



Grenfell Tower Inquiry

Day 134

May 20, 2021

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Thursday, 20 May 2021

(10.00 am)

SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to today's hearing. We're going to begin today by hearing evidence from another former member of the Kensington and Chelsea Council.

Yes, Mr Kinnier.

MR KINNIER: Sir, thank you. May I call Sam Mackover.

SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.

MR SAM MACKOVER (affirmed)

SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you very much. Do sit down, make yourself comfortable.

(Pause)

All right?

THE WITNESS: Yeah.

SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: When you're ready, Mr Kinnier.

MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.

Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

MR KINNIER: First of all, would you please confirm your name for the record.

A. Sam Mackover.

Q. Thank you.

Now, if any of my questions today are unclear or too long, please say so and I will rephrase them.

Secondly, if at any time you would like a break,

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please say so.

Thirdly, during the course of your evidence, would you mind keeping your voice up. That's so that the transcriber can capture everything you say.

Finally, please don't nod or shake your head in response to an answer, simply say "yes" or "no" so that that too can be caught by the transcriber.

A. Yes.

Q. Now, you have provided three statements. The first is a statement given to the Metropolitan Police dated 30 July 2018 and that can be found at {MET00065143}.

You provided a first witness statement to this Inquiry dated 28 September 2018, and that can be found at {RBK00029923}.

Finally, you provided a second statement to this Inquiry on 29 September 2019, which can be found at {RBK00054434}.

Have you read each of those statements recently?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. And you can confirm their contents are true?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you discussed your evidence with anyone before coming here today?

A. No.

Q. Now, the first topic I'd like to discuss with you today

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is the HPSC procedure itself.

Can we begin by looking at the first document you exhibit to your first witness statement for this Inquiry, and that can be found at {RBK00033748/2}.

We see there, at Article 6.01 of the RBKC constitution, it sets out the general duties of the scrutiny committee.

If I could ask to turn over the page to page 3 {RBK00033748/3}, and Article 6.03 at the bottom of that page, that sets out the terms of reference of the scrutiny steering group and, below that, the housing and property scrutiny committee.

Now, would it be right to say that, in discharge of your functions, your committee would have scrutinised safety, in particular fire safety, insofar as it affected residents of properties owned by RBKC?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it right that the committee had no decision—making power, but could enquire, discuss and question the actions of the council, the council's officers and the TMO?

A. Yes.

Q. Although the extent of your scrutiny would depend, I assume, on the sufficiency and adequacy of the information with which you're provided; is that a fair

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comment?

A. That's right.

Q. Notwithstanding those limitations, one thing your committee could do would be to set up a working group to examine a particular issue; is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. And that working group could delve into a matter in more detail and question officers and other relevant individuals; is that right?

A. In my experience, typically on a working group it would be a small number of committee members who would discuss most likely a future issue in more detail, and it wouldn't really be a matter of questioning officers or anybody else, but in developing a new policy or a way of dealing with something, and you'd have access to information that could be provided.

Q. Would a report set out the working group's conclusions and recommendations?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, can I turn to look at fire safety in more detail, and your committee's scrutiny of that topic.

In paragraph 40 of your first witness statement to the Inquiry, which can be found at {RBK00029923/9}, you say there that the scrutiny of borough-wide fire safety fell within the remit of the cabinet and corporate

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1 services scrutiny committee.  
 2 Is it nonetheless correct to say that your committee  
 3 scrutinised fire safety if and insofar as it affected  
 4 RBKC's housing stock?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. And, in particular, your committee scrutinised the TMO's  
 7 approach to the discharge of its fire safety  
 8 obligations?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. Now, as we see there, at paragraph 41 of your statement,  
 11 you go on to say this:  
 12 "HPSC members received information on fire safety  
 13 across the TMO estate from reports and updates provided  
 14 by the Director of Housing, a TMO representative and in  
 15 the cabinet member's report. I recall that various  
 16 updates were provided at HPSC meetings from 2014 onwards  
 17 on installing flat entrance doors compliant with  
 18 fire safety standards."  
 19 Now, in scrutinising the actions of the executive in  
 20 the way that you did, would you consider RBKC's own  
 21 health and safety policy to give you a benchmark against  
 22 which to judge the TMO?  
 23 A. I never saw one, and it links into the paragraph above,  
 24 because it was only much later that I recognised that  
 25 there was a policy framework that was happening

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1 elsewhere from our own scrutiny committee.  
 2 Q. When you say "later", can you remember when?  
 3 A. Yeah, I think it was referred to when one — I think it  
 4 was probably after either the Trelick or the Adair  
 5 fire, when one of the scrutiny members said, "Where  
 6 is — why is there a stay-put policy?", and whoever was  
 7 answering the question, it may have been the TMO, said,  
 8 "That's determined on a borough-wide basis".  
 9 Q. Were you aware of RBKC's own general health and safety  
 10 policy?  
 11 A. No.  
 12 Q. Could I just take you to, though, a version of it dated  
 13 January 2014, which can be found at {RBK00001655}. It  
 14 has quite a distinctive front page.  
 15 Is it right to say, then, given what you have just  
 16 said, you never saw that during your time as  
 17 a councillor on the scrutiny committee?  
 18 A. Correct.  
 19 Q. Could I nonetheless just take you through some of the  
 20 provisions of it, and could I ask us to go to page 3  
 21 {RBK00001655/3} and the first paragraph under the  
 22 introduction. It says there:  
 23 "This Policy sets out the strategic fire safety  
 24 vision and objectives of Elected Members and the  
 25 Executive Joint Management Team. It describes the way

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1 in which we effectively manage fire safety based upon  
 2 British Standard Publication Pas 7: Fire risk management  
 3 system — specification."  
 4 Now, given its importance, was this policy never  
 5 referred to by Laura Johnson in any submissions she put  
 6 before you?  
 7 A. I never heard it or recall seeing it referred to.  
 8 Q. At all?  
 9 A. At all.  
 10 Q. Now, looking at the four lines emboldened under that  
 11 diagram, which say:  
 12 "PLAN. Plan the direction for fire safety  
 13 management.  
 14 "DO. Profile the fire risks, organise and implement  
 15 controls.  
 16 "CHECK. Check that fire safety management is  
 17 working.  
 18 "ACT. Act on improving fire safety management."  
 19 Do you agree that, as scrutiny committee chair, you  
 20 had an important role in checking that the substance of  
 21 those matters had been complied with, both by RBKC and  
 22 TMO?  
 23 A. Yes, rather than in an overall policy way, in whatever  
 24 information was provided to us, those are what we would  
 25 be making sure that was done.

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1 Q. Self-evidently, if you had had this policy framework  
 2 available to you, do you think the nature, extent and  
 3 ferocity of your scrutiny would have been improved?  
 4 A. Certainly the nature and extent. I don't think it was  
 5 ever in our nature to do anything in that way.  
 6 Q. Okay.  
 7 If we can turn to paragraph 2.2 at page 4  
 8 {RBK00001655/4}, it deals here with the scope of the  
 9 policy and says this:  
 10 "This Policy will apply to all premises where  
 11 the Council has a duty as the employer and/or as the  
 12 'responsible person' as defined in the Regulatory Reform  
 13 (Fire Safety) Order ...  
 14 "This Policy will also apply to any premises where  
 15 by virtue of a contract or tenancy agreement other  
 16 parties have duties as the responsible person but where  
 17 the Council retains landlord responsibilities.  
 18 "A Local Fire Policy for residential housing based  
 19 on the housing stock risk profile will be put in place  
 20 by the Housing and Regeneration Department."  
 21 That suggests that the policy would apply to housing  
 22 stock managed by the TMO, whether as responsible person  
 23 or a landlord. Would you agree with that proposition?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. There is there in the final sentence a reference to

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1 a local fire policy. Can you help us as to what that's  
 2 referring to?  
 3 A. I don't, I assume there was — I have to assume now that  
 4 there was one, reading it here, but we never saw it or  
 5 therefore could scrutinise it.  
 6 Q. Do you have any recollection of any reference to a local  
 7 fire policy being made in submissions to you or raised  
 8 by officers?  
 9 A. No, the term is not familiar to me.  
 10 Q. If I could ask you to turn to page 5 {RBK00001655/5},  
 11 and look at the fourth paragraph, it says there:  
 12 "The Council has an appointed Corporate Health and  
 13 Safety team to provide competent advice ..."  
 14 It then goes on to say that:  
 15 "The Corporate Health and Safety team will ensure  
 16 that there are appropriate processes in place to ensure  
 17 our partner organisations have suitable and sufficient  
 18 fire safety management systems in place ..."  
 19 Now, from that paragraph, it would appear to be  
 20 clear that the council had its own health and safety  
 21 team which could provide advice and support to the TMO  
 22 as a partner organisation. Would you agree with that?  
 23 A. Yes, from what I see here.  
 24 Q. Can you recall in your time on the scrutiny committee  
 25 whether there was any reference to advice or guidance

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1 given by the council's in-house health and safety team  
 2 to the TMO?  
 3 A. No reference.  
 4 Q. Could I ask you to turn over the page to page 6  
 5 {RBK00001655/6}, and paragraph 2.5. It's headed  
 6 "Responsibilities of Elected Members", and says this:  
 7 "A Cabinet Member for each borough will be nominated  
 8 to lead on health and safety matters. Elected members  
 9 will ensure that health and safety is adequately  
 10 considered when making decisions at a strategic level.  
 11 "This will be through an annual report on the health  
 12 and safety profile of the organisation provided for  
 13 public scrutiny at the appropriate scrutiny committee  
 14 for each sovereign borough."  
 15 Again, I would suggest to you that that's plain that  
 16 the policy envisaged a role for the scrutiny committee.  
 17 Would you accept that?  
 18 A. Well, "the appropriate scrutiny committee". That's  
 19 where my thinking is that it must have gone to what  
 20 looked like from the constitution the cabinet and  
 21 corporate services scrutiny committee. It certainly  
 22 didn't come to, to my recollection, housing and  
 23 property.  
 24 Q. Thank you.  
 25 If we could go on to page 13 {RBK00001655/13},

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1 paragraph 4.1, and in particular the third paragraph, it  
 2 says there:  
 3 "All incidents should be reported using the on-line  
 4 system. Incidents should be investigated by the  
 5 manager. Consideration should be given to any system  
 6 solutions to avoid future recurrence."  
 7 And this is the bit I wish to emphasise:  
 8 "Corporate Health and Safety will investigate  
 9 serious incidents where enforcing bodies such as the  
 10 LFEPA are or may be involved."  
 11 First of all, were you aware, even if you hadn't  
 12 seen the policy, of that provision or that rule?  
 13 A. No.  
 14 Q. It would seem on its face to apply to regulatory notices  
 15 served by LFEPA, wouldn't it?  
 16 A. I think what I'd say there is that I remember in audits  
 17 or in annual updates from the TMO there was reference to  
 18 a health and safety team or something like that on many  
 19 occasions, and therefore I can't say whether this is  
 20 referring to an RBKC or a TMO health and safety team.  
 21 But it did appear, that phrase, in the annual and  
 22 six-month update reports.  
 23 Q. Can you remember there being much, if any, discussion on  
 24 your committee when regulatory notices were served by  
 25 any regulatory authority, those linked with Adair Tower?

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1 A. I can only think of one instance in my time of chairing,  
 2 which I think — or maybe just before, which was the  
 3 Adair, where after that there was I think an enforcement  
 4 notice, but that's the only time I can think that there  
 5 was some reference made to it. I think it was in  
 6 an oral update first.  
 7 Q. Thank you.  
 8 Can I now turn to attendance at HPSC meetings, and  
 9 as far as we can make out, the first meeting that you  
 10 attended was in July 2011. Does that sound about right  
 11 to you?  
 12 A. It would sound right. It had just started then.  
 13 Q. I would like to ask you about some guidance that was  
 14 available to councillors who were concerned with  
 15 fire safety.  
 16 First of all, a guidance entitled, "Extinguishing  
 17 the risk: a councillor's guide to fire safety". That  
 18 can be turned up at {TMO10037396}. Now, that's dated  
 19 January 2010.  
 20 Can you remember seeing that document before today?  
 21 A. No.  
 22 Q. Next, can we turn to a guidance entitled "Councillor  
 23 guide on fire safety for use during estate visits",  
 24 which can be found at {LFB00001294}. Now, this appears  
 25 to be dated June 2014.

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1 Have you seen that before today?  
 2 A. Well, only this week, when seeing —  
 3 Q. As a result of questioning?  
 4 A. Yes, exactly.  
 5 Q. Finally, can I ask us to turn up a document entitled  
 6 "Councillor guide on fire safety for use during council  
 7 meetings", which can be found at {LFB00001295}, and is  
 8 also dated, we think, 25 June 2014.  
 9 Again, have you seen that document before today?  
 10 A. Only this week in hearings.  
 11 Q. If you hadn't seen those three guidance documents, were  
 12 you provided with any guidance on the nature and extent  
 13 of the fire safety duties, discharge of which you were  
 14 scrutinising?  
 15 A. Only in updates provided as papers on the committee.  
 16 I don't think we saw any other attachments. It would be  
 17 updates and reports produced by housing or the TMO.  
 18 Q. So you never received a document akin to a primer which  
 19 set out, "The relevant principal duties are X, Y, Z and  
 20 you need to be thinking about these" —  
 21 A. I don't remember seeing anything like those.  
 22 Q. Staying with this particular document, we see that there  
 23 is, in the top half of that page, a grey box which sets  
 24 out the words:  
 25 "Fire safety in purpose—built blocks of flats and

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1 maisonettes in your borough.  
 2 "Local authorities play a vital role in ensuring  
 3 fire safety within their borough as community leaders,  
 4 enforcing authorities, partners to the emergency  
 5 services and as landlords themselves."  
 6 Even if you hadn't seen this document, were you  
 7 aware of the "vital role" local authorities played —  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. — in the performance of fire safety?  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. If we can turn over to the second page {LFB00001295/2}  
 12 and, in particular, the grey box at the top, which is  
 13 entitled "What can councillors do?", it says this:  
 14 "Do not make assumptions that fire safety is being  
 15 actively or effectively managed in purpose—built blocks  
 16 of flats and maisonettes in your borough. Councillors  
 17 can make their boroughs safer by scrutinising how  
 18 responsibilities for fire safety are met and ensuring  
 19 that the fire safety in your borough is continuously  
 20 being monitored and improved."  
 21 What did you do during your time on the  
 22 scrutiny committee to test any relevant assumptions that  
 23 fire safety was actively or effectively managed?  
 24 A. I think that whenever a report or an update or a risk  
 25 was mentioned in reference, then I think it was both me

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1 and other councillors on the scrutiny committee would  
 2 very strongly focus on it.  
 3 Q. And looking at the second element of that, how did you  
 4 test assumptions that fire safety was being continuously  
 5 monitored and improved? How did you go about  
 6 discharging your functions in that respect?  
 7 A. Probably — well, definitely looking at the audit  
 8 reports, because to me that was a very strong  
 9 evidence — should be, evidence testing regime that was  
 10 done independently of the TMO, from what I understand.  
 11 From the updates, because I attached, you know, full  
 12 credibility to what officers were saying. They were  
 13 very responsive. If we asked questions, they would  
 14 always provide us with answers. If those answers  
 15 weren't clear, we would keep asking. So it was officer  
 16 reports, audit, and the responses to our questions.  
 17 Q. Did you at any time have cause to believe you were not  
 18 being given the complete picture in relation to  
 19 performance of fire safety duties by relevant officers,  
 20 whether of RBKC or the TMO?  
 21 A. Towards the end, I found that we just didn't seem to be  
 22 getting the amount of progress in solving what seemed to  
 23 be a binary job, which was to test and, if not  
 24 sufficient, replace both leaseholder doors and TMO  
 25 doors. I did understand it was fair that doors get

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1 damaged, door—closers get damaged, and therefore there  
 2 will always likely be a list of things to get done, but  
 3 it not getting solved, that's what gave me concern that  
 4 maybe we didn't have all the information.  
 5 Q. When you say "towards the end", can you give the panel  
 6 an idea of the timing when you were concerned that  
 7 matters were not progressing as swiftly as you felt they  
 8 could have been?  
 9 A. Yeah, I think I remember several occasions where we were  
 10 given very good assurances. I think one was saying that  
 11 all doors were inspected on an annual basis, if anything  
 12 isn't sufficient, then it's replaced. Another occasion,  
 13 I think after the Adair fire, one of the councillors  
 14 asked and was given the answer that all of our blocks  
 15 are compliant with fire closer doors. And so after —  
 16 and it's particularly when there's an incident, I think  
 17 it was the Trellick fire, it may have been in March or  
 18 May of 2017, when me and one other councillor were very  
 19 concerned that we still didn't have a solution to  
 20 something that we kept coming back to every time. So  
 21 even though the report was on the Trellick fire, we  
 22 said, "Well, if there was a problem there, then what  
 23 about everywhere else?" And that's where I noticed that  
 24 there was a resistance — I think the minutes are quite  
 25 polite compared with how —

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1 Q. I shall come on to that in due course, Mr Mackover.  
 2 Could we just stay with this document before we go  
 3 on to your committee's deliberations on those matters,  
 4 and if we could reduce the document on the screen to its  
 5 normal size so we can see the entirety of it, and you  
 6 will see there in the bottom left-hand corner a series  
 7 of questions. Rather than me read it out, I'll invite  
 8 you to skim read those, and if you could indicate when  
 9 you are done.  
 10 A. Okay.  
 11 (Pause)  
 12 Okay.  
 13 Q. When you sat on the scrutiny committee, were you  
 14 conscious of the need to ask these or the substance of  
 15 these questions?  
 16 A. They all seem good questions and I think we touched on  
 17 most of them.  
 18 Q. Which ones?  
 19 A. At the end, where it says clear policies stating  
 20 modifications, maintenance works, et cetera, those are  
 21 something which I think would either come under planning  
 22 or building control and those were both completely  
 23 outside the terms of reference for our committee.  
 24 Q. Now, can we turn to look at a report prepared by  
 25 Laura Johnson for the May 2015 scrutiny committee

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1 meeting. We can find that report at {RBK00047681}, and  
 2 the first item of that report concerns non-compliant  
 3 fire safety doors, so picking up the point you made  
 4 earlier on, Mr Mackover.  
 5 If we can have a look at that document. If that can  
 6 be put on one side of the screen and on the other side  
 7 put up paragraph 45 of your first witness statement,  
 8 which can be found at {RBK00029923/10}.  
 9 There you see at paragraph 45 on the right-hand side  
 10 you say:  
 11 "... I sent an email to Anne Wright in the  
 12 Governance Department. I assume I had looked at the  
 13 forthcoming HPSC papers and wondered whether it would  
 14 make sense for the TMO/Council to pay for replacement of  
 15 the leaseholder fire doors rather than proceeding with  
 16 enforcement action."  
 17 You quote the email:  
 18 "Interesting reports, thanks. It might be  
 19 interesting to have to hand the cost of a fire door vs  
 20 cost of legal enforcement action."  
 21 Is it a fair assumption that you were referring  
 22 there to Laura Johnson's report, which is on the  
 23 left-hand of the screen?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. Did you receive a response to the email you sent to

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1 Anne Wright, can you remember now?  
 2 A. No.  
 3 Q. You didn't?  
 4 A. I don't think so. I don't think I ever saw a number.  
 5 Q. Can we take both of those documents down and turn to the  
 6 minutes of the meeting, which are at {RBK00032444/2}.  
 7 If we go to item A5 at the bottom, in the second  
 8 paragraph:  
 9 "In response to Councillor Bakhtiar, Ms Johnson  
 10 advised that TMO tenant doors were checked for fire  
 11 safety compliance as part of an annual programme and  
 12 replaced if non compliant. She agreed to provide an  
 13 update to the Committee on the exact number of  
 14 non compliant TMO tenant doors."  
 15 If we go on further, you will see:  
 16 "Cllr Pascall thanked the TMO and officers for the  
 17 follow through and the continuing work on fire door  
 18 compliance."  
 19 If we turn over the page {RBK00032444/3}, we see  
 20 they moved to other related matters, or housing-related  
 21 matters.  
 22 Does the quotation there, that Ms Johnson advised  
 23 that the TMO tenant doors were checked for fire safety  
 24 compliance as part of an annual programme, do you think  
 25 now that minute fairly and accurately represents what

19

1 you were told at the time?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. Now, bearing that in mind, can we now turn to the  
 4 question of the Adair Tower fire which you referred to  
 5 earlier on.  
 6 Just to give you some chronology to fix the  
 7 questions, on 12 October 2015 the LFB issued  
 8 a deficiency notice in relation to Adair Tower, and so  
 9 you know what I'm talking about, we can turn to it at  
 10 {TMO00842271}. There we go.  
 11 The various identified deficiencies are at page 3  
 12 {TMO00842271/3}, if we could just start at page 3.  
 13 Article 11, a failure to monitor and review significant  
 14 findings to ensure works had been completed.  
 15 If we turn over the page {TMO00842271/4},  
 16 Article 17, failure to maintain the fire resistance of  
 17 the protected route, the route being compromised by  
 18 fitting doors that did not have 30 minutes' fire  
 19 protection and some self-closing devices were missing.  
 20 Then at the bottom of that page, Article 8, general  
 21 fire precautions identified as significant findings in  
 22 the fire risk assessment had not been implemented.  
 23 My first question is this: were you ever shown  
 24 a copy of this notice, Mr Mackover?  
 25 A. No.

20

1 Q. Would you agree that it highlighted significant failings  
2 which had been identified in fire risk assessments?  
3 A. Yes.  
4 Q. Would you have expected the fact and substance of this  
5 notice to have been brought to your attention and  
6 swiftly after its service?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. Was it ever brought to your attention either by  
9 Ms Johnson or anyone else in the housing department?  
10 A. No. This is the deficiency, is that right?  
11 Q. Yes.  
12 A. I'd never seen this.  
13 Q. Now, if we can put that document down, we know that  
14 a fire broke out at Adair Tower on Saturday,  
15 31 October 2015, and there was a meeting of the HPSC on  
16 5 November 2015.  
17 If we can go to the minutes of that meeting, which  
18 are at {RBK00047688/6}, and hopefully turn to item A7,  
19 "Live issues report by the director of housing", and  
20 I quote this:  
21 "Mr Black provided an update on the major fire at  
22 Adair Tower which had occurred on Saturday 31 October on  
23 the third floor. He reported that the investigation was  
24 ongoing but the emergency planning in place had worked  
25 and the fire doors had also worked well. He explained

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1 the timelines for tenants re-gaining access to their  
2 flats and the re-housing of those unable to return.  
3 "The Chairman stressed the severity of smoke damage  
4 and how that can [affect] one's possessions. Mr Black  
5 said that the TMO was working with tenants to ascertain  
6 what they could still use and he said that it was  
7 compulsory for all tenants to have their own home  
8 insurance.  
9 "Cllr Blakeman asked why tenants were led out of  
10 smoke-filled stairways and consequently had to be  
11 treated for smoke inhalation. Mr Black explained that  
12 the policy was to stay in your flat and wait to be  
13 rescued [but] the natural reaction of people was to  
14 flee. He said that there was no main alarm system but  
15 the fire brigade had arrived within 2–3 minutes."  
16 Would you agree that there is no reference there or  
17 no record of Mr Black referring to the notice of  
18 deficiency of 12 October?  
19 A. Agreed.  
20 Q. Do you think he ought to have brought that to your  
21 attention as a committee?  
22 A. Absolutely.  
23 Q. Now, you also mentioned in your witness statement the  
24 mid-year review on TMO performance, indeed adverted to  
25 it earlier in your evidence today, and that was a report

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1 prepared by Laura Johnson.  
2 If we can go to paragraph 51 of your first  
3 statement, which is at {RBK00029923/12}, you will see  
4 there you quote section 8.1 of the mid-year review that  
5 was put before your committee by Ms Johnson.  
6 Would you agree that there is no mention of the  
7 Adair Tower fire there?  
8 A. Yes, there's no mention of it.  
9 Q. Now, in evidence yesterday, when I asked Mr Marshall  
10 about this, he indicated that papers for your committee  
11 tended to be circulated between seven and ten days  
12 beforehand. Would you agree that that's an explanation  
13 as to why there's no reference to the Adair Tower fire  
14 here?  
15 A. Yes, and also I'm seeing it's a mid-year review and so  
16 it may cover a period that ends before Adair happened.  
17 Q. Thank you.  
18 There's also no mention of deficiency notices there.  
19 Would that have been the subject of an oral update from  
20 Ms Johnson if it wasn't mentioned in the report that was  
21 put before your committee?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. Can you remember whether it was raised by her?  
24 A. I never heard it mentioned at all.  
25 Q. Would it have been your expectation that it is the type

23

1 of information that Ms Johnson ought to have brought to  
2 your committee's attention?  
3 A. Either her or the TMO. This is one of the most  
4 important things for us to know, if there is any problem  
5 like that at all.  
6 Q. Now, Ms Johnson prepared a report for your committee  
7 meeting on 6 January 2016, and that can be found at  
8 {RBK00032439/5}. It's paragraph 4.6 at the very bottom  
9 of the page, Mr Mackover. I shall read 4.6 and 4.7:  
10 "The TMO has been advised by the [LFB] that  
11 the Council/TMO will be served with two Enforcement  
12 Notices as a result of the fire risk assessments the  
13 Brigade undertook following the fire at Adair Tower.  
14 One Enforcement Notice will cover Adair Tower and one  
15 will cover Hazelwood Tower. The two towers were built  
16 to the same design having two separate staircases, one  
17 for accommodation access, the main staircase and one for  
18 emergency, the escape staircase."  
19 4.7 {RBK00032439/6}:  
20 "The TMO has yet to receive the actual notices but  
21 has been advised that the key matters of concern relate  
22 to the design of the main staircase ventilation system  
23 and the lack of self closers on the individual flat  
24 front doors (it should be noted that the TMO has agreed  
25 with the Council to fit self closers to all flat front

24

1 doors within both Adair and Hazelwood Towers and the  
 2 fitting programme has now commenced). It is expected  
 3 that the notices should be received in the next week or  
 4 so.”  
 5 Did you read that report before the meeting?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. What was your reaction to the prospect of the service of  
 8 enforcement notices?  
 9 A. I think it was the first one that I'd ever seen  
 10 mentioned in the papers, and I thought: this is very  
 11 serious, how did it come about?  
 12 Q. Did you make, as a result of that reaction, any further  
 13 enquiries of Ms Johnson as to how the fire risk  
 14 assessments had not dealt with these matters before the  
 15 fire?  
 16 A. I can't remember exactly how the full meeting went, but  
 17 typically, with a number of councillors there, if  
 18 someone else asked the question that you had in mind, it  
 19 wouldn't be whether I made it, but certainly it's the  
 20 sort of question that would come up.  
 21 Q. My question wasn't really directed to what was asked at  
 22 the meeting, it was in advance of the meeting, did you  
 23 make any further enquiries of Ms Johnson in relation to  
 24 the effectiveness of the FRA regime applied by the TMO?  
 25 A. To Ms Johnson in advance?

25

1 Q. Yes.  
 2 A. No, I would only ever speak to officers at the meeting  
 3 itself.  
 4 Q. Was that — it may not be the right way of putting it —  
 5 a deliberate self-denying ordinance, you would only  
 6 question them in the meetings?  
 7 A. I don't think it was self-denying, I think it was the  
 8 right forum that it could — any questions about any  
 9 issue could be heard by everybody and minuted.  
 10 Q. Thank you.  
 11 Now, Mr Black addressed the meeting on  
 12 6 January 2016. If we can go to {RBK00014534/11}, you  
 13 see there A13 at the top of the page, under the heading  
 14 "Live issues report by the director of housing, Fire at  
 15 Adair Tower". I'll invite you to read that.  
 16 A. This is November?  
 17 Q. 6 January 2016.  
 18 A. Okay.  
 19 Q. I can take you to the front page of this.  
 20 A. No, it's all right, it was just getting chronology,  
 21 thank you.  
 22 (Pause)  
 23 Yeah, read.  
 24 Q. Now, Mr Black, would you agree, made it clear that the  
 25 LFB's concerns weren't limited to Adair and Hazlewood

26

1 Towers but applied to the TMO estate as a whole? Would  
 2 you agree with that?  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. In light of that concern, what questions were put to  
 5 Ms Johnson or Mr Black about the effectiveness of the  
 6 annual programme of checks on tenant doors?  
 7 A. I can't remember the conversation. I don't know whether  
 8 there's something in the minutes that would help.  
 9 Q. We'll come on to that, but can you remember any  
 10 particular matters which were raised in discussion  
 11 during the course of the meeting?  
 12 A. No.  
 13 Q. No.  
 14 Did the committee consider asking the TMO to submit  
 15 its proposed response to the LFB for its review before  
 16 or after it was served on the LFB?  
 17 A. No.  
 18 Q. Would that have been a helpful stance to take or was it  
 19 something you felt was not appropriate at that stage?  
 20 A. It appeared that the TMO and its advisers were on top of  
 21 the issue, that the housing department was on top of the  
 22 issue, and it, you know, may have felt to me, thinking  
 23 about it, that that would be quite detailed management  
 24 when there are a series of professionals who full-time  
 25 look at these things.

27

1 Q. Was there any request for the TMO to set out and confirm  
 2 in writing its proposed programme of responsive action  
 3 to deal with the deficiencies and problems identified in  
 4 the enforcement notices?  
 5 A. No.  
 6 Q. Now, you assumed the chair of HPSC in 2016, I think, and  
 7 your first meeting was on 13 July 2016. Does that sound  
 8 about right?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. Now, a report was prepared by Laura Johnson for that  
 11 meeting which included a section on the enforcement  
 12 notices for Adair and Hazlewood Towers, and if we can go  
 13 to that, it's at {RBK00032476}.  
 14 If we can look at paragraphs 1.3 and 1.4 on that  
 15 first page. They're lengthy paragraphs, so I'll simply  
 16 invite you to read them to yourself, and can you  
 17 indicate when you have done so.  
 18 A. 1.3 and 1.4?  
 19 Q. Yes, please.  
 20 (Pause)  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Now, what is apparently clear from those —  
 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm sorry, did you get a chance to  
 24 read them?  
 25 A. Yes, I'd just like to check the second page. Thank you.

28



1 (Pause)

2 MR KINNIER: Would you agree that it's clear from those two

3 paragraphs that, so far as the enforcement notices are

4 concerned, the key points or key concerns are the

5 self-closing devices and ventilation to staircases and

6 lift lobbies? Is that a fair summary?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. It's also clear, would you agree, that the TMO and RBKC

9 have agreed to ensure that all flat entrance doors were

10 sufficiently fire rated with self-closing devices at

11 Adair and Hazlewood? Again, is that a fair summary?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Now, can we look at the minutes from the meeting at

14 which this report was presented, and those minutes can

15 be found at {RBK00032473}. There we go, you're

16 identified as the chair, 13 July 2016.

