was it in the — just as  
22 a sort of marketing brochure ready to go to the market.

23 Q. Well, I can't help you, Mr Meakins, other than to say  
24 that this is in your exhibits and this is the document  
25 that you have exhibited, is my understanding, to your

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1 witness statement.

2 A. The title of the document, yes, but I don't remember  
3 ever seeing this document, so I — yes.

4 Q. Are you saying that you never saw a brochure that, in  
5 such clear and unequivocal terms, explained that you  
6 shouldn't use PE in certain applications?

7 A. I am. I've never seen a brochure explaining, as you've  
8 said, not to use a PE material. It tells you where you  
9 can use the PE, but I've not seen this particular  
10 document.

11 Q. I see. So you never saw anything to this effect at the  
12 time that the A2 product had been —

13 A. Not in this depth, no, I've not seen this.

14 Q. I wanted to ask you, assuming that you had seen it,  
15 whether this gave you any pause for thought about the  
16 tall buildings for which Reynobond PE had already been  
17 sold by you, but does it follow that you wouldn't have  
18 thought about that because you weren't aware of the  
19 detail in this brochure?

20 A. I — as you're aware, by this time I was fully aware  
21 that the PE was specified at lower level and the FR at  
22 a certain — another level, so I was aware of that, but  
23 I'm saying I've not seen this document, so I can't  
24 comment on this particular document.

25 Q. It would appear that what Arconic are doing is making

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1 a virtue of the A2 product by comparing it very clearly  
2 with the poorer performance of the PE product; yes?

3 A. I can't comment on that, because I haven't seen that  
4 particular brochure, I haven't studied it, so I can't  
5 see what — I really can't comment on that.

6 Q. There was never any earlier marketing material, was  
7 there, that spelled out the fire safety risks of the  
8 different products in this amount of detail, was there?

9 A. Absolutely. I don't remember seeing any document in  
10 this depth, this detail, no.

11 Q. Is it right that it wasn't until Arconic had its own  
12 viable A2 product manufactured in-house that Arconic  
13 decided to market the fact that PE was unsuitable for  
14 tall buildings?

15 A. I never actually had an A2 product, as you're aware, in  
16 the UK, and I don't ever recall them, you know, coming  
17 up with any statement saying that.

18 Q. Is it right that from early 2017 you began to receive  
19 orders for the A2 product in the UK?

20 A. That's correct, yes.

21 Q. And how did the sales of A2 progress?

22 A. Well, they didn't, because we didn't have the A2  
23 material. We were told to specify the A2 material and  
24 start getting orders in, so I had a few projects that  
25 I was working on that I was very excited about, and

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1 unfortunately, because we couldn't manufacture the A2  
2 material in the colours and the times and at the cost we  
3 said we were going to be able to, I lost the projects to  
4 competitors.

5 Q. I see, yes.

6 Can we look at an email on this. This is  
7 {INQ00014536}. I should make clear this is  
8 a translation of what was a French email, the Inquiry  
9 has had it translated. It's an email, if we look at the  
10 top, from Veronika Deffontaine on 14 June 2017, the day  
11 of the Grenfell Tower fire, to Lionel Marconnet, and the  
12 subject is, "Fire in London: Grenfell tower". She says:  
13 "Lionel,

14 "Just for your information. I have just had Vince  
15 on the phone. He is distraught.

16 "After this fire, Alucobond called all the market  
17 players prescribing that everything be done in A2.

18 "That day, Vince lost 4 projects because orders  
19 would come in quickly and we don't have A2  
20 certificates."

21 Do you see that there?

22 A. Yes, I do, yes.

23 Q. I think that confirms what you have already said in your  
24 evidence, that you didn't have any form of certificate,  
25 including a BBA certificate, for the A2 product, is that

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1 right, and that's why you lost sales?  
 2 A. That's correct, we didn't — it was due to the time as  
 3 well, the turnaround of the product, was months away  
 4 from the actual needing the product, so we were way  
 5 behind with production, and it just wasn't viable,  
 6 people were going elsewhere.  
 7 Q. Is it right that you did continue to sell PE—cored  
 8 products, even in 2017, prior to the Grenfell fire?  
 9 A. The only PE products that were sold all the way through  
 10 my career up until the Grenfell fire were for the  
 11 corporate identification market that went into projects,  
 12 as I've mentioned before, fast food joints and car  
 13 garages and as such.  
 14 Q. I see.  
 15 Can we just look at some of your weekly reports. If  
 16 we look at {META00000710}, this is your weekly report of  
 17 15 May 2017. You can take that from me, this is your  
 18 15 May 2017 weekly report. If we look halfway down  
 19 page 1, there is a heading "CEP/Omnis", and we can see,  
 20 three lines down, there is a reference to a Bagot Street  
 21 project, and you say:  
 22 "Baggot[sic] Street: Half of materials for this  
 23 order have now been placed — 5000m2. The other half  
 24 will be ordered in August.  
 25 "They have secured another Reynobond project in our

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1 SUPRALL Gold Metallic."  
 2 What material had been secured as that other  
 3 Reynobond project, can you help us?  
 4 A. Which one are we talking about, Bagot Street I guess?  
 5 Q. Well, underneath Bagot Street you have then said "They",  
 6 which we understood to mean CEP/Omnis, "have secured  
 7 another Reynobond project in our SUPRALL Gold Metallic".  
 8 A. I'm sorry, I would — "have secured another Reynobond  
 9 project ..."  
 10 I don't know the name of the project, so I would  
 11 just — they would have just told me that that was the  
 12 colour that they would have secured the project in.  
 13 Q. I see.  
 14 If we look then at another weekly report written by  
 15 you a month later on 12 June 2017, this is  
 16 {META00000706}. So this is your weekly report for  
 17 June 2017.  
 18 In the first paragraph, under "Market and  
 19 Competition/Prospect/project & Opportunity", you have  
 20 "CEP/Omnis" again, and you have:  
 21 "Grenfell Towers (London).  
 22 "Further to the fire disaster in London today,  
 23 I have had various conversations with CEP regarding the  
 24 future orders and the orders in the system and wanting  
 25 to change them to FR. Looking back on their purchase

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1 history, they only ever order PE, so with today's fire,  
 2 this might change drastically. Will update  
 3 accordingly."  
 4 A. That's correct.  
 5 Q. So would it be right, then, that any orders by CEP prior  
 6 to that time would have been PE, because you have looked  
 7 back and you have checked and that was all they were  
 8 ordering?  
 9 A. Yes, they were my findings. Obviously I'd specified the  
 10 Bagot Street project, that was an FR project, but  
 11 looking back at the history after the fire of what they  
 12 were ordering, which I think I was asked to do, they all  
 13 seemed to have been PE, and there was no sort of record  
 14 of any FR being purchased.  
 15 Q. Yes.  
 16 If we can go back to your May 2017 report, this is  
 17 at {META00000710}, there is a reference there, if we go  
 18 to the bottom of the first page, to Genius Facades and  
 19 the Hilton Hotel. It says:  
 20 "Genius Facades:  
 21 "Hilton Hotel: I am being told the prices given by  
 22 Lionel (Veronika holiday) have enable[d] them to secure  
 23 this project (£22.50m2 ...)."  
 24 Do you see that there?  
 25 A. Yes, I do, yes.

