## OPUS<sub>2</sub>

GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY RT

Day 308

July 21, 2022

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Day 308

1	Thursday, 21 July 2022	1	addressed the Chair, and three films were played, all of
2	(10.00 am)	2	which described their loved one and the impact of his
3	(Proceedings delayed)	3	loss. The commemorative portraits highlighted that as
4	(10.05 am)	4	a son, brother, fiancé and friend, Mohammad Alhajali was
5	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to	5	an unusually charismatic person, much loved and valued
6	today's hearing. Today we're going to hear the final	6	for his selflessness, compassion and strength of
7	group of presentations relating to those who died in the	7	personality. His brother Omar told you that Mohammad
8	fire .	8	wasn't just his brother but his best friend, someone who
9	Yes, Mr Millett.	9	he could tell and share everything with. You heard how
10	MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, thank you very much. Good morning	10	he was popular and knew everyone at his university. He
11	to you. Good morning, members of the panel.	11	loved to meet new people and was a natural leader
12	I would now invite Mr Danny Friedman QC, please, to	12	amongst his peers.
13	come back to the podium to make the presentation on	13	Omar recalled that when Mohammad was young, he would
14	behalf of the family of Mohammad Alhajali from flat 112	14	wear his father's suits, which were, of course, far too
15	on floor 14 of Grenfell Tower.	15	big for him. He did this because he wanted to emulate
16	As before, may I repeat the trigger warning that	16	his father and was wise beyond his years. His mother,
17	I have given in the past, that what Mr Friedman may show	17	Heam, echoed this sentiment, describing him as
18	us or tell us during the course of his presentation may	18	distinguished and very responsible for his age.
19	be distressing to some in the room or watching on the	19	His sister Sham spoke about how Mohammad had
20	live stream and, therefore, they should absent	20	inspired her to be the best that she could be as
21	themselves from here or look away from the live stream,	21	an individual and in her community.
22	as the case may be.	22	His fiancée, Amal, said he made her learn to love
23	Subject to that, Mr Friedman, thank you.	23	herself, and made her feel like she could accomplish
24	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.	24	whatever she wanted in life. She said that, to this
25		25	day, she thinks of him whenever she has moments of
	1		3
1		1	
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the fire.

into the early hours of the 14th, before returning to

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his fiancée.

 $\label{eq:Mohammad's father, his brother Hashem, and Mahmoud} % \[ \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}} = \mathcal{L$ 

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The two brothers came home to Grenfell Tower after their iftar meal. CCTV footage shows Mohammad in the lift lobby at Grenfell Tower at 00.07, waiting to go up into the building just under 45 minutes before the start of the fire.

Between 01.20 and 01.30, the rate of vertical fire spread up the northeast corner of the building accelerated considerably.

At 01.21.30, intermittent flame extended past the windows of floor 13 below.

By 01.23.36, the fire had reached the top of floor 15 above.

At approximately 01.25, the Mangoba family in flat 116 on floor 14 evacuated when flames destroyed their kitchen window, forcing them to flee in their night clothes from the fire and the thick, black smoke now in their home. They exited the building at 01 29 45

As the Phase 1 report found at volume 4, paragraph 24.31, the front door of flat 116 remained open when the occupants fled due to a non-functioning  $\mathsf{self}-\mathsf{closing}\ \mathsf{device}.\quad \mathsf{When}\ \mathsf{Mrs}\ \mathsf{Mangoba}\ \mathsf{fled}\ \mathsf{from}$ flat 116, she saw smoke in the lobby, but it was light, like a cloud, and not thick, black smoke like in their flat. Due to the open flat front door, the floor 14

communal lobby inevitably filled up with dense smoke within a period of minutes, creating a barrier to escape for the remaining occupants on floor 14. The panel is aware of how, on multiple floors in Grenfell Tower, multiple doors did not automatically close, especially the number 6 flat doors. This is another inescapable fatal consequence of that situation on this floor.

Omar Alhajali, Mohammad's brother, was still awake at 1.00 am, when he heard sounds and then shouting outside. Mohammad came to tell him that he could smell smoke. When Omar looked out of the living room window which faced east, he saw flames to the left and at about the level of floor 4 or 5. The brothers decided to leave. But when they opened their flat front door, they found the communal area was full of smoke and in complete darkness. Omar could only see his hand a little bit. He could not see the lifts .

Based on the timing of the exit of the occupants of flat 116 and their descriptions of the conditions in the lobby at the time that they left , the Phase 1 report found at volume 2, paragraph 11.96, that this occurred at around 01.30, with the brothers looking outside on

They closed the front door and began to shout for help from a window, until a firefighter on the ground shouted back, telling them firmly to stay where they

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3 Numerous calls were made to the control room by 4 residents of floor 14 between 01.25 and 01.48 to report smoke penetrating first the floor and then their actual 6 flats. None of these residents were advised to 7

> As you will hear further in the next presentations today, there were calls from Denis Murphy in flat 111 at 01.25.16 and 01.40. In the first call, the smoke was in the lobby. By the second call, his flat was full of smoke.

Zainab Deen in flat 115 made 999 calls at 01.29.05 and 01.38.18. She repeated that she was alone in the flat with her baby.

Rosemary Ovewule from flat 113 made calls at 01.37.58 and 01.48.23. She relayed that she and her partner Oluwaseun -- or Olu -- Talabi had a baby with them. Rosemary described the lobby on floor 14 as black and reported thick, black smoke coming through the letterbox. In both calls, she was told that the fire was on a much lower floor.

Between these two calls. Ms Ovewule and Mr Talabi attempted to escape their flat with their young daughter, but they turned back due to the conditions in

the floor 14 lobby, which they found to be pitch black and like a steam room.

At around 01.51, a first crew of four firefighters, comprising Firefighters Cornelius and Murphy, with Sanders and Merrion as the backup crew, were briefed to rescue the resident now known to be Denis Murphy from flat  $\,111.\,\,$  These firefighters , as a team of four, ended up taking steps to congregate all the remaining eight residents of floor 14 into flat 113 and told them to wait for further assistance. Flat 113 now contained the residents of that flat, Rosemary Oyewule and Olu Talabi and their four-year-old daughter; from flat 111, Mr Murphy; from flat 112, the two brothers, Omar and Mohammad Alhajali; and from flat 115, Zainab Deen and her two-vear-old son. Jeremiah.

Firefighters Cornelius and Murphy tried to radio the bridgehead to say that they felt unable to bring the residents down the stairs, but got no response.

Firefighter Merrion, alone out of the deployed firefighters , recalled that, prior to going up into the stairwell, they had been advised to instruct the occupants to stay in their flat.

According to Omar Alhajali's evidence, before being moved across to flat 113. Mohammad and Omar asked to be evacuated. They were told by the firefighter, who

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appears to have been Mr Merrion, that it was unsafe, that there was no spare BA equipment, and that they would not be able to breathe. He then left to speak to the other firefighters. After some minutes, the brothers were moved to flat 113 by a different firefighter without further explanation.

Once in flat 113, the brothers pointed out to the firefighters the extent of the fire from the windows on both sides of the flat, but the decision remained that they were not to leave, despite their wish to do so.

As is tragically underscored by Professor Purser's Phase 2 evidence, it was possible for residents to safely evacuate from floor 14 and, indeed, the very highest floors of the tower at this point in time, and at all points prior to the external fire reaching the exterior of flat 113 and then entering it much later in the night.

May I turn next to what was recorded at the fire ground about the congregation of these eight residents in flat 113. For this, I'm going to ask for the images of the various walls and formats where flat numbers and other details were written down.