17 If we could go to page 5 {RBK00032473/5}, item A9,

18 again under the heading "Live issues report by director

19 of housing", it says this in the first paragraph:

20 "Referring to [LFB] enforcement notices,

21 Cllr Nicholls asked whether the Council complies at

22 other locations. Mrs Johnson confirmed that this was so

23 but said that all blocks were different, although

24 door-closers were uniformly fitted. She added that the

25 Council would ensure that the required works to Adair

29

1 and Hazlewood Towers were carried out. The Council

2 would robustly defend itself against any LFB action as

3 it had done all it could in the circumstances."

4 Now, Laura Johnson appeared to confirm to your

5 committee that RBKC complied with the items specified in

6 the enforcement notice at other locations.

7 First of all, is that your recollection of what she

8 reported to the committee in July 2016?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was that consistent with the substance of the report

11 that Mr Black had made to your committee?

12 A. Erm ... sometimes — well, just thinking about it.

13 They're not talking about exactly the same thing.

14 Q. Just —

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. It may well be if we leave this page up on the screen,

17 could I ask another one to be put alongside,

18 {RBK00014534/11}. If we look at A13:

19 "Mr Black confirmed that this would be done for

20 Adair Tower and Hazelwood Tower but the notice related

21 to all estates which would need to be looked at in

22 conjunction with the Council."

23 Mr Black's report seems to be more caveated and less

24 emphatic than Ms Johnson's. Is that a fair comment on

25 what you heard?

30

1 A. Yeah. And this is at the same date, the same meeting?

2 Q. Yes. Would you agree with that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Laura Johnson goes on to say that the council would

5 robustly defend itself against LFB action. Did that

6 statement give you cause for concern at the time?

7 A. It did slightly stick out, because it wasn't exactly

8 clear to me what LFB action would be if we were — if

9 the council and the TMO were going ahead and complying

10 with all the requirements.

11 Q. Her focus appears to be on defending LFB action as

12 opposed to remedying the problems identified in the

13 enforcement notices. Is that a fair summary of how she

14 reported matters to you at the time in January 2016?

15 A. I don't remember the exact words said, but when the

16 minutes are read at the subsequent meeting, I don't

17 think me or anybody else disagreed with it, so I take

18 the minutes as correct.

19 Q. Could we put both of those documents down and turn to

20 paragraph 62 of your witness statement,

21 {RBK00029923/16}. You refer there to a paper presented

22 to the 16 November 2016 HPSC meeting which stated that

23 all of the works required by the enforcement notices had

24 been carried out.

25 Now, if we can go to {RBK00032475}, we should have

31

1 the minutes of that November 2016 meeting.

2 Now, those minutes, Mr Mackover — we can go through

3 them if you'd like — there's no mention of that

4 particular aspect of Laura Johnson's report, ie that all

5 the work had been carried out, or fire safety more

6 generally.

7 Can we read into the absence of any reference that

8 the committee was satisfied with what had been done and

9 there was no further discussion of either of those

10 points?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Now, you also mention at paragraph 62 of your witness

13 statement {RBK00029923/16} that the TMO mid-year review

14 report was prepared for that meeting, ie the

15 November 2016 meeting.

16 Was that the last report you had before the fire on

17 14 June 2017?

18 A. I think so.

19 Q. Now, if we can stay in your witness statement but go to

20 paragraph 65, which is at page 17 {RBK00029923/17}, just

21 over the page, you say there, just to confirm that:

22 "I believe this was the last report from TMO

23 management before the Grenfell Tower fire. This report

24 provided assurance to HPSC members that the TMO was

25 working with the relevant authorities and specialists to

32

1 manage fire safety across the estate. I was not aware  
 2 of any outstanding issues or concerns at any TMO  
 3 property.”  
 4 By that, do you mean you weren’t aware of any  
 5 concerns/issues as at 16 November 2016?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. Did you have any concerns about the extent to which the  
 8 TMO/RBKC had satisfied the LFB’s concerns about  
 9 self—closers, for example?  
 10 A. I went on the assurances that they were fitted and the  
 11 works that were done at Adair and Hazlewood, and  
 12 therefore I took that and the audit report and the  
 13 health and safety report details as satisfying.  
 14 Q. Particularly absent any further concerns reported to  
 15 you?  
 16 A. Yeah.  
 17 Q. Can I now turn to the deficiency notice that was served  
 18 by the LFB in relation to Grenfell Tower on  
 19 17 November 2016, so the day after your meeting.  
 20 Just so that you can familiarise yourself with the  
 21 document, it can be found at {TMO10017254/5}. You will  
 22 see there set out a series of identified deficiencies.  
 23 Just going through them briefly: Article 11,  
 24 multiple items in common parts, several fire doors did  
 25 not fit fully into their frames and there was a breach

33

1 in the services duct; Article 17, several fire doors  
 2 didn’t fit fully into the frame; Article 17 again, the  
 3 protected route had been compromised by the fitting of  
 4 doors that didn’t close, flats 44 and 153 were checked  
 5 and did not self—close; Article 14, emergency routes and  
 6 exits were inadequate and there were various items  
 7 stored in the common parts; Article 14 again, emergency  
 8 routes were inadequate and two doors did not self—close;  
 9 Article 8, smoke spread precautions were inadequate due  
 10 to a breach in the services duct on the eighth floor;  
 11 and, finally, Article 15, fire action notices hadn’t  
 12 been displayed.  
 13 My first question is: were you aware of the fact or  
 14 the substance of this notice of deficiency?  
 15 A. No.  
 16 Q. Again, is this the type of issue that you would have  
 17 expected to have been reported to your committee, either  
 18 by Ms Johnson or Mr Black?  
 19 A. Absolutely.  
 20 Q. Would you agree it’s now beyond doubt that the LFB were  
 21 concerned at self—closers now in numerous TMO high—rise  
 22 buildings?  
 23 A. Well, certainly this one in front of us, I don’t know  
 24 about any of the others.  
 25 Q. If we can go back to page 1 of this notice

34

1 {TMO10017254/1}, you will see there, at the end of the  
 2 first paragraph, the recommendation that action should  
 3 be taken by 18 May 2017.  
 4 Given that deadline, would you agree that time was,  
 5 relatively speaking, of the essence?  
 6 A. Yes, not just time, but any of the risks like this  
 7 should have been sorted out absolutely top priority.  
 8 Q. Could we now turn to your meeting on 4 May 2017.  
 9 Now, before that meeting, a fire had broken out in  
 10 Trellick Tower on 19 April 2017, and that’s the fire you  
 11 were referring to earlier on in your evidence.  
 12 A. Yeah.  
 13 Q. Now, Laura Johnson prepared a report on that fire for  
 14 the meeting, and you refer to the conclusion of that  
 15 report at paragraph 66 of your first witness statement  
 16 {RBK00029923/17}, and it says there:  
 17 “Paragraph 7.1 stated:  
 18 “‘In conclusion, whilst it is always a concern to  
 19 have had a fire, what is clear in the review of the  
 20 incident to date is that all the work undertaken by the  
 21 TMO to ensure adequate fire procedures and fire safety  
 22 systems at this block worked well on the day.  
 23 Additionally, partnership working with RBKC and the  
 24 London Fire Brigade had a positive impact on minimising  
 25 the disruption to residents enabling them to return to

35

1 their homes within two hours of the fire. Work to  
 2 support the displaced resident is ongoing and further  
 3 liaison with the LFB is also ongoing.”  
 4 Stay with your statement but go to paragraph 67  
 5 {RBK00029923/18}. You say this in the opening sentence:  
 6 “It is my recollection that HPSC expressed  
 7 frustration that the fire door issue across the estate  
 8 had not been completely resolved.”  
 9 First of all, did you yourself express your  
 10 frustration with this state to Ms Johnson or Mr Black or  
 11 both?  
 12 A. At the committee, yes.  
 13 Q. Which other councillors expressed frustration with the  
 14 position?  
 15 A. Certainly I think there was one — or there may have  
 16 been more than one more, not everyone is always recorded  
 17 in the minutes if they’re saying roughly the same thing.  
 18 Q. Is it fair to say that the majority of your committee  
 19 were frustrated with the situation?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. Can we turn to those minutes, {RBK00052464/7}, “Update  
 22 on fire and Trellick Tower”:  
 23 “The Committee received a report with an overview of  
 24 the fire that took place at Trellick Tower on 19 April  
 25 2017 on the 27th floor.”

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1 If we go to the fourth paragraph there:  
 2 "The Committee queried progress on the programme to  
 3 install fire doors between flats and corridors and asked  
 4 if all leaseholder doors have now been changed? In  
 5 response, Ms Wray said that all 1200 tenanted properties  
 6 have had fire doors installed, but some leaseholders  
 7 were refusing to engage. She went on to state that the  
 8 Fire [Brigade] were hoping for Case Law to make  
 9 leaseholders install fire doors.  
 10 "The Committee request a paper providing an update  
 11 on the Fire Door Installation Programme on the Council's  
 12 housing estates and sent a strong message that as  
 13 landlords we need to make every reasonable effort  
 14 possible to have all leaseholder doors replaced.  
 15 "Cllr Condon—Simmonds praised the TMO for their  
 16 efforts to install fire doors at Thomas Moore Estate and  
 17 said that only four doors were outstanding.  
 18 "Cllr Blakeman pointed out that the report did not  
 19 mention that the ward councillors were present on the  
 20 day of the fire to provide reassurance to the community.  
 21 She also pointed out that not every floor had fire  
 22 safety instructions. Ms Johnson said she would ask to  
 23 TMO to check that every floor had fire instructions."  
 24 Now, you mentioned HPSC frustration that the  
 25 door—related issues had not been resolved by this stage.

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1 Do these minutes accurately and fully reflect the  
 2 extent of the frustration expressed by members of your  
 3 committee?  
 4 A. Not accurate — well, there's nothing inaccurate, other  
 5 than that they're not full enough. I think there's the  
 6 word "strong" in there somewhere, and I think that would  
 7 begin to capture how I felt and others felt on hearing  
 8 that this still wasn't solved.  
 9 Q. Could you help —  
 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: You're telling us really that the  
 11 minute understates the strength of feeling?  
 12 A. Yeah, and whether we were being polite and that's how it  
 13 was recorded, but the feeling must have got across to  
 14 everybody.  
 15 MR KINNIER: Can you help the panel, give us the gist of  
 16 what was missing from these minutes in terms of your  
 17 committee's feelings about the situation?  
 18 A. I think the argument went: how can this still be  
 19 outstanding? We keep getting assurances that the issues  
 20 are solved. If it's down to just one or two doors, as  
 21 it was, I think, dating back two years, when I suggested  
 22 can't the council just pay for them to be done if  
 23 there's an argument about it, because it must be less  
 24 cost than enforcement action, this is a risk for  
 25 everyone, it seems like a clear instruction, we keep

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1 having this issue come up, there's nothing more  
 2 important.  
 3 Q. You requested a paper, you made a strong message  
 4 regarding the importance of the replacement of  
 5 leaseholder doors; was there any discussion about  
 6 whether any further measures were required by your  
 7 committee to ensure this issue was fully resolved,  
 8 for example setting up a working group?  
 9 A. I don't think there was any policy question about this.  
 10 There was a very clear instruction that it should be  
 11 done. A working group typically takes, you know, on  
 12 average a year. There are maybe three meetings, and it  
 13 bottoms out new issues. This seemed to be absolutely  
 14 crystal clear: get this stuff done.  
 15 Q. So it's fair to say that neither Ms Johnson nor Mr Black  
 16 could have been under any misapprehension as to your  
 17 concerns and your instructions?  
 18 A. That's right, and also by this stage, because I must  
 19 have started to be concerned that we didn't drop any  
 20 issues, I had started an issues tracking sheet where  
 21 every request that the committee had made for officers  
 22 to answer was put on to this tracking sheet and was kept  
 23 on the tracking sheet until it had been answered.  
 24 Q. The tracking sheet, was that an informal tool you made  
 25 for your own use and the use of your committee, or was

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1 it something that was held by the council?  
 2 A. I made officers do it, governance do it, and it was just  
 3 a better way of tracking actions when they appeared in  
 4 minutes, so they didn't get lost from — every  
 5 two months when another meeting took place.  
 6 Q. And updates on progress would be provided for each  
 7 meeting based on the tracking sheet information?  
 8 A. Yes, the tracking sheet would be presented at each  
 9 meeting, and when an issue was concluded it would be  
 10 greyed — the boxes would be greyed out, otherwise it  
 11 would stay as a live report due.  
 12 Q. Now, the discussions at the HPSC meeting in May prompted  
 13 email correspondence between Mr Black and Ms Johnson.  
 14 That can be found at {RBK00002340}.  
 15 Now, you weren't copied in, and it's improbable you  
 16 would have seen this chain before, but could I ask us to  
 17 go to page 2 {RBK00002340/2}. The trigger email is one  
 18 sent by Robert Black to Laura Johnson on 17 May 2017 at  
 19 08.31 hours:  
 20 "Dear Laura  
 21 "Just a quick one. Cllr CDS ..."  
 22 Just for the avoidance of doubt, who is CDS?  
 23 A. Could be Condon—Simmonds. I don't know another one with  
 24 those sorts of initials.  
 25 Q. "... said yesterday that Cllr Mackover was being very

40

1 negative about the TMO at some conservative party  
 2 meeting the other night. This seemed to stem from  
 3 something at Scrutiny? He was worried about Leaseholder  
 4 doors and said we were not doing something. It was all  
 5 a bit vague but a bit of general chatter about how we  
 6 are not performing in this area. Speaking to Barbara  
 7 she seemed as confused about what the issue is. What  
 8 would you recommend, do nothing, contact him and see if  
 9 he want to talk this through or ask to meet him together  
 10 to discuss it. I know he does not see you but your  
 11 advice and views welcome."

12 Pausing there, do you recall whether you had been  
 13 "very negative" about the TMO at a Conservative party  
 14 meeting at about that time?

15 A. They would never take place at a party meeting of any  
 16 sort. This was at a scrutiny meeting, that was the one  
 17 that I was describing.

18 Q. But the focus of your concern was leaseholder doors?

19 A. Was all non—performing fire safety measures that —

20 Q. Thank you.

21 If we can now look further up the page that we're  
 22 on, we have Laura Johnson's response:

23 "Robert ..."

24 She clarifies the position:

25 "This comes from Scrutiny Committee and the paper

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1 that we tabled on Trellick fire. They completely failed  
 2 This comes from Scrutiny Committee and the paper that we  
 3 tabled on Trellick fire. They completely failed to ask  
 4 any questions about Trellick and instead focused on what  
 5 Cllr Pascall knew about which is the issue we had  
 6 reported on regularly for the previous two years which,  
 7 was leaseholder doors and the project the TMO had ran  
 8 very successfully on getting leaseholders to change  
 9 their doors. Cllr Mackover instead of saying to Cllr P  
 10 [Pascall], can we please go back to the paper we've  
 11 tabled on Trellick then joined in asking Janice and  
 12 Barbara questions about leaseholder doors, they answered  
 13 honestly and said no not all doors will comply we have  
 14 a rolling programme of compliance and regular checks.  
 15 This then horrified them both and they asked for  
 16 a report to brought back on this issue to a subsequent  
 17 Scrutiny Committee. The questioning only stopped when  
 18 I reminded them that the paper was on Trellick and  
 19 Janice had come to answer questions on that rather than  
 20 leaseholder doors.

21 "So in short Cllr Mackover knows nothing about this  
 22 issue, Cllr Pascall only knows what he can recollect  
 23 from two years ago, both are of the view that the  
 24 Council should pay to replace leaseholder doors  
 25 regardless of whether we would be reimbursed as this

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1 would be safer for the block in case of fire. We've  
 2 been through this before and I refuse to open this up  
 3 again as a subject for Cllr Pascall to dwell on, we  
 4 therefore just need to get your team to do an update on  
 5 leaseholder doors & perhaps door closers as part of the  
 6 annual report you do to Scrutiny in September on TMO  
 7 performance.

8 "I wouldn't contact Cllr Pascall or Mackover on  
 9 this, it's a non—issue that they are trying to turn into  
 10 something because we've reported on it before. I think  
 11 we should take back an update on health and safety to  
 12 the September meeting."

13 My first question is whether Ms Johnson's summary of  
 14 your views and those of Councillor Pascall is  
 15 an accurate summary of what was discussed at the  
 16 meeting?

17 A. I don't think it's comprehensive enough. Can I make  
 18 a few comments on that?

19 Q. Please do.

20 A. Yeah. The first thing is that — saying we failed to  
 21 ask questions. When something that's presented to us is  
 22 clear and satisfactory, it doesn't mean we ask questions  
 23 on that. We might take a learning from that and apply  
 24 it, as we had done in this case, to the rest of the TMO  
 25 estate. So it's not wrong for us not to question

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1 something, I think it's a very good thing to say: how  
 2 does then this risk apply elsewhere?

3 Because we had not seen at various updates any more  
 4 doubts that there were door—closer issues or fire door  
 5 issues, both tenant and leaseholder, it certainly  
 6 reports Councillor Pascall and myself being very  
 7 concerned that this was not solved and it seemed to be  
 8 contrary to the audit reports and the other half—year  
 9 updates, and that is correct, that we wanted a report  
 10 back urgently to conclude all of this. And as soon as  
 11 we had made that request, that's when the questioning  
 12 stopped, because it doesn't matter whether the paper's  
 13 on Trellick or not, we can ask whatever we want and  
 14 nothing would stop us from asking whatever is relevant.

15 Q. She said that you were "horrified" about the situation  
 16 in relation to doors. Would you accept that as a fair  
 17 characterisation of your reaction at the time?

18 A. Yeah, it was contrary to what we had been told and what  
 19 we were reading, and we were annoyed.

20 Q. And we can take it that you disagreed with Ms Johnson's  
 21 view that the question of doors was a non—issue?

22 A. That is surprising that she could say that, because we  
 23 spent so many times on the committee talking about  
 24 doors. I don't know what she would mean by that.

25 Q. And having now seen this email chain, what would be your

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1 reaction to the attitude that Ms Johnson displayed to  
 2 the question of leaseholder doors at the time?  
 3 A. I find this — the whole email very surprising, because  
 4 I always regarded her and her department as very,  
 5 you know, constructive and responsive and definitely  
 6 a high-quality officer, and her reports were always —  
 7 seemed to be giving us the information that we were  
 8 asking for. So this is a departure from that.  
 9 Q. Can I ask you now to turn to TMO executive team minutes  
 10 where this issue was discussed, and can I ask you to go  
 11 to {TMO00894337}. You see that's an executive team  
 12 meeting at the TMO — for obvious reasons, you would not  
 13 be there — on 17 May 2017.  
 14 If we can go to item 2.6 on the second page  
 15 {TMO00894337/2}, under the heading "Fire at Trellick":  
 16 "RB [Robert Black] noted that Cllr Mackover has been  
 17 disparaging about the TMO over fire doors. RB has  
 18 spoken to Laura about this as RBKC are clear that they  
 19 do not want us inspecting flat front doors.  
 20 Cllr Mackover is saying that we should be constantly  
 21 reviewing the fire doors. BM [Barbara Matthews] noted we  
 22 have Carl carrying out FRAs & the LFB conducting audits  
 23 and they will pick up any doors not compliant. RB asked  
 24 if Janice could write a briefing note on what we did on  
 25 the programme what was agreed with RBKC, completed and

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1 what we do now. It was agreed that Janice would include  
 2 this update in the annual Health & Safety report which  
 3 will go to Board in July, and to Laura after that. We  
 4 have been informed that Cllr Blakeman has been  
 5 disparaging about the TMO in public forums."  
 6 Would you accept the characterisation that you had  
 7 been "disparaging" about the TMO on the subject of fire  
 8 doors?  
 9 A. I don't know whether that's a correct — whether that's  
 10 the correct word, but, you know, frustration and  
 11 disappointment is how I was feeling it.  
 12 Q. Now, this minute gives a little more detail as to the  
 13 attitude of Laura Johnson and RBKC, ie that they do not  
 14 want the TMO to inspect flat front doors to make sure  
 15 they have closers.  
 16 Were you aware that was Laura Johnson, alternatively  
 17 RBKC's position on the question of inspection?  
 18 A. Not at all.  
 19 Q. Is it fair to say that your view was that the TMO ought  
 20 to be constantly reviewing the fire doors?  
 21 A. Yes, that looks right.  
 22 Q. And at this stage, is it fair to say that you had in  
 23 mind the risk presented to residents by having  
 24 continuing problems over flat front entrance doors?  
 25 A. Yes. It was not just a theory, we had had reports from

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1 Adair and from Trellick that fire doors and door-closers  
 2 were vital, and obviously what had been picked up in  
 3 enforcement notices on Adair and Hazlewood as well.  
 4 Q. Now, given the documents I've taken you through,  
 5 particularly the email correspondence between Ms Johnson  
 6 and Mr Black and seeing this item of discussion, the  
 7 fire at Trellick, if you had known these matters then,  
 8 would you have done anything differently in discharge of  
 9 your functions on the scrutiny committee?  
 10 A. I think I — me and the whole committee would have  
 11 raised it not just with the cabinet member but the  
 12 leader and the town clerk as well. It's the clearest  
 13 indication that what we were asking about and being  
 14 reassured about was not the case away from the  
 15 committee.  
 16 Q. Would you have expected a greater degree of candour from  
 17 Ms Johnson in setting out to you her views and those of  
 18 her department in relation to an inspection regime of  
 19 flat front entrance doors?  
 20 A. Yes. As I said, I thought she and her department were  
 21 very high quality and very helpful, and it couldn't  
 22 possibly occur to me that what we were being told and  
 23 this could be, you know, the same department or the same  
 24 issue.  
 25 Q. This would appear to be an example of the limitations of

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1 scrutiny in the sense that your committee was dependent  
 2 upon the sufficiency and adequacy of the information  
 3 with which you were provided. Is that a fair  
 4 observation?  
 5 A. Yes, and I would go maybe slightly further than that,  
 6 which is it had been a concern of mine — obviously  
 7 I don't have any experience at other councils of this —  
 8 that we were reliant on resource from the same officers  
 9 that we were asking questions about, and I think I had  
 10 been directed or was aware of something, when I may have  
 11 asked early on or — early on in training: do we have  
 12 a resource, do we have researchers? And told: no, no,  
 13 you know, it makes sense for the officers who are doing  
 14 the subject to also support you. And I accepted that,  
 15 because it meant that you were dealing with people who  
 16 knew exactly the subject area that you were after. But  
 17 this may be an example of where a separation of support  
 18 could have been helpful.  
 19 MR KINNIER: Mr Mackover, I've reached the end of my  
 20 prepared questions. The Chairman allows me usually  
 21 15 minutes to consider whether I have covered everything  
 22 with you.  
 23 Sir, may I have that 15 minutes now?  
 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.  
 25 As Mr Kinnier has explained, we have a break at this

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1 point to make sure that he has covered the questions he  
 2 thinks he needs to cover, and also to allow others who  
 3 are not present in the room but who are following from  
 4 elsewhere to suggest questions that they think perhaps  
 5 should be asked.  
 6 So we will take a break now. I think 15 minutes  
 7 will do it, or just over, so we will come back at 11.25  
 8 and see if there are any more questions for you at that  
 9 point. All right?  
 10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: So I'm going to ask you to go with  
 12 the usher, and please don't talk to anyone about your  
 13 evidence or anything relating to it while you're away  
 14 from the room. I don't think you'll have much chance,  
 15 but if you do, don't take it. All right?  
 16 Yes, thank you very much.  
 17 (Pause)  
 18 Right, Mr Kinnier, 11.25.  
 19 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.  
 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.  
 21 (11.09 am)  
 22 (A short break)  
 23 (11.25 am)  
 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: All right, Mr Mackover, let's see if  
 25 there are any more questions for you.

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1 Yes, Mr Kinnier.  
 2 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.  
 3 First of all, Mr Mackover, a clarification. I think  
 4 during the course of my examination of you, I said that  
 5 two documents were prepared for the same meeting, which  
 6 was {RBK00014534} and {RBK00032473}.  
 7 In fact, the first was dated 6 January 2016, the  
 8 second was dated 13 July 2016, but I have discussed  
 9 matters with Mr Maxwell—Scott and I don't think I need  
 10 to ask you any further clarificatory questions arising  
 11 from that, but can I just apologise for giving you  
 12 a misleading impression they were from the same meeting.  
 13 That leads just to one final question: is there  
 14 anything else you would like to tell the panel that you  
 15 haven't said during the course of your evidence today?  
 16 A. I — you know, looking back on this, it seems that we  
 17 would all have benefitted on the committee from having  
 18 the health and safety team on — and maybe with visits  
 19 from the borough fire commander on the housing and  
 20 property scrutiny committee, because there seemed to be  
 21 a gap between our, you know, practical question  
 22 answering and the policy framework that we didn't have  
 23 awareness of.  
 24 On a personal note, I just want to express my sorrow  
 25 and my sympathy for residents and for anybody else

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1 affected by this tragedy, and hope that everything that  
 2 can happen now means that it can never happen again.  
 3 MR KINNIER: Mr Mackover, that just leaves me to thank you  
 4 for attending today to give evidence.  
 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Well, Mr Mackover, I should thank  
 6 you very much on behalf of the panel, all of us, for  
 7 your coming to give evidence in this way. It is really  
 8 very helpful to us to hear what you have to tell us  
 9 about your own involvement and the activities of the  
 10 scrutiny committee, and we're very grateful to you for  
 11 coming along. So thank you very much indeed.  
 12 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, would you like to go with the  
 14 usher, then, please.  
 15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
 16 (The witness withdrew)  
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Now, Mr Kinnier, what do we do next?  
 18 MR KINNIER: The next item on your agenda today is reading  
 19 in of evidence from the bereaved, survivors and  
 20 residents.  
 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Right.  
 22 MR KINNIER: Sir, to allow necessary arrangements to take  
 23 place, because I will not be reading that in, I would  
 24 ask you to rise, albeit briefly, so that the cleaning  
 25 and all the rest of it can be completed, and then that

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1 can start.  
 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: I'm just wondering whether we do  
 3 need — it won't take very long to do that.  
 4 MR KINNIER: It won't, but I think in the past we  
 5 traditionally have. But I'm entirely in your hands as  
 6 to whether you want to sit here whilst its done or rise  
 7 and wait for it to be done.  
 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Well, all right. We will give you  
 9 all a break from our presence, how's that, and we will  
 10 rise for as short a time as it takes to do the usual  
 11 cleaning.  
 12 MR KINNIER: I'm grateful, sir.  
 13 (11.30 am)  
 14 (A short break)  
 15 (11.33 am)  
 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, Ms Sivakumaran. Now,  
 17 I understand you're going to read some material —  
 18 MS SIVAKUMARAN: That's correct, sir.  
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: — for the benefit of the panel and  
 20 the public.  
 21 MS SIVAKUMARAN: Indeed, sir.  
 22 We would now like to read into the record a number  
 23 of BSR statements which concern fire safety advice. We  
 24 do this against the background of the evidence on this  
 25 issue that the Inquiry has already received in both

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1 Phase 1 and from the BSR witnesses that were recently  
 2 called in this module.  
 3 MR MOHAMMED RASOUL (evidence read into the record)  
 4 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I propose to begin with the statement of  
 5 Mohammed Rasoul, {IWS00001768}.  
 6 Mr Rasoul lived in flat 25 with his wife,  
 7 Munira Mahmoud, their children and his elderly father,  
 8 Abdul El Rasoul.  
 9 Mrs Mahmoud gave oral evidence during the Phase 1  
 10 hearings. She told you, Mr Chairman, that her  
 11 father-in-law suffers from dementia.  
 12 I propose to pick up Mr Rasoul's statement at page 2  
 13 {IWS00001768/2}, paragraph 4, where he explains that his  
 14 parents became tenants in Grenfell Tower in 1980, with  
 15 the familiar moving into the flat 25 in 1994.  
 16 If we go to page 3 {IWS00001768/3}, at paragraph 13,  
 17 I will begin reading from that paragraph:  
 18 "13. No one from the TMO or RBKC ever spoke to us  
 19 about fire safety. I am not aware of any fire drills  
 20 having taken place in the Tower. At some point in or  
 21 around 2004 we were given a copy of the TMO Tenant's  
 22 Handbook (Exhibit MR/6). The Handbook included a page  
 23 on 'Safety and Security' (see page 25 of Exhibit MR/6)  
 24 but no one had brought this to our attention. Although  
 25 the Handbook had some very brief information about

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1 preventing fires, it had no information about what we  
 2 should do if a fire broke out in our flat or in the  
 3 Tower. It does not mention the fire strategy for the  
 4 whole building, I am not sure if every resident was  
 5 given a copy of the Handbook."  
 6 He continues on the next page {IWS00001768/4}:  
 7 "14. We also received ... copies of the TMO's  
 8 'LINK' magazine, but I assumed that this was more like a  
 9 notice board and would not contain any important  
 10 information. No one ever warned us that it might, so I  
 11 never read it. I would have also assumed that any  
 12 important information, such as fire safety, would have  
 13 been brought to our attention in a more direct way, such  
 14 as a letter addressed to us.  
 15 "15. The only information I saw about the fire  
 16 strategy for the building was on a fire safety notice,  
 17 which was by the lifts on the ground floor of the Tower.  
 18 I think the notice was put up after the refurbishment.  
 19 It was about A5 size and easy to miss, it was only on  
 20 the ground floor. As I stated in my Phase 1 statement,  
 21 the notice was in English and I am not aware of it  
 22 having been made available in any format for those with  
 23 special needs. The notice said that in the case of  
 24 a fire, unless the fire was in your own flat, you should  
 25 remain in your flat until you are evacuated out of the

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1 building. The notice did not give any information about  
 2 the assembly point if the Tower was evacuated. I  
 3 believe that it also said not to use the lifts if there  
 4 was a fire in the building and to use the stairs  
 5 instead."  
 6 I will stop reading there.  
 7 MR NICHOLAS BURTON (evidence read into the record)  
 8 MS SIVAKUMARAN: The next statement is that of  
 9 Mr Nicholas Burton, and this is Inquiry reference  
 10 {IWS00001661}.  
 11 This is the Phase 2 statement of Mr Burton. He gave  
 12 oral evidence during Phase 1 hearings. Mr Burton lived  
 13 in flat 165 of Grenfell Tower with his wife,  
 14 Maria Del Pilar Burton, known as Pily.  
 15 Mr Burton lived in the tower from 1984, but his wife  
 16 was a tenant from about 1975 and they became  
 17 leaseholders in 1994.  
 18 Pily Burton survived the fire but died on  
 19 29 January 2018.  
 20 I propose to begin from page 3 {IWS00001661/3} and  
 21 pick up the statement at paragraph 10:  
 22 "10. We did receive written information about the  
 23 'Stay Put' policy; I think this would have been in  
 24 certain TMO newsletters, but I cannot remember when we  
 25 received these. I was aware of the concept of

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1 compartmentation, so I could see why it would make sense  
 2 to stay where we were in the event of a fire, because it  
 3 should be contained. When I worked in hospitals, we  
 4 were told that the different wards were different  
 5 compartments, so in the event of a fire, we were  
 6 supposed to evacuate if the ward we were in was the one  
 7 affected, but were otherwise in theory safe to stay  
 8 where we were. We nevertheless undertook ward  
 9 evacuations, with patients, so that we were fully  
 10 prepared.  
 11 "11. Even during the fire, I remember thinking that  
 12 staying where we were was the best thing to do and this  
 13 was backed up by the advice that I was being given by  
 14 the LFB during the emergency call that I made. I really  
 15 did not know how bad it was until I looked over to the  
 16 north side of the Tower and saw lots of blue lights, all  
 17 the traffic stopping on the motorway and the reflection  
 18 of the blaze on the glass front to the school.  
 19 "12. I do remember seeing the new fire safety sign  
 20 at the lifts. I remember I went down to other floors to  
 21 check that the new signs had been put up there too. We  
 22 discussed this at a GTLA meeting, but if I remember  
 23 rightly, it was more about the delay in them putting up  
 24 the signs than the nature of the advice."  
 25 This is where I propose to stop with Mr Burton's

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1 statement.  
 2 MR MUSTAFA ABDU (evidence read into the record)  
 3 MS SIVAKUMARAN: The next statement I turn to is that of  
 4 Mustafa Abdu, and the reference is {IWS00001956}.  
 5 Mr Abdu lived at flat 184 of Grenfell Tower, and  
 6 this was on the 21st floor. I propose to pick up his  
 7 statement on page 6 {IWS00001956/6} at paragraph 26.  
 8 There is the heading "Fire safety signage", and Mr Abdu  
 9 said:  
 10 "26. I do not remember there being any fire safety  
 11 signage before the refurbishment.  
 12 "27. The first fire safety signage I remember were  
 13 signs advising on the 'stay put' policy. These were in  
 14 the lift and lobby corridors at the Tower. I remember  
 15 from this that in the case of a fire you should not use  
 16 the lift and should go back to your room and shut the  
 17 doors and windows."  
 18 Then if we move forward to page 8 {IWS00001956/8},  
 19 paragraph 41, I will then pick up his statement again  
 20 where there is a subheading, "Fire safety advice", and  
 21 he said:  
 22 "41. I have lived at the tower for 27 years and  
 23 I never remember receiving any advice about fire safety.  
 24 "42. I did not feel at the time that we were  
 25 properly briefed or trained about fire safety either.