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1 Q. Looking at that price, would you agree that's likely to  
 2 be a price for PE rather than FR?  
 3 A. I would say that is probably an FR price, to be honest.  
 4 They tend to have got their PE for around about the £20  
 5 mark. It would have been £19 to £20. £22.50 —  
 6 although it is a sparkling black, so that could have  
 7 been a little bit more expensive, actually. So it could  
 8 have been — likely to have been FR, I would think.  
 9 Q. Okay. It seems quite a low price for FR, but if that's  
 10 your evidence —  
 11 A. Well, unless it — we can go back and find out what the  
 12 project was, I can't be sure.  
 13 Q. Okay.  
 14 Let's move on. If we look at page 3 within this  
 15 report {META00000710/3}, there is reference to a project  
 16 called Mosley Street. This is an Omnis project. Do you  
 17 see that in the table, the third project down?  
 18 A. Yes, I do.  
 19 Q. Mosley Street, 1,200 metres squared, "Awaiting clients  
 20 go ahead with colour".  
 21 Can we just look at some documents relating to that.  
 22 If we go to {MET00053179/2}, in the start of the chain,  
 23 there is an email from Geof Blades to you on 10 January  
 24 at 10.14. The subject is "75 Mosley St. Manchester",  
 25 and Geof Blades states:

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1 "Morning Vince, Anna,  
2 "Ref the above, we are now in receipt of an order to  
3 provide the cassette panels.  
4 "Please see the attached cassette panel schedule.  
5 All panels are to be Reynobond Deep Grey Anodised ...  
6 Could you please confirm your rate of £24.75/m2."  
7 Then if we go to page 5 {MET00053179/5}, on  
8 22 May 2017 we see Deborah Talbot of CEP come back to  
9 you:  
10 "Good afternoon Vince,  
11 "I would like to order the following Reynobond  
12 Panels in Dark Grey Anodised ..."  
13 And she sets them out, and then says:  
14 "I understand that you have agreed the price with  
15 Geof, however he is on holiday ..."  
16 Your reply is at the bottom of page 4  
17 {MET00053179/4}, email of 22 May at 16.42, you say:  
18 "Good afternoon Deborah  
19 "Thank you for your order.  
20 "Will you be sending an official purchase order or  
21 shall we use the reference in the 'subject' field .  
22 "Virginie : please can we accept this order and put  
23 into production."  
24 Did you understand that to be an order for PE at the  
25 time?

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1 A. Mosley Street, I think it was a project that was  
2 an ongoing project before my time, and I thought  
3 I understood that to be an FR project.  
4 Q. Well, we can see in the email above Virginie Grandin has  
5 clarified and asked for some information. So she says,  
6 from Arconic:  
7 "Hi Vince!  
8 "Hope you're fine [smiley face].  
9 "Some important info are missing: before being able  
10 to register the order."  
11 And her second query is "PE or FR core?" Do you see  
12 that?  
13 A. Yes, I can see that, yeah.  
14 Q. It's only then you ask Deborah Talbot to confirm. If we  
15 go to page 1 {MET00053179/1}, the second email from the  
16 top is from you to Deborah Talbot on 23 May, and you  
17 say:  
18 "Hi Debbie  
19 "This 24.75m2 for our Deep Grey Anodised ... was  
20 a special price give from senior Management for PE can  
21 you confirm that you are needing PE or FR on this  
22 project please.  
23 "The price for FR is 26.75m2, I was under the  
24 impression that FR was needed on Mosley Street."  
25 Do you see that?

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1 A. That's correct, yes.  
2 Q. Then if you scroll up to the top email, Deborah Talbot  
3 replies :  
4 "It's the PE, I have attached our order ...  
5 "Thanks for your help."  
6 So here we can see that there is a culmination of  
7 emails and eventually they confirm it was PE.  
8 Can you remember why you had thought in your email  
9 that it was FR that was wanted?  
10 A. I don't think we supplied that project in PE, because  
11 I think we questioned it and found out it was an FR  
12 project. I'd like to look into that a bit more, because  
13 my problem was that I had with the office in France, and  
14 this is all fair play to France and the girls in France,  
15 the internal staff, they'd be called up by the  
16 fabricators placing orders for standard material for  
17 projects that were specified otherwise, and then I —  
18 once the project has been — or the order has been  
19 placed, they would get that material and I'd have no say  
20 in what material was ordered. I had to — they had to  
21 order the material through me for me to make that  
22 decision and say, "Well, actually, guys, this is an FR  
23 project, it isn't a PE project", and that's why  
24 I mentioned about the PE being ordered in the past from  
25 CEP.

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1 Q. I see.  
2 A. Sorry to waffle, but I'm trying to get the whole picture  
3 so you understand.  
4 Q. Were you aware that this was a seven—storey office  
5 redevelopment?  
6 A. No, I can't — I don't believe I understood it was  
7 a seven—storey development. This was a project that  
8 they would have been working on before for quite a few  
9 years, I understand.  
10 Q. And you can't help us as to whether it's right that,  
11 after the fire at Grenfell Tower, CEP changed this order  
12 to FR from PE?  
13 A. Well, because I guess they realised that it was  
14 specified FR, they'd ordered the PE, and then they  
15 changed from FR to — from PE to FR. As I mentioned  
16 before, as you — I looked at the history, and all  
17 they'd done in the past when they phoned up for orders  
18 were just ordered the standard core, and there was  
19 no one questioning it, because there was no one to  
20 question it. When I came on board, I would find  
21 a specification, know it's an FR project, and I'd say,  
22 "Well, I understand that that's an FR project", and  
23 hence that's why they'd change the specification from PE  
24 to FR.  
25 Q. I see, thank you.