May I just give a trigger warning. Those are the images that are about to be shown. It will be of numbers and flats and how that was recorded.

May I first then ask to see {MET00013074}. Panel, on returning down the tower, Firefighter Cornelius found the 2nd floor bridgehead to have moved, and he did not know where, and, after trying to pass the information on to various people, made a note on the 2nd floor wall. This is a photograph of that wall taken by Firefighter O'Beirne. You see the writing on the wall in the bottom right—hand corner, "113 8 people 14 floor". That is what Firefighter Cornelius said that he scribbled down on that wall.

May I ask to see the forward information board, which is at  $\{MET0018749\}$ .

This is a portable information board that would be carried wherever the bridgehead was, and would have been up on that 2nd floor mezzanine.

Can I draw attention to the right—hand side as we look at it, outside of that square list of various flats and numbers, you see, "(14 floor) 111", so 111, not 113, and then "8 persons".

We don't know for sure, but it looks like those details were written on to the board as a result of Firefighter Cornelius coming down, trying to make sure that his supervisors registered the details. We have the eight persons noted, but it looks like it's the

wrong flat, right floor.

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Can we then go to {MET00015819}.

The bridgehead had moved up to the 3rd floor, and this is a photograph — you can see the "3" — of what was written down on that wall. Watch Manager De Silvo's FSG wall contains various references to floor 14 flats. If you look at the list of floor numbers going from top down to bottom, you see, at the level of 15 first, perhaps erroneously, the numbers written there look like 111, 115, 113, then you get to reference to flat 122, which is on the 15th floor, and you see various crosses and ticks there. Then at the level of 14, just below it, you see 111 seems to be ticked, 115, 112 ticked, and it says "113 (3 rescues)". Then further along the line, 113 underlined, and then "/14".

Just further down on that image, if you look just under and to the right of where you've had the list of floor numbers, top to bottom, you go down to floor 3, and then just over at the right, there's "113", and then it's somewhat indecipherable, but under that is "FL 14th", and then something indecipherable.

Just over across to the right, bottom right—hand corner, in line with that, again it's indecipherable, but it does say "14th FL", 14th floor, and what we think says "Flat 111", which may have a bearing on what had

been written on that forward information board that I showed you before.

The bridgehead moved, as you know, after about 3.08 to establish itself on the ground floor, and again information was written on the wall just as you came into the tower, the beige wall, and that is -- may I show you two images.

First {MET0015815}. We'll show a zoom—in on this in a moment, but just for now. On the left—hand side as you look at it, in the middle of the column, you can see "112 14 8P", midway down. So "112 14 8P". So we suggest right floor, right number of persons, wrong flat

Then lastly on the ground floor, it's going to be a zoom—in of what is the middle column here, and it's  $\{MET000015642\}$ .

Just looking at the top part of it, you can see "111" and "14th", and then you can see under it "115" and "14th". Then further down, four or five from the bottom, you see "113 14th", and there's a suggestion a BA crew was sent by virtue of the tick. That might be the inference. And it seems right at the bottom with a tick is "BA - 114".

CCTV footage shows that Watch Manager Williams, who was making these entries, made them respectively at

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1 02.21, that's the first two at the top of this image, report found at volume 3, paragraph 15.92, the brief of 2 and then at 02.30.57, the bottom entries, including that 2 the second crew was to rescue a female and child from "113 14th" entry 3 3 the now empty flat 111. 4 You can take it down, thank you. 4 As the Phase 1 report concluded, that was That concludes the review of the various walls and unfortunately doubly erroneous because (1) the occupant 5 5 boards. The crucial data of 113, 8P, eight persons, was of flat 111, Denis Murphy, had been moved to flat 113; 6 6 7 not, it may be fair to say, as clearly written on the 7 and (2) the female and her son, Zainab Deen and 3rd floor and the ground floor as it was by 8 8 Jeremiah Deen, were originally located in flat 115, not 9 Firefighter Cornelius on that 2nd floor mezzanine or, 9 flat 111. 10 10 indeed, on the forward information board. Panel, as will be clear, both crews were incorrectly 11 At approximately 02.23, a crew comprising 11 briefed regarding the location and number of residents. 12 12 Firefighters Cook and Flanagan happened to enter Importantly, they were unaware of the number —— eight 13 flat 113 as they returned from a higher floor. They saw 13 persons -- and profile of the occupants in flat 113. 14 14 the eight residents congregated in the flat. There is The second crew, Crew Manager McAlonen and 15 no evidence that they informed the bridgehead of this. 15 Firefighter Juggins, reached floor 14 first . Once on 16 After Firefighter Cook and Flanagan left, the first 16 the lobby, their evidence is that they went to flat 111. 17 desperate efforts were made by Olu Talabi to climb with 17 The door was open. They searched the flat, which was 18 his daughter from the window by tying together sheets. 18 empty. CM McAlonen tried to make radio contact with the 19 This can be timed by reference to Rosemary Oyewule's 19 bridgehead to see if there was any more information in 2.0 call to the control room at 02.31, in which a male can 2.0 relation to flat 111. He could not get through. 21 be heard in the background screaming, and Rosemary asks 21 The crew then decided to continue searching 22 if it was safer to try and jump from the window. 22 floor 14. They moved to flat 112, which they also found 2.3 23 Firefighters appear to have witnessed this from the 2.4 outside and shouted at the desperate resident to get 2.4 Meanwhile, Firefighters Orchard and Herrera, as the 25 back in. 2.5 first crew, had also reached floor 14. They went 13 1 The next deployments of firefighters to floor 14 1 straight to flat 113 and knocked on the door, shouting "Fire Brigade". 2 after the congregation of the residents in flat 113 were 2 3 made either side of 02.30. At this time, two different 3 The events that follow remain the subject of crews of two firefighters were deployed separately and 4 an evidential dispute. However, the tragic result is 5 without mutual knowledge or co-ordination of the 5 clear: four of the occupants — Olu Talabi, 6 parallel deployments. 6 Rosemary Oyewule, their daughter and Omar Alhajali --7 7 The first crew, comprising Firefighters Herrera and were guided down the stairs by the firefighters , while 8 Orchard, began to ascend the stairs after 02.27. 8 the other four occupants — Denis Murphy, 9 9 Neither member of the first crew recalled being briefed Mohammad Alhaiali, Zainab Deen and Jeremiah Deen -- were 10 of the presence of eight residents in number in 10 left behind. Of the four left behind, three would die 11 flat 113. Firefighter Orchard recalls a briefing to 11 in the flat, while Mohammad would fall to his death at 12 rescue six people, but Firefighter Herrera states that 12 the point in time when conditions in the flat were no the brief was to rescue "a family, an adult male, 13 13 longer survivable. a female and a child". 14 As the Phase 1 report records at volume 3, 14 15 15

As the Phase 1 report found at volume 3, paragraph 15.91, it is unlikely that Watch Manager De Silvo would have given inconsistent briefings to two firefighters in the same crew, so one of these two accounts must be incorrect.

The second crew, comprising Crew Manager McAlonen and Firefighter Juggins, tallied out at 02.31. This crew was briefed separately to the first crew pursuant to a parallel FSG system at the ground floor lobby and not by an officer at the bridgehead. Those briefing were Watch Managers Williams and Watson. As the Phase 1

As the Phase 1 report records at volume 3, paragraph 15.96, it is not in dispute that, prior to the four survivors being escorted down the stairwell, there was no search or secondary sweep of flat 113 undertaken in accordance with standard LFB policy. The reasons for this not occurring are what are in dispute.