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1 "43. I do not recall any fire safety officer  
 2 talking to me about fire safety in the Tower.  
 3 "44. My solicitors have asked me if I remember  
 4 anything about the resident magazine Link. I cannot  
 5 remember ever hearing about Link and despite talking to  
 6 others I cannot ever remember them mentioning the Link  
 7 magazine either. It seemed that no one was aware of it.  
 8 "45. I do not remember ever receiving any  
 9 newsletters during the refurbishment period about fire  
 10 safety advice. I will usually look at my mail and read  
 11 it if it comes through the door, so I cannot imagine  
 12 that I would have missed it. The only advice I remember  
 13 is the plastic 'stay put' signs set up in the lift and  
 14 lobby area.  
 15 "46. In the event of a fire I thought that I had to  
 16 go to my flat and remain in there with my doors and  
 17 windows shut because that is what the signs in the lobby  
 18 and lift area said."  
 19 That's where I propose to stop.  
 20 MS REBECCA ROSS (evidence read into the record)  
 21 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I will then pick up with the statement of  
 22 Rebecca Ross, and the statement reference is  
 23 {IWS00001826}.  
 24 Ms Ross lived in flat 122 on the 15th floor of  
 25 Grenfell Tower with her father, Steven Power, and her

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1 brother, Bobby Ross, and their three dogs. Ms Ross was  
 2 22 years old at the time of the fire. Her father had  
 3 moved into Grenfell Tower in 1985, and he died on the  
 4 night of the fire.  
 5 I propose to pick up her statement at page 8  
 6 {IWS00001826/8}, paragraph 35. There is the heading at  
 7 the bottom of the page, "Fire safety in Grenfell Tower",  
 8 and Ms Ross says:  
 9 "35. As stated above, my understanding was that the  
 10 TMO had overall responsibility for fire safety within  
 11 the Tower but I knew that RBKC owned the Tower and was  
 12 the landlord.  
 13 "36. I was not aware at the time that there was  
 14 a Stay Put policy in place at Grenfell Tower. There may  
 15 have been signs in the lift lobbies about this, but this  
 16 was not something that I took notice of, so I didn't  
 17 know we had this policy or what it meant.  
 18 "37. I have never taken part in a fire drill at  
 19 Grenfell Tower, so I didn't have any experience of what  
 20 to do in case of a fire. In the time that I lived  
 21 there, there were only a few small fires, which never  
 22 spread out of the flat in which they started. If I had  
 23 needed to evacuate the Tower, I wouldn't have known to  
 24 go to a designated place outside.  
 25 "38. I remember receiving a magazine called 'Link'

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1 through my front door, however I wouldn't have known  
 2 there was any information in there about fire safety.  
 3 It mainly contained information about events going on in  
 4 the community. I wouldn't have known to look in there  
 5 for fire safety information."  
 6 I propose to stop reading there.  
 7 I would note that Bobby Ross has also provided  
 8 a Phase 2 statement, the reference for which is  
 9 {IWS00002356}.  
 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.  
 11 MS MARIA JAFARI (evidence read into the record)  
 12 MS SIVAKUMARAN: The next statement we will go to is that of  
 13 Maria Jafari, and that reference is {IWS00001815}.  
 14 Ms Jafari lived in flat 86 on the 11th floor with  
 15 her father, Ali Yawar Jafari, her mother, Fatima, and  
 16 her sister, Nadia. Nadia Jafari gave evidence during  
 17 Phase 1 and her father, Ali Yawar Jafari, died during  
 18 the fire.  
 19 Flat 86 was leased by the Notting Hill Trust.  
 20 Although the Jafari family were designated as temporary  
 21 residents, they had lived in Grenfell Tower since  
 22 March 2003.  
 23 I propose to pick up her statement at page 6  
 24 {IWS00001815/6}, paragraph 22, where Ms Jafari has  
 25 addressed fire safety under the heading at the top of

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1 the page. She says:  
 2 "22. Nobody ever spoke to us about what to do in  
 3 the event of a fire. We never took part in a fire drill  
 4 and we were never given any information about where the  
 5 assembly point would be if the building was evacuated.  
 6 We were not warned about the lifts or told what to do or  
 7 how to get out if a fire broke out.  
 8 "23. If there was a fire in our flat or next door,  
 9 I would have simply left the building. From undertaking  
 10 fire drills at College, I knew that in the event of  
 11 a fire I was supposed to leave the building. I never  
 12 heard of 'stay put'. I remember that there was a fire  
 13 before the refurbishment but did not hear a fire alarm.  
 14 I never heard a fire alarm go off in the communal parts  
 15 of the Tower in the 14 years that I lived in the Tower.  
 16 "24. I think there was a fire sign next to the  
 17 lifts, but I do not recall reading it or understanding  
 18 it. Nothing was translated or explained in person."  
 19 That's where I propose to stop with this statement.  
 20 MS ZOE DANTON (evidence read into the record)  
 21 MS SIVAKUMARAN: The next statement is that of Zoe Dainton  
 22 and this is reference {IWS00001974}.  
 23 Zoe Dainton has made a Phase 2 statement and she  
 24 lived in flat 12 of the fourth floor of Grenfell Tower  
 25 with her mother, Jenny Dainton, and her sister,

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1 Leah Weekes. Ms Dainton's then partner, David Benjamin,  
 2 sometimes stayed at the flat as well.  
 3 I propose to pick up her statement at page 3  
 4 {IWS00001974/3}, paragraph 15. We can see Ms Dainton  
 5 said:  
 6 "15. As already stated in paragraph 30 and 50 of my  
 7 Phase 1 statement, I recall fire safety signs telling  
 8 you to 'stay put' inside your flat in the event of  
 9 a fire, unless the fire was inside your flat, in which  
 10 case you should leave. The sign also said not to use  
 11 the lifts, but I was never told this verbally by anyone  
 12 in an official capacity. I saw this sign on the ground  
 13 floor and fourth floor whilst waiting for the lifts.  
 14 I think these signs were on every floor and were there  
 15 before the Refurbishment.  
 16 "16. I did not really understand how 'stay put' was  
 17 supposed to work in practice, but I did not speak to  
 18 anyone about this at RBKC or the TMO."  
 19 I will stop reading there, but I note that  
 20 David Benjamin has given a Phase 2 statement, which is  
 21 with reference {IWS00001764}.  
 22 MS LORRAINE BEADLE (evidence read into the record)  
 23 MS SIVAKUMARAN: The next statement that I will turn to is  
 24 that of Lorraine Beadle. The reference is  
 25 {IWS00001872}.

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1 Lorraine Beadle lived in flat 13 of Grenfell Tower  
 2 since 1976.  
 3 I propose to pick up her statement at page 2  
 4 {IWS00001872/2}, paragraph 8.  
 5 Ms Beadle says that:  
 6 "8. The emergency access was via the stairs which  
 7 could be accessed through the lobby each floor of the  
 8 Tower, but when the refurbishment started this would  
 9 often be blocked off. I remember in October 2014  
 10 I raised my concerns about this with Rydon. I called  
 11 Christina Stephanou and Maxine Igbinedion, both Rydon  
 12 Resident Liaison Officers on their direct lines.  
 13 Neither answered my call. I then called somebody at the  
 14 TMO, but I can't remember who. I have since learned  
 15 that in response to my questions, Siobhan Rumble  
 16 (Neighbour Manager for Lancaster West at the TMO), said:  
 17 "'In the event of a fire, as we know there is a stay  
 18 put policy and evacuation would be via the lift not the  
 19 stairwell, and how the barrier would be moved in this  
 20 case. I did ask if Rydon had notified resident's but  
 21 they hadn't, this is a fault on their part as if  
 22 a letter went out then we wouldn't be having this  
 23 conversation. I have expressed the importance of making  
 24 sure residents and staff know what is happening.' ...  
 25 "9. I do not remember being given any fire safety

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1 advice from the TMO, RBKC, Rydon or any other party,  
 2 either before or after I had raised these concerns. As  
 3 far as I remember, nobody from Rydon or the TMO called  
 4 me back in response to my concerns about the escape  
 5 route being blocked. I think this was awful. They did  
 6 not treat fire safety seriously as an issue, and this  
 7 example shows this. They did not deal with my concerns  
 8 well at all on any level — they just did not seem to  
 9 care."  
 10 That is all that I will read from this statement.  
 11 MR BELA PASZTOR (evidence read into the record)  
 12 MS SIVAKUMARAN: The next statement I turn to is that of  
 13 Bela Pasztor, and the reference for the statement is  
 14 {IWS00001682}.  
 15 Bela Pasztor lived in Barandon Walk with his  
 16 partner, Miriam Newby. At the time the statement was  
 17 prepared, Mr Pasztor was 82 years old and his partner  
 18 was 77 years old.  
 19 I will pick up the statement from page 2  
 20 {IWS00001682/2}, paragraph 10, where he says:  
 21 "10. Miriam and I lived in Barandon Walk for  
 22 40 years and in that time, we were never visited by the  
 23 Fire Brigade nor did we receive any advice from anyone  
 24 about what to do in the case of a fire. We were not  
 25 consulted about any special evacuation plan to be put in

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1 place for Miriam or I, as elderly people."  
 2 That's all that I propose to read from this  
 3 statement.  
 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.  
 5 MS HELENE HARTLEY (evidence read into the record)  
 6 MS SIVAKUMARAN: The next statement that I will read from is  
 7 that of Helene Hartley, and the reference is  
 8 {IWS00001257}.  
 9 Ms Hartley lived in Hurstway Walk and she moved into  
 10 her home in 2000.  
 11 If we pick up the statement at page 8  
 12 {IWS000012578}, paragraph 28, Ms Hartley has this to say  
 13 about fire safety in Hurstway Walk. She says:  
 14 "28. As a joint leaseholder with NHHT ..."  
 15 I pause reading there just to explain that NHHT  
 16 stands for Notting Hill Housing Trust:  
 17 " ... NHHT issued me with a handbook when I moved  
 18 into Hurstway Walk. There is advice in this handbook to  
 19 evacuate in case of a fire. However, this handbook is  
 20 not specific to Hurstway Walk properties. I do not  
 21 remember ever receiving a handbook from the TMO that  
 22 gave accurate fire safety advice, specific to my block.  
 23 "29. Prior to June 2017, I was not aware that there  
 24 was a Stay Put policy in Hurstway Walk. I had never  
 25 been told by the TMO. There are no signs in the

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1 communal areas of Hurstway Walk stating that there is  
 2 a Stay Put policy.  
 3 "30. The only signs tell residents not to store  
 4 belongings in the communal corridor, as it is a fire  
 5 risk. This is not enforced by the TMO at all, and other  
 6 residents frequently keep bikes or pushchairs outside  
 7 their flat. Currently, the estate management themselves  
 8 and their appointed contractors store trolleys out there  
 9 to [sic]. I have exhibited a photograph of this at  
 10 HH/06 which was taken late January 2019."  
 11 I propose to stop reading there.  
 12 Those are the statements that we have read which  
 13 address fire safety advice.  
 14 I now propose to read from the final set of BSR  
 15 statements which concern the system for reporting  
 16 repairs and complaints, before turning to some evidence  
 17 from residents on their perspective of the refurbishment  
 18 process. Finally, there will be evidence read regarding  
 19 the maintenance of flat front doors and self-closing  
 20 devices.  
 21 MS JENNY DAINTON (evidence read into the record)  
 22 MS SIVAKUMARAN: The next statement I will read from is that  
 23 of Jenny Dainton, and the reference is {IWS00001804}.  
 24 Ms Dainton lived in flat 12 on floor 5 of  
 25 Grenfell Tower. I have just read from the statement of

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1 her daughter Zoe Dainton, and her other daughter,  
 2 Jenny Dainton, had lived with her as well.  
 3 If we turn to page 5 {IWS00001804/5}, paragraph 28,  
 4 I will pick up from where Ms Dainton addresses reporting  
 5 issues and concerns to RBKC and the TMO. Ms Dainton  
 6 said:  
 7 "28. When the TMO started managing the Tower in the  
 8 1990s, there was a noticeable change of branding. The  
 9 TMO was initially more visible than RBKC had been  
 10 previously. TMO staff were based in an office behind  
 11 the concierge at the base of the Tower. Security was  
 12 also based here. You would often see staff from the TMO  
 13 around the Lancaster West Estate. However, this changed  
 14 during the last refurbishment, when the concierge  
 15 disappeared and the TMO moved their office to  
 16 Kensal Road.  
 17 "29. I would usually report any issues or concerns  
 18 about the flat or communal areas to concierge as I was  
 19 passing. I remember a gentleman called Karim, but there  
 20 were others, whose names I cannot remember. When  
 21 I reported an issue with the lifts, Karim would normally  
 22 already be aware of this.  
 23 "30. I preferred speaking to Karim rather than  
 24 calling the TMO's telephone repair line. He would  
 25 usually write down my issue or concern on a scrap of

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1 paper with my flat number. I assumed he would then  
 2 report this to the TMO on my behalf. I do not know if  
 3 this information was formally logged by the TMO on any  
 4 computer system. I never saw any repair book that Karim  
 5 or others would record this information in. Sometimes  
 6 I would have to chase this up on several occasions  
 7 before the work was completed."  
 8 Then if we go on to paragraph 32 {IWS00001804/6},  
 9 she continues:  
 10 32. Once the concierge and TMO office was removed  
 11 from the Tower in 2014, I would call the TMO's telephone  
 12 repair line, it was a 0800 number. I did not find this  
 13 was very reliable; sometimes they would not pick up.  
 14 When you did report a repair or concern, you were told  
 15 that someone would get back to you to arrange an  
 16 appointment, but they rarely did so you would have to  
 17 chase them again.  
 18 "33. Alternatively, they would turn up unannounced  
 19 or you would return home from work to find a card had  
 20 been left saying they had attended, but no one was in.  
 21 Yet I had not been given any advance notice, to enable  
 22 me to make appropriate arrangements for one of us to be  
 23 at home, to let them into the flat. It was most  
 24 frustrating.  
 25 "34. I would also speak to Jan Jones about repairs

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1 to my flat either in person or on the telephone. I had  
2 her direct dial, which was separate from the TMO's  
3 telephone repair line. She was originally based at the  
4 bottom of the Tower and later in the TMO's office on  
5 Kensal Road. She had worked for the TMO for a long  
6 time.

7 "35. Jan Jones' standard response was that 'we will  
8 get back to you,' but most of the time you would be  
9 ignored. It was only once the local councillor was  
10 involved that action was taken. I describe an incident  
11 involving a National Grid contractor drilling into an  
12 asbestos panel and how the TMO dealt with this in more  
13 detail below.

14 "36. On one occasion, I remember bumping into Jan  
15 Jones on the estate and asking her why the lifts were  
16 always breaking down. She told me it was an old  
17 building and that the lifts were in constant use.  
18 I felt the implication was that this should be expected  
19 and I should not be complaining to her about it.

20 "37. When someone finally attended the flat to  
21 carry out repairs or maintenance work, they would often  
22 try to minimise the issue or blame it on you as the  
23 tenant. By the time it came to the refurbishment, I was  
24 so exasperated that Zoe dealt mostly with the TMO and  
25 Rydon. If I did report any issues, I would go straight

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1 to the TMO rather than speaking to Rydon."  
2 That is where I propose to stop with her statement.  
3 MS LUCY HO (evidence read into the record)  
4 MS SIVAKUMARAN: The next statement that I will read from is  
5 that of Lucy Ho, and the reference is {IWS00001551}.  
6 To provide some background, Lucy Ho's mother,  
7 Hoang Khanh Quang, gave evidence in Phase 1. The family  
8 had moved into Grenfell Tower when Ms Ho was  
9 three months old, and they lived in flat 76 on floor 10.  
10 I propose to pick up her statement from page 3  
11 {IWS00001551/3}, paragraph 10. Ms Ho said:  
12 "10. Being social housing tenants meant that we  
13 could redecorate our flat but we couldn't make  
14 improvements to it without asking the council first, and  
15 so if things needed repairing, we were reliant on the  
16 TMO organising the repairs to be made. When things in  
17 the flat stopped working and we needed something  
18 repaired, we would have to contact the TMO. Jenny and I  
19 would contact the TMO on our mum's behalf because her  
20 first language is Cantonese and she only speaks  
21 a limited amount of English, which I believe the TMO  
22 knew, or they should have known. There was a TMO  
23 helpline that we could call, and we had a leaflet with  
24 their number on. You could also submit a complaint  
25 online. I do not remember making a complaint to the TMO

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1 online, but I know that Jenny had done so before.  
2 I remember that Jenny had submitted repair and  
3 maintenance forms that were sent to the TMO and I would  
4 expect that to be on the housing records, however I have  
5 been through the housing file, which my legal  
6 representative has obtained on my behalf, and I cannot  
7 see any of these records on the file.

8 "11. We had to be persistent with the TMO to get  
9 them to send a workman to the flat to make the repairs  
10 when we needed them to. It would often take two to  
11 three weeks before someone was sent to our flat by the  
12 TMO to take a look at what needed repairing. Quite  
13 often the workman would say they couldn't fix the  
14 problem because they didn't have the parts to do so,  
15 which was really frustrating on occasions because we  
16 felt we had given the TMO all the information the  
17 workmen would need to fix the problem and this would  
18 cause further delays."

19 I conclude reading from her statement there.

20 I note that Ms Ho's mother and her sister,  
21 Jenny Quang, have provided Phase 2 statements, and their  
22 respective references are {IWS00001552} and  
23 {IWS00001821}.  
24 MS ELIZABETH SOBIESZCZAK (evidence read into the record)  
25 MS SIVAKUMARAN: The next statement that I turn to is that

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1 of Elizabeth Sobieszczak. The reference is  
2 {IWS00001539}.  
3 Ms Sobieszczak gave evidence in Phase 1, and you  
4 will note that she lived in flat 43 on floor 7 of  
5 Grenfell Tower with her husband and her daughter.  
6 They'd lived in Grenfell Tower for 32 years.  
7 Ms Sobieszczak sets out her experience of making  
8 complaints to the TMO in her statement at page 2  
9 {IWS00001539/2}, and I propose to pick up her statement  
10 at paragraph 7 on page 2. She said:  
11 "7. I had very little faith in the TMO being able  
12 to sort out problems that we brought to their attention.  
13 They made us feel a nuisance and we often had to take  
14 matters into our own hands, or call on friends for  
15 assistance.  
16 "8. When there was a fault in the flat, I would  
17 report it to the TMO's Housing Office reception. The  
18 first person you would speak to would be the  
19 receptionist, who would say that they would allocate the  
20 job to someone before updating you on when that had been  
21 done and when your visit would take place.  
22 "9. You would very rarely get a call back and would  
23 have to call again and again to report the problem,  
24 which never seemed to be handed over properly and so you  
25 would have to waste more time repeating the same issues,

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1 with little faith that anything would be actioned.  
 2 "10. We tried to resolve things as much as we could  
 3 on our own before calling for help. The other  
 4 frustrating thing was that, often, after waiting some  
 5 time for someone to attend, thinking they would resolve  
 6 the issue, they would attend just for the purposes of  
 7 doing an assessment, and then say they would come back,  
 8 so the whole ordeal and delay would start again. It  
 9 came to the point where we lost faith to such an extent  
 10 that we began to just try and resolve issues ourselves  
 11 or rely on friends, who were plumbers or handymen.

12 "11. I remember thinking that they had a lot of  
 13 cheek, because after someone from the TMO would attend  
 14 our flat, even if they hadn't resolved the issue, or  
 15 needed to return, they would send us a performance  
 16 feedback slips through the front door, for us to  
 17 complete and return in the post. It was just a general  
 18 disregard and lack of care for the service they were  
 19 providing and service users in general."

20 That's where I propose to stop with her statement.

21 I note that Ms Sobieszczak's husband, Michael, and  
 22 her daughter, Florentyna, have both given Phase 2  
 23 statements as well, and the respective references are  
 24 {IWS00001562} and {IWS00001555}.

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1 MS GITIARA PAHLAVANI (evidence read into the record)  
 2 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I now turn to the statement of  
 3 Gitara Pahlavani, and the reference is {IWS00001244}.

4 Ms Pahlavani lived in flat 22 of Grenfell Tower with  
 5 her two sons and her daughter—in-law. She had lived in  
 6 the tower since 1997.

7 In her statement, Ms Pahlavani recalls that she  
 8 received a tenancy handbook when she first moved into  
 9 the flat and if we turn to page 3 {IWS00001244/3},  
 10 paragraph 7, I will read what she says about it.

11 Ms Pahlavani says:

12 "7. I remember that at first, I was happy with the  
 13 TMO — there were no real issues that needed sorting out  
 14 in the flat. I was given a tenancy handbook when  
 15 I moved in, and I was happy that it said if something  
 16 needed repairing, then the TMO would send someone to do  
 17 it. In the beginning they did exactly that — little  
 18 things that needed fixing were done quickly and without  
 19 any issue. However things changed a few years after  
 20 moving in — I address some of the issues with my flat at  
 21 paragraphs 14–27 below."

22 Then if we look at paragraph 10, if we move forward,  
 23 she also addresses the complaints procedure, where she  
 24 says:

25 "10. Whenever something did go wrong — be it an

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1 issue with the flat or something else — and I was upset  
 2 with the TMO, I did not really know what to do. I was  
 3 not aware of any kind of formal complaints procedure and  
 4 do not remember anyone telling us about this sort of  
 5 thing. I sometimes tried to speak to Claire Williams,  
 6 the manager of the Tower at the TMO, I was always just  
 7 told that she did not deal with tenants and was not  
 8 available. In many ways I felt helpless and like no one  
 9 would listen to me when I had an issue."

10 That's where I propose to stop with her statement.

11 As mentioned, I will now read from some statements  
 12 which make reference to the refurbishment process itself  
 13 and concerns raised then.

14 MR SHANTILAL PATEL (evidence read into the record)

15 MS SIVAKUMARAN: The first statement addressing those issues  
 16 that I will read from is that of Shantilal Patel, and  
 17 the reference is {IWS00001828}.

18 Mr Patel lived in flat 56 on floor 8 of  
 19 Grenfell Tower with his wife, Kiran Patel. They had  
 20 moved into the tower in 1984 and both their sons grew up  
 21 in the tower. They were leaseholders of their flat  
 22 since 2001.

23 Now, if I can pick up his statement at page 2  
 24 {IWS00001828/2}, paragraph 9, Mr Patel says:

25 "9. At one point during the refurbishment, when the

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1 cladding was being fitted to the outside of the  
 2 building, there were some high winds one evening. The  
 3 newly fixed cladding rails rattled all night long.

4 "10. I looked out of my window and could see that  
 5 some of the bolts used on the cladding rails looked too  
 6 short, and suspected that some of the fastenings had not  
 7 been tightened properly. This was worrying and so  
 8 I emailed the TMO to warn them of the problem. I never  
 9 really got a response to my comments, apart from that  
 10 the rattling was only due to high winds, and that this  
 11 would not happen once all the cladding was fitted.

12 A copy of some of my emails and the brief responses  
 13 I received have been provided to the Inquiry: [URN:  
 14 {RYD00028012}] and [URN: {RYD000277521}].

15 If we then look to the next paragraph at  
 16 paragraph 11 {IWS00001828/3}, he has also addressed the  
 17 windows installation, and he says:

18 "11. New windows were fitted in my flat in August  
 19 2015. There were however problems with the windows that  
 20 were fitted. One window had a safety catch missing,  
 21 meaning that the window could be opened all the way.  
 22 Another was jammed shut so that you could not open it at  
 23 all. To me, it was more evidence of shoddy work or poor  
 24 products being used. I tried to call Lynda Prentice —  
 25 the liaison officer who worked for Rydon, but she did

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1 not answer any of my calls. So I emailed Claire  
 2 Williams at the TMO, as she was managing the  
 3 refurbishment. Someone from Rydon came to my flat the  
 4 following day to check the windows. I was told that  
 5 someone from the window fitting team would come to fix  
 6 the issue the following week. Copies of these emails  
 7 have been provided to the Inquiry at {URN:  
 8 {RYD000493911}}.  
 9 "12. No one came to my flat in the weeks following  
 10 to fix the window. I emailed Lynda Prentice to inform  
 11 her that the windows were still broken. Lynda responded  
 12 to say that someone would come to the flat the following  
 13 day at 11am. A man came to the flat the following day,  
 14 looked at the windows, and then said that he did not  
 15 have the right parts to fix the windows with him, and  
 16 that he would fix it 'later' once more parts had been  
 17 ordered. He told me that there were a number of windows  
 18 in the Tower with the same problem. He did manage to  
 19 remove a part from the jammed window so that it could  
 20 open. A copy of my emails to Lynda have been provided  
 21 to the Inquiry at {URN: {RYD00053102}}."  
 22 That's where I propose to stop with his statement.  
 23 I note that Chiraag Patel, Mr Patel's son, has also  
 24 provided a Phase 2 statement, and that is under  
 25 reference {IWS00001610}.

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1 MR WILLIAM THOMPSON (evidence read into the record)  
 2 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I now propose to turn to the statement of  
 3 William Thompson and that's {IWS00002110}.  
 4 Mr Thompson lived in flat 52 on floor 8 with his  
 5 family and they had moved into Grenfell Tower in  
 6 June 1997.  
 7 I will pick up his statement from page 4  
 8 {IWS00002110/4}, paragraph 14. Mr Thompson said:  
 9 "In relation to any other consultation on the  
 10 refurbishment, I remember seeing the new windows being  
 11 unloaded from a lorry on pallets and stored in the  
 12 garages underneath the walkways. Prior to that point  
 13 I don't recall being asked what type of windows I wanted  
 14 or being offered any choice. Obviously once they had  
 15 been ordered and delivered I do not recall being asked  
 16 my view either, they had already been delivered by that  
 17 point. There was a meeting in the 'show flat'  
 18 (Flat 145) when we were shown the new windows we were  
 19 getting. I am pretty sure there were three meetings  
 20 I attended in the show flat and it was the first meeting  
 21 when I was shown the windows. This meeting happened  
 22 around January 2015. I refer to it later in this  
 23 statement because of a comment made by Jason North of  
 24 Rydon at the meeting. I vaguely remember seeing  
 25 a picture of windows maybe on a newsletter but I don't

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1 ever remember being told by the TMO in person the type  
 2 of windows they were planning to put on the building and  
 3 being asked for my view. I was never asked what  
 4 I thought of the TMO's plans, conversations about the  
 5 works were always, in summary along the lines of 'This  
 6 is what you're getting' instead of 'These are the  
 7 options, what do you think?'"  
 8 Then if I move forward to paragraph 16, Mr Thompson  
 9 has also said:  
 10 "I was never asked what type of cladding I wanted on  
 11 the building but if I had been asked it would not have  
 12 alarmed me, I would not have known there was anything  
 13 wrong with it. I would have expected it to be safe.  
 14 The thought that it might be dangerous would not have  
 15 even entered my mind, I would have thought it was just  
 16 for aesthetics. It is very painful for me to think that  
 17 of all the things I complained about I did not focus on  
 18 the cladding. On reflection, given the TMO's history  
 19 I should have scrutinised every single thing they were  
 20 doing."  
 21 I then propose to move forward to paragraph 22 and  
 22 this is on page 7 {IWS00002110/7}. Mr Thompson  
 23 continued, after the subheading "The refurbishment works  
 24 begin":  
 25 "22. After the colour of the hoardings changed the

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1 work on the Tower started and residents began to come  
 2 together to complain about the works. I remember the  
 3 first meeting of residents in relation to the  
 4 refurbishment works was absolutely jammed. It was in  
 5 the EMB rooms and there were residents waiting outside  
 6 who could not get in. There was a series of resident  
 7 meetings throughout 2015 and 2016. In addition to the  
 8 residents who attended these meetings there were other  
 9 residents who didn't attend, who were either too busy,  
 10 or didn't feel able to speak out, or got tired of  
 11 complaining, even though they would have wanted to, but  
 12 who still supported the aims of residents who did  
 13 attend. After a residents meeting had taken place I was  
 14 often approached by neighbours who did not attend and  
 15 asked how it went and offered support.  
 16 "23. My impression living in the tower was that  
 17 there were some residents who became so used to being  
 18 bullied by the TMO and RBKC that they just didn't want  
 19 to rock the boat as they were afraid of the  
 20 consequences. I am not saying people were physically  
 21 threatened but people were afraid, especially the old  
 22 and vulnerable of which there were quite a few. That is  
 23 how it is in social housing especially when there is  
 24 lots of homelessness out there, many people do not want  
 25 to speak up against a landlord because however bad

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things might be they feel at least they have a home. I used to picture some of these older and vulnerable residents sitting in their homes with no water but scared to complain, scared of the people who were supposed to be looking after them.