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1 I just have two more topics to cover with you.  
 2 The next topic is visits from Merxheim personnel to  
 3 the UK. I want to ask you about a couple of visits —  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. — where individuals from Merxheim came over to the UK.  
 6 If we look at Mr Wehrle's witness statement,  
 7 {MET00053190/29}, I want to look at paragraph 103. So  
 8 I'll read it with you, Mr Wehrle says:  
 9 "As far as I am aware, my only contact with Rydon  
 10 prior to the Grenfell Tower fire was in relation to  
 11 a separate project where Reynobond product had been  
 12 fitted on a project at Camden in London (the Chalcots  
 13 Estate). I was asked by Vince Meakins to attend a site  
 14 visit with himself and two people from Rydon (Alim Whyte  
 15 and Steve Blake) on 4 May 2017 in relation to  
 16 a delamination issue allegedly affecting some panels  
 17 fitted to those blocks."  
 18 Now, just pausing there, can you recall Mr Wehrle's  
 19 visit to the Chalcots Estate in May 2017?  
 20 A. I can recall Mr Wehrle's visit, yes.  
 21 Q. And can you recall that it was a delamination problem  
 22 that he was going to look at on site?  
 23 A. I can. I initially went to the project and couldn't  
 24 answer the technical questions that I was being asked,  
 25 I wasn't sure what caused the delamination. That's why

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1 Mr Wehrle came to site at a later date.  
 2 Q. And were you present when he met representatives of  
 3 Rydon on site?  
 4 A. I do believe I was. I don't remember Steve Blake, but  
 5 I do remember Mr Whyte.  
 6 Q. If we carry on with what he says, picking it up at the  
 7 second line from bottom, he says:  
 8 "During that meeting we walked around the perimeter  
 9 of all the tower blocks at the Chalcots Estate and the  
 10 technical delamination matter was discussed. A sample  
 11 of the material from one of the towers was taken by one  
 12 of the Rydon representatives and provided to me for  
 13 further review. During the course of that site visit  
 14 I expressed to the two Rydon representatives surprise to  
 15 see a number of buildings of such height with ACM PE  
 16 cladding material rather than an FR product. The Rydon  
 17 representatives commented that the relevant UK  
 18 regulations allow the use of ACM PE products in such  
 19 scenarios. I did not make any further enquiries  
 20 relating to UK regulations following this comment by  
 21 Rydon."  
 22 Now, do you recall Mr Wehrle expressing surprise  
 23 during that meeting about the number of tall buildings  
 24 that had ACM PE on them rather than an FR product?  
 25 A. No, I don't recall that conversation ever going ahead

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1 with Rydon. I certainly didn't hear it, if that was the  
 2 case. No, is the answer to that.  
 3 Q. Thank you.  
 4 Did he ever make any similar comments to you, say,  
 5 outside of this meeting at Chalcots, about the number of  
 6 tall buildings with PE-cored ACM on them in the UK as  
 7 opposed to the FR product?  
 8 A. No, I can't recall — I can't ever recall him talking to  
 9 me about any PE product. It's very difficult, if you  
 10 can understand, to tell the difference between a PE and  
 11 an FR product when it's on the building. So that would  
 12 be very surprising.  
 13 Q. Yes, but at the Chalcots Estate, Mr Wehrle would have  
 14 known it was ACM PE if he was trying to deal with  
 15 a delamination issue, wouldn't he?  
 16 A. No, not necessarily. The core is a very similar colour.  
 17 Unless we'd taken it away for testing or he had taken  
 18 the panel off and it actually said on the back of the  
 19 panel it was PE, it's very difficult to tell the  
 20 difference between a PE and FR when it's in situ.  
 21 That's my opinion. I mean, I can't understand how he  
 22 would have known that was PE just by looking at the  
 23 building.  
 24 Q. I see.  
 25 I would now like to ask you about another meeting in

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1 the UK in August 2015. Can we go to {META00001884}.  
 2 So this visit, just to introduce it, relates to  
 3 a visit by Nicolas Remy in August 2015. So here what we  
 4 see is Claude Wehrle is sending to you, cc'ing Mr Remy,  
 5 on 27 August 2015 a visit report, that's the subject,  
 6 and the attachments contain a visit report.  
 7 Do you remember Nicolas Remy coming to the UK in  
 8 August 2015 for a visit?  
 9 A. I do remember Nicolas Remy coming over vaguely in 2015  
 10 when I first started with the company, but I can't  
 11 recall why he was coming to the UK. It would have been  
 12 a technical issue of some type.  
 13 Q. Let's look at the attachment. This is a visit report.  
 14 It's at {META00001885}, and this is a document entitled  
 15 "Claim Report 129/15", and it's about the Media City UK  
 16 residential block A; do you see that?  
 17 A. I do, yes, I remember it now.  
 18 Q. Yes, you can recall Nicolas Remy's visit, can you, to  
 19 this —  
 20 A. I can, yes, to the Media City, yes.  
 21 Q. Where in the UK was this development, can you help us?  
 22 A. I think it was in Manchester area, it was in the  
 23 Manchester area.  
 24 Q. And under "Fixing system", we can see that the product  
 25 here is Reynobond 554 PE. Do you see that?

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1 A. I do, yes.  
 2 Q. And it says the year of production was 2009. The  
 3 product is described as "Smoke Silver Metallic"  
 4 underneath that.  
 5 A. That's correct.  
 6 Q. Then underneath that, if we can go down the page, under  
 7 "Fixing systems", we can see that this was a cassette  
 8 system that was installed on this project, we can see  
 9 that, "Curved Cassettes"; do you see that?  
 10 A. I do, yes.  
 11 Q. And there are some close-up pictures of the cassettes  
 12 themselves.  
 13 If we can go down to the second page  
 14 {META00001885/2}, is that Media City, the building that  
 15 we see on the left there, Media City residential  
 16 block A?  
 17 A. The ... I can't be too sure, I can't 100% be sure, but  
 18 the two pictures at the bottom certainly look familiar.  
 19 Q. Yes, so this would appear to be a tall high-rise  
 20 building; yes?  
 21 A. It looks to be, yes.  
 22 Q. What someone has done in the labels on the right-hand  
 23 side is indicate where there were problems with the  
 24 bended cassettes and delamination; do you have that?  
 25 A. Yes, I do, yeah.