The Inquiry has received detailed written submissions on this disputed issue, including from Mohammad's family, and the Chair has indicated in the Phase 1 report at volume 3, paragraph 15.96 an intention to give further, more detailed consideration to the matter. It is not appropriate for me, therefore, to

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repeat the family's submission in this presentation, but it is right to briefly pause here to underscore to the panel the importance of the issue to Mohammad's family.

When Omar Alhajali reached the ground floor at 02.45.02 and discovered that his brother had not come down with him, he can be seen on CCTV footage to immediately point frantically upstairs, imploring the firefighters to return to the flat. The reference for the image, timestamped at 02.47.19, is {INQ00000449}.

Omar directly engages Watch Manager Williams and a number of other firefighters that surround him, telling them that his brother was still in flat 113. Omar's evidence to the Inquiry in Phase 1 was at Day 59, page 87, line 21 to 89, line 3.

In his words:

"I remembered asking them, 'Where is my brother?' and telling them maybe he's still in the flat, and I'm sure that he's still in the flat because he's not with me. And I ... pointed as well where I came from, and I didn't see my brother ... So they were just listening to me, and I remembered someone asked me, 'Where you came from?' I said 113, and he wrote that on my hand before I left the tower."

At around 02.55, Mahmoud Al-Karad, now at the fire ground, spoke to Mohammad Alhajali on the phone,

who told him he could not see Omar. Mohammad was in a state of distress and he said he thought he was dying. He wanted Mahmoud to tell his family that he loved them and to ask his mother for forgiveness. Even though it was hard, Mahmoud tried to calm him and told him that, God willing, he would get out.

Mahmoud spoke to Mohammad again at 03.19, who told him that there had been eight people in the flat but now there were four. Mahmoud implored his friend to leave, but Mohammad told him, "I can't leave, there is a mother and a child with me, how can I leave them?"

Family and friends desperately sought to draw attention to the plight of the stranded residents in flat 113. Omar Alhajali, Mahmoud Al—Karad and the brothers' cousin, Aasem Alhajali, amongst others, repeatedly informed police officers, who were their first point of contact, about those left in the flat. They were told that this would be passed on to the control room. As you will hear, Francis Dean and the Murphy family did the same.

In the meantime, Zainab Deen made two further \$999\$ calls after being left in the flat . These were at

03.06 and 03.17, which will be described to you in the presentation later this morning. In summary, in the first call, Zainab described the occupants as covered until smoke. In the second call, CRO Howson advised her to cover herself with a towel and make her way down the stairwell. Zainab was told to expect smoke in the stairwell. She appeared to agree to leave with Jeremiah, and can be heard passing on advice to leave to another person in the flat. As you will hear further, during the call she was then heard to tell someone else in the flat not to open the door. She ended the call saying, "No, we can't leave. Nobody is coming for us."

Ms Munroe Queen's Counsel will also deal in a later

presentation with the efforts of Francis Dean, a friend of Zainab, who was in contact with Zainab throughout the night, trying to assist her. For present purposes, Zainab began a final call with Francis Dean, likely soon after her final 999 call ended at around 03.19. At some stage, Francis passed the phone on to a firefighter, Crew Manager Christopher Batcheldor, who spoke to Zainab for a period of anywhere between an hour or an hour and a quarter. During the call, CM Batcheldor relayed Zainab's location to Watch Manager Thomas Furnell. Zainab told CM Batcheldor that she could not get out and had been told to stay in the flat.

As you will hear, 35 minutes into the call, Zainab told CM Batcheldor that her son had died. Mr Batchelor spoke to Zainab for another 35 to 40 minutes after this. You will hear further about how this call ended, but in brief summary, there came a point when Zainab appeared to lose consciousness and there was silence for a period of minutes, before CM Batcheldor heard sounds consistent with the fire entering the flat. The line then went silent and he disconnected the call.

The partial evacuation of flat 113 at 02.45, and Omar raising the alarm that Mohammad had been left behind once in the lobby at 02.47, those are two figures we point out.

The next dedicated deployment of firefighters to the flat was not until approximately 03.04. It comprised Firefighters Wharnsby and Lowe. Wharnsby's evidence was that they were simply given a post—it note which read "Flat 113, floor 14", with no further detail regarding the number or profile of the occupants they were being deployed to rescue. This crew was forced to abandon their flat 113 brief when they came across casualties found on the stairs.

The next crew tasked to attend floor 14 comprised Firefighters Benaicha and Hanlon. They were ready to go under air and assumed that they were going to floor 14

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1 based on what was on a slip of paper. However, the 2 deployment was abandoned due to the relocation of the 3 bridgehead to the ground floor. 4 Between around 03.06 and 03.24, no deployments were 5 made due to the relocation of the bridgehead. Once deployments resumed, two subsequent crews of 6 7 EDBA, or extended duration breathing apparatus wearers, were tasked to go to flat 113 at around 03.25. As the 8 9 Phase 1 report found at volume 4, paragraph 28.114, both 10 crews were inexplicably redeployed to fight fire and 11 carry out general search and rescue on lower floors. 12 The report characterised the decision not to use the 13 EDBA crews to rescue the known stranded floor 14 14 residents as a mystery. It also noted that 15 Crew Manager Mayne was "exercised" by the decision at 16 the time, but he felt constrained by his junior rank to 17 disagree with the chain of command. Overall, the 18 Phase 1 report described flat 113 as "a tragic example 19 of the failure of the bridgehead to act on sound FSG 2.0 information". 21

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There is no further available evidence of subsequent deployments to flat 113.

A ground monitor was deployed on Grenfell Walk on the south side of the tower from around 02.41, which intermittently was reaching floor 14 with water. The

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reference for that is the report by Professor Stoianov, {ISTRP00000006/22}, {ISTRP00000006/103}, {ISTRP00000006/105-106}, {ISTRP00000006/130} and {ISTRP00000006/149-151}.

Professor Purser has in turn identified in his Phase 2 evidence how the application of water over this period may have had the capacity to slow the deterioration of conditions in flat 113 associated with the encroaching external fire spread and to provide a degree of protection. The reference is section 6 of Professor Purser's report at paragraphs 818 and 823.

Family and friends who were in touch with Mohammad during the night have explained how he described water reaching flat 113 but then stopping. Mohammad made repeated desperate requests for the spraying of water to be resumed. It would appear that he focused on this monitor on the raised part of Grenfell Walk.

Ammar Alkabib, a friend of Omar and Mohammad who was present at the fire ground, approached a firefighter to relay Mohammad's requests for the spraying of water to be resumed. The issue is dealt with in the Phase 1 report at volume 3, paragraph 19.36. The firefighter took Mr Alkabib to the command unit. There, he told a firefighter where Mohammad Alhajali was and explicitly raised the fact that water had stopped being sprayed on

to that part of the building. He recalls that the firefighter told him that it was not his job and asked him to leave.

I pause to note that it is not clear if the cessation of spraying of water was a product of issues with water supply constraints or due to redirection of the water jet at around this time. Issues relating to the application of water to the exterior part of the tower have been considered in Module 7 and, for present purposes, it suffices to note that the link between those issues and events in flat 113 is a matter we would want the Inquiry to consider.

Omar Alhajali recalls making a number of calls to Mohammad after he got out of the tower, but none after he was taken to hospital at around 04.26. During this time, he was not only frantic with anxiety, but in an increasingly deteriorating physical state.