"24. My former neighbour David Collins attended early residents meetings. He was articulate and I felt he could be a real asset in helping residents, it was good he was there and I am sure he has a lot of information about the refurbishment works so it is important he can give evidence to the Inquiry and comment on documents produced by those involved in the refurbishment project. He took the lead in raising complaints during the refurbishment as Chair of the Grenfell Compact when that was formed later down the line as I describe later in this statement.

"25. Eddie Daffarn was also a lead advocate on behalf of residents and Compact members. He knew a lot of people in the tower and was a popular member of our community, he still is. I knew he co-wrote the Grenfell Action Group blog and I often read the blog at the time and even contributed to a couple of articles which I mention below. Eddie was passionate about our living conditions and protecting community resources across the Borough. He would get things across well in meetings

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with the TMO, RBKC, MPs, Rydon and others. Eddie could recall promises that the TMO and RBKC had made, things people had said, and he could remind them of this. If I could not go into a meeting and wanted someone to advocate for me that's the person I would want to do it. He would get points across much better than most of us. He was used to meetings and knew how to conduct himself so it was not surprising that people in the tower would go to him, and to other Compact members, with their problems and complaints. I could see that the TMO and Rydon realised they couldn't mess about with him. Throughout the period of time that is covered by this statement a number of residents would therefore speak to Eddie about their problems as they probably felt he could raise them effectively and properly hold the TMO and RBKC to account."

Then if we move forward to paragraph 26 {IWS00002110/8}:

"The main driver to residents coming together during the refurbishment works was the way we were all being treated in relation to the location of the Heating Interface Units (HIUs) but over time residents also shared their experiences of the following, amongst other things:

"a. Poor workmanship, especially around pipework and

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windows;

"b. Rydon workers being rude and invading people's privacy;

"c. Rydon's working hours, that they were doing noisy work at times when they had agreed not to;

"d. Running water not working;

"e. Changing floor numbers.

"27. I would raise issues on behalf of other residents and they would ask me to do so. This happened even before the Grenfell Compact was formed. For example, in relation to the noisy working hours Rydon had promised not to do any noisy work children were getting ready for school or when they had returned after school and needed to do their homework. I took it upon myself to call Rydon almost every time their workers breached that agreement, which happened frequently. I wanted to speak to someone senior but was always put through to the Resident Liaison Officers, I remember speaking to Lynda Prentice about this on numerous occasions. If I did not complain then the workers would not stop their noisy work."

That's where I propose to stop reading from Mr Thompson's statement.

MS HANAN WAHABI (evidence read into the record)  
MS SIVAKUMARAN: I will now turn to the statement of

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Hanan Wahabi and the reference is {IWS00001714}.

Now, Ms Wahabi lived in flat 66 on floor 9 of Grenfell Tower with her husband and children. She also gave evidence in Phase 1, and she told the Inquiry that she moved into Grenfell Tower in October 2001.

Her brother, Abdulaziz El-Wahabi, lived in flat 182 on floor 21 with his wife, Faouzia, and their three children. Mr El-Wahabi and his family died in the fire.

Mrs Hanan Wahabi was a member of Grenfell Compact, and she confirms that she made complaints both as an individual and through the Compact in her statement at paragraph 18. However, I propose to move forward to page 6 {IWS00001714/6} and pick up her statement at paragraph 31. Ms Wahabi says:

"The majority of complaints I had regarding fire safety were made through the compact meetings. During these meetings we raised fire safety complaints of residents throughout the whole of the tower. We spoke about the building of Kensington Aldridge Academy and the effect it would have on the space for emergency vehicles. We also spoke about the portacabins which were located around the site during the refurbishment and how this would make it difficult for emergency vehicles to enter. We also raised our concerns about the floor numbering to Peter Maddison. Before the

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1 refurbishment, flat 66 was on Floor 6. After the  
 2 refurbishment, this became Floor 9. We fought for the  
 3 floor numbers to remain the same given the  
 4 familiarisation and the floor plans of the London Fire  
 5 Brigade.”  
 6 Then if we move forward to paragraph 32, she  
 7 continues:  
 8 “I detailed my involvement with the Grenfell Compact  
 9 Group at paragraphs 25–29 of my IWS [her Inquiry Witness  
 10 Statement] and 16–23 of my SIWS [her supplementary  
 11 witness statement] and pages 3–5 of my MPS Statement.  
 12 A group of residents; David Collins, Edward Daffarn,  
 13 Marcio Gomes, Turufat Yilma, Antonio Roncolato,  
 14 William Thompson and myself began meeting to discuss our  
 15 concerns regarding issues within the tower in around  
 16 January 2015.  
 17 “33. We signed the Compact Agreement in October  
 18 2015 ... The Compact group met weekly to begin with,  
 19 then once a fortnight.  
 20 “34. At the compact meetings we would voice our  
 21 concerns to Peter Maddison from TMO, Councillor Judith  
 22 Blakeman and Councillor Fielding. David Collins who was  
 23 the resident of Flat 185, was Chairman. David Collins  
 24 and Edward Daffarn would also send our concerns by email  
 25 to the above named. I was occasionally cc—ed into these

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1 emails but the majority of the time David Collins  
 2 forwarded me any responses.”  
 3 If I move back to paragraph 9 on page 2  
 4 {IWS00001714/2}, I would also note what Ms Wahabi has to  
 5 say about her flat door. She says at paragraph 9:  
 6 “9. I have previously detailed that the door broke  
 7 and contractors attended to fix the door. The door had  
 8 three hinges but the middle hinge looked different to  
 9 the other two as it had a chain and a pole attaching it  
 10 [to] the door. I have since viewed my housing file and  
 11 been provided with the repair log for my flat. I note  
 12 the log states that on 6 December 2011 ‘OOH: 1697441  
 13 REMOVE AND EASE EXTERNAL DOOR INCLUDING ANY’ [HW/1].  
 14 I think this may be when they removed the pole and the  
 15 hinge which were similar to the photo exhibited.  
 16 I remember it was before the refurbishment started and  
 17 before the previous fire. This means I was incorrect  
 18 when I stated in my previous statement the door was  
 19 replaced in 2014 as it appears they were replaced in  
 20 2011.”  
 21 If we continue to the next page {IWS00001714/3},  
 22 Ms Wahabi says at paragraph 10:  
 23 “10. The contractors removed the pole which was  
 24 contained in the middle hinge of the door. The pole led  
 25 from the front door to the doorframe. I have explained

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1 that after they removed the pole the door was much  
 2 lighter and no longer closed automatically. Despite the  
 3 person who fixed the door informing me that he would be  
 4 back to fix the mechanism, no one ever attended ... As  
 5 I explained during my oral evidence the same thing  
 6 happened with my brother’s door. They took out the same  
 7 hinge containing the pole and it no longer closed  
 8 automatically.  
 9 “11. I called KCTMO a couple of times to request  
 10 that the pole was replaced, during these phone calls  
 11 I was informed that they would arrange for someone to  
 12 contact em to confirm when they would attend, however,  
 13 no—one contacted me. When I tried to follow up by  
 14 phoning KCTMO again, they would again say they would  
 15 confirm when someone would be able to take a look,  
 16 however, they would never call back. After a couple of  
 17 times of trying I gave up as nobody was responding.  
 18 Therefore, the pole was never replaced. For this reason  
 19 I did not feel that my complaints were effectively dealt  
 20 with.”  
 21 That’s where I propose to stop reading from  
 22 Ms Hanan Wahabi’s statement.  
 23 I would note her son, Zakariya Chebiouni, has  
 24 provided the Inquiry with a Phase 2 statement as well,  
 25 and that reference is {IWS00001979}.

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1 Now, Ms Wahabi’s evidence about her front door takes  
 2 us to the evidence from other residents about the  
 3 self—closing mechanism on their front doors.  
 4 MS TURAFAT YILMA GIRMA (evidence read into the record)  
 5 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I now propose to go to the statement of  
 6 Turafat Yilma Girma, and the reference is {IWS00001732}.  
 7 Now, Ms Turafat Yilma Girma moved into the tower in  
 8 1996 and lived in flat 44 on floor 7 with her husband  
 9 and her child.  
 10 If we pick up her statement on page 3  
 11 {IWS00001732/3} at paragraph 6, she has this to say:  
 12 “I do not recall that our flat front door had  
 13 a self—closing mechanism. In fact, after our door was  
 14 changed (in about 2014 I would estimate) I recall that  
 15 we had a problem closing the door. We told the TMO  
 16 about the problem, and they advised us to remove  
 17 something from the door hinge to fix the problem which  
 18 we did. We also had problems with the communal doors.  
 19 They would not shut properly. We complained about this  
 20 issue to the TMO as well.”  
 21 That’s all that I propose to read.  
 22 I note that her husband, Abraham Abebe, has also  
 23 provided the Inquiry with a Phase 2 statement, and the  
 24 reference for that is {IWS00001796}.

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1 MR SENER MACIT (evidence read into the record)  
 2 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I will now turn to the statement of  
 3 Sener Macit, which is under Inquiry reference  
 4 {IWS00001563}.  
 5 Mr Macit gave evidence in Phase 1, and he lived in  
 6 flat 133 with his wife, Hanife.  
 7 I propose to pick up his statement on page 3  
 8 {IWS00001563/3}, paragraph 13, where he has said as  
 9 follows:  
 10 "I described in my Phase 1 statement at  
 11 paragraphs 39 to 43 how my front door was replaced with  
 12 a new door that would automatically close, but after  
 13 a few months, the door broke which meant that I could  
 14 not close the front door at all. I have described how  
 15 I called the TMO using the emergency phone number to  
 16 report this. The TMO sent round a handyman. He told me  
 17 it was the self-closing mechanism in the door which had  
 18 broken, causing the door to jam. He removed this  
 19 mechanism from the door. This allowed the door to close  
 20 again. He told me that he would not be replacing the  
 21 mechanism and to get the door to automatically close  
 22 again then they would need to buy a whole door.  
 23 I assumed at the time that what he meant by this was it  
 24 would cost money to replace the whole door which the TMO  
 25 would not want to do. I have included in this statement

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1 how the handyman told me that there were other front  
 2 doors in Grenfell Tower which did not automatically  
 3 close and he said it was not necessary for my door to  
 4 automatically close.  
 5 "14. In my repairs data it says on 12 June 2012  
 6 'newly fitted door have not been fitted properly'. This  
 7 might be about the front door problem I reported  
 8 although if it is then it does not describe the problem  
 9 properly. I am surprised it does not include the change  
 10 that was made to my door by the workman."  
 11 That's where I propose to stop with his statement.  
 12 MR SAMUEL DANIELS (evidence read into the record)  
 13 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I will now go to the statement of  
 14 Samuel Daniels, and the reference is {IWS00002065}.  
 15 Mr Daniels lived in flat 135 on floor 16 with his  
 16 father, Joseph Daniels, who died in the fire. He also  
 17 gave evidence in Phase 1, and you will note that  
 18 Mr Daniels lived in flat 135 since 1983.  
 19 If we pick up his statement on page 3  
 20 {IWS00002065/3} at paragraph 13, Mr Daniels said:  
 21 "13. We had a new front door installed during the  
 22 refurbishment, I think around 2011. This is confirmed  
 23 by correspondence dated 10 February 2011 between the TMO  
 24 and Manse [Masterdor] Ltd who were contracted to install  
 25 the new internal front doors {MAS00000027}. It was not

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1 self-closing and was much lighter than the original  
 2 doors. Sometimes the door would not lock by pulling up  
 3 the handle; a key had to be used to lock the door. The  
 4 latch would not engage and fully close unless you forced  
 5 it closed. My housing file shows that the issue with  
 6 the lock was logged on 28 February 2011 at 12.31 as  
 7 'OVERHAUL UPPER LOCK IN FRONT DOOR' and is recorded with  
 8 a target date 3 March 2011 [exhibit SD/01]. Despite  
 9 this repair the lock still did not function all the  
 10 time.  
 11 "14. One evening this fault was raised with the TMO  
 12 by phone on an emergency line as it was at night and the  
 13 front door was not closing. According to my housing  
 14 file, this happened on 4 April 2017. I remember  
 15 a caretaker came out and took out the middle hinge in  
 16 the door. This made the door close once you pulled it  
 17 close; but there was still an issue with the lock  
 18 system. The caretaker said that they would come back  
 19 and replace the entire door, but they never did.  
 20 "15. The housing file shows that the issue with the  
 21 door was logged on 4 April 2017 at 17:04 as 'FRONT DOOR  
 22 NOT CLOSING' and is recorded as priority attend in  
 23 4 hours, target date 4 April 2017 21:04. The job status  
 24 is recorded as approved [exhibit SD/02]. The following  
 25 day, 5 April 2017 there is a log at 12:06 recorded as

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1 'OVERHAUL COMPLETE UPVC FRONT DOOR' with a priority of  
 2 20 working days and a target date of 8 May 2017 12:06  
 3 [exhibit SD/03]. The same day there is another log it  
 4 is logged as 13:12 as 'PLEASE ATTEND TO FRONT DOOR LOCK  
 5 AS DOOR WILL NOT SHUT' the priority is recorded as  
 6 attend in 4 hours with a target date of 5 April 17:12.  
 7 The job status is recorded as fully abandoned [exhibit  
 8 SD/04]. There are logs for 5 April 2017 to 'RENEW FRONT  
 9 DOOR' and 'OVERHAUL COMPLETE UPVC FRONT DOOR'  
 10 [exhibit SD/05].  
 11 "16. Months went by and nobody came out to fix it.  
 12 I think about two months after the hinge was taken out  
 13 the self-locking system on the door stopped working.  
 14 I do not think anybody came out to fix this. The logged  
 15 target date for 8 May 2017 never happened. Since the  
 16 fire, I understand that a number of residents have had  
 17 similar problems with their front doors."  
 18 That's where I propose to stop with Mr Daniels'  
 19 statement.  
 20 MR BELLAL EL GUENUNI (evidence read into the record)  
 21 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I will now turn to the statement of  
 22 Bellal El Guenuni, and the reference is {IWS00002034}.  
 23 This is his Phase 2 statement, and Mr El Guenuni  
 24 lived in flat 152 with his wife, Rabia Yahya, and their  
 25 children. You will recall that Rabia Yahya gave

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1 evidence in Phase 1.  
 2 I propose to pick up his statement from page 2  
 3 {IWS00002034/2}, paragraph 7 where he said:  
 4 "I described the front door to our flat in page 3 of  
 5 my MPS statement. Rabia described the front door to our  
 6 flat in paragraph 10 of her First Inquiry statement and  
 7 page 109; line 2 — page 112; line 24 of her oral  
 8 evidence. The new front door was put in before the  
 9 major refurbishment in the building. I think it was  
 10 a year or a year and a half before the major works.  
 11 Like Rabia said, the new front door broke soon after it  
 12 was put in. The hinges that were holding the door to  
 13 the wall came loose, so the door would jam. There was  
 14 a way around that — you could lift the door slightly to  
 15 use it. But one day the hinge with a long pole hidden  
 16 in the door got jammed and kept the door open. Rabia  
 17 called me and said that she had had to have the door  
 18 open, so when I came home I removed the pole and screwed  
 19 the hinges back on. The door was always loose, but now  
 20 it was exceptionally light — even lighter than a normal  
 21 door. It looked wooden but it was feather light. It  
 22 had some plastic element to it. Without the pole, we  
 23 could shut the door but it didn't shut automatically.  
 24 We reported this to the TMO but no one ever responded to  
 25 our complaint or fixed the door closer."

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1 That's where I propose to stop with his statement.  
 2 I note that Rabia Yahya's Phase 2 statement speaks  
 3 to similar issues, and the reference for her statement  
 4 is {IWS00002050}.  
 5 MR MARCIO GOMES (evidence read into the record)  
 6 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I will now turn to the statement of  
 7 Marcio Gomes, and the reference is {IWS00001734}.  
 8 Mr Gomes lived in flat 183 at Grenfell Tower on  
 9 floor 21 with his wife and his daughters, and they'd  
 10 lived in the tower for ten years. You will recall that  
 11 he gave evidence in Phase 1.  
 12 If we turn to page 4 {IWS00001734/4}, Mr Gomes has  
 13 given evidence in respect of his front door, and he  
 14 says, if I pick it up at paragraph 10, and then he has  
 15 quoted paragraph 59:  
 16 "59. I was not happy with the automatic closing  
 17 mechanism on the front door as the door would slam shut.  
 18 I was worried about the safety of my daughters as ...  
 19 [they] were only 5 and 6 at the time the door was  
 20 fitted. Our concern was that our daughters might have  
 21 their hand by the door frame and the door would chop  
 22 their fingers off when slamming shut automatically.  
 23 "60. I reported my concerns regarding the new front  
 24 door to the TMO and asked them to remove the automatic  
 25 closing mechanism. The TMO refused to remove the

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1 mechanism. I therefore spoke to a member of staff from  
 2 the company who fitted the doors as they came to our  
 3 flat a few weeks after the doors had been installed to  
 4 inspect them and asked us if we were happy with the new  
 5 door. I informed the gentleman that I was not happy  
 6 with the door due to the force of the automatic closing  
 7 mechanism. I asked him if he could take it out and he  
 8 said no, he told me that I should wait for the final  
 9 inspection following which if I wanted, I could remove  
 10 the closing mechanism myself. I told him that I was  
 11 aware that I could do it myself and I asked them if  
 12 there was a way to make the door less springy. He  
 13 informed me that the door could not be modified and  
 14 I therefore had no option but to remove the automatic  
 15 closing mechanism myself. I had not told the TMO that  
 16 I had removed the automatic closing mechanism but the  
 17 TMO had been to my flat after the chain was removed and  
 18 would have noticed that the door did not slam shut and  
 19 never raised this with me.  
 20 "61. I would like to make clear that removing the  
 21 spring/automatic closing mechanism did not stop the  
 22 front door from closing shut, the door still closed shut  
 23 automatically, but it was more natural and not at speed.  
 24 I and my family, obviously, always kept our front door  
 25 shut when we were in our home or when we were away. On

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1 the night of the fire, the front door was completely  
 2 shut."  
 3 That's where I propose to stop reading with his  
 4 statement.  
 5 I would note that his wife, Andreia Perestrelo, has  
 6 also provided a Phase 2 statement, the reference for  
 7 which is {IWS00001743}.  
 8 Mr Chairman, members of the panel, this completes  
 9 the BSR evidence that we propose to read into the record  
 10 in Module 3.  
 11 I would note that all the statements are signed and  
 12 dated with a statement of truth, and I would ask that  
 13 all these statements are formally admitted into the  
 14 record.  
 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, of course.  
 16 MS SIVAKUMARAN: Finally, I would note that there are  
 17 a number of other statements that the Inquiry has  
 18 received from residents of Grenfell Tower and also the  
 19 walkways. I would like to acknowledge their statements  
 20 by reading the names of those that we have received  
 21 statements from.  
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, thank you very much.  
 23 MS SIVAKUMARAN: If the document can be called up {IDX0706}.  
 24 (Pause)  
 25 Sir, I will just read the names.

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1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think that will do anyway, I'm not  
 2 sure we need to see them on the screen, so thank you.  
 3 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I'm grateful.  
 4 Abu Baker Mohamed Ibrahim.  
 5 Adriana Ramirez.  
 6 Agnes Murray.  
 7 Ahmad Al Sadi.  
 8 Ahmed Al-Assad.  
 9 Ahmed Moussaid.  
 10 Alan Anwar Ali.  
 11 Alemishet Demissie.  
 12 Amina Kabouh.  
 13 Amina Mohamed.  
 14 Anne Murphy.  
 15 Antonio Roncolato.  
 16 Asia Ghamhi.  
 17 Aziza Raihani.  
 18 Behailu Kebede.  
 19 Beinazir Lasharie.  
 20 Belainish Araia.  
 21 Bernard Shaw.  
 22 Boushra El-Gourja.  
 23 Brahim El Amine.  
 24 Branislav Lukic.  
 25 Cesar Ranito.

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1 Charlie Disson.  
 2 Charlotte McMahon.  
 3 Chrstine Bonnett.  
 4 Christine Richer.  
 5 Christopher Roncolato.  
 6 Cordelia Disson.  
 7 Daniel Brendan Griffin.  
 8 Daniel Eudey.  
 9 David O'Connell.  
 10 Diego Ortiz.  
 11 Dougal Steward.  
 12 Effi Stergiopoulou.  
 13 Elaine Lara.  
 14 Elsa Afeworki.  
 15 Esperanza Lopez.  
 16 Esther Watts.  
 17 Fadumo Ahmed.  
 18 Fahd Vaqar Malik.  
 19 Farah Serroukh.  
 20 Fatima Boujettif.  
 21 Fatima Jones.  
 22 Genaro Batoon.  
 23 Genet Gebremaiam Shawo.  
 24 Glenn Young.  
 25 Guiseppe Razza.

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1 Hadija Archid.  
 2 Halima Diejomoah.  
 3 Hamza Jones.  
 4 Hayat Elsanosi.  
 5 Hazel Burke.  
 6 Helen Grebremeskel.  
 7 Hicham Cherbika.  
 8 Hime Haymanot Gashaw.  
 9 Hiwot Dagnachew.  
 10 Ibtisam Alfawaz.  
 11 Ines Alves.  
 12 Isabel Ranito.  
 13 Ismail Hadgay.  
 14 Jackie Blanchflower.  
 15 Jacqueline Haynes.  
 16 Jason Miller.  
 17 Jessica Gomez.  
 18 Jevon Moses.  
 19 Jose Vieiro.  
 20 Joseph Kyle John.  
 21 Judy Philips.  
 22 Karema El-Sawy.  
 23 Karen Aboud.  
 24 Kelly Dowlut.  
 25 Khadija Yahya.

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1 Layla Raihani.  
 2 Leanne Mya Jackson Le Blanc.  
 3 Lina Hamide.  
 4 Loubna Belfassi.  
 5 Luke Towner.  
 6 Mahmoud Al-Karad.  
 7 Mahmoud Kabouh.  
 8 Manuel Miguel Ferreira Alves.  
 9 Marcia Levi.  
 10 Margaret Novell.  
 11 Maria Gil.  
 12 Mariama El-Hassani.  
 13 Mark Bennett.  
 14 Marlyn Lopez.  
 15 Melanie Urbano.  
 16 Meriam Abdulkadir Yousef, formerly Nadia Yousef.  
 17 Meron Mekennon.  
 18 Mesrob Kassemajian.  
 19 Michael John.  
 20 Michael Paramasavian.  
 21 Michele Chiapetto.  
 22 Miriam Lamprell.  
 23 Mohamed Hariri.  
 24 Mohammed Yahya.  
 25 Monica Lokko.

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1 Mouna El—Ogbani.  
 2 Nadia Elbouti.  
 3 Naomi Li.  
 4 Nazanin Aghlani.  
 5 Ngozi Chiejina.  
 6 Nina Masroh.  
 7 Oluwaseun Talabi.  
 8 Omar Alhaj Ali.  
 9 Otmane Benkhaoula.  
 10 Paul Norbert.  
 11 Peter Murphy.  
 12 Philip King.  
 13 Ramiro Urbano.  
 14 Rashida Ali.  
 15 Ravindra Manilal Ratnaik.  
 16 Rawda Said.  
 17 Reem Dedrich.  
 18 Richard Fletcher.  
 19 Rosemary Oyewule.  
 20 Sabah Abdullah.  
 21 Saira Malik.  
 22 Salah Eddine Chebiouni.  
 23 Salma Said.  
 24 Sarah Mensah.  
 25 Sepideh Minaei Moghaddam.

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1 Sharon Laci.  
 2 Sheramin Bernadette Bernard.  
 3 Simon Jolly.  
 4 Sophia Ollivierre .  
 5 Tiago Alves.  
 6 Tomassina Hessel.  
 7 Virginia Sang.  
 8 Viviana Rullo.  
 9 Wesley Ignacio.  
 10 William Wake.  
 11 Wintom Temesgen.  
 12 Zainu Deen.  
 13 Zakaria El—Sawy.  
 14 Zohra Al—Assad.  
 15 I would ask that all those statements on behalf of  
 16 the names that I have just read are formally admitted  
 17 into the record.  
 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, thank you very much. It's  
 19 right that I should express our gratitude to all those  
 20 who have taken the time and trouble to make statements  
 21 for the Inquiry. Although only some parts of some of  
 22 the statements have been read out this morning, I should  
 23 like to assure everybody who made a statement that the  
 24 whole of their statements have been read carefully by  
 25 the Inquiry and will be taken into account by the panel

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1 when we come to make our decisions.  
 2 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I'm grateful, sir.  
 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you very much.  
 4 MS SIVAKUMARAN: I believe our next witness is due at  
 5 2 o'clock. It might be a little bit early for the  
 6 break, but ...  
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: I am inclined to think that the  
 8 sensible course, if it suits others, would be to break  
 9 at this point and take an early lunch and resume at  
 10 1.45. How would that suit you?  
 11 MS SIVAKUMARAN: Very well, sir, thank you.  
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Right, thank you. Well, that's what  
 13 we will do.  
 14 We will break at this point and resume at 1.45,  
 15 please. Good, thank you.  
 16 (12.43 pm)  
 17 (The short adjournment)  
 18 (1.45 pm)  
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, Mr Millett. Now, you have  
 20 another witness for us.  
 21 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I do. May I please now call  
 22 Ms Judith Blakeman.  
 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.  
 24 MS JUDITH BLAKEMAN (affirmed)  
 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you very much. Do sit down

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1 and make yourself comfortable.  
 2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.  
 4 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, thank you.  
 5 Questions from COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY  
 6 MR MILLETT: Ms Blakeman, good afternoon.  
 7 A. Good afternoon.  
 8 Q. Can I begin by thanking you very much for coming to the  
 9 Inquiry and assisting us with our investigations. We're  
 10 extremely grateful to you.  
 11 My questions are intended to be short and simple;  
 12 sometimes they are anything but. If you want me to  
 13 repeat a question or put it in a different way, I'm very  
 14 happy to do that.  
 15 May I also ask you, please, not to nod or shake your  
 16 head, but to say "yes" or "no" as the case may be.  
 17 Also, please, to keep your voice up, so that the person  
 18 who is sitting to your right can get down everything you  
 19 say fully and clearly.  
 20 A. Thank you.  
 21 Q. If you need a break at any time other than the scheduled  
 22 breaks that we are going to take during the course of  
 23 your evidence, please just say and we can take a break  
 24 to suit you.  
 25 Now, you have made one statement to the Inquiry, and

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1 I believe three to the Metropolitan Police. Is that  
 2 right?  
 3 A. I thought I'd made two to the Metropolitan Police, and  
 4 there is an inaccuracy and a typo in the second  
 5 Metropolitan Police statement.  
 6 Q. Right. Well, let's look at your Inquiry statement and  
 7 the ones we're going to look at, {RBK00054461}. May we  
 8 have that up on the screen, please.  
 9 Is that the first page of your Inquiry witness  
 10 statement?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. If you go to page 29, you will see a signature there  
 13 above a date. The date is 11 October 2019, and there is  
 14 a signature. Can you confirm that that's your  
 15 signature?  
 16 A. That's right.  
 17 Q. I'm going to call that your Inquiry statement.  
 18 Can we go to {MET00021448}, next, please. Is that  
 19 the first of your Metropolitan Police statements?  
 20 A. Probably. I can't remember.  
 21 Q. It's dated 7 July 2017. Does that help?  
 22 A. Right, yeah, that'd be it then, yeah.  
 23 Q. Can you confirm that that is your statement?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. There is no signature on it.

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. It is. I'll call that your first statement to the  
 3 Metropolitan Police or MPS.  
 4 There is a statement at {MET00045751}. Can we have  
 5 that up, please. That's a statement which has your name  
 6 and signature on it, I believe. Is that correct?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. With the date of 28 June 2019.  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. I'll call that your second statement.  
 11 Then there is also a statement {MET00065151}, which  
 12 also looks like a Metropolitan Police statement. Is  
 13 that correct?  
 14 A. I think so, yes.  
 15 Q. Yes. That has your name and signature on it. Can you  
 16 confirm that that is your signature?  
 17 A. That's my signature, yeah.  
 18 Q. Yes, and it's above the date 10 February 2020, and I'll  
 19 call that your third police statement.  
 20 A. Okay, right.  
 21 Q. Have you read these statements that I've shown you  
 22 recently?  
 23 A. I've read the long one, the middle one, the June one.  
 24 Q. Right. When you say the June one, you mean the first  
 25 police statement?

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1 A. The one that I submitted to this Inquiry.  
 2 Q. Yes, right. Do I take it that you haven't read your  
 3 other statements recently?  
 4 A. No.  
 5 Q. I see.  
 6 A. I've read the witness statement.  
 7 Q. The Inquiry witness statement?  
 8 A. The Inquiry — yeah.  
 9 Q. Let's just be absolutely clear. Can we have it back,  
 10 please, {RBK00054461}. You have read that statement  
 11 recently?  
 12 A. I have read that this morning, yeah.  
 13 Q. Thank you.  
 14 Can you confirm that the contents of that statement  
 15 are true?  
 16 A. Yes. To the best of my ability to remember, yeah.  
 17 Q. Thank you.  
 18 Can you confirm that the contents of the other  
 19 statements that I've shown you are also true to the best  
 20 of your recollection?  
 21 A. Apart from the typo and the misremembered bit on page 1  
 22 of the June statement.  
 23 Q. Can you then identify that for me. Can we have that  
 24 back, please, {MET00045751}. That's what you call the  
 25 June statement, I think?