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1 Q. And on the third page {META00001885/3}, we can see there  
 2 are some more comments about delamination, "All the  
 3 bended cassettes are delaminating", under "Issues &  
 4 Remarks"; do you see that?  
 5 A. Yes, I do, yes.  
 6 Q. Then if we can look at the bottom of this page, there is  
 7 a conclusion. It says:  
 8 "The traceability of the panels delivered for the  
 9 project has been done ... no defect ... in conformity  
 10 with our standard production ..."  
 11 Then in the next paragraph:  
 12 "The delamination occurs only in the upper and  
 13 bottom curved cassettes ..."  
 14 Then at the end of that conclusion, it says:  
 15 "One can raise the question of the panel  
 16 transformation method that shouldn't be used for  
 17 elements installed closed to the sea water."  
 18 Then Nicolas Remy is there. So he would appear in  
 19 this report to be raising a question about how close to  
 20 some water this building was; do you remember that?  
 21 A. I remember vaguely, yes. The seawater — it was in  
 22 Manchester, so I'm not sure if it was that near to the  
 23 sea, but I do remember, yes, that being mentioned.  
 24 Q. For the transcript — we don't need to turn this up,  
 25 it's {META00001763} — shortly after this, you attached

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1 this visit report and you send it to Lee Davies on  
 2 28 August 2015, copying in Claude Wehrle, Nicolas Remy  
 3 and Peter Froehlich.  
 4 Now, my question for you is: during this visit, did  
 5 Mr Remy raise any concerns about the suitability of PE  
 6 cassettes on this high-rise building from a fire safety  
 7 perspective?  
 8 A. No, there was absolutely no mention, from what I can  
 9 understand. As you know, the project I didn't have any  
 10 dealings with initially. This was a project that was  
 11 done way before my time. But he didn't mention anything  
 12 about that product being on the building.  
 13 Q. Yes, but Nicolas Remy and indeed Claude Wehrle, having  
 14 received this report, would have been aware that the  
 15 Media City building was a high-rise building clad with  
 16 Reynobond PE cassettes; that's right, isn't it?  
 17 A. That's correct, yes.  
 18 Q. Yes.  
 19 Just finally, now, some very brief questions about  
 20 after the fire.  
 21 Is it right that on 26 June 2017 Arconic ceased its  
 22 global sales of Reynobond with a PE core for any  
 23 architectural use?  
 24 A. I can't be sure of the dates, but yes, we did, yeah, we  
 25 stopped producing Reynobond.

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1 Q. And what was your understanding about why that was done?  
 2 Why were all PE sales stopped for any architectural use?  
 3 A. I can only surmise after the fire they realised that  
 4 perhaps it wasn't the right materials to put on the  
 5 building — on a high-rise building. But that would be  
 6 my ... I'm just surmising, I don't know for sure, it was  
 7 never mentioned.  
 8 Q. So you were never told what the reason was for that?  
 9 A. No, it just ceased.  
 10 MS GRANGE: I see.  
 11 Mr Chairman, those are all of my questions. If we  
 12 could maybe have a short break. There haven't been many  
 13 further questions so far, so I would hope that maybe we  
 14 could have a break of perhaps ten minutes.  
 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I think we will combine this  
 16 with the afternoon break.  
 17 Mr Meakins, just so you understand, when counsel  
 18 gets to the end of questions, we have to have a break to  
 19 enable those who are not physically present, or even  
 20 virtually present, to raise further matters they would  
 21 like to ask about.  
 22 THE WITNESS: Of course, sir, yes.  
 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So we do that, but we're getting  
 24 close to the time when we would have a break in the  
 25 afternoon anyway, so we will combine the two. It is

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1 just coming up to 3.10, so we will come back at 3.25, we  
 2 will see if there are any more questions for you, and,  
 3 with any luck, you won't be here much longer.  
 4 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you, sir.  
 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Please remember not to talk about  
 6 your evidence over the break.  
 7 THE WITNESS: Of course.  
 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you very much.  
 9 3.25, then, please.  
 10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.  
 12 (3.08 pm)  
 13 (A short break)  
 14 (3.25 pm)  
 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Well, welcome back, everyone. We  
 16 will now see whether Ms Grange has any more questions  
 17 for Mr Meakins.  
 18 Mr Meakins, are you there?  
 19 THE WITNESS: I am here, sir, yes.  
 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: You can see me and hear me  
 21 all right, I hope?  
 22 THE WITNESS: I can hear you clearly and see you clearly,  
 23 yes.  
 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good, thank you very much.  
 25 Well, then, we will see whether Ms Grange has any

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1 more questions for you.  
 2 Yes, Ms Grange.  
 3 MS GRANGE: Mr Chairman, no, I am happy to report that we  
 4 have no further questions for Mr Meakins, thank you.  
 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: That's almost a first.  
 6 MS GRANGE: Not quite a first, but ...  
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: All right. Well, thank you very  
 8 much anyway.  
 9 Well, Mr Meakins, somewhat to my surprise, as you  
 10 can tell, there are no further questions we need to put  
 11 to you. So it just remains, I think, for me to thank  
 12 you very much for being available to give us your  
 13 evidence. I'm sorry it took rather longer than you were  
 14 originally led to expect, but that's the way things go  
 15 from time to time.  
 16 Anyway, we're very grateful to you, it's been  
 17 helpful to hear what you have to tell us, and that's the  
 18 end, as far as you're concerned.  
 19 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir, and hopefully the answers  
 20 I have given have been helpful for your Inquiry. Thank  
 21 you very much.  
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you very much.  
 23 Right, goodbye.  
 24 (The witness withdrew)  
 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Well, we have another witness who is

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1 waiting to be called, but we can't actually go straight  
 2 to him, because we need to have a short break for making  
 3 the necessary arrangements first.  
 4 So we will have a break now, I think probably not  
 5 for more than five, perhaps ten minutes, and we will  
 6 resume as soon as we are ready to do so.  
 7 Thank you very much.  
 8 (3.27 pm)  
 9 (A short break)  
 10 (3.50 pm)  
 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Welcome back, everyone.  
 12 Our next witness is going to be Mr Claude Schmidt,  
 13 the president of Arconic, I think.  
 14 Is that right, Mr Millett?  
 15 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, it is.  
 16 I just want to say one or two things before I begin  
 17 taking Mr Schmidt's evidence in order to explain how we  
 18 propose to address questions about translation.  
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes.  
 20 MR MILLETT: Mr Schmidt's solicitors, DLA Piper, have told  
 21 us that his English is not good enough to enable him to  
 22 feel confident enough to be able to answer our questions  
 23 in English. In order therefore to address that problem,  
 24 we will take the following steps.  
 25 First, Mr Schmidt will give his evidence in French

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1 through interpreters. We have two independent and  
 2 extremely experienced professional interpreters to whom  
 3 we are very grateful. We proposed simultaneous  
 4 translation, but Arconic opposed it on the grounds that  
 5 it risked losing transparency and accuracy. So,  
 6 reluctantly, we have agreed that translation will not  
 7 simultaneous, but sequential, so that both the French  
 8 and the English can be heard. That will have maximum  
 9 transparency, but I'm afraid it will mean a lack of flow  
 10 and somewhat slower speeds, so I would ask everybody to  
 11 bear with us.  
 12 Secondly, when going to an Arconic witness  
 13 statement, I will show Mr Schmidt the French version of  
 14 that statement where it is available, and I will display  
 15 or ask to have displayed the English version at the same  
 16 time. I will also ask him to read the paragraph of the  
 17 French version, and I will read out the English passages  
 18 I intend to ask him about. Both versions will be  
 19 displayed using the split—screen function.  
 20 Third, when taking Mr Schmidt to a document, I will  
 21 show him the French original where it exists and at the  
 22 same time display the English translation, again using  
 23 the split—screen function. In the majority of cases of  
 24 French language emails, English language versions do  
 25 exist, done by DLA Piper, and they are contained in the