Having learned about the fire, Hashem Alhajali, the third brother, had arrived at the fire ground. His account is dealt with in his witness statement of 23 August 2017, and its reference on Relativity is now {MET00007745}.

Hashem initially saw Omar on the phone to Mohammad, trying to persuade him to leave. During this call, the phone that Omar was speaking on was passed over to

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Hashem, who was the last person to speak to Mohammad. Hashem recalls Omar shouting for Mohammad to come down, but Mohammad was saying he couldn't do it.

Hashem describes Mohammad by this time speaking very slowly, like he had lost all energy. He told Hashem that the other people in the flat had stopped responding to him.

While still on the phone, Hashem spoke to firefighters nearby and told them about his brother's location. Hashem thinks that he was in an area with the firefighters congregated for some 15 minutes, during which time Mohammad was asking for them to spray water on the flat

Mohammad was crying and asking to speak to their mother, but Hashem was worried that, if he ended the call, he would not get back through. He told Mohammad he could speak to their mother when he got out.

Mohammad also asked him to play the Qur'an to him, and Hashem managed to do that by playing it from a speaker on his phone.

Mohammad suddenly said, "Oh, the fire is here ... I can see the fire". That was the last thing Hashem heard him say. Hashem then heard the sound of cracking, which he interpreted to be the sound of the fire. The phone cut off.

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Hashem Alhajali estimates that the call terminated between approximately 04.30 and 5.00 am, but the call log for the final call is unavailable. However, it stands to reason that this would have been around the same time as the endpoint of the Batcheldor—Deen call, in which CM Batcheldor also appeared to have heard the sound of the fire entering the flat . CM Batcheldor estimated that this would have occurred at some point after around 04.30/04.35. It is known that Mahmoud Al—Karad tried to call Mohammad eight times between 04.26 and 5.05, but the calls went to voicemail.

Mohammad Alhajali's body was found by Watch Manager Collins on the elevated area of Grenfell Walk. The walkway was visible from the windows of the bedroom and the living room of flat 113. Mr Collins was located at the base of the tall 135 ground monitor ladder pitched near to the railings against the south elevation of the tower. This is where he saw the body of Mohammad lying face up, with some debris covering him. Mohammad was entirely unresponsive, and appeared to him to be dead. He and other firefighters moved the body to a protected area inside the lobby of one of the walkways.

The final post—mortem report gave the medical cause of death as "1a multiple injuries consistent with fall

from height". The report noted injuries both external and internal consistent with that outcome. The report records that these would have led to near instantaneous loss of consciousness and no protracted suffering.

Mohammad had not suffered any burns.

A toxicology sample revealed carboxyhaemoglobin in Mohammad's body to be at a level of 50%, which is within the lethal range. This shows that Mohammad was dangerously near to death as a result of inhalation of toxic fumes from the fire at the time he fell.

Post—mortem evidence also included findings of soot in Mohammad's airways, indicating inhalation of fire fumes.

Professor Purser explains that the fire spread outside the exterior of flat 113 at around 03.33, and by 03.52 the south face fire was outside the bedrooms and living room. He assesses that this would have meant that conditions in the living room were likely to have deteriorated rapidly from approximately that time and became non—survivable a further few minutes later.

Professor Purser suggests that the cracking sound heard by Hashem Alhajali may have been the sound of the fire breaking through the flat 113 south—facing living room window at this time. However, he notes that the exterior firefighting activities may have extended the period of survivability in the flat, and estimates the

time window for Mohammad falling to be between 4.00 am and 04.26 am. On this, Professor Purser notes that the latter point in time is more consistent with the estimates of the endpoints of the final calls to flat 113 given by CM Batcheldor and Hashem Alhajali.

Whatever the precise time of Mohammad's falling, it is abundantly clear that, at that time he fell, Mohammad was faced with immediately life—threatening conditions in flat 113 and would have died there imminently had he not made a bid to escape. At a point in time when he was near to unconsciousness through smoke inhalation, he had come to the open window ledge as the last remaining place of survival.

Evidence of potential relevance to the circumstances in which Mohammad came to fall is given by a paramedic, Russell Lobjoit, who describes seeing a male tying sheets from a flat on the south side of the tower around halfway up, before losing his footing and falling. The reference is {MET00014397/9}. This may well have been Mohammad, given the location and orientation of flat 113, especially when considered with the known attempt by Olu Talabi to escape by this means from flat 113 at an earlier point in the night. He did not fall, and no one else who fell from the tower that night is described as using sheets.

Additional evidence of potential relevance is the location of the ladder and the location of where Mohammad's body was found, which is in keeping with him attempting to reach this elevated area or, indeed, the ladder that extended up to the height of floor 5. Given the desperate situation in the flat, this may well have seemed achievable from the window of flat 113. In any case, it may have presented to Mohammad the best chance of escaping the building alive, however slim.

In 2014, Mr and Mrs Alhajali sent their sons, the young men of the family, to a safe country away from Syria to avoid the perils of civil war. Three years later, one of their sons was dead, the other endured a highly traumatic near—death experience, and the third conducted a last call with Mohammad, desperately trying to convince his brother to escape.

Mohammad Alhajali was the first victim of the fire to be buried in accordance with Muslim rites and by virtue of immense support by the East London Mosque. That was not before the degrading treatment of Mohammad's deceased body by photographs taken of it on the side of Grenfell Walk, posted by members of the public on to the internet.

 $\mbox{Mr}$  and  $\mbox{Mrs}$  Alhajali sent their sons to safety; they did not find it .