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1 A. Yes. In the last paragraph it says:  
 2 "At the very end of 2013, as I was the Labour  
 3 Group's housing spokesperson, I was appointed to serve  
 4 on the Board of the [TMO] ..."  
 5 It should read, "At the very end of 2012", and  
 6 I wasn't the Labour Group's housing spokesperson until  
 7 2014.  
 8 Q. I see, thank you.  
 9 Subject to that correction, can you confirm that the  
 10 contents of this witness statement are true?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. Thank you.  
 13 Now, I want to ask you about your background.  
 14 Very briefly, is it right that you hold  
 15 a postgraduate certificate in business studies; yes?  
 16 A. Yes. Sorry.  
 17 Q. Yes, and a Master's degree in industrial relations?  
 18 A. Yes.  
 19 Q. I think you at one time in your career acted as a trade  
 20 union official.  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. You I think held the position of elected councillor for  
 23 the Notting Dale ward within RBKC.  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. And I think you were —

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1 A. I still do.  
 2 Q. I was going to ask you next, were you returned on 6 May  
 3 this year?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. At Grenfell —  
 6 A. No, no, not this year. We didn't have London elections  
 7 this year for council.  
 8 Q. Sorry, last year.  
 9 A. No, 2018.  
 10 Q. Right, I see. But Grenfell Tower is located in your  
 11 ward, is it?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. You have held, is this right, that position since 2010?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. Yes, and were new ward boundaries created in that year?  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 Q. Before that, is this right: you were an elected  
 18 councillor at RBKC from 1978?  
 19 A. Yes, with a four-year break from 1990 to 1994.  
 20 Q. Yes. And as an RBKC councillor, I think you held  
 21 a number of positions.  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. Committee positions, and they included, did they, the  
 24 housing and property scrutiny committee?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And the licensing committee and appeals panel?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. So far as the housing and property scrutiny committee is  
 4 concerned, can you confirm the dates of your membership?  
 5 A. The housing committee, I think it was 2014 to 2019. I'm  
 6 not sure about the date I stopped, it might have been  
 7 2018.  
 8 Q. Right. But you started in 2014?  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. Do you remember when in 2014? Would it have been in  
 11 May?  
 12 A. May, yeah.  
 13 Q. So May, we can take it, is generally the changeover  
 14 month for organisational changes within the council.  
 15 A. Yes, yes.  
 16 Q. What about the licensing committee and appeals panel,  
 17 when did you become a member of that?  
 18 A. I've been on the licensing committee for a very long  
 19 time, I forget how long, and the appeals panel doesn't  
 20 exist any longer.  
 21 Q. Right.  
 22 Now, you were elected to the TMO board, I believe,  
 23 as a non-executive director.  
 24 A. No, I was appointed.  
 25 Q. When I say elected, you were — you say appointed. Let

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1 me try a different word. You I think were nominated by  
 2 RBKC —  
 3 A. Yes.  
 4 Q. — and appointed on the basis of that nomination.  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. Right.  
 7 Can we look, please, at {TMO00883922}. This is  
 8 a board meeting minute of the board of the TMO relating  
 9 to a board meeting on 15 November 2012, and you can see  
 10 the list of people present. If you look down the list,  
 11 just below halfway down, you can see your name; yes?  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. "Council appointed Board Member."  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. So it looks as if you were a council-appointed board  
 16 member from at least that date?  
 17 A. Yes, that was the first board meeting I attended.  
 18 Q. Thank you. That was my next question.  
 19 Is it right you were a board member until 2017?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. As a board member, you were also a member of the TMO  
 22 operations committee.  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. Can you confirm the dates between which you held that  
 25 position?

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1 A. I think the ops committee I joined in 2013, and again  
 2 I was on that until I was removed from the board in  
 3 2017.  
 4 Q. 2017.  
 5 We have a note of you attending an operations  
 6 committee meeting in the January of 2013.  
 7 A. Yeah.  
 8 Q. Would that be the first time you attended such a —  
 9 A. Probably, yes.  
 10 Q. Right.  
 11 We also understand that you were a co-opted member  
 12 of the Lancaster West EMB?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. We have a minute for a meeting relating to that from  
 15 January 2013.  
 16 Can you confirm the dates that you were a member of  
 17 the EMB?  
 18 A. No, I can't, because I gave all my files on the EMB  
 19 directly to the Metropolitan Police. I didn't think  
 20 I needed to go back that far.  
 21 Q. Right. Well, let's see how we go with that, because we  
 22 may look at some EMB minutes as we go through.  
 23 A. Right, okay.  
 24 Q. Can I turn to your understanding of the relationship  
 25 between the TMO and RBKC.

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1 I'll start, if I can, please, with {RBK00050806}.

2 Now, this is the first page of the TMO's — I'll call it

3 the constitution, it's both: it's the amended memorandum

4 and articles of association together of the TMO.

5 If we look at page 2 {RBK00050806/2}, we can see

6 that the TMO is a company limited by guarantee.

7 Did you understand that the TMO was a separate

8 entity from RBKC?

9 A. Officially, yes.

10 Q. Officially, yes. Unofficially?

11 A. Well, in practice, whatever disagreements they may have

12 had with the council, they always provided a united

13 front.

14 Q. You say "they". Who is the "they"?

15 A. The TMO and the council.

16 Q. I see. When facing the outside world?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Right.

19 Did you understand that the TMO's board had

20 a primary function under the articles of association to

21 ensure the proper day-to-day management of the TMO and

22 its affairs?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Did you understand that the TMO's decision-making was

25 supposed to be independent from RBKC?

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1 A. In theory, yes.

2 Q. And in practice?

3 A. In practice, I wouldn't know.

4 Q. In practice, you wouldn't know?

5 A. Well, in practice, as I said before, they produced

6 a united front when challenged by anyone.

7 Q. Right. What does that tell us about the extent to which

8 the TMO's decision-making was in reality independent

9 from RBKC?

10 A. I don't know. I can't answer that, because — I mean,

11 it's only because of watching the Inquiry that I've

12 become aware of the various dissent behind the scenes —

13 Q. Right.

14 A. — between the TMO and the council.

15 Q. I would ask you to put out of your mind the evidence

16 that you've heard in the Inquiry and concentrate on what

17 you remember from the time —

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. — that we're looking at, if you can. Obviously I know

20 it's difficult to do that.

21 But in your own experience at the time, was the

22 decision-making by the board of the TMO genuinely

23 independent from RBKC? That's a broad question, but in

24 general.

25 A. I'm not sure I can answer that. I mean, it appeared to

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1 be independent.

2 Q. Can we look at {TMO00880530}. This is the first page of

3 a witness statement of Fay Edwards, who was chairman of

4 the board at a particular time, and my first question

5 is: do you remember when Fay Edwards was chairman of the

6 TMO board?

7 A. I think she was chairman the whole time I was on the

8 board.

9 Q. Right.

10 If you look at page 3 {TMO00880530/3}, at

11 paragraph 14 of her statement, she says this:

12 "As far as the section in the Inquiry's letter

13 headed 'Oversight' is concerned, the way that

14 I understood it very simply was that RBKC was

15 effectively 'the boss', they would hold the purse

16 strings and ultimately decide what the TMO could and

17 could not do. I was aware that the Executive Team

18 produced reports which were sent to RBKC for scrutiny."

19 Did you share Fay Edwards' understanding of RBKC's

20 relationship with the TMO described in that first

21 sentence there?

22 A. I think broadly, yes.

23 Q. Were you aware that the TMO's relationship with RBKC was

24 governed by a contract, a written contract called the

25 modular management agreement —

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. — or MMA? You were.

3 Did you ever read the MMA?

4 A. I read the MMA in depth when the TMO was first set up

5 in, I think, 1996, and I hadn't really read it in depth

6 since then, I just looked at the amendments from time to

7 time.

8 Q. Right. You looked at the amendments from time to time.

9 Did you ever have cause to consult it on

10 a problem-by-problem or question-by-question basis?

11 A. I didn't bother.

12 Q. You didn't bother? Why was that?

13 A. I thought it was a statement of — again, it was

14 theoretical rather than practical.

15 Q. Right.

16 Can I ask you to look at some sections of it,

17 bearing in mind that you thought it was theoretical

18 rather than practical.

19 Can we go, please, to {RBK00019006}. This is

20 volume 2, chapter 2 —

21 A. Mine says volume 1.

22 Q. Sorry, you've got the first page in front of you.

23 That's page 1. That is not what I'm showing you.

24 Can we go to page 163 {RBK00019006/163}, where we do

25 have volume 2, chapter 2, schedule 3 of the 2006 MMA.

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. I should tell you that parts of this document were  
 3 revised in December 2015.  
 4 Now, this schedule is entitled "Principles for the  
 5 Management of Major Works Schemes". Are you familiar  
 6 with this schedule or were you at one time?  
 7 A. Well, possibly in the 1990s, but certainly not now.  
 8 Q. Right. Well, let's see how we go.  
 9 Can we move forward to page 165 {RBK00019006/165}  
 10 and look at paragraph 2.1, under the heading "Client  
 11 review group", and this says:  
 12 "The Neighbourhood Manager and Project Manager will  
 13 decide whether to establish a Client Review Group or  
 14 steering group for the project. This will be chaired by  
 15 a representative of the Residents Association and will  
 16 include the Neighbourhood Manager and Project Manager.  
 17 The role of this group will be to act as client for the  
 18 project, review progress in implementing the scheme and  
 19 focus on those issues which directly concern residents.  
 20 Where it is decided not to establish a Client Review  
 21 Group the Residents Association will be asked to  
 22 nominate a representative to join the Project Team."  
 23 Did you ever have cause to see or look at this  
 24 provision during the Grenfell Tower project?  
 25 A. No.

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1 Q. If we look at page 167 {RBK00019006/167}, paragraph 5.2,  
 2 there is a provision dealing with consultancy services  
 3 manager, and it says:  
 4 "The Project Manager, Consultancy Services Manager,  
 5 Neighbourhood Manager and Residents Association  
 6 representatives will select suitable consultants with  
 7 relevant experience."  
 8 Then there is a list of consultants, including  
 9 architecture.  
 10 Were you aware of that provision?  
 11 A. No, I wasn't.  
 12 Q. Page 175 {RBK00019006/175} — and I think the answer to  
 13 this would be the same, but help me — paragraph 15.3:  
 14 "To ensure the tenants' concerns are addressed the  
 15 Resident Association representative can either attend  
 16 the site meeting or a meeting can be held with the  
 17 Residents Association prior to the site meeting.  
 18 Feedback will be provided to the residents after the  
 19 site meeting where necessary."  
 20 Were you aware of that provision?  
 21 A. No.  
 22 Q. I take it similarly on page 177 {RBK00019006/177},  
 23 paragraph 22.1, "All schemes will be subject to  
 24 a post-project review", you weren't aware of that  
 25 provision either?

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1 A. Other than that I was told at the end of the project  
 2 that there would be a review.  
 3 Q. We'll come back to that topic later on.  
 4 A. Okay.  
 5 Q. I just draw that to your attention.  
 6 But other than that, were you ever aware —  
 7 A. No.  
 8 Q. — of that provision?  
 9 A. Well, probably not since the 1990s.  
 10 Q. Right. So can we take it that you never had cause to  
 11 refer to them in support of your work on behalf of the  
 12 residents of Grenfell Tower?  
 13 A. No, I don't think I had an up-to-date copy of the MMA.  
 14 Q. Right.  
 15 As a board member of the TMO, was your function  
 16 nonetheless to make sure that the TMO performed its  
 17 contractual obligations to RBKC?  
 18 A. Yes.  
 19 Q. And to benefit the tenants?  
 20 A. Yes. And the leaseholders.  
 21 Q. And the leaseholders, certainly. Indeed, all  
 22 residents —  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. — of buildings contained within the TMO stock.  
 25 A. Yeah.

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1 Q. That being so, can you explain why you weren't familiar  
 2 or at least in possession of a working familiarity with  
 3 at least the provisions I've shown you?  
 4 A. I don't think any member of the board was. I mean,  
 5 I may be wrong, but ...  
 6 Q. Right.  
 7 During your time at board member, did anybody ever  
 8 have cause to examine any provision in the MMA?  
 9 A. When I was on the EMB there were some amendments made,  
 10 but not since then.  
 11 Q. Right. Can you remember the dates of that?  
 12 A. Oh, crikey. Well, before the EMB was abolished. Not  
 13 long before the EMB was abolished. I forget what year  
 14 it was abolished in.  
 15 Q. Well, I'm not sure it was actually — is it right that  
 16 it was actually abolished or did it just fall into  
 17 disuse?  
 18 A. No, there were two meetings — two residents' meetings,  
 19 and at the second one I think it was said that it was  
 20 going to be abandoned, abolished or got rid of.  
 21 Q. Right. But other than that, can we take it that nobody  
 22 on the TMO board, so far as you could detect, ever had  
 23 cause to look into the details of the contractual  
 24 relationship between —  
 25 A. Not that I'm aware of. I mean, there may have been but

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1 I was certainly not aware of anything.  
 2 Q. Right.  
 3 Can we then turn to your role as TMO board member,  
 4 and start by looking back at the constitution ,  
 5 {RBK00050806}. We see again the first page.  
 6 If we go to page 2 {RBK00050806/2} we can see  
 7 Article 4.1 of the memorandum under "Objects and  
 8 powers", and 4.1 says:  
 9 "The Company is established to manage and maintain  
 10 the housing stock and ancillary properties of the  
 11 Royal Borough and in that all other respects to manage  
 12 its affairs in accordance with the management agreement  
 13 dated 28 February 1999 between the Royal Borough and the  
 14 Company (as amended from time to time)."  
 15 Were you aware of those objects?  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 Q. Yes.  
 18 Then if we look at the purpose of the board, we can  
 19 see that set out on page 20 of this document  
 20 {RBK00050806/2}. Article 22, and that says, "Functions  
 21 of the board". 22.1:  
 22 "22.1 The Board shall be responsible for ensuring  
 23 that the objects of the Company are carried out and for  
 24 ensuring proper day—to—day management of the Company and  
 25 its affairs .

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1 "22.2 The Board shall adopt codes of conduct  
 2 policies and standing orders dealing with the conduct of  
 3 business and the conduct of elections by the Company and  
 4 such other matters as may appear appropriate to the  
 5 Board from time to time. All such codes policies and  
 6 standing orders shall be made available for inspection  
 7 upon request by Members."  
 8 Now, it's clearly stated here that the board is the  
 9 body that bears the responsibility for ensuring that the  
 10 TMO carried out its objects, namely managing and  
 11 maintaining RBKC's housing stock.  
 12 Were you conscious of that responsibility as  
 13 a member of the TMO board?  
 14 A. The first part, yes, but not ensuring proper day—to—day  
 15 management. I mean, obviously we wouldn't have had time  
 16 to do that.  
 17 Q. You wouldn't have time to do —  
 18 A. Ensure the proper day—to—day management.  
 19 Q. Right. Is that not how you saw your function on the  
 20 board?  
 21 A. No.  
 22 Q. To make sure that day—to—day management was operating  
 23 properly?  
 24 A. To make sure that the board was operating properly,  
 25 yes — the company operating properly, yes, but not

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1 day—to—day management.  
 2 Q. Right. So just to be very clear, when you were a member  
 3 of the board, you didn't understand that your role as  
 4 a director, member of the board, was to ensure proper  
 5 day—to—day management of the company and its affairs?  
 6 A. Well, I wouldn't have had the time, and I'd be surprised  
 7 if other board members did.  
 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: I wonder if there is a bit of  
 9 confusion here. I think what Mr Millett is asking you  
 10 to consider is whether you regarded it as part of the  
 11 board's responsibility not to carry out the day—to—day  
 12 management, but to ensure that it was properly carried  
 13 out?  
 14 A. Oh, right, yes, yeah, of course.  
 15 MR MILLETT: If we go to {TMO10015897}, please. This is  
 16 something called the TMO board and committee members  
 17 code of conduct. On page 1 you can see "Scope" and  
 18 "General conduct and behaviour".  
 19 Is that a document you've ever seen before, do you  
 20 think?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Were you familiar with it during your time as  
 23 a director?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. It says under "Scope":

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1 "Board and Committee Members are expected to adhere  
 2 to the highest standards of conduct and probity. This  
 3 Code sets standards which will enable members to  
 4 maintain the values and mission of The Kensington &  
 5 Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation Limited (the TMO)  
 6 and to protect themselves, the organisation and its  
 7 staff from misunderstanding and criticism. This Code  
 8 applies to an Board and Committee members (hereinafter  
 9 referred to as 'Board members') of the organisation. It  
 10 follows best practice of the NHF's 'Excellence in  
 11 Standards' Code and reflects the TMOs Code of Governance  
 12 and its Constitution."  
 13 If you look a little bit lower down the document on  
 14 to page 2 {TMO10015897/2} please, paragraph 7, it says  
 15 this:  
 16 "The role of Board Member carries with it certain  
 17 obligations and responsibilities and each Board Member  
 18 has a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the  
 19 organisation. Before they can act, Board Members are  
 20 required to sign a statement accepting their obligations  
 21 and responsibilities. These include representing the  
 22 values and objectives of the TMO, upholding the TMO's  
 23 policies and reputation, contributing to and sharing  
 24 responsibility for Board and committee decisions.  
 25 Conduct which is materially in breach of any obligation

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1 set by the Board for all its members will be deemed to  
2 be negative conduct.”  
3 I wonder if I can summarise it and see if you accept  
4 a number of propositions.  
5 Do you accept that you and your fellow board members  
6 were required, first, to adhere to the highest standards  
7 of conduct and probity?  
8 A. Yes.  
9 Q. And to act in the best interests of the TMO?  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. You don't sound sure.  
12 A. Well, I clarified with the borough's solicitor what my  
13 role on the board was. Was it analogous to being  
14 a non-executive director? And she said yes. Which  
15 meant that I had to be critical where I thought the TMO  
16 was going wrong. And if you go on through this code of  
17 conduct you come to the Nolan principles, which include  
18 openness, accountability and honesty.  
19 Q. Yes. Thank you. Indeed.  
20 Just going on, were you required to, as you  
21 understood it, represent and uphold TMO values?  
22 A. I don't know what the TMO values were.  
23 Q. Right. Uphold TMO's policies and reputation?  
24 A. Yes.  
25 Q. Yes. Contribute and share in responsibility for board

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1 decisions?  
2 A. Yes.  
3 Q. Now, the role, as we can see, required a fiduciary duty  
4 from you to the TMO. Do you agree that that duty  
5 included a requirement to exercise independent judgement  
6 in considering the business of the TMO?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. And that that independent judgement, do you accept,  
9 included scrutiny of decisions taken by TMO officers,  
10 executive officers, as well as diligent consideration of  
11 any issues that were before the board at any particular  
12 time?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. Did you always feel equipped to scrutinise the decisions  
15 made by TMO officers?  
16 A. No, because I'm not technical.  
17 Q. So how would you —  
18 A. Sorry. I don't have technical building skills.  
19 Q. How would you go about scrutinising their decisions?  
20 A. Well, I would hope and expect that the people that they  
21 employed and the consultants they used were aware of  
22 what their requirements were.  
23 Q. Right. So you trusted them to get it right?  
24 A. I did, yes.  
25 Q. Yes.

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1 How would trusting them to get it right be  
2 objective, independent, ruthless and robust scrutiny?  
3 A. Can you rephrase the question? I don't quite understand  
4 it.  
5 Q. If you trusted them to get it right — and that's really  
6 a paraphrase of what you've described — how could you  
7 hold those officers rigorously to account?  
8 A. I'm not sure that rigorously I could hold them to  
9 account.  
10 Q. Right. So how far would your scrutiny abilities extend  
11 in circumstances where you trusted them to get it right?  
12 A. Again, I don't quite understand the question.  
13 Q. Well, if you trusted them to get it right —  
14 A. Yeah.  
15 Q. — what methods would you employ to scrutinise their  
16 decisions?  
17 A. I'm still confused.  
18 Q. You accepted that you would bring an independent  
19 judgement to bear on decisions made by the TMO, and that  
20 included decisions made by TMO officers. How would you  
21 go about bringing that independent judgement to bear?  
22 A. Well, I felt I was there to represent mainly the  
23 interest of the residents.  
24 Q. Yes.  
25 A. So — and I think I was competent to represent the

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1 interests of residents.  
2 Q. Yes. And so what kind of questions would you ask TMO  
3 executive officers in relation to decisions you wanted  
4 to scrutinise?  
5 (Pause)  
6 A. I'm sorry, I'm baffled.  
7 Q. By my question?  
8 A. Yeah. Well, also by the process. I mean, I did not  
9 have all the skills required of a TMO officer, so  
10 scrutinising those would have been difficult —  
11 Q. Yes, I understand.  
12 A. — in part.  
13 Q. It may be that the element of bafflement relating to my  
14 question can be cured by looking at some specific  
15 examples.  
16 A. Okay.  
17 Q. And we'll do that and see how we go.  
18 Did you ever have any training, over and above your  
19 general education which you've told us about, on matters  
20 of corporate governance or company law procedure or  
21 anything like that?  
22 A. I did on corporate governance when I was chair of the  
23 community health council.  
24 Q. I see. Were you able to bring the learning you derived  
25 from that experience to your role as a board member on

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1 the TMO board?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. You did?  
 4 A. Well, I hope so.  
 5 Q. Right. Were you conscious of doing so?  
 6 A. From time to time, yes.  
 7 Q. Yes.  
 8 Now, let's go to {RBK00054461/2}. This is your  
 9 Inquiry statement. Let's look together at paragraph 10.  
 10 Towards the bottom of the screen it says this:  
 11 "10. Although the KCTMO is supposed to be  
 12 'resident-led' I saw little evidence of this during my  
 13 time on the Board. I found myself, as the only  
 14 Labour-nominated Board member, being asked to take up  
 15 issues on behalf of residents of estates and blocks  
 16 across the whole of the Borough, including concerns  
 17 about fire safety.  
 18 "11. The TMO Code of Conduct seems to restrict the  
 19 opportunity for tenant and leaseholder Board members to  
 20 raise issues affecting residents, which is one reason  
 21 why I felt that I was often the only Board member  
 22 speaking on their behalf."  
 23 Why did you find the board was not resident-led?  
 24 A. Because basically we received reports from the officers  
 25 and from the executive team and we were expected to

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1 endorse them, really.  
 2 Q. Right.  
 3 Was the board not comprised of a majority of tenants  
 4 or residents?  
 5 A. No, there was one resident majority.  
 6 Q. Yes.  
 7 A. But I recollect an instance when one of the leaseholders  
 8 wanted to raise an issue relating to leaseholders on his  
 9 estate and he was not allowed to speak.  
 10 Q. Leaving aside that, just in terms of the general balance  
 11 of power on the board, I just wondered why you say it  
 12 wasn't resident-led when, as a matter of the  
 13 constitution, at least, the board was required to have  
 14 residents comprising the majority of its members.  
 15 A. Yes, it did, it had a majority of residents.  
 16 Q. Right. So can you just help me understand paragraph 10.  
 17 You say that KCTMO was supposed to be resident-led.  
 18 Pausing there, it was resident-led, was it not, in its  
 19 constitution? Namely —  
 20 A. In its constitution, yes, but not in practice.  
 21 Q. And was that because the minority of appointees who were  
 22 not residents would do the leading, if I can put it that  
 23 way?  
 24 A. Well, they would certainly do the leading on things like  
 25 financial matters.

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1 Q. Right. What else?  
 2 A. Technical matters where they had more expertise than the  
 3 residents.  
 4 Q. If we go back to the code of conduct, you also refer to  
 5 that. You said it seemed to restrict the opportunity  
 6 for tenant and leaseholder board members to raise issues  
 7 affecting residents.  
 8 Can we go back to that, please, at {TMO10015987/4}.  
 9 On that page you can see paragraph 24, under the heading  
 10 "Conduct of meetings" — I'm so sorry, I want 21. We  
 11 will look at 24 separately. Can you see:  
 12 "Board Members who are residents should regard  
 13 matters specifically concerning their individual  
 14 circumstances as a clear and substantial conflict;  
 15 matters affecting residents more generally need only be  
 16 declared where they create a specific conflict of  
 17 interest."  
 18 Were you aware of that provision?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. Yes. What did you understand by "affecting residents  
 21 more generally" there?  
 22 A. Well, technically they could have raised issues that  
 23 affected their estate, for example.  
 24 Q. I see. So anything which extended beyond them  
 25 individually?

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. I see.  
 3 How would a matter of general concern to residents  
 4 create a specific conflict of interest? What's  
 5 envisaged, as you understood it, by that provision?  
 6 A. I don't think I had a thought about that.  
 7 Q. Right.  
 8 Can you help me, in what situations would matters  
 9 affecting residents generally, as opposed to personally  
 10 or individually, create a conflict of interest that was  
 11 required to be declared?  
 12 A. Well, if it had a financial impact upon themselves as  
 13 an individual.  
 14 Q. No, it says here:  
 15 "... matters affecting residents more generally need  
 16 only be declared where they create a specific conflict  
 17 of interest."  
 18 What I'm interested in is: what sort of general  
 19 matters affecting residents could create a specific  
 20 conflict of interest?  
 21 A. I don't know.  
 22 MR MILLETT: Right.  
 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, do you think it might apply,  
 24 for example, if the TMO board were considering taking  
 25 a step which would affect financially the residents of

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1 a particular estate, one of whom was on the board?  
 2 A. It could do, yeah.  
 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.  
 4 MR MILLETT: Did that situation ever arise in practice, to  
 5 your recollection?  
 6 A. I think it may have done in the case that I just quoted.  
 7 I don't know. I didn't know enough about the issue.  
 8 Q. Right.  
 9 What about raising matters on behalf of a particular  
 10 single resident? Did that ever create a clear and  
 11 substantial or specific conflict?  
 12 A. I don't recollect ever anything arising affecting  
 13 a single individual.  
 14 Q. Very well.  
 15 Now, if we continue on in this document to page 6  
 16 {TMO10015897/6}, please. Let's look at paragraph 40 on  
 17 that page, under the heading "Reporting issues of  
 18 serious concern", and it says:  
 19 "Board Members who wish to raise issues of serious  
 20 concern should do so through the Chair. If this is not  
 21 appropriate, the matter should be raised with the Chief  
 22 Executive or Company Secretary. The TMO will ensure  
 23 that Board members who report in good faith, issues of  
 24 serious concern are protected from reprisal and/or  
 25 victimisation."

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1 Were you familiar with that procedure?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. What did you understand to qualify as serious concern  
 4 here?  
 5 A. I don't know.  
 6 Q. Did you ever have occasion to consider that question?  
 7 A. Well, certainly in the case of the TMO review of the  
 8 Grenfell Tower project, yes.  
 9 Q. Right.  
 10 Did you understand this provision to prohibit the  
 11 raising of serious concerns with all TMO board members?  
 12 A. It doesn't say prohibit.  
 13 Q. No, it doesn't. But did you consider that that was its  
 14 effect?  
 15 A. Well, if one had announced that one was going to raise  
 16 an issue and nobody demurred at the time, then one would  
 17 assume that that were correct — that one could do that.  
 18 Q. I see. I mean, did you ever want to raise an issue of  
 19 serious concern with the board generally but felt you  
 20 had to do it only through the chair?  
 21 A. No.  
 22 Q. How regularly did you attend board meetings?  
 23 A. As often as I could.  
 24 Q. Right.  
 25 Did you carry out any responsibilities as a TMO

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1 board member outside board meetings, other than the  
 2 committees on which you sat?  
 3 A. I don't know. I can't remember.  
 4 Q. On the whole, was it your understanding or opinion,  
 5 perhaps, at the time that the constitution and the  
 6 governance structure of the TMO gave, in reality,  
 7 ordinary TMO residents fair representation and a clear  
 8 voice in matters of how the TMO was run and what it did?  
 9 A. I got the impression that any tenant would go to their  
 10 local councillor if they had an issue with the TMO.  
 11 Q. Yes. That's not quite an answer to my question. Can  
 12 I just press you a bit.  
 13 Was it your view at the time that the way the TMO  
 14 was set up in practice did allow ordinary residents of  
 15 buildings in the TMO stock a fair representation and  
 16 a clear voice in respect of how the TMO was run and what  
 17 it did?  
 18 A. No.  
 19 Q. Did you ever raise that question, a rather general  
 20 structural question, with anybody within the TMO?  
 21 A. Not as a structural question, no.  
 22 Q. Did you ever raise that question with anyone at RBKC?  
 23 A. I can't remember. I may have done, I can't remember.  
 24 Q. Right. If you had done, who might it have been, do you  
 25 know?

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1 A. It would probably have been with a ward colleague or  
 2 somebody like that or a group colleague.  
 3 Q. I see.  
 4 I'd like to ask you now about some further details  
 5 about the scope of your responsibilities as a ward  
 6 councillor.  
 7 In outline, can you help us, what were your  
 8 responsibilities as a ward councillor?  
 9 A. To advocate on behalf of residents of the ward, to  
 10 attend scrutiny meetings, to attend council meetings.  
 11 I used to walk around the ward a lot to see what was  
 12 going on, but that's because I had the time occasionally  
 13 to do so ... I can't remember what else.  
 14 Q. Right.  
 15 How would you become aware of concerns held or felt  
 16 by residents within your ward?  
 17 A. They would either send me an email or they might ring me  
 18 or they might come to the council surgery.  
 19 Q. How often did you hold your surgery?  
 20 A. Twice a month.  
 21 Q. Could you only raise issues on behalf of residents if  
 22 asked by them to do so, or could you or did you do so  
 23 off your own bat?  
 24 A. No, I had to get the permission of the resident to raise  
 25 an issue, which was normally done by just copying them

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1 in to the email that I sent.  
 2 Q. So, in general, was email the way in which it was done?  
 3 A. That's the way I did it, yes.  
 4 Q. Did you feel you could decline to raise a concern raised  
 5 by a resident with you?  
 6 A. Some, yes. If they went against the manifesto on which  
 7 I was elected.  
 8 Q. Right. Would you be able to describe the circumstances  
 9 in which you would not take forward a resident's  
 10 concern?  
 11 A. Well, when we were asked, for example, by a couple of  
 12 residents to oppose the building of the  
 13 Aldridge Academy, because it was in our manifesto and  
 14 had been since the 1990s that we needed a new secondary  
 15 school in North Kensington, we were quite happy to  
 16 oppose the site, but not the existence, the intention to  
 17 build it.  
 18 Q. Yes, thank you.  
 19 Would you be able to raise concerns with the TMO as  
 20 well in the same way as you would with RBKC?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Turning to the membership you had of the housing and  
 23 property scrutiny committee next, I think it's right you  
 24 joined that committee in July 2014?  
 25 A. I think it was May 2014.