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1 same exhibit, usually a few pages away.  
 2 Fourthly, where the document is an English original,  
 3 there are often translations available, which will again  
 4 be shown using the split-screen function. Those  
 5 translations have been done either by the  
 6 Metropolitan Police or by DLA Piper or by the Inquiry.  
 7 Fifthly, in cases where I wish to take Mr Schmidt to  
 8 an English language document, including witness  
 9 statements, for which there is no French translation,  
 10 I will ask the interpreter to translate for him the  
 11 passages I want to put to him.  
 12 Finally, our two interpreters will switch places  
 13 every 20 to 30 minutes or so. There will be no break as  
 14 they do so. They will also be seen on screen only to  
 15 take the interpreters' oath and thereafter will not be  
 16 visible.  
 17 Mr Chairman, that is how we propose, subject to you  
 18 and the panel, to proceed.  
 19 Without further ado, I would now then call  
 20 Mr Schmidt.  
 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Millett.  
 22 I think the first step is for me to say hello to our  
 23 interpreters and invite them to make the affirmation  
 24 before they undertake their work.  
 25 Can I first of all ask Ms Kennedy, is she there, and

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1 can she hear and see me?  
 2 MS KENNEDY: I can see you and hear you.  
 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.  
 4 Can I begin by apologising for having kept you  
 5 waiting all afternoon.  
 6 MS KENNEDY: Don't worry.  
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We had hoped to get to you straight  
 8 after lunch but, life being what it is, we haven't  
 9 managed it. So thank you for being available to help  
 10 us.  
 11 MS KENNEDY: Not at all.  
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do you have a copy of the  
 13 affirmation to be made by an interpreter on a screen in  
 14 front of you or a card?  
 15 MS KENNEDY: I don't, but — I do now, yes. So would you  
 16 like me to read it out?  
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I would, please, yes.  
 18 (Interpreter affirmed)  
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much indeed.  
 20 MS KENNEDY: Pleasure.  
 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now I'm going to say hello to our  
 22 other interpreter, Ms Delas-Reisz.  
 23 MS DELAS-REISZ: Yes, good morning, sir, or good afternoon,  
 24 rather.  
 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I don't know whether you heard what

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1 I said to your colleague, but let me repeat the apology  
 2 for having kept you sitting around all afternoon waiting  
 3 for this moment.  
 4 MS DELAS-REISZ: Not at all. These things happen.  
 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: They do, I'm afraid.  
 6 Do you have a copy of the affirmation in front of  
 7 you somewhere?  
 8 MS DELAS-REISZ: In a second I think it will be on the  
 9 screen. Yes, it is. Shall I read it?  
 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you mind? Thank you.  
 11 (Interpreter affirmed)  
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much indeed.  
 13 Well, having introduced the interpreters, I think we  
 14 can now go over to say hello to Mr Schmidt.  
 15 MR CLAUDE SCHMIDT (called)  
 16 (Evidence via interpreter)  
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Schmidt, are you there? Can you  
 18 see me and can you hear me? Hello, Mr Schmidt?  
 19 THE WITNESS: (In English): Yes, I'm here, I'm just waiting  
 20 for the translation, sorry.  
 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You can see me, and we can at least  
 22 talk in English to this extent. All right. Thank you  
 23 very much.  
 24 Now, Mr Schmidt, I gather that you would like to  
 25 affirm. Do you have somewhere in front of you, probably

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1 on the screen, a copy of the affirmation?  
 2 THE WITNESS: (Interpreted): Yes. Yes, I have it.  
 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.  
 4 Would you please, then, make the affirmation in  
 5 French as you see it on the screen.  
 6 (Witness affirmed)  
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.  
 8 Before Mr Millett asks you some questions, can  
 9 I just run through one or two small matters with you.  
 10 Please, Mr Schmidt, can you confirm that you are alone  
 11 in the room from which you're giving evidence?  
 12 THE WITNESS: (Interpreted): Yes, I confirm.  
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.  
 14 Can you confirm that you do not have any documents  
 15 or other materials with you?  
 16 THE WITNESS: (Interpreted): I confirm.  
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.  
 18 Finally, can you confirm that your mobile phone is  
 19 in another room and you don't have any other electronic  
 20 device with you which is capable of receiving messages?  
 21 THE WITNESS: (Interpreted): I confirm.  
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.  
 23 Now, I should tell you that your legal  
 24 representatives are in the virtual hearing room. They  
 25 will be following your evidence, and can intervene if

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1 they consider there is an urgent need to do so. But  
 2 otherwise, I've asked them to keep their microphones on  
 3 mute and their cameras switched off.  
 4 I hope there aren't going to be any problems with  
 5 sound or vision, but if there are technical  
 6 difficulties, please bear with us and we will sort them  
 7 out as soon as possible.  
 8 If you have any difficulties or you need to attract  
 9 my attention, please wave your hand or do something else  
 10 that's suitable.  
 11 Now, I apologise for the fact that we have kept you  
 12 waiting so long this afternoon. I'm afraid we overran  
 13 with the previous witness, and I apologise for the  
 14 inconvenience. Because we're starting later than we  
 15 expected, we shall not have a break between now and the  
 16 end of the afternoon.  
 17 Is there anything you would like to ask me or bring  
 18 to my attention?  
 19 THE WITNESS: (Interpreted): No, I'm ready, thank you for  
 20 the information.  
 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.  
 22 In that case, I invite Mr Millett to put some  
 23 questions to you.  
 24 MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you very much.  
 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.

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1 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY  
 2 MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.  
 3 Mr Schmidt, thank you for attending this  
 4 public inquiry to give your evidence. We are very  
 5 grateful to you.  
 6 Now, you're going to give your evidence through  
 7 an interpreter. The interpreter will translate my  
 8 questions into French, and your answers into English.  
 9 I will also show you the documents and the relevant  
 10 parts of the witness statements and documents in French  
 11 and English at the same time where I can.  
 12 Can I check, please, that you can confirm that you  
 13 do not know the interpreters and have no personal or  
 14 business connections with them?  
 15 A. (Interpreted): I confirm that I didn't know them until  
 16 I met them last week.  
 17 Q. If you have any difficulty understanding any of the  
 18 questions I ask you, please say, and I will ask the  
 19 question again or put it in a different way.  
 20 Now, Mr Schmidt, you have made three witness  
 21 statements; is that correct?  
 22 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 23 Q. The statements and the documents I'm going to show you  
 24 will appear on your screen in front of you.  
 25 Can we first go, please, to your first witness