1	In his kindness, and his other many qualities,	1	sweet home. Home is where the heart is. There's no
2	Mohammad, and indeed the other brothers and friends this	2	place like home.
3	Inquiry has heard from, all represent the very best of	3	Grenfell Tower was home to Denis Murphy.
4	those forced to leave their homes to start a better	4	Denis came from a large, loving Irish family. He
5	life . These are exceptional people, and we are so sorry	5	was born on 10 October 1960 in Hammersmith, London, and
6	that they have lost someone in Mohammad who was so loved	6	he was aged only 56 when he died. Denis was one of four
7	and special to them.	7	children; boys: himself, Mick and Tim, and one girl:
8	Thank you, sir.	8	Anne Marie. As I said, at the centre of the family was
9	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.	9	their mother, Anne. Whilst not financially well off,
10	Thank you very much, Mr Friedman. I think at that	10	Mrs Murphy kept a beautiful home. Everything was in its
11	point we shall have a break, and we'll resume, please,	11	right place. It was somewhere her children felt cared
12	at 11.20.	12	for, secure, protected and loved. It was somewhere to
13	Thank you very much.	13	be proud of. The brass on the letterbox always had to
14	(10.53 am)	14	be polished and shiny. It was home.
15	(A short break)	15	Anne Murphy, Denis's mum, lived nearby
16	(11.25 am)	16	Grenfell Tower, just around the corner, and they were
17	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.	17	very close. Denis himself kept an immaculate flat.
18	MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you, Mr Chairman.	18	Again, everything was in its place, neat and tidy.
19	I would now ask Ms Allison Munroe Queen's Counsel,	19	Denis would ring each individual member of his
20	please, to come to the podium and to make the	20	family on a set day each week to make sure that he had
21	presentation on behalf of the family of Denis Murphy	21	time for a proper chat with all of them.
22	from flat 111 on floor 14 of Grenfell Tower.	22	He was not a wealthy man, but he loved to share.
23		23	When Denis was awarded his disability living allowance,
	As before, I would repeat the trigger warning: there	24	
24	may be matters discussed or presented by Ms Munroe in	25	it was backdated. Denis shared out that backdated
25	her presentation which people in this room or following	25	payment, a few hundred pounds, with all his family.
	29		31
1	on the live stream may find distressing, and, if so,	1	Denis loved football and supported Chelsea, and he
2	then they are free to leave the room or to look away	2	was delighted that his son, Peter, shared his passion
3	from the live stream, as the case may be.	3	for football. However, much to his disappointment and
4	Subject to that, Ms Munroe, thank you.	4	disbelief, Peter did not support Denis's beloved
5	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. Yes, Ms Munroe.	5	Chelsea; instead, young Peter, a child wise beyond his
6	MS MUNROE: Thank you.	6	years, some may think, chose to support North London's
7	Presentation relating to DENIS MURPHY by MS MUNROE	7	finest: the mighty Spurs.
8	MS MUNROE: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Ms Istephan.	8	In the absence of his own dad, Denis, as the eldest
9	Good morning, Mr Akbor.	9	child of the family, became a father figure to his
10	I would like to introduce, before I start, the	10	younger siblings, Anne Marie, Tim and Mick. In his
11	family, who are here.	11	Inquiry statement, Tim described his brother Denis as
12	Present we have Peter, who is Denis' son. Next to	12	his best friend.
13	Peter sits his mother, Tracey. Next to her is Brian.	13	The loss of Denis has been immeasurable for the
14	Next to him is Anne Marie, Denis's sister. Brian is	14	Murphy family. Anne Marie has been left devastated, and
15	Anne Marie's partner. I miss a person for the moment.	15	still suffers to this day. For Tim, Denis dying simply
16	Next at the end there is Tim. Also watching online is	16	broke his heart. He had to leave his job because he was
17	Denis's other brother, Mick.	17	taking so many days off. Some days he just couldn't get
18	Last, and by no means least, and the person I jumped	18	out of bed.
19	over, is Anne. She is mother to Denis, Anne Marie, Tim	19	The family told me that they had a barbeque this
20	and Mick, and I've had special permission from Anne to	20	last weekend gone. Denis would have been there,
21	let everyone know she is 80 years young.	21	of course, had he been alive. There was an empty chair,
22	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.	22	and that was Denis's.
23	MS MUNROE: The concept of home and what it means comes up	23	and that was Denis s.  His love of his family was all—consuming.
23 24	all the time, in literature, in poetry, films and music,	23	Anne Marie says:
24 25	phrases and idioms. We have so many for home: home	25	
دے	pinases and idioms. We have so many for nome: nome	∠ ⊃	"He would squeeze you so tight. He just had to let

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you know how much he loved you by squeezing you." Denis Murphy was a good man, and there's a lot to be said for being a good man. He was part and parcel and integral to the Grenfell community, and he was a resident of the tower for over three decades. He lived in a number of flats, flat 111 being the most recent and the last. In his statement to the Inquiry, Anne Marie's partner, Brian, stated that Denis loved living in Grenfell Tower and knew all his neighbours extremely well. Brian says: "I don't think he would ever move. Denis claimed to 

"I don't think he would ever move. Denis claimed to have the best views in London, and would always try to get me to visit on New Year's Eve so that I could see the fireworks."

Denis and Tracey married and lived together as a couple at Grenfell Tower. Denis's mum, Anne, adored Tracey and always saw her as a daughter. Anne would say that they didn't have four children, she had five. Tracey was like a sister to Anne Marie and to Tim and to Mick. Even after Tracey and Denis divorced, it was amicable. Denis used to stay at Tracey's house from time to time and they remained very good friends. Their son, Peter, lived with them initially at Grenfell, and then, after the relationship ended, he would still visit

Grenfell Tower regularly. It became Peter's second home. He remembers:

"I spent weekends with my Dad and have good memories of my time spent in Grenfell. Dad would let me roam on the other floors; it was a friendly place and I would speak with many of the people living there. There were the football pitches at the bottom of the Tower and the swimming pool was just around the corner from the Tower. My Dad was actively involved with the football activities and we used the boxing club a lot as well."

Denis would always say to Peter, "You have to listen to your mother", and Denis never contradicted anything that Tracey said when it came to parenting. Denis was exceptionally proud of his son, Peter, and would have been so happy to see the wonderful young man that Peter has become.

As I said, Denis loved the panoramic views of London from his flat. He promised Anne Marie's granddaughter that she could go and see the fireworks on New Year's Eve one day. After he died, she said, "I' II never get to do that".

When the family visited the flat after the fire, they asked the police to take photos of the view from the flat, but it was an empty shell. Nothing of Denis remained. The scaffolding obscured that lovely view.

It was simply not the same. It was no longer Denis's

Denis had many friends in the tower. Some of his best friends included Tony Disson, Steve Power, who both sadly died as well, and Sharon Haley.

He was not a man to push himself forward at the front and to speak at meetings, but he was a staunch and loyal supporter of the community and all they stood for, especially during the period of the refurbishment.

Denis would attend meetings of the residents, and Willie Thompson and Ed Daffarn told the family that Denis was always there, supporting the community.

In his witness statement, Peter Murphy said that his dad supported the residents' group and was very concerned about the refurbishment. His dad thought it was a form of social cleansing in west London to box in the community and to get them out.

"My Dad was convinced that [the council] were trying to socially cleanse the area of the ordinary people, like him who lived there."

Constantine Gras, a local filmmaker, made a documentary called "Grenfell: The Untold Story", which was shown on Channel 4 last year. In that film, he recorded the community two years before the fire, and it was shot during the refurbishment. There are scenes

where residents meet with councillors, and Denis can be seen in those scenes along with Ed and Willie and Marcio Gomes and many others. Anne Marie says in the film that Denis would fight for what he believed in. She also said in the film that the only possessions that the family had left were some of his coin collection recovered from the flat. The family treasure those

In the same film, Denis's next door neighbour spoke about him. She spoke of how delighted she was when she found out she was going to live in Grenfell Tower, and then she met her neighbour, the lovely Denis, who was so kind to her and her children. She said he was like an uncle to them. Because he knew that she was a single parent, he would knock on the door and tell her whether the lift was broken, when the water was gone. He was somebody who looked out for you. She jokingly added that Denis went to every residents' meeting, probably even more than Ed.

One of the consolations that the Murphy family have in the aftermath of this tragedy is meeting so many of the other survivors and finding out more about Denis. Anne Marie recalls all the stories and memories that survivors have shared with her and the family. Mohamed Neda's wife told the family that Denis used to

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go up in the lift to her floor with her shopping and carry her shopping to her front door for her, and then go down, back to his flat.

Children were a fixture of Grenfell Tower, and there was a time when the stairwells and lobbies reverberated to their laughter and their noises. Denis loved that sound. Hanan Wahabi said Denis always chatted to the kids. He was also so respectful. There was no generation gap there. Denis would say to the younger children, "Look after your mum, you only ever get one mum". In this, Denis was emulating how he adored his own mother.

Anne Marie also found out after the fire that her eldest daughter went to school with Olu. Olu Talabi lived in flat 113. Those residents that were left behind became like a family.

Denis was yet another vulnerable resident of Grenfell Tower. He had arthritis and, more often than not, during the works to the tower, only one lift would be working and that would make it very difficult for people like Denis to get in and out of the building. Anne Marie went with Tracey for Denis's assessment for arthritis. This was a few years ago, when Peter was still at university, and Denis was granted that benefit. Denis also had COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease. This is a name for a group of lung conditions where it's difficult to breathe air out of the lungs. COPD involves long—term chronic bronchitis and emphysaema. These conditions can often occur together. In both conditions, the airways become narrow. This makes it harder to move air in and out as you breathe and your lungs are less able to take in oxygen and get rid of carbon dioxide.