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1 Q. Right. The reason I ask you that is — well, let's look  
 2 at a document, {RBK00014435}. This is a meeting of  
 3 10 July 2014 of the HPSC. I say July 2014 simply  
 4 because that's the date of this meeting.  
 5 A. Yeah.  
 6 Q. Do I take it you were appointed then in the May and this  
 7 was your first —  
 8 A. At the May annual general meeting of the council, yes.  
 9 Q. Yes, I see, and this was the first meeting you  
 10 attended —  
 11 A. Yeah.  
 12 Q. — of that committee? Right.  
 13 Did you attend HPSC meetings before you became  
 14 a member of that committee?  
 15 A. Sometimes I would in the public gallery, yes.  
 16 Q. Right.  
 17 Let's have a look. Can we go to {RBK00029882},  
 18 please. This is a minute of a meeting of the HPSC on  
 19 20 January 2011, and you can see that you were in  
 20 attendance, you're the first named in attendance.  
 21 A. Yeah.  
 22 Q. Would you be named in attendance if you were in the  
 23 public gallery?  
 24 A. Yes.  
 25 Q. You would?

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1 A. Well, usually. Sometimes I wasn't. Sometimes I was.  
 2 Q. Right. The impression one gets from just looking at  
 3 this document is that you were at the table, as it were,  
 4 even if not a member of the committee?  
 5 A. Not at the table.  
 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Can you help me a bit, because, like  
 7 Mr Millett possibly, I'm a bit puzzled by this.  
 8 When the minutes identified people as being in  
 9 attendance, I had, perhaps wrongly, understood that to  
 10 mean in some formal capacity, ie invited to attend the  
 11 meeting.  
 12 A. No, no, no.  
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Not simply as an observer.  
 14 A. No, as an observer and possibly as a speaking observer.  
 15 If there was something I wanted to speak about, I would  
 16 ask the chairman, but I wasn't there otherwise to  
 17 provide advice or guidance or anything of that nature.  
 18 I was just there to observe.  
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: All right, thank you.  
 20 MR MILLETT: I see.  
 21 When you say you would ask the chairman, would that  
 22 be before the meeting or would you raise your hand and  
 23 be permitted to —  
 24 A. I'd raise my hand during the meeting.  
 25 Q. I follow.

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1 Similarly, {RBK00014457}. This is a meeting of  
 2 16 July 2013, and you are identified as being in  
 3 attendance, the second name down in the list there.  
 4 Again, were you in the public gallery then?  
 5 A. Yes.  
 6 Q. I see. So it's the same thing.  
 7 A. Yeah, yeah. Yes, I normally only attended those  
 8 meetings if there was something on the agenda that I was  
 9 particularly interested in.  
 10 Q. Right. I see.  
 11 In fact, let's just look at that minute a little bit  
 12 more closely. Can we go to page 2 {RBK00014457/2},  
 13 please. We can see that under item A5 towards the  
 14 bottom of that page there is a Grenfell Tower update  
 15 which was given by Mr Peter Maddison.  
 16 Was it that item in respect of which you were in  
 17 attendance?  
 18 A. Yes.  
 19 Q. I see. So would you attend as many HPSC meetings as you  
 20 could relating to Grenfell Tower even though you weren't  
 21 yet on the committee?  
 22 A. Well, I'd try to, but it would depend on whether I was  
 23 free that particular evening.  
 24 Q. As I say, as many as you could.  
 25 A. Yeah.

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1 Q. You did, yes, right.  
 2 Did you have any particular expertise or experience  
 3 in housing matters?  
 4 A. Only what I'd picked up over the years.  
 5 Q. Right. So can we take it you never had any training on  
 6 housing, health and safety, matters of that nature?  
 7 A. I had health and safety training in my employment before  
 8 I retired.  
 9 Q. Did you have any health and safety training relating  
 10 specifically to fire safety?  
 11 A. After the fire, yes.  
 12 Q. But during the years you were on the TMO board?  
 13 A. No.  
 14 Q. No.  
 15 Can we then look at {RBK00035012}, please. On  
 16 page 1 of this part of the articles of RBKC, which is  
 17 what we're looking at, this governs scrutiny committees,  
 18 as you can see, Ms Blakeman, from the top of the page.  
 19 "General Remit", under that, "(a) General Duties of  
 20 Scrutiny Committees", and you can see five powers set  
 21 out there.  
 22 If we go to page 2 —  
 23 A. Can I stop you there, because point 4, "exercise the  
 24 right to call—in", because of the limitations on the  
 25 call—in process, it wasn't actually possible for the

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1 opposition party to call anything in without the support  
 2 of somebody from the majority party.  
 3 Q. I follow. Would that apply to the other powers listed  
 4 here?  
 5 A. Well, we tried to work collegiately as far as we  
 6 possibly could.  
 7 Q. Yes, certainly. But if, for example, you wanted, as  
 8 a minority party councillor on the scrutiny committee,  
 9 to hold an inquiry into a matter the subject of  
 10 a report, you couldn't do that unless you had the  
 11 majority of the —  
 12 A. Well, unless we had the support of the committee.  
 13 Q. The committee, right, yes.  
 14 Turning to page 2 {RBK00035012/2}, you can see that  
 15 under (b), "Terms of Reference", which starts on the  
 16 previous page, the obligations are to scrutinise, and  
 17 you can see the list at the top of the page.  
 18 Under item 5, page 3 {RBK00035012/3} —  
 19 A. Sorry, which item 5?  
 20 Q. Item 5 at the top of page 3, "the Tenant Management  
 21 Organisation".  
 22 A. Yeah.  
 23 Q. So you understood — is this right? — that one of your  
 24 jobs as a member of the housing and property scrutiny  
 25 committee when you were appointed was to scrutinise the

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1 Tenant Management Organisation?  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. Yes. And that was notwithstanding that you were  
 4 a member of the board?  
 5 A. Yeah.  
 6 Q. Yes.  
 7 Can we take it that, to the extent that that gave  
 8 rise to a conflict in either position, everybody that  
 9 you were aware of who needed to know about that conflict  
 10 was aware of it?  
 11 A. I always declared my membership at the start of the  
 12 meeting of the TMO board.  
 13 Q. Very good.  
 14 Can we then go to {RBK00054461/8}, your Inquiry  
 15 statement, paragraph 40. You say there:  
 16 "All decisions made by RBKC were made by the  
 17 Cabinet. With regards to Housing matters the main  
 18 responsibility fell on the Cabinet Member for Housing  
 19 and Property Services, which was also the Deputy Leader  
 20 of the Council, Councillor Rock Feilding—Mellen. Day to  
 21 day responsibility was delegated to the Housing  
 22 Department of which the Director was Laura Johnson. The  
 23 Housing Department oversaw the activity of the KCTMO.  
 24 The HPSC was there to scrutinise the work of the  
 25 Cabinet Member, the Housing Department (at

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1 Scrutiny Committee meetings approximately every  
 2 2 months) and the KCTMO (every 6 months). I refer again  
 3 to JMB/1, a copy of the report to the HPSC dated  
 4 10 July 2014 which shows the detail of the information  
 5 provided to the HPSC."  
 6 If we consider together, please, first, the work of  
 7 the housing department, how would HPSC go about  
 8 scrutinising the work of that department?  
 9 A. Well, they would provide reports and we would question  
 10 them about the reports if necessary.  
 11 Q. You say "if necessary"; what would make it necessary?  
 12 A. If there was something in the report that we didn't  
 13 understand or weren't happy with.  
 14 Q. Right. What would make you unhappy? I know it's a very  
 15 broad question, but can you give us an indication of the  
 16 kind of thing that would lead to unhappiness which would  
 17 in turn lead to scrutiny?  
 18 A. Well, if the report contained something that we felt was  
 19 not quite accurate.  
 20 Q. Right. Just looking at the face of the document?  
 21 A. Yeah.  
 22 Q. Right.  
 23 Now, you have explained that you would receive  
 24 a report from the housing department every two months at  
 25 scrutiny committee. To what extent did you rely on the

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1 information provided in that report alone?  
 2 A. Well, quite significantly .  
 3 Q. Right. You say quite significantly ; when you were  
 4 considering a report, did you have any other material on  
 5 the table next to it —  
 6 A. No.  
 7 Q. — with which to compare it?  
 8 A. No.  
 9 Q. Right. So you were entirely reliant on the content of  
 10 what you were given?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. Did you have the power to request further information if  
 13 you felt or the committee felt that an issue was not  
 14 adequately addressed in the report?  
 15 A. Well, yes, because we could ask questions about the  
 16 report.  
 17 Q. Yes, but could you ask for further data?  
 18 A. I think in theory we could. I don't know if we ever  
 19 actually did.  
 20 Q. Right.  
 21 Was there any review you undertook or the HPSC  
 22 undertook of the systems maintained by RBKC for  
 23 oversight of the TMO?  
 24 A. I don't recollect .  
 25 Q. And would it follow that you have no recollection of any

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1 review of the systems maintained by RBKC for oversight  
 2 of the TMO on fire safety?  
 3 A. Well, we had the report every six months from the TMO.  
 4 Q. Yes. But that was it?  
 5 A. And we would ask questions about that.  
 6 Q. Yes. So to the extent that fire safety was a topic, you  
 7 would rely on those reports and nothing else?  
 8 A. Well, we'd question them if necessary.  
 9 Q. Yes, but you'd rely on the data within those reports —  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. — and nothing else; yes?  
 12 A. Well, I personally would rely on the report given to the  
 13 board as well, which actually helped me to ask questions  
 14 at the scrutiny committee.  
 15 Q. I see. I see. So you were in perhaps an enviable or  
 16 unenviable — a slightly different position.  
 17 A. A different position.  
 18 Q. You knew what the board was being told by the TMO's  
 19 management —  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. — and other members of the scrutiny committee would  
 22 not?  
 23 A. Not necessarily, no, unless it was included in the  
 24 report.  
 25 Q. Yes, I see.

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1 Would you use data or information or conclusions,  
 2 perhaps, made by TMO officers and given to the TMO board  
 3 when scrutinising the reports made by housing to the  
 4 scrutiny committee at RBKC level?  
 5 A. I could do, yes.  
 6 Q. Did you?  
 7 A. I think so.  
 8 Q. Yes.  
 9 A. On occasion, not very often.  
 10 Q. Right.  
 11 Now, I detect that you are in that sense, of course,  
 12 because of those dual positions, something of a special  
 13 case, but in general, given that the HPSC didn't have  
 14 any decision-making power, how was it expected to stay  
 15 on top of problems it was able to identify and ensure  
 16 that those problems were dealt with to its satisfaction ?  
 17 A. Well, from time to time working groups were set up.  
 18 I mean, there was one — a working group was set up  
 19 about the Airbnb type issue, because that became  
 20 a concern. I didn't sit on that working group, but it  
 21 was set up to investigate things like that more  
 22 thoroughly.  
 23 Q. Right. Working groups, and they were, what, subgroups  
 24 of the scrutiny committee, were they?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. But would the members of those working groups have any  
 2 greater powers of investigation than the  
 3 scrutiny committee itself?  
 4 A. Probably, because they could look in more depth, and  
 5 sometimes they would have an adviser.  
 6 Q. And the adviser would be from outside the council or —  
 7 A. It could be from outside the council or inside  
 8 the council.  
 9 Q. Right. And who would decide whether to set up a working  
 10 group?  
 11 A. The scrutiny committee.  
 12 Q. The scrutiny committee.  
 13 We'll come later to what happened in early 2016 as  
 14 a result of the Grenfell Tower residents' petition .  
 15 Yes, indeed. But leaving that topic aside for the  
 16 moment, do you recall any working groups being set up at  
 17 the instance of the scrutiny committee in relation to  
 18 housing — in relation to the TMO, let me put it that  
 19 way.  
 20 A. I can't recollect one, but there may have been.  
 21 Q. Right.  
 22 Do you know how the scrutiny committee was able to  
 23 ensure that it knew what quality benchmarks it should be  
 24 expecting the TMO to meet?  
 25 A. No, I don't.

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1 Q. I mean, for example, did the scrutiny committee ever get  
2 any independent objective criteria or benchmarks with  
3 which it could compare what it was being told by housing  
4 and in turn by the TMO's board?  
5 A. I know that one of my colleagues actually used to  
6 monitor what happened in Islington, and she used to  
7 occasionally compare what was happening in Kensington to  
8 what was happening in Islington.  
9 Q. Right. In what respect would she make that comparison?  
10 A. Well, the Airbnb working group that I referred to was  
11 one instance.  
12 Q. Right.  
13 A. I think another instance was in relation to so-called  
14 affordable housing.  
15 Q. I see, and who was that councillor?  
16 A. Councillor Press.  
17 Q. Am I right in thinking that there was nobody on the HPSC  
18 who was an experienced fire safety professional?  
19 A. Not to my knowledge.  
20 Q. So nobody on that committee could ensure that the TMO's  
21 fire safety strategy was not only appropriate but also  
22 being complied with?  
23 A. That's correct.  
24 Q. Yes.  
25 In practice, was the scrutiny committee highly

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1 reliant on RBKC's officers, its executive officers,  
2 responsible for housing for information about the  
3 performance of the TMO?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. So in practice — I think you've already answered  
6 this — it's right, I think, that the scrutiny  
7 committee's scrutiny function was only as good as the  
8 information given to it by RBKC's housing officers?  
9 A. That's correct.  
10 Q. To what extent was the scrutiny committee in your  
11 experience an effective forum for raising tenants'  
12 concerns?  
13 A. It didn't discuss individual cases.  
14 Q. General cases, then, relating to —  
15 A. Well, general cases, like the power surges.  
16 Q. Yes.  
17 A. I mean, I had to write about that to ask them to  
18 consider it.  
19 Q. Yes, and to that extent, using that as an example, to  
20 what extent in your view was the scrutiny committee  
21 an effective forum for dealing with those concerns?  
22 A. My impression was that they would support the TMO.  
23 Q. What gave you that impression?  
24 A. Because they did.  
25 Q. Right.

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1 Did you ever raise any of the concerns that  
2 residents had raised with you with the  
3 scrutiny committee, the HPSC?  
4 A. I think I may have raised the — what we referred to as  
5 social cleansing.  
6 Q. We will come to that.  
7 A. Okay.  
8 Q. That's the decant question?  
9 A. Well, it wasn't just the decant question, no. It was  
10 also when a council flat — if an estate had been chosen  
11 for regeneration, and some of the flats on that estate  
12 became empty, they wouldn't put another tenant in there,  
13 they would use them for temporary accommodation, which  
14 meant that they didn't have to rehouse the person that  
15 they'd put in in whatever development they produced as  
16 a result.  
17 Q. Right.  
18 Would the scrutiny committee scrutinise the work of  
19 a cabinet member?  
20 A. Well, that was their role, yeah.  
21 Q. Yes. How did it go about doing that?  
22 A. Well, the cabinet member would produce the report and  
23 would then be questioned on it.  
24 Q. I see. But, again, the basis of the question would be  
25 the report itself?

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1 A. Yes.  
2 Q. No external information? Well, you may have some  
3 external information.  
4 A. Well, very rarely, yes.  
5 Q. Yes.  
6 Fire safety briefings, can I ask you about that.  
7 Can you go, please, to your Inquiry statement at  
8 page 3 {RBK00054461/3}, paragraph 17. You say there at  
9 the foot of the page:  
10 "I refer also to two reports to the Housing,  
11 Environmental Health and Adult Social Care  
12 Scrutiny Committee in 2010 and the HPSC in 2011.  
13 Although I was not a member of the HPSC at that time,  
14 the reports may have been passed to me then, but in any  
15 event have been brought to my attention more recently.  
16 The first report to the Committee on 15 March 2010 is  
17 a joint report by the TMO Chief Executive, Robert Black  
18 and the Chief Housing Officer, Laura Johnson and is  
19 titled 'LGA report extinguishing the risk:  
20 A councillor's guide to fire safety'. I exhibit this as  
21 JMB/2 ... The second report to the committee on  
22 20 January 2011 is titled 'Fire Risk Assessments in RBKC  
23 Residential Blocks — Progress Report' and I exhibit this  
24 as JMB/3 ..."  
25 Now, it's not clear from that whether you received

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1 these documents before the fire at Grenfell Tower.  
 2 A. No, I received them after the fire.  
 3 Q. I see. Right. Well, in the light of that, then, let's  
 4 see how we go.  
 5 They both refer — you may remember this — to  
 6 something called the LGA guidance for Local Government  
 7 Association, "Extinguishing the risk: a councillor's  
 8 guide to fire safety", as you have referred to it.  
 9 Let's look at that, it's {CST00004405}. There it  
 10 is. It's from the Chief Fire Officers Association.  
 11 This is, as I think you have just confirmed, something  
 12 you got after the fire.  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. Just to confirm, you never saw this before the fire?  
 15 A. No.  
 16 Q. Was there ever any discussion of this document in any of  
 17 the board meetings or scrutiny committee meetings you  
 18 ever attended?  
 19 A. Not that I recollect.  
 20 Q. Right. So I'm going to take it that you weren't  
 21 provided with this document —  
 22 A. No.  
 23 Q. — when you joined the scrutiny committee in May 2014?  
 24 A. No, absolutely not.  
 25 Q. The second document is {RBK00005826}.

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1 If you look at the second email in the chain, it's  
 2 from Nicholas Holgate to, among others, Laura Johnson,  
 3 and what he is doing here is forwarding a document he  
 4 had received the day before, 14 July, from Rita Dexter  
 5 at London Fire, and the reason I'm asking you about it  
 6 is that one of the entities to which Mr Holgate sends  
 7 this document is "HS—Housing: RBKC", do you see that, as  
 8 one of the people to whom Mr Holgate sends this email?  
 9 The subject of the email is, "Two new guides for  
 10 councillors about fire safety and knowtheplan".  
 11 If you look at the email at the foot of the page, in  
 12 the second paragraph, Rita Dexter says to  
 13 Nicholas Holgate:  
 14 "As part of this work the Brigade has produced two  
 15 guides for Councillors to try and assist them in  
 16 understanding the key issues related to fire safety.  
 17 One is for use in council and scrutiny meetings and the  
 18 other for use during estate visits. We want to let  
 19 councillors in London know these publications are  
 20 available and to encourage them to use them and I'm  
 21 writing to ask for your help in doing that. Please  
 22 could you ensure that the links to the guides are passed  
 23 on to your members."  
 24 Then if you turn the page, please, to page 2  
 25 {RBK00005826/2}, top of the screen, you will see there

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1 are two links: "Councillor guide on fire safety for use  
 2 during estate visits" and "Councillor guide on  
 3 fire safety for use during council meetings", and then  
 4 there is a long passage about the "Know the plan".  
 5 Now, we haven't seen any emails showing that this  
 6 was forwarded to you specifically or all councillors.  
 7 A. No.  
 8 Q. Do you remember seeing it?  
 9 A. No. Not until after the fire, when my colleague  
 10 Councillor Mason wrote to the new — I think it was to  
 11 the new town clerk and obtained a copy of it.  
 12 Q. Right.  
 13 Let me show you one or two of the documents that  
 14 were exhibited, and I'll show you one, I think, to keep  
 15 it quick.  
 16 Can we go to {LFB00001295}. This is the red one.  
 17 There are two: one was red, one was blue. The blue one  
 18 was for site visits and the red one, as you can see, is  
 19 for use during council meetings. There is a striking  
 20 image of a tower block in the shape of a question mark.  
 21 Do you recall seeing this document before the fire  
 22 at any time?  
 23 A. Not before the fire, no.  
 24 Q. So the first time you saw it was after the fire?  
 25 A. Yes, after my colleague Councillor Mason wrote and asked

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1 for a copy of it and he sent it on to me.  
 2 Q. Can we take it, then, that notwithstanding the  
 3 circulation of this document within RBKC, it never  
 4 crossed your desk?  
 5 A. I wish I had known about it at the time.  
 6 Q. You can say that, can you, having now familiarised  
 7 yourself with the document?  
 8 A. Absolutely, yes, yes.  
 9 Q. Just so we all know, you say, "I wish I had known about  
 10 it at the time"; what would you have done had you known  
 11 about it at the time?  
 12 A. Well, amongst other things, I would have asked about the  
 13 arrangements for vulnerable residents.  
 14 Q. Right.  
 15 A. Because I was aware that I had a lot of vulnerable  
 16 residents. And, indeed, actually even after the fire,  
 17 I had two elements of case work, one with a housing  
 18 association and one with the council, when the residents  
 19 had come to me and asked for a personal emergency  
 20 evacuation plan, and on both occasions they were refused  
 21 because the resident did not live in a tower block.  
 22 I mean, I've since followed up on those.  
 23 Q. Right. Are there other aspects of this document that,  
 24 had you seen at the time, you would have acted upon, do  
 25 you think?

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1 A. I think I would have asked some of the questions they  
2 suggest, yes.  
3 Q. Are you able, from your insight, knowledge, experience  
4 at the time, to explain how it came about that you were  
5 not provided with this document, despite the terms in  
6 which Rita Dexter asked for it to be disseminated?  
7 A. Well, I would imagine it was in the gift of the —  
8 whoever received it.  
9 Q. Are you able to explain why you didn't get a copy?  
10 A. Well, I don't think anybody on the scrutiny committee  
11 got a copy. If they did, they wouldn't have got it  
12 through the normal scrutiny process.  
13 Q. Right.  
14 A. Sorry, what was the rest of your question?  
15 Q. Let me try it a different way.  
16 Does the fact that you never received this document,  
17 despite the terms in which Ms Dexter asked Mr Holgate to  
18 disseminate it, indicate that something might have been  
19 wrong with the way in which incoming information about  
20 fire safety was disseminated to scrutiny committee  
21 members?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. Can I then turn to the question of oversight of  
24 fire safety and fire risk assessments, both in general  
25 terms.

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1 I'm going to assume, but correct me if I'm wrong,  
2 that you have never had, and certainly prior to the fire  
3 never had, any training on the Regulatory Reform (Fire  
4 Safety) Order 2005?  
5 A. No.  
6 Q. Were you ever aware of its provisions?  
7 A. No.  
8 Q. I'm going to assume that you never had any training on  
9 the guidance that was published as a consequence of  
10 those regulations —  
11 A. No.  
12 Q. — such as the Sleeping Guide 2006; no?  
13 A. No.  
14 Q. The Local Government Association guidance on  
15 purpose—built flats, 2011?  
16 A. No.  
17 Q. No.  
18 Can we look at {RBK00053546}. On page 1 you can  
19 see, at the foot, an email from you to Robert Black and  
20 Laura Johnson at the TMO and RBKC housing respectively,  
21 4 July 2009, subject "Tower Blocks":  
22 "Dear Mr. Black and Ms. Johnson  
23 "In the light of the tragic fire yesterday in  
24 Camberwell, I would be grateful if we can have risk  
25 assessment and report on the means of escape in the

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1 event of fire covering all the tower blocks in the TMO's  
2 ownership within the Borough.  
3 "At Grenfell Tower, for example, because of the  
4 Council offices and EMB offices on the lower floors,  
5 getting out of this building by the stairs is extremely  
6 difficult — and one can end up at a dead end. I would  
7 like to invite you to accompany me up to the top floor  
8 to see how difficult it would be to get out of this  
9 block in the event of an emergency.  
10 "I look forward to an early response."  
11 Two things.  
12 First of all, would I be right in thinking that what  
13 prompted you to write this email on 4 July 2009 was the  
14 Lakanal House fire in Southwark the day before?  
15 A. That's right, I'd seen the report on the news.  
16 Q. The first thing that appears to come to your mind,  
17 however, is Grenfell Tower.  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Does that tell us that, even before the Lakanal House  
20 fire, you were concerned about the means of escape at  
21 Grenfell Tower in the event of a fire?  
22 A. Well, yes, because there was only the one stairwell, and  
23 if you lived on the top floor, it actually took about —  
24 well, I mean, I was quite fit then, and it took me about  
25 half an hour to walk from the top to the bottom.

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1 Q. Right.  
2 Were you aware of fire risk assessments as  
3 a concept, at least, in 2009?  
4 A. No. I don't recollect sending this email. I'm glad  
5 I did.  
6 Q. Had you raised your concerns about Grenfell Tower's  
7 means of escape, its single staircase, before the  
8 Lakanal House fire in July 2009?  
9 A. I may have done, but I honestly can't remember.  
10 Q. Right. So you don't know whether this was the first  
11 time that you'd raised this concern with senior  
12 management, both at the TMO and —  
13 A. It may have been the first time that I put it down in  
14 writing, yes.  
15 Q. Thank you.  
16 Can we look at Laura Johnson's response, please, to  
17 this, which is on page 1, a little bit higher up. This  
18 is 5 July, the next day, and she is copying others at  
19 RBKC on it, but it comes also to Robert Black:  
20 "Cllr Blakeman,  
21 "The Royal Borough is at present in discussion with  
22 the TMO on commissioning consultants to undertake  
23 a review of the relevant fire risk assessments of the  
24 communal areas of the Council blocks as this is legally  
25 required by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order.

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1 This process to date has been managed by the TMO, but it  
 2 has been brought to our attention by the Fire Brigade  
 3 that this will need to be more rigorous, therefore  
 4 officers from the TMO and RBKC are in the process of  
 5 setting up a working party to look at ..."  
 6 Then there are some bullet points, and you can see  
 7 those:  
 8 "■ \* Complying with the proposed arrangements to set  
 9 up a contract promptly with a competent fire safety  
 10 company/consultant ...  
 11 "■ \* Review, challenge and support the consultants  
 12 recommendations ...  
 13 "■ \* Review the considerable cost implications of  
 14 both the reviews and any recommended works which flow  
 15 from the inspections.  
 16 "■ \* Agree how they will be funded.  
 17 "I hope this answers your question in the short term  
 18 and when we have more information as a result of the  
 19 review work we will be able to brief Councillors more  
 20 fully .  
 21 "Regards  
 22 "Laura Johnson  
 23 "Chief Housing Officer."  
 24 Can we take it, Ms Blakeman, that as a consequence  
 25 of that response you were aware or had become aware

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1 through this email of the existence of the Regulatory  
 2 Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005?  
 3 A. Well, obviously I would have become aware of it.  
 4 Whether it sunk in, I really can't remember, because  
 5 it's so long ago.  
 6 Q. You had become aware of the TMO's need to conduct more  
 7 rigorous fire risk assessments to meet its regulatory  
 8 requirements.  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. That's essentially what she's saying.  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. Did you ever get an answer to your invitation to a site  
 13 visit at Grenfell Tower to inspect the means of escape?  
 14 A. No, but I wasn't expecting them to agree to it.  
 15 Q. Why is that?  
 16 A. Because I had made invitations before to come and visit  
 17 parts of where I represented — I mean, not just to the  
 18 housing department, to other officers — and no one had  
 19 ever agreed to it.  
 20 Q. I see. So your invitation was issued more in hope than  
 21 in expectation?  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. Did all councillors, including you, ever get a fuller  
 24 briefing on this subject, as Laura Johnson had indicated  
 25 in the last part of this email?

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1 A. I can't remember.  
 2 Q. Can we look at {TMO10001898}, please.  
 3 Now, I should explain what this is. This is the  
 4 first page of a board pack for a TMO board meeting to be  
 5 held on 8 January 2013, and you can see that from the  
 6 top of the screen. There is an agenda, it appears,  
 7 there.  
 8 If we go to page 2 in this board pack  
 9 {TMO10001898/2}, we can see some board minutes of  
 10 a meeting of the TMO board that had taken place on  
 11 15 November 2012. You are listed as present there as  
 12 a council-appointed board member; yes?  
 13 A. Yes.  
 14 Q. Now, at that meeting — you may not recall this, but  
 15 we'll look at a document — the chief executive gave  
 16 a report. That would have been customary, would it?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. Yes, and we can see that report at page 12  
 19 {TMO10001898/12}. We can see at the foot of page 12 the  
 20 Grenfell Tower regeneration project referred to there.  
 21 If we go to the report itself, that's at  
 22 {TMO10037986/12}. If we go to page 12 in that, please,  
 23 we can see that this is the item for the report.  
 24 If you go to page 15 of that document  
 25 {TMO10037986/15}, we can see here, embedded within it,

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1 item 5 "Fire Risk Assessments".  
 2 So you can see that Grenfell had been discussed, but  
 3 at the same time here's a report on fire risk  
 4 assessments, and it says this:  
 5 "All relevant Fire Risk Assessments for common parts  
 6 have been completed and the identified works have been  
 7 categorised from 1 to 5 by risk.  
 8 "Categories 1 to 3 are deemed to be mandatory and  
 9 have been actioned. These are primarily related to the  
 10 installation of fire doors to tenanted properties.  
 11 "A number of door installations remain to be  
 12 completed as part of these works, and we are working  
 13 with internal teams, London Fire and Emergency Planning  
 14 Authority (LFEPA) and RBKC to progress these.  
 15 "Where necessary, we shall assist RBKC in taking  
 16 legal action to ensure that these works are completed.  
 17 "An assessment of the works identified as category 4  
 18 and 5 (recommendations only) is being undertaken to  
 19 establish what action is to be taken, and over what  
 20 timescale.  
 21 "Notification of the requirements of the Regulatory  
 22 Reform Order (Fire Safety) legislation has been sent to  
 23 all leaseholders of a flat advising that they should  
 24 have their flat entrance doors checked to establish if  
 25 they provide adequate fire safety."

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1 Now, we can see from this that FRAs, the fire risk  
 2 assessments, produced mandatory works categorised by  
 3 five levels of risk; yes?  
 4 A. It says only 1 to 3 are mandatory.  
 5 Q. Yes. Sorry. There are mandatory works, but the works  
 6 themselves are categorised by five levels of risk.  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. Yes.  
 9 Were you aware that fire risk assessments resulted  
 10 in mandatory actions?  
 11 A. No.  
 12 Q. Were you aware that in 2012, the significant actions,  
 13 according to Robert Black, related to the installation  
 14 of fire doors?  
 15 A. I don't know. I mean, I recollect that so-called fire  
 16 doors were installed at Grenfell Tower at some stage.  
 17 Q. Yes.  
 18 A. But not — I don't recall them being installed on  
 19 Lancaster West Estate generally.  
 20 Q. Right. Did you read this report? You were at the board  
 21 meeting —  
 22 A. Yes, yes.  
 23 Q. — but would you have read the chief executive's report?  
 24 A. Oh, yes.  
 25 Q. Can we then look at the meeting minutes, please, for the

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1 meeting of 15 November 2012 at which you were present.  
 2 It's {TMO10001898/3}.  
 3 If we look at paragraph 3, you can see that the  
 4 chief executive's report is minuted here as having been  
 5 delivered, and then questions were invited on the  
 6 report. The first item is fire risk assessments. It  
 7 says:  
 8 "Fire Risk Assessments: it was queried what action  
 9 would be taken if leaseholders did not ensure that they  
 10 had an entrance door that was fire risk compliant.  
 11 Clarification was given that the letter was sent out by  
 12 RBKC, but queries have been dealt with by the Home  
 13 Ownership team. A letter had also been sent to the Fire  
 14 Brigade about their responsibilities on this matter, and  
 15 a subsequent meeting held."  
 16 Then there is further discussion lower down the  
 17 page.  
 18 You can see, therefore, that the question of fire  
 19 risk assessments and forcing leaseholders to have fire  
 20 risk compliant doors was discussed.  
 21 Does that tell us that you were aware from quite  
 22 early on during your membership of the TMO board that  
 23 the board was concerned with the issue or topic of fire  
 24 risk assessments?  
 25 A. Yeah, but that was under a separate committee as a rule.