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1 statement at {MET00075418}, dated 17 August 2017.  
 2 Madam Interpreter, I should just say there is no  
 3 need to translate the numeric --  
 4 THE INTERPRETER: That's very kind of you. Fine. I won't.  
 5 MR MILLETT: This is your first statement of 17 August 2017  
 6 and it's ten pages long, I believe.  
 7 Can you confirm that that is your statement?  
 8 A. (Interpreted): I imagine it is my witness statement.  
 9 I can't confirm 100% that is that one, but I did make  
 10 a witness statement to the British police on that date.  
 11 Q. I wonder if I could help you further by asking you to  
 12 look at the first page of that witness statement and see  
 13 if you recognise it.  
 14 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 15 Q. And the second page.  
 16 A. (Interpreted): Yes, yes, that is it.  
 17 Q. Thank you.  
 18 Now, I understand you made this statement in  
 19 English, and then it was read to you in French, and you  
 20 confirmed its accuracy; is that correct?  
 21 A. (Interpreted): Yes, I had the support of an adviser who  
 22 translated it for me, so yes.  
 23 Q. Can we look at {MET00048331/3}, please. Now, this is  
 24 your second statement, which you provided in French on  
 25 10 September 2019. Is that correct?

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1 A. (Interpreted): Yes, that's it.  
 2 Q. Is it right that this statement has been provided to the  
 3 Inquiry in parts, and what you see on the screen is the  
 4 first 20 pages?  
 5 A. (Interpreted): I don't know. I don't know what was  
 6 submitted to the Inquiry.  
 7 Q. Right. Can you confirm that this is your statement, at  
 8 least part of your statement?  
 9 A. (Interpreted): Yes, I confirm.  
 10 Q. And you can see the signature and date there,  
 11 10 September 2019?  
 12 A. (Interpreted): Yes. Yes, that is my signature.  
 13 Q. If we can keep this document on the screen, please, and  
 14 have up also {MET00048338}, we see the second part of  
 15 your second witness statement, pages 21 to 48. We can  
 16 see there is a signature at the bottom of the page on  
 17 the right. Is that your signature?  
 18 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 19 Q. If we go to the last page of this document, please,  
 20 I believe it's page 48, we see a signature and a date,  
 21 also 10 September 2019. Is that your signature?  
 22 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 23 Q. Have you read this witness statement recently?  
 24 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 25 Q. Have you read the English version of the statement

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1 translated into French to you recently?

2 A. (Interpreted): Are you talking about the first witness

3 statement or the second witness statement? I didn't

4 quite understand the question.

5 Q. The first witness statement.

6 A. (Interpreted): Yes, I read it.

7 Q. Can we now go, please, to {MET00048344}. This is,

8 I believe, your third witness statement, also dated

9 10 September 2019. Is that right?

10 A. (Interpreted): Yes.

11 Q. Is that your signature?

12 A. (Interpreted): Yes.

13 Q. The subject matter is the loss and restoration of data

14 from your laptop; is that right?

15 A. (Interpreted): Yes.

16 Q. I'm just going to put into the public domain the

17 certified translation of this document, please, at

18 {MET00053184}.

19 Now, I've shown you the French. Have you read this

20 witness statement recently?

21 A. (Interpreted): No.

22 Q. Now, as I understand it, Mr Schmidt, there are two

23 independent translations of your second and third

24 statements, one translation arranged by Arconic's

25 solicitors and one arranged by the Metropolitan Police.

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1 So that you and those watching understand, I am going to

2 be taking you only to the translations arranged by

3 Arconic's solicitors. Do you understand?

4 A. (Interpreted): Yes.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 Now, I have shown you three witness statements. Do

7 you say that the contents of your witness statements are

8 true?

9 A. (Interpreted): Yes.

10 Q. Have you discussed your statements or the evidence that

11 you're going to give to this Inquiry in answer to my

12 questions with anybody before starting your evidence

13 today?

14 A. (Interpreted): Yes.

15 Q. When were those discussions?

16 A. (Interpreted): Essentially last week.

17 Q. Did you discuss the subject matter, the substantive

18 subject matter of your evidence?

19 A. (Interpreted): Yes.

20 Q. What was the substantive discussion? What was the

21 substance of your evidence that you discussed with your

22 solicitors?

23 A. (Interpreted): Well, essentially we just went through my

24 evidence to make sure that I had it well in mind.

25 Q. Could you tell us, please, what topics you discussed

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1 with your solicitors?

2 A. (Interpreted): Essentially, but not only, subjects

3 related to fire tests and the BBA certificate.

4 Q. Did your solicitors tell you how to answer the questions

5 they thought I might ask on those topics?

6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Sorry, just a moment. I think, in

7 fairness to the witness, I ought just to remind

8 Mr Millett, and for the benefit of others too, to

9 remember the range of protection that the witness has

10 for legal professional privilege.

11 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I'm aware of that, I —

12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think someone ought to explain to

13 Mr Schmidt — maybe I'm the one to do it — that he does

14 not have to answer questions about advice given to him

15 by his solicitors, although he is free to do so.

16 A. (Interpreted): I understand well, and I want to answer

17 the question because I want to clarify it.

18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good.

19 A. (Interpreted): So they've never directed me and they've

20 never given me any kind of advice with regard to the way

21 in which I should answer the questions.

22 MR MILLETT: In addition to the certification, the fire

23 certificates and the BBA certificates, what other topics

24 did you discuss?

25 A. (Interpreted): There's the discussion I may have had

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1 with Claude Wehrle in 2012, and really essentially these

2 are the topics we talked about.

3 Q. Very well.

4 I would like to ask you about your role at Arconic.

5 Can we please go to your second witness statement,

6 {MET00053187/6}, and I would like in the French, please,

7 {MET00048331/9}. I would like to show you paragraph 12

8 in the French, please. I'm going to read paragraph 12

9 in English, but please read paragraph 12 in French to

10 yourself while I do so.

11 You say:

12 "With regard to my background, I have a degree in

13 metallurgy from St Louis University, France. My first

14 job, which I started in 1985, was as a production

15 manager for Maillard SA (a bike company). I am based at

16 the Merxheim site, referred to in paragraph 6 above. In

17 1991 I was appointed as the general manager for Reynolux

18 and between 2006 and 2007, I was a production manager

19 focusing on China and a new plant which was proposed

20 there at the time (during that period I was not based in

21 China, but did travel there). I was appointed as

22 managing director of AAP SAS [which I shall call

23 Arconic] in August 2007, and have held the role of

24 President of AAP SAS since June 2010. I have held the

25 role of Vice President of Arconic Architectural Global

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1 since June 2016."  
 2 So I have questions.  
 3 My first question is: until 2016, is it right that  
 4 your company was known as Alcoa?  
 5 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 6 Q. In 2016, is it right that the company changed its name  
 7 to Arconic and became known as Arconic?  
 8 A. (Interpreted): Yes. I'm not too sure about the date,  
 9 but it was around that time, absolutely.  
 10 Q. We can see that your background and training is in  
 11 metallurgy.  
 12 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 13 Q. Would you agree that that gives you or gave you some  
 14 degree of understanding of technical matters in relation  
 15 to Arconic's products?  
 16 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 17 Q. Is it right that since August 2007 you were the most  
 18 senior person at Arconic at Merxheim?  
 19 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, I'm explaining my interpreting  
 20 a bit better.  
 21 A. (Interpreted): Yes, I was the director, so therefore  
 22 I did have the highest role in Merxheim.  
 23 MR MILLETT: You tell us that since June 2010 you were  
 24 president of Arconic. Can you explain what that role  
 25 was?