The combination of disabilities all impaired Denis's mobility and would have put him at greater risk from fire. Indeed, his ability to evacuate in the event of any emergency was greatly compromised. Denis did not have a PEEP.

Turning, then, to the events of 13 and 14 June 2017. CCTV footage shows Denis Murphy approaching the lift inside the tower on 13 June at 13.16. This would be the last sighting.

In the early stages of the fire, when flames were accelerating up the east face of the tower, forcing the occupants of the 6s to leave, a number of the doors to those flats appear to have been left open due to the absence of effective self—closing devices. The Inquiry has already heard a lot about these particular doors and other doors where those self—closing devices were not fully functioning. As a result, smoke which had been

able to enter those flats was able to get into the lobbies

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Surviving residents of floor 14, including Omar Alhajali, Ms Nida Mangoba of flat 116 and the residents of flat 144, Alejandro Serrano and Robert Schwillens, have noted issues reflecting the defective front doors that were replaced during the refurbishment programme, resulting in their failure to operate automatically or to close properly.

Nida and her family were the only residents on that floor to self—evacuate. She lived at flat 116, one of the 6s. She had gone to bed around midnight on the evening of 13 June. Her husband and teenage son were already asleep. She awoke to the noise of an alarm and ran to the sitting room. Out of the window she saw that there was fire blazing outside. She then went to the kitchen and could see there was even more fire blazing outside her kitchen window.

Before leaving her flat at 116, Nida went to collect her family's passports from her bedroom. As she left the bedroom, she saw "thick black smoke" in her hallway, from the ceiling almost to the floor. She noted that the smoke was coming into the bedroom and she had to cover her nose as the smoke was already there and it was black. The smell was unpleasant and bitter.

Nida states that she was the last one to leave her flat, and she thinks she left the door open because, in the rush to exit, she may not have pulled it closed.

She goes on to explain that the front door of her flat was meant to be self—close, but the mechanism that made it close automatically had been broken for some time. She had reported it on a number of occasions, and it had been repaired, but it kept breaking, and she had given up reporting it as broken.

Nida notes that, upon running out of her flat, her husband and son were waiting for her in the lobby. She saw smoke in the lobby:

"... but it was not thick black smoke like what was in my flat. The smoke in my flat was much worse than what was in the lobby. The smoke in the lobby was light, it was like a cloud. I don't know where the smoke was coming from in the communal lobby. The smoke nonetheless was affecting our breathing as we pulled up our clothing to cover our faces as we went to the door to go down the staircase. As we ran down the stairs I could smell smoke but did not see any smoke in the stairway."

She is seen, and her family are seen, on the CCTV footage leaving at 01.29.45 — Marlon Junior — 01.29.46 — Marlon Senior — and Nida herself at

e which had been 25 01.29.46 — Marlon Senio

1	01.29.48.	1	at the window, but Denis said he could not do that due
2	Nida and her family having left, that meant that on	2	to the smoke. Tim told Denis to leave the flat, but
3	floor 14, the residents of flat 111, Denis; flat 112,	3	Denis said it was pitch black and smoky in the lobby, so
4	the Alhajali brothers; flat 113, Rosemary and Olu; and	4	he could not do that. Tim himself called the emergency
5	flat 114, Zainab and Jeremiah, remained on the floor.	5	services, giving them all that information. On speaking
6	They made a number of phone calls collectively. All	6	to Denis, Tim had told him that help was on its way and
7	were advised to remain and stay put.	7	reassured his brother.
8	In response to Denis's first phone call,	8	Rosemary and Olu from flat 113 made their first
9	a four—person BA crew was despatched to the 14th floor.	9	emergency call at $01.37.58$ . It lasted 1 minute and
LO	That crew was made up, from Kensington, of Firefighters	10	13 seconds. Rosemary informed CRO Duddy at Brigade
L1	Des Murphy and Charlie Cornelius and, from Acton,	11	control that she had a baby and that thick, black smoke
L2	Firefighters Nicke Merrion and Harvey Sanders. We know	12	was coming through the letterbox. A smoke alarm could
L3	from the records that Firefighter Cornelius tallied out	13	be heard in the background. She said that she and her
L4	at 01.51, Firefighter Murphy at 01.51.24, Merrion at	14	family had tried to escape but the smoke was too thick
L5	01.51.13 and Sanders at 01.50.57.	15	in the lobby so they had returned to the flat . Smoke
L6	At the time they were deployed, they were following	16	was now coming through the door into her flat. Rosemary
L7	and responding to the FSG that related to the call made	17	was advised to block up the doors and to keep the smoke
L8	from Denis about floor 14. Denis had made that call at	18	out. CRO Duddy told her that the fire was on the
L9	01.25.16. It was answered by CRO Norman. In that call,	19	3rd floor.
20	the following is said:	20	Firefighter Lewis Rice notes that:
21	"Operator 1: Emergency which service?	21	"We were given a slip of paper with our task on it
22	"Caller: Listen there's a fire going on right	22	initial task handed to me was to go to the 14th
23	outside my	23	floor to rescue people stuck by the lifts But when
24	"Operator 1: Fire, Police or Ambulance?	24	we went to the entry control officer he informed us our
25	"Caller: Fire Brigade love there's a fire in	25	task had changed He informed us that we would be
	41		43
1	the tower block	1	going up as a crew of four and going up to the 4th and
2	"Operator: Shouting fire.	2	5th floors to carry out a search and rescue of any
3	"Caller: Yeah, I'm in Grenfell Tower love and	3	persons found $\dots$ SDBA were also being used at the same
4	there's a fire going on	4	time as us as I remember questioning as I think the SDBA
5	"Operator 1: Hold the line you're in a queue waiting	5	before us had been committed higher than us, but you
6	for them to answer.	6	never know what their task is and how time consuming."
7	"Caller [Denis]: Hello!	7	Denis made a further 999 call at 01.40
8	"Operator 2: Hello Fire Brigade."	8	$\{LFB00000322\}.$ In that call, he explained that smoke
9	The call then is exchanged to the Fire Brigade.	9	was coming into the flat, through the windows and
LO	During his call to the actual Fire Brigade, which	10	through the doors. He explained that his whole flat was
L1	lasted 3 minutes and 57 seconds, Denis added that he had	11	now full of smoke:
L2	tried upon opening the door to leave, but there was	12	"Caller: smoke I can't move my flat's full
L3	a lot of smoke. The CRO, OM Norman, advised that if	13	of smoke"
L4	leaving meant using the stairwell, which she asserted	14	There's smoke in the bathroom, smoke coming through
L5	wrongly was filled with smoke, he was better off staying	15	the windows and through the door.
L6	where he was.	16	" my whole flat is full of smoke I'm locked
L7	Four minutes after Denis's first 999 call	17	in the bathroom
L8	Zainab Deen makes her first call at 01.29. She states	18	"Operator: Can you put some towels around the
L9	that she is alone with a baby.	19	door to stop the smoke coming in?
20	Timothy Murphy, Denis's brother, states that he	20	"Caller: I can't get out It's already full of
21	received a voice message from Denis saying there was	21	smoke [thick, black smoke]."
22	a fire in the flat and that he was in trouble. At	22	Tim Murphy called 999 and gave the operator Denis's
23	01.36, Tim called back. Denis answered immediately.	23	details, including his name, flat number and the fact
24	Tim could hear from his voice that he was distressed and	24	that he was struggling to breathe.
25	in a state of panic. Tim advised Denis to get some air	25	CRO Fox then took a call from Surrey Police contact