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1 On the board we only got what the — was included in the  
 2 chief executive's report, and there was a subcommittee  
 3 which was, I think, called the finance audit and risk  
 4 subcommittee, that dealt with fire risk assessments in  
 5 detail, and I was not a member of that.  
 6 Q. Right. Nonetheless, this is a meeting of the full  
 7 board, isn't it?  
 8 A. Yeah.  
 9 Q. But can we take it from this document, both the  
 10 presentation of the chief executive's report that I've  
 11 shown you and the discussion we can see minuted here,  
 12 that fire risk assessments were, as a topic, discussed  
 13 by the full board?  
 14 A. Yeah, within the terms of the fire compliant doors,  
 15 because there was an issue about leaseholders and who  
 16 was responsible for ensuring that leaseholders did it.  
 17 Q. Yes.  
 18 A. But, I mean, for the tenants, obviously the TMO could  
 19 put the fire resistant doors on where they didn't exist.  
 20 Q. Yes.  
 21 Was there any discussion or consideration given by  
 22 the board in 2012 about how the board should go about  
 23 measuring the TMO's progress with FRAs or the actions  
 24 arising from FRAs, fire risk assessments?  
 25 A. That's a long time ago, I really can't remember.

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1 Q. Right. Do you remember whether there was any discussion  
 2 or consideration of how to measure or track progress of  
 3 closing out FRA items?  
 4 A. I think that was delegated to the subcommittee that I've  
 5 just referred to.  
 6 Q. And who was on that subcommittee, can you help.  
 7 A. I have no idea.  
 8 Q. You weren't, I think you have told us.  
 9 A. No.  
 10 Q. Who was in charge of the subcommittee?  
 11 A. I don't know.  
 12 Q. You don't know?  
 13 A. You mean who was the chair?  
 14 Q. Yes.  
 15 A. I've no idea.  
 16 Q. Who reported to that subcommittee, do you know?  
 17 A. I don't know.  
 18 MR MILLETT: Right.  
 19 Mr Chairman, I'm going to just finish off on this  
 20 topic before asking for a break. We will take  
 21 a slightly earlier break than —  
 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course. We started a bit  
 23 early.  
 24 MR MILLETT: Exactly.  
 25 Can I ask you to look, please, at the minutes of

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1 a housing and property scrutiny committee meeting of  
 2 8 November 2012, seven days before this TMO board  
 3 meeting. Those minutes are at {RBK00021831}.  
 4 Now, you were not a member of that committee at this  
 5 date, as we know, because you joined in May 2014, as  
 6 you've told us, and nor I think were you in attendance  
 7 in the public gallery.  
 8 A. No.  
 9 Q. Nonetheless, let me ask you about it.  
 10 Can we go to page 3 {RBK00021831/3}, under item A5,  
 11 and you can see there that there is a discussion of the  
 12 TMO mid-year review, and it says there, a third of the  
 13 way down your screen:  
 14 "The Committee expressed continued concern over flat  
 15 entrance doors in TMO stock that were non compliant with  
 16 fire safety standards. Mr Black responded by  
 17 emphasising the vast majority of flats were designed to  
 18 contain fire. He also confirmed the TMO was working  
 19 with the Fire Brigade at the highest level and the  
 20 68 leaseholders with non-compliant doors had been  
 21 informed by letter that it was their responsibility to  
 22 meet the standard and they were responding.  
 23 Councillor Pascall said he appreciated the work already  
 24 carried out on this issue but urged all parties to make  
 25 as much progress as quickly as possible.

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1 "Councillor Dent Coad praised the refurbishment of  
 2 Grenfell Tower which she felt showed the Council had  
 3 listened to those residents."  
 4 Did you realise at the time that the question of  
 5 flat entrance doors had been raised at  
 6 scrutiny committee?  
 7 A. No, but I knew that by that date the fire compliant  
 8 doors had — well, the allegedly fire compliant doors  
 9 had been placed on the doors of all the tenanted  
 10 properties in Grenfell Tower.  
 11 Q. By that date, by November 2012?  
 12 A. Yes. Yes, I think they were put in around about 2011,  
 13 because I remember visiting the tower and noticing the  
 14 new doors.  
 15 MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you.  
 16 Mr Chairman, is that a convenient moment for  
 17 a break?  
 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, I think it is, thank you very  
 19 much.  
 20 Well, Ms Blakeman, we have a break during the  
 21 afternoon, we're going to take it now. We'll resume at,  
 22 I think, 3.25, please, and I must ask you not to talk  
 23 about your evidence or anything to do with it while  
 24 you're out of the room.  
 25 THE WITNESS: Right, thank you.

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1 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: All right? Thank you very much.  
 2 (Pause)  
 3 Right, 3.25, please. Thank you.  
 4 (3.10 pm)  
 5 (A short break)  
 6 (3.25 pm)  
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: All right, Ms Blakeman, ready to  
 8 carry on?  
 9 THE WITNESS: Yes, thank you.  
 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good. Thank you.  
 11 Yes, Mr Millett.  
 12 MR MILLETT: I'm going to turn to the topic of residents'  
 13 complaints about fire safety maintenance.  
 14 Can I ask you to start, please, with {TMO00845616}.  
 15 This is an email in February 2013 at the foot of the  
 16 screen from Francis O'Connor to you, copied to a number  
 17 of others, both at the TMO and within housing at RBKC.  
 18 It says at the very foot of the page, "Dear Judith",  
 19 and if we turn to page 2 {TMO00845616/2}, he says:  
 20 "We are grateful for your recent interventions on  
 21 the Verity Close windows issue, and no less, on the  
 22 Grenfell Tower fire safety issue, where your  
 23 [intervention] appears to have had immediate effect.  
 24 However, while we welcome the proposed fire safety  
 25 exercise by LFB at Grenfell Tower we still have doubts

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1 that this will fully address the issues at this site."  
 2 Just pausing there, was that a reference to your  
 3 recent request, the request you had made earlier on that  
 4 month, for a fire safety exercise to be performed at  
 5 Grenfell Tower?  
 6 A. I think so.  
 7 Q. Yes. And do you agree that your intervention that he  
 8 refers to had had an immediate effect?  
 9 A. Well, it was good that it did, yeah.  
 10 Q. If you continue, he says in the next paragraph but one:  
 11 "We have other concerns, and other evidence, which  
 12 we have not yet aired. Please see the attached  
 13 Grenfell Tower Fire Risk Assessment from November 2012,  
 14 which was supplied to us by Janice Wray some weeks ago.  
 15 Most of the content is, of course, fairly routine until  
 16 you get to Page 28 where the following is recorded:  
 17 "'From the asset records provided to me by the TMO  
 18 the emergency lighting and fire alarm systems along with  
 19 the dry riser, fire fighter lifts and the hose reels  
 20 installed in this building are all subject to  
 21 a maintenance contracts[sic]. Testing, servicing and  
 22 maintenance is being carried out by professional third  
 23 party contractors on a planned preventive maintenance  
 24 programme with records kept centrally by TMO at the  
 25 "Hub" and by the contractor for all these systems, no

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1 test certificates have been seen to confirm this.  
 2 "RGE Services are under contract to TMO to provide  
 3 portable fire fighting equipment, testing, servicing and  
 4 maintenance, the fire extinguisher in this building, the  
 5 basement boiler room, the lift motor room, the ground  
 6 floor electrical room plus other areas were out of test  
 7 date according to the contractors label on the  
 8 extinguishers. The last test date was on the 8th August  
 9 2011. Some located in the roof level areas had  
 10 "condemned" written on them in large black writing with  
 11 a last test date of 2009 or 2010. This seems to indicate  
 12 that monthly occupier inspections are not being carried  
 13 out."  
 14 Then he goes on about the caretaker and  
 15 fire extinguishers, et cetera, in the next paragraph,  
 16 and then, says Mr O'Connor:  
 17 "On the face of it this is alarming evidence of  
 18 serious ongoing negligence, rendered all the more  
 19 alarming when considered as part of a history of  
 20 negligence that in all likelihood stretches back to 2004  
 21 and beyond."  
 22 Then he explains that he had chaired the EMB  
 23 property management committee in 2004.  
 24 Then if you turn the page to page 3 {TMO00845616/3},  
 25 second paragraph down, he says this:

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1 "We were intending to simply expose these failings  
 2 on our blog, rather than waste our time and effort, as  
 3 we had previously, in non-productive email exchanges  
 4 with Ms Rumble and Ms Wray, who appear, as far as we can  
 5 judge, not even to have read the current assessment.  
 6 However having witnessed more than once your willingness  
 7 to act on the Grenfell Tower fire safety issue, and the  
 8 speedier responses your interventions tend to elicit, we  
 9 have decided to copy this material to you first, in the  
 10 hope that you can elicit the necessary urgent responses  
 11 from the responsible authorities."  
 12 Now, a number of questions arise on what I have read  
 13 to you at some length, I'm afraid.  
 14 First, Francis O'Connor, is this right, had sent you  
 15 a copy of the fire risk assessment? Is that right?  
 16 A. Well, he said he'd sent me a copy of the fire risk  
 17 assessment. I only recollect that he sent me one or two  
 18 pages from it, not the whole document. I didn't get the  
 19 whole document until after the fire.  
 20 Q. Did you read what he did send you?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. I see.  
 23 Were you aware that residents could ask for copies  
 24 of fire risk assessments?  
 25 A. No.

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1 Q. Right.  
 2 Were you aware of how frequently a fire risk  
 3 assessment would be carried out?  
 4 A. No.  
 5 Q. Were you concerned at the time to learn that the service  
 6 and maintenance of fire safety systems at Grenfell Tower  
 7 was out of date?  
 8 A. Yes.  
 9 Q. Now, Francis O'Connor suggested that they were going to  
 10 blog about the issue rather than email Ms Rumble or  
 11 Ms Wray. Did you share their view that emails to  
 12 Ms Rumble and Ms Wray would not be productive?  
 13 A. Well, they were from time to time. I mean, with  
 14 Siobhan Rumble I had quite a good working relationship.  
 15 I didn't know Janice Wray. So with Siobhan Rumble  
 16 I would often talk to her rather than email her.  
 17 Q. I see. So you didn't share entirely Mr O'Connor's view  
 18 that it was a waste of time emailing Ms Rumble?  
 19 A. Not for me, no. It may have been for him.  
 20 Q. Right.  
 21 Did you think that there would be a different  
 22 outcome if you emailed on behalf of the residents rather  
 23 than the residents emailing these officers or executives  
 24 of the TMO themselves directly?  
 25 A. From time to time, yes.

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1 Q. Yes, and what would make the difference? Why from time  
 2 to time?  
 3 A. I think sometimes they thought that some of the  
 4 residents were just being a nuisance, whereas if I sent  
 5 an email they would at least have to respond to it  
 6 diplomatically.  
 7 Q. Right.  
 8 So you say from time to time they would think that  
 9 the residents were just being a nuisance; was that  
 10 a frequent occurrence, in your experience?  
 11 A. Erm ... how can -- can you define frequent?  
 12 Q. No.  
 13 A. No, I can't either. I said from time to time.  
 14 Q. Did it happen more than occasionally?  
 15 A. More than occasionally. Only for certain individuals.  
 16 Q. Right. Can you name the certain individuals?  
 17 A. Well, certainly Mr O'Connor was one of them. Mr Daffarn  
 18 obviously was another.  
 19 Q. I see. Any others?  
 20 A. Mr Martindale. I can't think of any others offhand.  
 21 Q. Right.  
 22 If we look at your response on page 1 of this email  
 23 chain {TMO00845616/1}, please, you respond to him on  
 24 18 February, and you say this:  
 25 "Dear Francis

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1 "Thank you for this, it is very useful. I have  
2 asked for a full and comprehensive report once the  
3 emergency fire test at Grenfell Tower has been conducted  
4 and also for this to be an item on the Lancaster West  
5 EMB meeting agenda. I have also asked for the likely  
6 timeframe within which we can expect a response."  
7 Were you aware at this time of whether the TMO had  
8 addressed the issues raised in the FRA?  
9 A. No, but I think they said that they were going to.  
10 Q. Yes. Now, the FRA, of course, was dated November 2012.  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. This was now mid-February —  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. — 2013. Do you know whether they had done so or not as  
15 yet?  
16 A. I don't know, I can't remember.  
17 Q. Did you ask anybody?  
18 A. I may have asked Siobhan Rumble, I don't know.  
19 Q. Right. Do you think she was generally responsive to  
20 residents in your experience of her?  
21 A. She was rather robust with residents. She didn't take  
22 prisoners, as they say.  
23 Q. No.  
24 A. But I had quite a good working relationship with her.  
25 Q. When you say she didn't take prisoners, do you mean that

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1 she more routinely than not rebuffed them?  
2 A. No, I don't mean that, no.  
3 Q. What do you mean?  
4 A. It's the next sentence on about legitimate and  
5 vexatious — sorry, vexatious complaints. I think  
6 sometimes she felt that some of the complaints were just  
7 vexatious.  
8 Q. Right. Let's look at that, because I was about to ask  
9 you that.  
10 Looking at the second and third paragraphs, you say:  
11 "Just for your information, I would like to  
12 reiterate that the ward councillors are more than  
13 willing to address any legitimate concerns and  
14 complaints that residents raise with regard to the KALC  
15 project and the Grenfell Tower and Verity Close  
16 improvement works. What we are no longer prepared to  
17 address are complaints that are couched in tendentious,  
18 abusive, offensive or bullying terms. Neither will we  
19 tolerate visits to our surgery that are conducted in  
20 a similar fashion. I believe that Cllr Coleridge has  
21 given out much the same message."  
22 Then you go on:  
23 "We will also not deal with vexatious complaints  
24 that are intended solely to delay the completion of the  
25 construction works. We have received and continue to

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1 receive a significant amount of feedback from local  
2 residents and their most earnest wish is for the project  
3 to be completed on time and ideally before time. Most  
4 residents do not have the opportunity to leave the area  
5 for extended holidays to get away from the disruption.  
6 "Kind regards,  
7 "Judith."  
8 Now, in that second paragraph, in that middle  
9 sentence, you say:  
10 "What we are no longer prepared to address are  
11 complaints that are couched in tendentious, abusive,  
12 offensive or bullying terms."  
13 What was that a reference to?  
14 A. Sometimes, well, Mr O'Connor and Mr Daffarn would come  
15 to our surgery and shout at us.  
16 Q. Why would they do that, do you think?  
17 A. Well, at the time I thought they were just being  
18 annoying. I gradually realised, as the years  
19 progressed, that it was probably out of frustration as  
20 much as anything, and they didn't know quite how to move  
21 beyond their concerns and the shouting and what to do  
22 after that, and they found us fairly ineffective.  
23 Q. I see. So at the date of this email, were you still in  
24 the frame of mind that they were just being annoying or  
25 had you yet begun to see that they might have a point?

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1 A. I think at that stage I was at the point where I was  
2 thinking they were just being annoying.  
3 Q. Right, okay.  
4 Now, if we go to {LBI00002918}, there is further  
5 correspondence between you and Francis O'Connor about  
6 vexatious complaints and Mr Daffarn's behaviour.  
7 This is an email that's quite hard to interpret, but  
8 if you look at the top of the page, it's dated  
9 20 February 2013, so two days after what we've just  
10 seen, and it's from you to a number of people who appear  
11 to be at the LFB and the TMO, and also to people at  
12 Leadbitter and RBKC, other councillors, but you say,  
13 "Dear Francis". I'm assuming that it went to  
14 Mr O'Connor.  
15 "Dear Francis  
16 "I am sorry you have taken my e-mail personally and  
17 I will give you the courtesy of a response.  
18 "1. Evidence to support my 'accusations' can be  
19 found in the very significant body of e-mails sent to me  
20 and to Council officers and contractors on behalf of  
21 your Group — usually but not exclusively from  
22 Mr. Daffarn — over a very long period of time. You may  
23 re-read them at your leisure. As is evidenced by your  
24 reply to me, what may be written by one individual can  
25 be read by the recipient as an attack upon their good

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1 faith and I certainly feel targeted personally by the  
 2 tone of these e-mails, since most were addressed to me  
 3 and not to the other two Notting Barns ward  
 4 councillors."

5 Now, do you remember — I should just show you,  
 6 I think you respond to this, but do you remember the  
 7 GAG blog publishing a blog called "Pants on fire"?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Let's look at it, {IWS00002156}. It's dated  
 10 17 March 2013, so three weeks or so after your response  
 11 to Mr O'Connor.

12 There is a graphic in colourful terms in the middle  
 13 of that page, with something called the "Pants on fire  
 14 award", and if we turn to the next page of this  
 15 {IWS00002156/2}, you can see that that topic, so to  
 16 speak, is identified in capital letters:

17 "THE GRENFELL ACTION GROUP PANTS ON FIRE AWARDS.  
 18 "The first award goes to Blakeman herself whose  
 19 come—uppance is well overdue."

20 Then there is some text below that which is actually  
 21 on the topic of KALC, in fact, and there is quite a lot  
 22 of detail there which I don't want to overlook  
 23 necessarily.

24 My question is: did you believe at the time that it  
 25 was because of your exchange with Mr O'Connor that the

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1 GAG blog published its "Pants on fire" blog and awarded  
 2 you that honour?

3 A. It could have been, I honestly can't remember.

4 Q. Right. Did you hear or see Mr Daffarn give evidence?

5 A. I watched some of it, yes.

6 Q. Do you agree with him that the TMO had so marginalised,  
 7 belittled and ignored him and the residents of  
 8 Grenfell Tower that he had had no choice but to resort  
 9 to this kind of means of communication in order to make  
 10 his points?

11 A. I think that goes back to what I gradually realised was  
 12 his increasing sense of frustration.

13 Q. Right.

14 A. Because he was not very diplomatic in some of his  
 15 approaches, which tended to put people off.

16 Q. Now, in fact, GAG did blog about the findings in the  
 17 fire risk assessment, that particular topic, looking at  
 18 the topic itself rather than the tone of it all, on  
 19 21 February 2013. We see that at {TMO00835301}. I'll  
 20 just put that up so it's there. That's where that topic  
 21 was covered. It does say that a reaction was obtained  
 22 from Ms Rumble herself.

23 Then there is a further blog on 5 March 2013  
 24 {TMO00833831}, and the title there is, "TMO still asleep  
 25 at the wheel".

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1 Did you read these specific blogs, because they  
 2 covered the topic of the fire risk assessment? Do you  
 3 remember looking at them?

4 A. I must have done, because I used to read the GAG blog  
 5 quite avidly.

6 Q. Right. Why did you do that?

7 A. Because it was quite interesting, and from time to time  
 8 they made some very, very valid points.

9 Q. Right. So you weren't put off by the tone?

10 A. I personally wasn't, but I know that people at the TMO  
 11 were.

12 Q. Now, if we look at —

13 A. And the council.

14 Q. Yes.

15 If we look at the third paragraph of this blog,  
 16 5 March 2013, "TMO still asleep at the wheel", we can  
 17 see that it says:

18 "Before going public on this issue we had sent the  
 19 full report to Councillor Judith Blakeman (on  
 20 18 February) and copied it simultaneously to the high  
 21 and mighty at the TMO and RBKC. The only response we  
 22 got was from Cllr Blakeman, which we reproduce below."

23 There is the text from the email that you sent back  
 24 to Mr O'Connor, and then it says:

25 "Three cheers for Blakeman, but this wasn't her

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1 fault begin with ..."

2 Just pausing there, the factual point I want to get  
 3 out of this is it appears you did receive the full FRA.

4 A. Well, so they said, but I was asked after the fire by  
 5 some journalists to produce it, and I searched high and  
 6 low for it and I could only find the pages that  
 7 Mr O'Connor had sent.

8 Q. Just going back to the question of reading this blog,  
 9 were you aware at this time whether the TMO took notice  
 10 of the factual matters set out or identified in these  
 11 blogs?

12 A. Well, I think as I said in one of my statements, I used  
 13 to draw the TMO's attention to the blog from time to  
 14 time, particularly when I thought they'd made some very  
 15 valid points, and I was told that the TMO did not read  
 16 the blog and I didn't believe them, but I couldn't  
 17 challenge that position.

18 Q. No. We will come to examine that in a little bit more  
 19 detail shortly.

20 If you stick with this blog, if you look in the  
 21 middle of the first paragraph on page 1, which is next  
 22 to the line drawing, it says:

23 "That particular item [which is a post on  
 24 21 February] got 91 hits in a single day, so we know  
 25 that it sparked a lot of interest and was read by a lot

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1 of people. The passage we quoted from the assessment  
 2 report was highly suggestive of a general failure to  
 3 inspect and maintain fire safety equipment at  
 4 Grenfell Tower, and was further suggestive of an ongoing  
 5 culture of negligence at the TMO."  
 6 Were you yourself aware of a lot of interest in that  
 7 blog and that topic at the time?  
 8 A. No.  
 9 Q. Did you agree that there was a culture of negligence, so  
 10 to speak, at the TMO?  
 11 A. Well, an employee of the TMO took me to the basement of  
 12 Grenfell Tower — and I can't remember whether it was  
 13 around about that time, I think it was — to see the  
 14 terrible conditions down there, and I was quite shocked  
 15 by what I saw.  
 16 Q. What did you see?  
 17 A. I saw that the floor was quite — about 2 inches deep in  
 18 water. The heating system didn't seem to be working  
 19 properly. I'm trying to remember, it was quite a long  
 20 time ago. It looked pretty awful, anyway.  
 21 Q. But looking at fire safety specifically. So this blog  
 22 is very specific on this point about fire safety,  
 23 a general failure to inspect and maintain fire safety  
 24 equipment at Grenfell Tower. Were you aware of  
 25 a culture of negligence, so to speak, in that respect at

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1 the TMO?  
 2 A. I didn't have the technical knowledge to know that.  
 3 Q. Right.  
 4 As a board member of the TMO at this time, were you  
 5 concerned to read that some residents, whether or not  
 6 they spoke for the entirety of the building as a moot  
 7 point, were identifying a general failure to inspect and  
 8 maintain fire safety equipment at Grenfell Tower?  
 9 A. Yeah.  
 10 Q. Were you not concerned that that might put you  
 11 personally in breach of your duties as a director?  
 12 A. Well, I raised them with the chief executive but  
 13 I didn't get very far either.  
 14 Q. Right. When you didn't get very far, what did you do  
 15 next?  
 16 A. I don't know, I can't remember.  
 17 Q. Right.  
 18 Given the seriousness of the allegation, and given  
 19 your position and your responsibilities as a board  
 20 member, can you assist us why you didn't get to the  
 21 bottom of it so as to discharge to the best of your  
 22 reasonable abilities your obligations?  
 23 A. I don't know.  
 24 Q. Right.  
 25 A. It was probably lack of resources and lack of time.

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1 Q. Right.  
 2 A. Because I had a huge workload, and I still have a huge  
 3 workload.  
 4 Q. Yes.  
 5 A. And we have no support as an opposition group, no  
 6 support whatsoever from the council to do our duties.  
 7 Q. Did you ever consider whether the absence or lack of  
 8 resources was in some respects disabling you from  
 9 performing your duties as a director of the TMO?  
 10 A. Well, when you put it like that, I think that's quite  
 11 a good description, yeah.  
 12 Q. Is this the first time you have ever considered it in  
 13 those terms?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. Really?  
 16 A. Well, we did ask — our colleagues in neighbouring  
 17 wards — in neighbouring boroughs, both Labour—run and  
 18 Conservative—run, opposition groups about the same size  
 19 as ours, both had dedicated support. We asked for that  
 20 before the fire, and we asked for that after the fire,  
 21 and — well, we asked several times before the fire, but  
 22 each time it was refused, and we still have no support.  
 23 Q. Who did you ask?  
 24 A. The town clerk.  
 25 Q. Right. How did you ask him? At meetings are their

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1 written representations?  
 2 A. I think whoever was the leader of the Labour Group at  
 3 the time, and I think it was me on one occasion, wrote  
 4 to the town clerk and asked for it.  
 5 MR MILLETT: Right.  
 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Did you ever think about suggesting  
 7 at a meeting of the board of the TMO that more resources  
 8 should be provided for scrutinising some of these  
 9 things?  
 10 A. I don't know. I may have done, I may not have done,  
 11 I can't remember.  
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Right. Thank you.  
 13 MR MILLETT: Can I go back, please, to your email exchange  
 14 with Mr O'Connor, {TMO00845616}.  
 15 If we go to page 1 — we looked at this in some  
 16 detail earlier — you can see that you say in the first  
 17 line — I've read this to you already — that you had  
 18 asked for a full and comprehensive report once the  
 19 emergency fire test at Grenfell Tower had been conducted  
 20 and for that to be an item on the Lancaster West EMB  
 21 meeting agenda.  
 22 As we know, the fire risk assessment had been  
 23 completed in November 2012. This correspondence was in  
 24 February 2013.  
 25 Did you receive a report for the EMB, or for the

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1 purposes of giving to the EMB?  
 2 A. I can't remember.  
 3 Q. Right.  
 4 A. Because I haven't been able to read my EMB papers,  
 5 because I didn't think they would be particularly  
 6 relevant and I handed them all over to the  
 7 Metropolitan Police shortly after the fire.  
 8 Q. Yes. And they would have been disclosed to us and to  
 9 the core participants, of course, in turn.  
 10 My next question is: why did you ask for the report  
 11 to be made to the EMB as opposed to the TMO board  
 12 itself?  
 13 A. I can only assume from this that the EMB was still  
 14 functioning.  
 15 Q. But even so, why not ask for the report to be made to  
 16 the TMO board, or for you to receive that report and for  
 17 you to give it to the TMO board?  
 18 A. Well, I could have given it to the TMO board if I got  
 19 it.  
 20 Q. My question is: why the Lancaster West EMB board rather  
 21 than the TMO board?  
 22 A. Yeah, well, my answer to that was because I suspect that  
 23 the EMB board was still functioning then, and that was  
 24 the appropriate place for it.  
 25 Q. Right, I see. So I am clear, are you saying that as at

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1 February 2013, to the extent that, for the time being,  
 2 the EMB was still functioning, it was that board that  
 3 had responsibility for or oversight of fire safety  
 4 matters at Grenfell Tower?  
 5 A. There was a very convoluted relationship between the  
 6 EM board, the council and the TMO. The TMO sent  
 7 officers to the EMB board meeting, but the EMB board  
 8 managed Lancaster West, which included Grenfell Tower.  
 9 And then of course the council oversaw both of them.  
 10 Q. By this time, though, isn't it right that the EMB was  
 11 not meeting regularly, wasn't properly funded, and  
 12 wasn't really able to exercise full and proper oversight  
 13 over the —  
 14 A. Well, that I don't know, because sometimes I wouldn't  
 15 get papers for EMB meetings until after the meeting had  
 16 actually taken place.  
 17 Q. Why was that?  
 18 A. Because of incompetence on the part of the then  
 19 neighbourhood manager.  
 20 Q. Did you not raise that with them?  
 21 A. Yes, and then they changed that position.  
 22 Q. Given what you could see about the functionality of the  
 23 EMB, why not take that to the TMO board and raise it  
 24 with them?  
 25 A. Because I took it to the council and the council dealt

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1 with it.  
 2 Q. I see.  
 3 Who did you think was responsible for oversight of  
 4 fire safety matters at Grenfell Tower for the time that  
 5 the EMB board was still at least notionally functioning?  
 6 A. Probably the EMB and the TMO.  
 7 Q. Right. Did you ever address —  
 8 A. And the council.  
 9 Q. Right. That sounds confusing. Did you ever address  
 10 that —  
 11 A. It was confusing.  
 12 Q. Did you ever address that confusion and try and sort it  
 13 out?  
 14 A. Well, I know that I corresponded with the council about  
 15 it, and the council eventually appointed a consultant to  
 16 produce a report on the EMB.  
 17 Q. Can we go to {TMO00830084}, please.  
 18 This is an email to you from Janice Wray, who was  
 19 health and safety director at TMO, on 6 March 2013:  
 20 "Dear Councillor Blakeman  
 21 "Further to our previous correspondence, when you  
 22 requested that we urge the London Fire Brigade (LFB) to  
 23 undertake a fire safety exercise at Grenfell Tower,  
 24 similar to that undertaken recently at Trellick Tower,  
 25 I can confirm that the LFB initially welcomed this

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1 offer. Further we have placed this on the agenda for  
 2 our next regular meeting with the LFB's Fire Safety Team  
 3 Leader, which is scheduled to take place next week on  
 4 the 13th March 2013. We will press the LFB for  
 5 a timescale, when we can expect this exercise to take  
 6 place and I will of course inform you of the outcome of  
 7 our discussions.  
 8 "With regard to concerns raised about fire  
 9 extinguishers, Ricki Sams, Head of Building Services  
 10 confirms that all appliances at Grenfell Tower have now  
 11 been replaced/inspected as necessary and are current.  
 12 I would advise that we are currently working closely  
 13 with the planned maintenance contractor who undertakes  
 14 this work to ensure that all inspections and associated  
 15 certification on all fire safety equipment throughout  
 16 the entire housing stock are undertaken in a timely  
 17 manner, reports are submitted and continued compliance  
 18 is ensured.  
 19 "I will contact you again to update you following  
 20 next week's meeting with the LFB."  
 21 Did you understand that checks on the fire  
 22 extinguishers had been done following your email raising  
 23 that complaint?  
 24 A. It's possible, I don't know, but —  
 25 Q. Did you understand that the TMO had raised issues with

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1 the maintenance contractor in response to your email —  
 2 A. Again, it might have happened because of my email,  
 3 I don't know.  
 4 Q. Right.  
 5 Were you concerned that these steps had not already  
 6 been taken in response to the fire risk assessment?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. Right. I mean, is the picture that we're getting that  
 9 these matters were only cured or steps taken towards  
 10 their cure because you'd raised them rather than in  
 11 response to the FRA?  
 12 A. It's possible, I don't know.  
 13 Q. Right.  
 14 Did you consider raising these issues and the issues  
 15 of reactivity at a TMO board? We don't see that you  
 16 did.  
 17 A. No.  
 18 Q. Why is that?  
 19 A. I don't know.  
 20 Q. What about raising it with the TMO operations committee?  
 21 Did you raise it with —  
 22 A. I can't remember.  
 23 Q. Right.  
 24 Were you constitutionally, structurally, able to  
 25 raise concerns that you had with the operations

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1 committee if you wanted to?  
 2 A. Well, I couldn't raise issues that were not on the  
 3 agendas of any of the meetings. I suppose I could have  
 4 raised issues outside.  
 5 Q. Right. What about at any other business?  
 6 A. Erm ...  
 7 Q. Well, you don't —  
 8 A. I don't know, honestly, I really don't know.  
 9 Q. Did you ever receive a report to the EMB about the  
 10 maintenance of fire safety equipment?  
 11 A. I can't remember.  
 12 Q. We haven't seen one, so —  
 13 A. Okay.  
 14 Q. — the next question is: why did you not press for one?  
 15 A. It may have been around about the time when the EMB was  
 16 about to go into — well, about to be abolished.  
 17 Q. In which case, why not press for one for presentation at  
 18 the TMO board?  
 19 A. I don't know. I can't remember.  
 20 Q. Right. Or taking it to those responsible in the council  
 21 for the HPSC scrutiny committee?  
 22 A. I can't remember. I mean, I'm one person trying to deal  
 23 with Grenfell Tower, Lancaster West, Notting Wood House,  
 24 Allom and Barlow, Henry Dickens Court, all sorts of  
 25 places. I mean, I can't focus on just one place.