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1 A. (Interpreted): I'm not president of Arconic, I'm  
 2 president of AAP-SAS. It's a question of legislation,  
 3 and in France I'm the legal representative of AAP-SAS,  
 4 and that's the reason why I've got that title of  
 5 president.  
 6 Q. Who was the president of Arconic before you took over in  
 7 June 2010?  
 8 A. (Interpreted): I don't know. And I'm not even sure that  
 9 there was one.  
 10 Q. Since June 2016 you tell us that you held a role in  
 11 Global Arconic with a business in the United States. Is  
 12 that a separate corporate entity from AAP-SAS?  
 13 A. (Interpreted): It's a different legal entity, a distinct  
 14 legal entity.  
 15 Q. Did your role as president of Arconic or AAP-SAS  
 16 continue in parallel with your role at Global Arconic?  
 17 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 18 Q. Are you still president of AAP-SAS?  
 19 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 20 Q. Are you still its managing director based at Merxheim?  
 21 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 22 Q. In relation to the Global Arconic business in the USA,  
 23 did you report to Diana Perreiah?  
 24 A. (Interpreted): It depends on the time considered, the  
 25 period considered.

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1 Q. From 2016 to the middle of 2017.  
 2 A. (Interpreted): Yes, I think so, yes.  
 3 Q. After you obtained your role in the Global Arconic  
 4 business in June 2016, were you obliged to consult with  
 5 Diana Perreiah about any aspects of the AAP-SAS  
 6 business?  
 7 A. (Interpreted): Yes, we had a sort of hierarchical  
 8 relationship. Diana was my boss, if you like.  
 9 Q. Before June 2016, did you have a boss in relation to the  
 10 kinds of decisions that Diana Perreiah had oversight of?  
 11 A. (Interpreted): Yes. Yes, I was always reporting to  
 12 somebody within the organisation.  
 13 Q. Between 2007 and 2010, to whom did you report?  
 14 A. (Interpreted): Somebody called Craig Belnap.  
 15 Q. Could you spell his name, please?  
 16 A. (Interpreted): C-R-A-I-G, the first name, and the  
 17 surname B-E-L-N-A-P.  
 18 Q. What was his role?  
 19 A. (Interpreted): He was in charge of AAP at the global  
 20 level.  
 21 Q. What kind of decisions did Mr Belnap make?  
 22 A. (Interpreted): Well, essentially, it was discussion  
 23 about development, strategic direction for our products,  
 24 and part of the discussion also had to do with  
 25 reporting, development, financial results.

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1 Q. Did the same apply between 2010 and 2016, that you  
 2 reported to Mr Craig Belnap?  
 3 A. (Interpreted): No, because Mr Belnap left, I can't  
 4 remember exactly at what time, 2009, 2010 or maybe even  
 5 2011.  
 6 Q. Did anybody replace him in that hierarchy?  
 7 A. (Interpreted): For a while I was in direct reporting  
 8 with Glen Morrison.  
 9 Q. Where was Glen Morrison based?  
 10 A. (Interpreted): It was in Norcross in Georgia.  
 11 Q. Is that Georgia, United States?  
 12 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 13 Q. Was Mr Morrison an executive of AAP-SAS or another  
 14 entity?  
 15 A. (Interpreted): He was president of the division, BCS.  
 16 Q. What is BCS?  
 17 A. (Interpreted): It means building and construction  
 18 systems.  
 19 Q. Of which company?  
 20 A. (Interpreted): Arconic.  
 21 Q. Are you drawing a distinction between AAP-SAS and  
 22 Arconic?  
 23 A. (Interpreted): In fact, Arconic is the global  
 24 organisation, if you like, and at the time, under that  
 25 big global name, there were different divisions, and BCS

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1 was part of that structure. So it's mostly  
 2 concentrating on building precisely. And AAP was part  
 3 of that division.  
 4 Q. Would either Mr Belnap or Mr Morrison get involved in  
 5 any detailed technical discussions with you about any  
 6 particular products?  
 7 A. (Interpreted): Well, they've always been interested in  
 8 a general way about the development of products, but as  
 9 to say whether they had a very detailed view of these  
 10 products, no, we couldn't say that.  
 11 Q. Did you ever discuss fire safety or the fire performance  
 12 of Reynobond products either with Mr Belnap or with  
 13 Mr Morrison?  
 14 A. (Interpreted): Yes, certainly.  
 15 Q. Have you ever discussed the fire performance and fire  
 16 classification of Reynobond 55 PE with either Mr Belnap  
 17 or Mr Morrison?  
 18 A. (Interpreted): Well, it's difficult to explain, but  
 19 let's say globally yes, because during the period from  
 20 2007/2008 we started to present developments we were  
 21 interested in for A2 type products. And of course if  
 22 you placed yourself in that framework, in order to get  
 23 the potential investment we needed, we had to be able to  
 24 explain what we wanted to be doing, and the interest it  
 25 had. But whether we were going far in the detail of

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1 fire performance, fire certification, no, I don't think  
 2 we did that.  
 3 Q. Did you ever have cause to discuss the BBA certificate  
 4 in relation to Reynobond 55 panels with either Mr Belnap  
 5 or latterly with Mr Morrison?  
 6 A. (Interpreted): No, as far as I remember, no.  
 7 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I'm looking at the clock.  
 8 I probably have another ten minutes before I can arrive  
 9 at a very good natural break.  
 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Let me just check with Mr Schmidt.  
 11 Mr Schmidt, Mr Millett is telling me that he would  
 12 like to continue for another ten minutes or so. Would  
 13 that be acceptable to you?  
 14 THE WITNESS: (Interpreted): Yes, absolutely fine.  
 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you very much.  
 16 There you are, Mr Millett, another ten minutes or so  
 17 to get to the end of the subject matter.  
 18 MR MILLETT: I'm grateful, Mr Chairman.  
 19 Mr Schmidt, can you please be shown your second  
 20 witness statement in the French at page 9  
 21 {MET00048331/9}, paragraph 13, and the English also at  
 22 paragraph 13, please {MET00053187/6}.  
 23 Read to the French to yourself. I will read the  
 24 English. You say:  
 25 "My role involves overseeing all aspects of the