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Firefighter Murphy also describes seeing the

Alhajali brothers at this point coming out of their

1 centre reporting details of a trapped resident. This 1 flat . 112: 2 was after Denis's brother Tim had spoken to Surrey 2 "They cried 'Please help us'. I could see the air 3 Police and told them that Denis was trapped in his 3 in their flat looked clean so I asked them to take the bathroom and struggling to breathe. The smoke had been 4 4 male from flat 111 in and keep their door shut." That account is slightly at odds with the account 5 filling the room. 5 6 CRO Fox created a service request at 01.51 and 6 from Firefighter Cornelius {MET00012663/9}. He says 7 CRO Darby passed that information to the incident ground 7 at 01.53. At the same time, CRO Howson took a call from 8 "We ... banged on the door of flat 111 [Denis's 8 9 Zainab Deen, who said that all the rooms in her flat had 9 flat ], the gentlemen was in his underwear, whom I will 10 10 smoke in them and that smoke was coming through the door describe as white male, average build, middle aged with 11 and the window. 11 dark hair, answered the door and he appeared confused. 12 12 Zainab then makes a call at 01.48.23 from her flat. His flat is smoked logged, it appeared to me that the 13 115. Zainab told CRO Howson that she had a baby and 13 male has suffered smoke inhalation because there was that smoke was coming into her flat. CRO Howson told 14 14 black soot on his eye and nose and he was coughing as 15 Zainab that the fire was on the 4th floor. Zainab 15 well. I then asked the male if there was anyone else in reiterated that smoke was coming into her own flat via the flat and he answered 'My keys are in there'. 16 16 17 17 I thought he said my kids are in there. I passed the the door and the windows. 18 Up to this point, the Alhajali brothers had made no 18 gentleman to FF Murphy and went in and searched his flat 19 19 and no one else was in his flat . His flat was less 2.0 Meanwhile, at the bridgehead, firefighters were 2.0 smoky but there was evidence of smoke is in his flat by 21 being briefed by Watch Manager O'Keeffe. He told 21 looking at the walls but it was breathable but you would 22 Firefighters Murphy and Cornelius, to go to the 22 not like to spend too long in there. I came back out and asked the male if there is anyone else in the flat 2.3 14th floor. Firefighter Murphy says {MET00010820/4}: 23 2.4 "He tasked us with a Fire Survival Guidance ... 2.4 and this is when he said his 'keys'. We took the male 25 Search and Rescue on the floor 14 to locate a male who 2.5 to the landing/lobby area which is less smoky. By the 45 47 was in flat 111." 1 1 time we came back out again into the lobby area on the 2 That, of course, must have been Denis. 2 14th floor, there were around 4/5 residents out of their 3 "This male had called for firefighters saying that 3 flats and standing at the lobby area.' he could not get out of his flat and he was told to Firefighter Cornelius says that a decision was made 5 remain in his flat for firefighters to reach him." 5 to move Denis from his flat to 112, the flat of Omar and Firefighter Des Murphy notes: 6 Mohammad. Omar describes the poor state that Denis was 6 7 7 "When we got to floor five ... the conditions in the in: his face was black from the smoke, he was coughing 8 8 staircase suddenly became really smoky. The smoke was and struggling to breathe, he looked like he was dying, 9 9 and he could not talk. Omar and Mohammad again asked intense, really thick and acrid. There was no 10 visibility . Our radio communications were not working 10 the firefighters to take them down out of the building, 11 and on our working channel, channel 6, there was no 11 but again they were told to stay put. response." 12 12 Omar says in his witness statement: "It was difficult for Denis to walk; he was moving Firefighters Murphy and Cornelius do arrive on 13 13 floor 14 ahead of the Acton team. The first person that 14 14 very slowly and he looked calm. He was struggling to they see is Denis in flat 111. Firefighter Murphy says 15 15 breathe." 16 this  $\{MET00010820/5\}$ : 16 Shortly after, the firefighters made a decision to 17 17 move all of them from flat 112 to flat 113, the flat of "Inside flat 111 there was very heavy smoke logged 18 [sic] as was the lobby which was an unsafe area the 18 Olu and Rosemary and their daughter. The rationale for 19 resident. At this point, FF Cornelius tried to radio 19 that was that the air was cleaner. In his statement  $\{MET000086060/6\}$ , 2.0 2.0 down to the Bridge Head that we had located Mr. Murphy 21 21 but the unsafe air in the lobby and the stairwell Firefighter Merrion says this: he was with 2.2 prevented us from removing him from the building. Radio 2.2 Firefighter Sanders and they came to flat 112 first, the 2.3 23 communications did not work!" home of Omar and Mohammad. Initially

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Firefighter Merrion went into the flat and spoke to the

men, advising them to remain, but one of them came into

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the lobby and informed Merrion that the smoke was inside their flat . Merrion went back into the flat and says that he made a decision to move all the people on the 14th floor to one flat , as that was the safest thing to do:

"I don't actually know who made the actual decision [he says]."

Whoever made the decision, the net result is the

same: everybody ended up in Olu and Rosemary's flat, 113.

So, flat 114 and 116, the home of Ms Mangoba and her family, there was no answer when the firefighters carried out their sweep because she had already left.

Firefighter Murphy says that  $\{MET00010820/5\}$ :

"We informed them the residents of 14th floor were now located in flat 113. FF Cornelius and I had no radio communications working, we were running low on air in our breathing apparatus and we did not know what was going on in the rest of the building or outside the building. We had only been on floor 14 for a maximum of 10 minutes and we realised we needed to get out quickly and return to the Bridgehead as we were running low on air. We explained to the residents on the 14th floor who we had moved to flat 113, to stay in the safe air with the front door closed."

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Firefighter Cornelius says {MET00012663/10}:

"Our decision to leave the 8 people in flat 113 was because of the conditions in the stairwell, where there was thick black smoke. If any one of them inhaled the smoke, that individual would not last long and pass out. I don't think leading 8 people down to the ground floor is an option because they can't hold their breath for that long, it is just leading them to their death and may have led to more bodies in the stairwell blocking the way. The better option was to leave them at flat 113 where there is clean air and to stay with the crew that came to assist while we go and get another crew to come and help them, and hoping that the fire would be contained in the compartment and conditions get better while more help will get to them. Plus, I remember seeing someone a fire fighter brought down when we are going up and the causality was unconscious because he did not have breathing apparatus ... my decision was 20% on brigade policy and 80% on the conditions in the stairwell."

By now, Denis had been exposed to a lot of smoke, firstly in his own flat, then he had been speaking with Cornelius and Firefighter Murphy whilst in the smoke—logged lobby. He had been with the Alhajali brothers, and he had been moved via the lobby to

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Rosemary and Olu's flat. He was exhausted.

Upon getting to Rosemary and Olu's flat, Rosemary describes Denis's appearance thus:

"His face was dark and covered in thick, black soot. I did not recognise him at first; his face was so covered in soot. He was quiet and clearly in abject shock."

Rosemary had to ask Olu, "Who is this man?" Olu said, "It's Denis". Rosemary continues, "He looked dazed confused and shrivelled".

Ms Oyewule then cleaned Denis's face and eyes and gave him a tissue to blow his nose.