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1 Q. No. That litany gives us an insight, perhaps, to how  
 2 easy or difficult it was to discharge your duties as  
 3 a director of the TMO; would that be right?  
 4 A. Yeah, exactly, yeah.  
 5 Q. Did you ever have any assistance, even though you were  
 6 a non-executive director, as you've explained, in the  
 7 discharge of your functions as a director?  
 8 A. No.  
 9 Q. Can we then look a year ahead to 2014.  
 10 Now, by September of that year, you were already on  
 11 the housing and property scrutiny committee, and you had  
 12 been there for some months.  
 13 Can we look at the minutes of that committee from  
 14 the meeting of 24 September 2014. We find those at  
 15 {RBK00029277}.  
 16 That's the first page. You can see the chairman and  
 17 vice chairman there, Councillors Marshall and Mackover,  
 18 and you were also there as a member; yes?  
 19 A. Yes.  
 20 Q. If we look at page 5 {RBK00029277/5}, please, under  
 21 section A6, "Live issues report from director of  
 22 housing", first paragraph:  
 23 "Ms Johnson introduced the report and invited  
 24 questions from the Committee. The Chairman commended  
 25 officers on their excellent work on fire doors."

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1 That comment from the chairman, the HPSC chairman,  
 2 was due to Laura Johnson's report, which we can look at,  
 3 if you like, but which noted that only three leaseholder  
 4 doors across the whole housing stock required replacing.  
 5 Do you recall that?  
 6 A. Not offhand, but if there were only three leaseholder  
 7 doors remaining, that would have been a good result.  
 8 Q. Yes. Perhaps we should just look at it,  
 9 {RBK00014527/6}, please, dive straight in and pick up  
 10 the nugget in it.  
 11 This is her report, page 6, and under "Fire Doors"  
 12 it says, under 6.1:  
 13 "In July we reported that the number of  
 14 non-compliant leaseholder flat entrance doors had  
 15 decreased from 37 to 11. This figure has reduced to  
 16 3 non-compliant doors, the remainder being confirmed  
 17 compliant."  
 18 That's what she had put before the committee and you  
 19 were there.  
 20 On the basis of that evidence, is it right that  
 21 there were at that point now no significant issues so  
 22 far as you as a member of that committee could see with  
 23 either flat entrance doors or the FRA programme?  
 24 A. Well, we have to take as written what's written there.  
 25 I mean, if it was wrong, it was wrong.

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1 Q. Yes.  
 2 A. We wouldn't have challenged it.  
 3 Q. You had no reason to disbelieve what she was telling  
 4 you; is that right?  
 5 A. No, no.  
 6 Q. Okay. So you had no means of getting underneath the  
 7 data —  
 8 A. No.  
 9 Q. — and scrutinising it at a data level? No. And no  
 10 doubt had no reason to distrust her?  
 11 A. No.  
 12 Q. Can we look next, please, at the report prepared for the  
 13 HPSC meeting on 13 May 2015, the next year,  
 14 {RBK00047681}.  
 15 This is a live issues report prepared by the  
 16 director of housing, Laura Johnson, for the HPSC on  
 17 13 May 2015, and if you go to paragraph 1.1 you can see  
 18 the topic there:  
 19 "Leaseholder doors.  
 20 "Leaseholder doors identified as non-compliant."  
 21 And you can see that at paragraphs 1.1 to 1.4, those  
 22 are all set out.  
 23 A. I can't see paragraph 1.4. Right, okay, I can now.  
 24 Q. If you go to paragraph 1.5, which you can just see,  
 25 let's have that more visible, it's at the foot of

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1 page 1:  
 2 "On-going work to identify, and change non-compliant  
 3 doors.  
 4 "1.5 KCTMO's programme of fire risk assessments  
 5 (FRA) is ongoing and continues to consider the  
 6 compliance of flat entrance doors as they form an  
 7 integral part of the means of escape from the block.  
 8 The FRA highlights any flat doors which are potentially  
 9 non-compliant.  
 10 "1.6 Where clarification is required about the  
 11 standard of a tenant's door the Fire Consultant is  
 12 instructed to attend, carry out an assessment and  
 13 produce a report confirming what action is required.  
 14 Where replacement is required a repair order is raised  
 15 for the installation of a suitably fire-rated,  
 16 self-closing door.  
 17 "1.7 Where a leaseholder's door is highlighted, the  
 18 Home Ownership Team write to the lessee seeking  
 19 documentation confirming their door's compliance and  
 20 offering an assessment if they are unable to provide  
 21 this. The lessee is provided with a copy of the report  
 22 and where the door is deemed to be non-compliant to date  
 23 we have worked with the leaseholder to persuade them to  
 24 prioritise its removal."  
 25 Were you aware that the programme to check front

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1 door fire safety compliance was continuing at that  
 2 point?  
 3 A. I don't know. I can't remember.  
 4 Q. It certainly looks as if it was. Would that be fair,  
 5 a fair reading of this?  
 6 A. Erm ... well, I mean, there were 9,000 properties in the  
 7 borough. I wouldn't be able to confirm that all of them  
 8 had been replaced. I knew that ones of interest to me  
 9 had been replaced.  
 10 Q. Did you or the scrutiny committee generally or the TMO  
 11 board generally consider whether this programme of  
 12 inspection and assessment should be benchmarked in any  
 13 way against other housing authorities elsewhere in the  
 14 country?  
 15 A. I don't recollect anything like that.  
 16 Q. No.  
 17 Can we then go to the minutes of the  
 18 scrutiny committee on 13 May itself, at which this  
 19 report was discussed. This is at {RBK00014448}.  
 20 Let's look at page 1, where we can see who was  
 21 there. We can see you were there, halfway down the list  
 22 of attendee members; yes?  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. And Councillor Rock Feilding-Mellen was also in  
 25 attendance.

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1 If we go, please, to page 2 {RBK00014448/2}, under  
 2 item A5, we can see that it says there:  
 3 "Ms Johnson introduced the report and invited  
 4 questions from the Committee."  
 5 We've seen the report.  
 6 "In response to Councillor Bakhtiar, Ms Johnson  
 7 advised that TMO tenant doors were checked for fire  
 8 safety compliance as part of an annual programme and  
 9 replaced if non-compliant. She agreed to provide an  
 10 update to the Committee on the exact number of  
 11 non-compliant TMO tenant doors.  
 12 "Action: Ms Johnson.  
 13 "Cllr Pascall thanked the TMO and officers for the  
 14 follow through and the continuing work on fire door  
 15 compliance."  
 16 Do you know what had prompted Councillor Bakhtiar's  
 17 question or concern at this point, mid-May 2015?  
 18 A. Yeah, before each scrutiny committee meeting, the Labour  
 19 members of that would hold a pre-meeting and we would  
 20 determine who would ask what questions.  
 21 Q. Right, and you had determined that Councillor Bakhtiar  
 22 should ask that question; is that right?  
 23 A. Well, the three of us would have confirmed that he would  
 24 ask that question, yes.  
 25 Q. When you got together and determined that he should ask

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1 that question, why that question? What was it that  
 2 prompted that question to be asked?  
 3 A. Probably because it was something that he felt quite  
 4 strongly about. I don't — I honestly don't know,  
 5 I can't remember.  
 6 Q. Right.  
 7 A. But it would look silly if the same person asked all the  
 8 questions.  
 9 Q. I'm not really focusing on the identity of the  
 10 councillor asking the question, what I'm really trying  
 11 to get at is what prompted the question to be asked.  
 12 A. Ah. I don't know, I can't remember.  
 13 Q. It indicates, on the face of it, that some councillors,  
 14 including him and — is this right? — you, were  
 15 concerned about the process or progress of the checking  
 16 of tenant doors for fire safety compliance; is that  
 17 right?  
 18 A. I think it would indicate an awareness of the fact that  
 19 there was an ongoing programme.  
 20 Q. Well, there was an ongoing programme.  
 21 A. Yeah.  
 22 Q. But was there a concern among the three of you that that  
 23 programme was still ongoing?  
 24 A. Well, probably not, because these things take time.  
 25 Q. Right. They do take time, but this is fire safety, so

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1 they can't take that much time, can they?  
 2 A. Well, no, but the TMO themselves would say that they  
 3 didn't have the resources to rush anything through.  
 4 Q. Right, even if it was fire safety?  
 5 A. Yeah. I mean, in terms of their capital programmes,  
 6 I was always told that they had a separate pot of money  
 7 for anything urgent under fire safety, so they could  
 8 deal with anything that — well, health and safety, not  
 9 fire safety. Health and safety, anything that came up  
 10 as an emergency —  
 11 Q. Right.  
 12 A. — they could deal with it immediately.  
 13 Q. Two things flowing from that answer.  
 14 You say they had a separate pot of money; do you  
 15 mean the TMO?  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 Q. Right. How big was that separate pot of money?  
 18 A. I've no idea.  
 19 Q. In 2015, roughly, do you know?  
 20 A. No idea.  
 21 Q. Who had control of that separate pot of money?  
 22 A. Well, the TMO.  
 23 Q. Yes —  
 24 A. I mean, it would have been part of the money that the  
 25 housing revenue account provided to the TMO to fulfil

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1 their duties, and they kept a part of it not committed  
 2 to any works because of health and safety issues that  
 3 may emerge.  
 4 Q. The second thing that arises from your answer was you  
 5 say health and safety, not fire safety.  
 6 A. No, health and safety, that includes fire safety, but  
 7 not exclusively fire safety.  
 8 Q. I see what you mean. Right. I detected from the answer  
 9 that health and safety did not include fire safety —  
 10 A. Oh, no, no, no, it was all forms of safety and health.  
 11 Q. Right, thank you.  
 12 But do I take it from that answer in general that  
 13 whatever the pot of money was, even though it would  
 14 cover fire safety, it wasn't big enough to cover  
 15 immediate or urgent replacement of non-compliant flat  
 16 front doors, tenant's flat front doors?  
 17 A. Well, a lot of that would depend on getting access, on  
 18 having sufficient contractors to do the work. I mean,  
 19 you can't do it all immediately.  
 20 Q. My question is directed at the money.  
 21 A. The money?  
 22 Q. Yes. Do I take it from your evidence so far that the  
 23 pot of money, however big, wasn't big enough to fund  
 24 an urgent flat front door replacement programme?  
 25 A. I can't remember, but I suspect not.

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1 Q. Can we then go further forward in time, please, to  
 2 October 2015, {TMO00842271}.  
 3 This is a deficiency notice, and it's dated — note  
 4 the date — 12 October 2015. It's addressed to  
 5 Janice Wray at the TMO, and it's a notification of  
 6 fire safety deficiencies at Adair Tower. You can see  
 7 from the second paragraph that the cure date is  
 8 28 March 2016.  
 9 If we go to page 3 {TMO00842271/3}, you can see that  
 10 there is a schedule, and under that schedule you can see  
 11 that there is a list of the specific contraventions of  
 12 the Fire Safety Order, and they are, just following them  
 13 down the pages: Article 11 on page 3, which is failure  
 14 to monitor and review the significant findings to ensure  
 15 works had been completed; if you turn the page, please  
 16 {TMO00842271/4}, you can see the next one is 17(1),  
 17 quite long, but basically a failure to ensure that the  
 18 fire resistance of the protected route was maintained,  
 19 the route being compromised by fitting doors that did  
 20 not have 30 minutes' fire protection and some  
 21 self-closing devices missing; Article 8 at the foot of  
 22 the page, general fire precautions identified as  
 23 significant findings in the fire risk assessment not  
 24 implemented.  
 25 Now, I've shown you quite a bit of detail there.

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1 First question: did you see this notice at the time?  
 2 A. I don't think so because I wasn't on the finance, audit  
 3 and risk committee.  
 4 Q. You weren't on the finance ...?  
 5 A. That was the committee that dealt with fire safety.  
 6 Q. The finance, audit and risk committee of the TMO?  
 7 A. Yeah.  
 8 Q. Right.  
 9 A. I mean, I have seen this since.  
 10 Q. Yes.  
 11 A. But I can't remember whether it was before or after —  
 12 I think it was probably round about the time after the  
 13 Adair Tower fire.  
 14 Q. Right. Was the fact of this deficiency notice brought  
 15 to the attention of the board?  
 16 A. Yes.  
 17 Q. It was?  
 18 A. Well, they had no option because it was a very public  
 19 fire. I mean, there have been other deficiency  
 20 notices —  
 21 Q. Now, wait a minute. No, the fire — I'm not being  
 22 critical for not remembering the precise sequence of  
 23 events, but the fire happened 22 days later.  
 24 A. Oh, right. In that case, I wouldn't have seen that  
 25 particular notice until after the fire.

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1 Q. Right. So TMO board did not see this document?  
 2 A. No.  
 3 Q. TMO board were not made aware —  
 4 A. Not until after the fire at Adair Tower.  
 5 Q. At the time it was issued, and similarly weren't made  
 6 aware of it?  
 7 A. No.  
 8 Q. Now, can we go back to this subcommittee. You say you  
 9 wouldn't have seen it because you were not on the  
 10 finance, audit and risk committee, and you say that was  
 11 the committee that dealt with fire safety.  
 12 Who was on that committee?  
 13 A. I can't remember.  
 14 Q. Who headed it?  
 15 A. I don't know, you would have to check, I can't remember.  
 16 Q. Right. You're quite sure there was a subcommittee?  
 17 A. Oh, yes. Yes, I mean, because they received all the  
 18 fire safety reports and they dealt with fire safety  
 19 and —  
 20 Q. Do you know, when you were dealing with Mr O'Connor's  
 21 fire safety concerns relating to Grenfell Tower in  
 22 February 2013 —  
 23 A. Okay.  
 24 Q. — did you not put or seek to put that into the hands of  
 25 this committee?

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1 A. No, I don't think I knew about the committee at that  
 2 stage.  
 3 Q. You didn't know about it?  
 4 A. No, I knew about the committee, I didn't know —  
 5 I assumed it was about finance and audit rather than  
 6 risk. I didn't realise that it did fire safety as well.  
 7 Q. When did you learn that?  
 8 A. Probably after the Adair Tower fire.  
 9 Q. 31 October 2015?  
 10 A. Okay, yeah.  
 11 Q. Right. So is this right: you have been on the board of  
 12 the TMO for some years, but only discovered that the  
 13 finance and audit committee dealt with fire safety after  
 14 October 2015? Is that right?  
 15 A. I don't know — we had a session on risk, but I don't  
 16 recollect it being specifically about fire safety, and  
 17 I can't remember when we had the session on risk.  
 18 Q. Right. Well, maybe we'll come back to look at that  
 19 later on.  
 20 But, of course, you know that after the Adair Tower  
 21 fire, there were still continuing questions about  
 22 fire safety?  
 23 A. Yeah.  
 24 Q. And we know — we will come to it later in your  
 25 evidence — that you produced two matrices in relation

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1 to Grenfell Tower —  
 2 A. Yeah, absolutely.  
 3 Q. — in August 2015 and May 2016, but those didn't go to  
 4 any member of that subcommittee, did they, as far as  
 5 I know?  
 6 A. Not as far as I know. I mean, I think the TMO had them.  
 7 I'm not sure. I sent them to the council, and  
 8 the council had overall responsibility for the TMO, so  
 9 they may or may not have passed them over to the TMO.  
 10 Q. Right. But you can't tell me anything about this  
 11 subcommittee?  
 12 A. No, I can't.  
 13 Q. Right.  
 14 Let's then look a little bit more closely at the  
 15 Adair Tower fire then.  
 16 As a fact — I've said it to you, I'll say it  
 17 again — the fire broke out at Adair Tower on Saturday,  
 18 31 October 2015, 22 days after this deficiency notice  
 19 was served, and the fire was then raised at scrutiny at  
 20 the next HPSC meeting on 5 November 2015, five days  
 21 later.  
 22 We can look at the meeting minutes for that meeting.  
 23 {RBK00047688}, please.  
 24 You can see that you were present as one of the  
 25 members of the committee there; yes?

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. If you go to page 6 {RBK00047688/6}, please, A7, "Live  
 3 issues report", you can see "Live issues report by the  
 4 director of housing":  
 5 "Mr Black [he was the CEO, in fact] provided an  
 6 update on the major fire at Adair Tower which had  
 7 occurred on Saturday 31 October on the third floor. He  
 8 reported that the investigation was ongoing but the  
 9 emergency planning in place had worked and the fire  
 10 doors had also worked well. He explained the timelines  
 11 for tenants re-gaining access to their flats and the  
 12 re-housing of those unable to return.  
 13 "The Chairman stressed the severity of smoke damage  
 14 and how that can effect one's possessions. Mr Black  
 15 said that the TMO was working with tenants to ascertain  
 16 what they could still use and he said that it was  
 17 compulsory for all tenants to have their own home  
 18 insurance.  
 19 "Cllr Blakeman asked why tenants were led out of  
 20 smoke-filled stairways and consequently had to be  
 21 treated for smoke inhalation. Mr Black explained that  
 22 the policy was to stay in your flat and wait to be  
 23 rescued [but] the natural reaction of people was to  
 24 flee. He said that there was no main alarm system but  
 25 the fire brigade had arrived within 2-3 minutes."

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1 Now, there is no mention there in those minutes by  
 2 Mr Black of the deficiency notice I showed you —  
 3 A. No.  
 4 Q. — that had been served on 12 October. Do you remember  
 5 whether he raised it or not?  
 6 A. I'm sure he didn't.  
 7 Q. You're sure he didn't?  
 8 A. Yeah.  
 9 Q. Should it have been raised?  
 10 A. Well, I would have thought so, yes.  
 11 Q. As a board member, would I be right in thinking that you  
 12 would have expected to be told that sort of information  
 13 by the chief executive?  
 14 A. Well, yes, yes, but I wasn't.  
 15 Q. No.  
 16 Given Mr Black's statement that I've just read to  
 17 you, as recorded here, that people's natural reaction  
 18 was to flee, did you question whether the TMO had  
 19 adequate and safe arrangements in place for those  
 20 residents who did wish to or needed to escape during  
 21 a fire in a block such as Adair Tower?  
 22 A. Sorry, I'm not sure — what's the question?  
 23 Q. Given that you can see, as I've shown you, in response  
 24 to your question that Mr Black said the policy was to  
 25 stay in your flat and wait to be rescued, but the

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1 natural reaction of people was to flee, given that he  
 2 said that people's natural reaction was to flee, did you  
 3 ask whether the TMO had adequate and safe arrangements  
 4 in place for those residents who either wished to or  
 5 needed to flee?  
 6 A. I may have done because my colleague Councillor Mason  
 7 was present when he heard about the fire, and I know he  
 8 was very concerned about it.  
 9 Q. Present where?  
 10 A. At Adair Tower.  
 11 Q. In the building?  
 12 A. No, no, he responded. He doesn't live — he lives  
 13 further down the road.  
 14 Q. He went to the fire?  
 15 A. He went to the fire, yes, once he was advised of it,  
 16 yes.  
 17 Q. Did you —  
 18 A. So I may have raised that point.  
 19 Q. Do you remember whether you got an answer to that  
 20 question?  
 21 A. I can't remember.  
 22 Q. Now, the stay-put policy, of course, would be  
 23 irrelevant, wouldn't it, to any resident who either  
 24 needed to flee, perhaps because the fire was in their  
 25 own flat, or because they wanted to flee?

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1 A. Yes.  
 2 Q. Why did nobody challenge Mr Black with that point? Why  
 3 did nobody say to Mr Black, "Well, come on, there would  
 4 be people wanting to flee, why have you not got  
 5 arrangements in place to cater for them"?  
 6 A. No, I think further down he reports that a local church  
 7 had kindly opened its doors to tenants affected, so  
 8 clearly there was nothing in place.  
 9 Q. That's to receive people who have chosen to flee.  
 10 A. Yes.  
 11 Q. My question is really more directed to enabling them to  
 12 get out of the building.  
 13 A. Well, what I understood about the TMO's policy was that  
 14 you shouldn't leave the building unless you were in the  
 15 actual location of the fire.  
 16 Q. Indeed. But given —  
 17 A. That's what we were told the policy was.  
 18 Q. Yes. Given that there was an element of flight involved  
 19 in any fire, can you explain why nobody asked Mr Black,  
 20 "Well, what do we do with those people who want to get  
 21 out?"  
 22 A. Well, they may have done, I don't know, because further  
 23 down he says that a local church had kindly opened its  
 24 doors. So somebody may have asked him.  
 25 Q. Yes, but the local church would receive people who had

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1 successfully got out.  
 2 A. Yes.  
 3 Q. My question is about the management of those people in  
 4 the process of escape. Did nobody ask Mr Black, "What  
 5 do we do, how do we assist those people who want to  
 6 escape, to escape?"  
 7 A. I don't know.  
 8 Q. Right.  
 9 Can we then look at the chief executive's report  
 10 prepared by Mr Black for the meeting on 26 November 2015  
 11 of the TMO board. This is at {TMO00886021}. Here is  
 12 the agenda for that meeting.  
 13 If we go to page 47 {TMO00886021/47}, we will see  
 14 the report by Mr Black as the chief executive,  
 15 26 November 2015, and if we go to page 50  
 16 {TMO00886021/50}, we can see the item on Adair Tower  
 17 embedded in that report under item 6, "Fire at  
 18 Adair Tower — thank you".  
 19 There is quite a lot in there. It's a long list of  
 20 people to thank. As you can see, Janice Wray gets the  
 21 first spot, and you can see what is said there.  
 22 If you cast your eye down the list, you will see  
 23 what is there and what isn't there, and what isn't there  
 24 is any mention in the minutes by Robert Black of the  
 25 deficiency notice that had been served on 12 October

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1 I showed you.  
 2 Again, do you know whether he raised it at that  
 3 meeting? We saw he didn't at the 5 November meeting.  
 4 A. I don't think so.  
 5 Q. Right. Again, should it have been raised?  
 6 A. Yes, of course it should.  
 7 Q. And again, as a board member, you would've expected to  
 8 have been provided —  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. — with that sort of information?  
 11 Can we next go, please, to {TMO10047421}. This is  
 12 Robert Black's report for the next TMO board meeting,  
 13 4 January 2016. What will come up, I think, is the  
 14 agenda.  
 15 (Pause)  
 16 Mr Chairman, I can hear a rumble of thunder and I'm  
 17 hoping that the absence of this document and the thunder  
 18 are not connected.  
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: That had crossed my mind as well,  
 20 but we will wait a bit to see whether we can recover it.  
 21 We're getting there.  
 22 (Pause)  
 23 MR MILLETT: Right, that is exactly where we start.  
 24 Can we please then go in this pack of documents to  
 25 page 64 {TMO10047421/64}.

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1 There is the board report by Robert Black as chief  
 2 executive, and can we please look at item 5 on page 67  
 3 {TMO10047421/67}, where that topic is covered, the  
 4 Adair Tower fire. He says:  
 5 "We have been advised by the London Fire Brigade  
 6 that RBKC/TMO will be served with two Enforcement  
 7 Notices as a result of the fire risk assessments the  
 8 brigade undertook following the fire at Adair Tower.  
 9 One Enforcement Notice will cover Adair Tower and one  
 10 will cover Hazelwood Tower. The two towers were built  
 11 to the same design having two separate staircases, one  
 12 for accommodation access, the main staircase and one for  
 13 emergency, the escape staircase.  
 14 "We have yet to receive the actual notices but have  
 15 been advised that the key matters of concern relate to  
 16 the design of the main staircase ventilation system and  
 17 the lack of self closers on the individual flat front  
 18 doors. It is expected that we should receive the  
 19 notices in the next week or so.  
 20 "Robert Black has updated Laura Johnson, Director of  
 21 Housing for RBKC, who has briefed Cllr Feilding—Mellen."  
 22 Did you read, do you remember, this report before —  
 23 A. Yes.  
 24 Q. — this board meeting? You did.  
 25 Did you know when you read this report what

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1 enforcement notices were?  
 2 A. Not really, no.  
 3 Q. Right.  
 4 A. I mean, I knew that they would be notices requiring  
 5 works to be done.  
 6 Q. Did you know that they were a precursor to possible  
 7 criminal prosecution?  
 8 A. I think I only became of that after the — well, after  
 9 this Inquiry started. I'm not sure. I mean, I know  
 10 now. I don't know if I knew at the time, I can't  
 11 remember. I doubt it.  
 12 Q. What was your reaction to seeing that the LFB was going  
 13 to serve two enforcement notices on RBKC and TMO?  
 14 A. Well, my reaction was: they're going to serve two  
 15 enforcement notices.  
 16 Q. I know, that's —  
 17 A. And jolly good too.  
 18 Q. You thought that was a good thing?  
 19 A. Yeah.  
 20 Q. Why did you think that was a good thing?  
 21 A. Because at the same time I was having all these concerns  
 22 about the fire safety at Grenfell Tower and I'd been  
 23 raising issues there.  
 24 Q. I see.  
 25 In your role as member of the TMO board, which you

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1 still were, I think, at this time, were you not  
 2 concerned that you were a director of a company which  
 3 was on the receiving end of an LFB enforcement notice?  
 4 A. Yes.  
 5 Q. You were concerned about that?  
 6 A. Yes.  
 7 Q. What was your concern in that respect?  
 8 A. Well, my concern was it was really a bad situation that  
 9 it'd got to that point.  
 10 Q. Yes.  
 11 Can you explain what you understood the consequences  
 12 of the receipt of the enforcement notice would be for  
 13 the TMO?  
 14 A. My understanding of the consequence was that they had to  
 15 take action very swiftly. I didn't at that stage know  
 16 that they could then be prosecuted if they didn't.  
 17 Q. When you read this report, which was of course before  
 18 the meeting — well, let me ask you: did you read this  
 19 report before the meeting?  
 20 A. Yes.  
 21 Q. Yes. At that stage, did you make any further enquiries  
 22 yourself about how come things had come to such a pass,  
 23 such that the LFB had issued two enforcement notices?  
 24 A. I think I may have done because it was very much along  
 25 the same time as I was expressing concerns about

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1 Grenfell Tower.  
 2 Q. Who did you ask?  
 3 A. It may have been Laura Johnson, it may have been the  
 4 TMO, it may have been Peter Maddison, it may have been  
 5 Janice Wray. I can't remember.  
 6 Q. What answers were you given?  
 7 A. I can't remember.  
 8 Q. Do you remember whether you were satisfied with what  
 9 they told you or dissatisfied with what they told you,  
 10 whatever it was?  
 11 A. I think, if I raised it, I would have got the same kind  
 12 of bland reassurances that I'd been getting all along.  
 13 Q. Right. Bland reassurances in what terms?  
 14 A. "Don't worry about it, we're on top of it", kind of  
 15 thing.  
 16 Q. Right.  
 17 Did you not seek to press them about: how come the  
 18 LFB had served two enforcement notices in respect of  
 19 this building in circumstances where the TMO had, so far  
 20 as you were being told, a reliable and effective  
 21 programme for closing out fire risk assessment risk  
 22 items?  
 23 A. Sorry, what was the question?  
 24 Q. The question is: did you not seek to press them with the  
 25 question as follows: how come the LFB has served two

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1 enforcement notices in respect of Adair Tower in  
 2 circumstances where the TMO, you're telling me, had  
 3 a reliable and effective programme for closing out fire  
 4 risk assessment items?  
 5 A. Yeah, I think I may have raised that, yes.  
 6 Q. Right. Who did you ask?  
 7 A. Well, I may have raised it at the board meeting.  
 8 Q. Okay, at the board meeting. But you didn't ask  
 9 Laura Johnson? Or did you?  
 10 A. I may have done, I don't know.  
 11 MR MILLETT: You don't remember.  
 12 Let's look at the minutes of the board meeting.  
 13 We will cover this in the five minutes we've got  
 14 left or so, Mr Chairman, if that's convenient.  
 15 In fact, there's quite a lot on the board minutes,  
 16 so that may be a vain promise.  
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Does that mean that we ought not to  
 18 start it?  
 19 MR MILLETT: Looking at the number of questions that flow  
 20 from the minute itself, it's probably sensible, given  
 21 that we've only got four minutes left until 4.30 and we  
 22 started earlier, we should call it a day there.  
 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, all right.  
 24 Well, I think it's sensible not to start this topic  
 25 at this stage, it sounds as though it might take

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1 a little while, so we'll break for the day now.  
 2 I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to come back  
 3 on Monday to answer some more questions.  
 4 THE WITNESS: I'm expecting to come back on Monday.  
 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: I thought you might be. Good.  
 6 All right, well, then we will resume at 10 o'clock  
 7 on Monday, please, and again I'm going to ask you not to  
 8 talk to anyone about your evidence or anything to do  
 9 with it over the break. All right?  
 10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.  
 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you very much. Would you like  
 12 to go with the usher, then, please.  
 13 (Pause)  
 14 Right, Mr Millett, thank you very much.  
 15 MR MILLETT: Yes.  
 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: 10 o'clock on Monday.  
 17 MR MILLETT: Monday morning. Thank you very much,  
 18 Mr Chairman.  
 19 (4.30 pm)  
 20 (The hearing adjourned until 10 am  
 21 on Monday, 24 May 2021)  
 22  
 23  
 24  
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