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1 business of AAP SAS, including operational, logistical,  
 2 sales and technical issues; by this, I mean that the  
 3 senior management team reports to me on such matters.  
 4 I am involved in the day to day discussions which take  
 5 place, but relevant points should be elevated to me as  
 6 necessary, and that I would generally receive updates at  
 7 the senior management monthly meetings which were held  
 8 at the Merxheim site and which, from 2018, are now held  
 9 on a weekly basis."  
 10 Would you say that you had oversight of all of the  
 11 business of AAP-SAS at Merxheim?  
 12 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 13 Q. Do you accept that you, from August 2007, were  
 14 ultimately responsible for all important decisions taken  
 15 about the manufacture and sale of products made at  
 16 Merxheim?  
 17 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 18 Q. Did that include Reynobond 55?  
 19 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 20 Q. Can we look at page 20 of the statement in French  
 21 {MET00048331/20}, please, and page 16 of the statement  
 22 in English {MET00053187/16}. In the English, at the top  
 23 of the page is paragraph 48, and you say — and this is  
 24 on page 20 in the French, if you look at page 20 in the  
 25 French, please, if we could have both up at the same

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1 time. You say:  
 2 "I would also note ..."  
 3 This is at the bottom of paragraph 48, so in the  
 4 French you will need to look at the very bottom of the  
 5 paragraph.  
 6 THE INTERPRETER: "It should be noted", is that what you're  
 7 referring to, sir? "It should be noted that in my  
 8 experience", et cetera?  
 9 MR MILLETT: Exactly:  
 10 "I would also note that information may have been  
 11 presented to management on specific occasions, for  
 12 example, in relation to investment decisions in respect  
 13 of FR or A2 investment projects."  
 14 Yes?  
 15 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 16 Q. The last four lines of paragraph 48, Madam Interpreter.  
 17 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 18 Q. Now, looking at that, Mr Wehrle in his evidence  
 19 {MET00053190/16} says — and I'll just ask you to  
 20 translate, Madam Interpreter — "and the role generally  
 21 assumed by the technical team was to inform and educate  
 22 the management team".  
 23 Do you agree that that was the role generally  
 24 assumed by the technical team?  
 25 A. (Interpreted): Well, I mean, it depends a bit what you

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1 mean by training or education, but what is true in any  
 2 case is that the technical team gave several  
 3 presentations during management meetings to explain  
 4 technical elements of products and development.  
 5 Q. Did — sorry.  
 6 A. (Interpreted): But, I mean, it's important to realise  
 7 that the frequency wasn't so high. It wasn't once every  
 8 two or three months, it probably happened once a year or  
 9 maybe once every two years.  
 10 Q. Did those presentations include information about  
 11 fire testing or fire certification?  
 12 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 13 Q. Is it right that occasionally there would need to be  
 14 decisions made about what to do with testing and  
 15 certification?  
 16 A. (Interpreted): Yes, for sure. But it wasn't necessarily  
 17 in the same discussion, the same framework.  
 18 Q. What kinds of decisions did Claude Wehrle have authority  
 19 to make without getting authority from you?  
 20 A. (Interpreted): Well, it's important to mention that  
 21 Claude Wehrle didn't report to me.  
 22 Q. Let me ask the question one more time: what decisions  
 23 could Claude Wehrle make without anybody's authority?  
 24 A. (Interpreted): It's a very general question.  
 25 Q. Could Claude Wehrle, for example, make decisions about

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1 whether to have a fire test for a product or have a fire  
 2 classification for a product without seeking authority  
 3 from anybody more senior?  
 4 A. (Interpreted): No, because, I mean, even for something  
 5 just like a fire test you need a financial wherewithal  
 6 and therefore he needed some agreement to do that.  
 7 Q. Whose agreement would be needed?  
 8 A. (Interpreted): I think he would have called upon the  
 9 commercial director because, in a large extent, it had  
 10 to do with the marketing budget.  
 11 Q. And who was the commercial director in the years you  
 12 were managing director and then president?  
 13 A. (Interpreted): There must have been about three over the  
 14 period 2005 to 2017.  
 15 Q. Yes, and could you —  
 16 A. (Interpreted): There was somebody called Guy Sheidecker,  
 17 that's up to 2011. I'm not too sure, but I think maybe  
 18 in fact it's 2012. It is 2012. Then there was  
 19 Alain Flacon who arrived in 2012, and so I think  
 20 Alain Flacon changed maybe in 2016 or 2017, and then at  
 21 the end there was probably someone called  
 22 Lionel Marconnet.  
 23 Q. So this is the role which I think in the translation has  
 24 been called the director of sales and marketing in the  
 25 English versions of your statements.

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1 A. (Interpreted): Yes.  
 2 Q. Now, what kinds of technical decisions would be  
 3 escalated to you to make?  
 4 A. (Interpreted): Technical decisions about what?  
 5 Q. That is my question.  
 6 A. (Interpreted): You mean coming up from Claude Wehrle's  
 7 team, or where did they come from?  
 8 Q. That's my question.  
 9 Let me try it again: what kinds of technical  
 10 decisions would come up to you for you to make?  
 11 A. (Interpreted): Well, once again, I mean, if there were  
 12 technical questions belonging to Claude Wehrle's team,  
 13 I don't believe that there were technical questions  
 14 escalating up to me.  
 15 MR MILLETT: Very well. Well, we may look at that answer as  
 16 we go through further questions in due course.  
 17 Mr Chairman, I think probably now we have arrived at  
 18 a natural break for the day.  
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes. Well, that seems a very good  
 20 point then.  
 21 Mr Schmidt, we're going to stop there for the  
 22 afternoon. Now we're going to have a break, I have to  
 23 ask you, please, not to talk to anyone else, including  
 24 your lawyers, about your evidence or anything to do with  
 25 it. All right?

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1 THE WITNESS: (Interpreted): Yes, of course, yes.  
 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you. And I will remind you of  
 3 that every time we have a break in the evidence, but if  
 4 for some reason I forget, please bear it in mind.  
 5 THE WITNESS: (Interpreted): Yes.  
 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.  
 7 So we will stop now and we'll start again at  
 8 10 o'clock UK time tomorrow.  
 9 All right?  
 10 THE WITNESS: (In English): Okay.  
 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you. I look forward to seeing  
 12 you then. Thank you very much.  
 13 10 o'clock, tomorrow, then, please.  
 14 (4.50 pm)

(The hearing adjourned until 10 am  
 on Tuesday, 16 February 2021)

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