Firefighter Murphy had attempted to radio the bridgehead to tell them what they had done, but he was unable to do so. By this stage, both the control room and the firefighters in the tower were aware of the smoke ingress into Denis's flat, Zainab's flat, Omar and Mohammed's flat, and into flat 113 itself.

Firefighter Merrion recalls that he was instructed to tell the residents to stay in the flat. He had spoken with the Alhajali brothers, who he described as being very agitated and wanting to leave, but he told them to stay put. That was the policy where the fire was not in the flat. Firefighter Sanders says he told the residents that they were safe where they were.

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Omar states in his witness statement that he and his brother pleaded with Merrion and asked him to take them out with them, even asking Merrion if they had any masks or breathing equipment that they could use to assist their evacuation. Merrion replied he did not have any.

 $\label{thm:condition} \mbox{Firefighter Sanders spoke to Olu and Rosemary and} \\ \mbox{gave them the same stay-put advice}.$ 

By 2.00 am, Denis, Zainab and Rosemary had, between them, made six 999 calls. They all indicated the same thing to the operators: they all told the operators none of them felt able to leave their flat due to the thick smoke on floor 14.

Time was going on. Rosemary noticed that Denis was becoming weaker.

By now, the rest of the family became involved. At around 2.30, Anne Marie's house phone began to ring. Eventually her partner, Brian, answered it. It was her brother, Tim. He said that he had spoken to Denis and there was a fire in his flat and it sounded bad.

Immediately, Anne Marie called Peter and Tracey and told them to meet her by the car. Together with Brian, they all drove to the tower. En route, Anne Marie called Denis on his mobile, and she and Peter briefly spoke to him. Denis told Anne Marie that he was now in a neighbour's flat having been moved by firefighters.

Anne could hear a woman in the background shouting and saying she needed an ambulance. Anne also noticed that Denis's breathing was laboured. She was distressed by what she could hear. She told her brother to put a wet towel over his face and to lie down on the floor. She handed the phone to Peter. Peter told his dad to do as Auntie Anne had said. When Peter spoke to Denis on the phone, Denis said, "Boysie, Boysie, I can't breathe, I'm stuck, I can't get out, I don't know what to do". Denis always called Peter "Boysie". Peter could hear people screaming in the background on the phone. He told his dad, "We're 

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In his witness statement  $\{IWS00000675/4\}$ , Peter says this

"I was really upset at this point, I could hear him coughing and people screaming and someone saying we need an ambulance. I now believe it was Zainab Deen saying I need an ambulance. This was the very first time and indeed the last time that I had heard my Dad so scared. I said to him 'Dad, we are coming to get you right now, please put the flannel on your face to help your breathing'. That was my last conversation with my Dad although I did not think at the time that it was to be my last conversation. When I composed myself I tried

phoning him again, his phone just kept ringing out he

When they got to the tower, around about 3.00 am, Peter, Tracey and Anne could see the full extent of the horrific fire. Peter jumped out of the car and ran off. Tracey ran after him. Peter got as far as the police cordon. He says this  $\{IWS00000675/5\}$ :

"The scene was chaotic, there were lots of people around, some on their phones, talking and videoing, some just stood watching. There were people screaming and I remember a buzz of what I think was a helicopter above us. There was stuff floating off the tower and landing on cars. The smell was awful. My eyes were stinging from the heat. There were sirens blasting out, flashing lights. The heat was immense."

Peter spoke to the policeman and told him about his dad and him being moved to a neighbour's flat on the 14th floor. Peter goes on:

"The police officer told me that they, I presume he meant the fire fighters ... had got to the 20th floor and that people who were being brought out were going by ambulance to Clarenden Road and he told me to take myself down there as my Dad may be there."

Peter did in fact bump into Ed Daffarn. Ed had heard Peter speaking to the police officer and

mentioning his father, but Peter was in his own world by now and he didn't remember what Ed said to him, and he walked off.

Anne Marie and Brian spoke to firefighters at the scene, and they eventually found Tracey and Peter on Clarenden Road. Mick, by this time, and Anne Marie had also spoken on the phone. Mick told her to go round to their mother's, Anne, so they all went over to her house. Later that morning, Tim and his partner also arrived at Anne's house

Whilst the family were outside, inside the tower, Firefighter Murphy had reached the bottom  $\{IWS00010820/5-6\}$ :

"I met with [Watch Manager] O'KEEF[F]E and informed him of what we had done on floor 14 and that there were eight ... residents currently in flat 113. In the Bridgehead, I could see that a senior officer, an Assistant Divisional Officer ... was now present standing by two entry control boards which showed the number of firefighters present who were wearing breathing apparatus. There were lots of people around and queues of firefighters waiting. I then realised the incident was much bigger than we initially thought. I could see there was another person writing information on the wall. I thought I just needed to get

outside ... "

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So, having given the details and debriefed Watch Manager O'Keeffe, he saw Watch Manager De Silvo write on the wall. The photographs of the walls and the boards that were shown this morning during the presentation on behalf of Mohammad Alhajali referred to one of the photographs of the wall on the 3rd floor, and there we can see, on a close—up of that, that firefighters had written the floor number and the number of people.

Firefighter Murphy says, once he got outside:

"I turned to look at the Tower and I could see that it was now engulfed in flames. I could hear the fire crackling and could see it was spreading towards the north—east of the Tower, the fire was nearly to the top of the north—east corner. I could see thick black smoke billowing from the Tower, the exterior panelling was coming off and the fire looked to be quite extensive."

Sir, in the Phase 1 report at volume 4, paragraph 21.113, it says this:

"Flat 113 provides a tragic example of the failure of the bridgehead to act on sound FSG information."  $\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2} \right) \left( \frac$ 

We've heard in the presentation this morning what happened at the door once the next group of firefighters , Orchard and Herrera, reached the

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14th floor. What is particularly tragic for the Murphy family is that whatever the conversation was -- and there is a dispute -- Denis was not part of it. He was not at the door. He, Zainab, Jeremiah and Mohammad were the forgotten ones in flat 113.

Denis made no further 999 calls. His family heard nothing more from him. It is likely, but we cannot say for certain, that Denis remained in the company of Zainab and Jeremiah. His condition no doubt became weaker and weaker

In those final hours in flat 113, the Murphy family will always be grateful to Omar, his late brother Mohammad, to Rosemary, to Olu, to the late Zainab Deen, for being with Denis. They looked after Denis and they tried to help him.

The rest of the family were all now at their mother. Anne's, home. In the coming hours and the coming days. they sought information about Denis and his fate. Anne lives in west London, and it was her eldest daughter. who went to school with Olu, who actually was the conduit through which information was found. A friend of Olu's had messaged him to let him know that Anne was looking for her brother. The family met with Olu and he told them about the events of the night.

Moving on to the evidence of Professor Purser, he

details particularly Zainab Deen, Jeremiah and Denis together, and he says this:

From around 3.35, the conditions in flat 113 deteriorated rapidly in terms of increasing smoke and exposure to asphyxiant gases, and in the living room and kitchen area very rapidly when the exterior fire spread outside the south living room from approximately 03.52.

During this period, the occupants were increasingly affected by the uptake of asphyxiant gases so that, in terms of sequence, Jeremiah, as a child, would have first become unresponsive and then died. After this, Denis Murphy and then Zainab would have become unresponsive, and they would have died at approximately 03.45

Whilst there is some difference in detail regarding the exact sequence and timing of these events, essentially the features are relatively clear. Denis had been moved from one flat to another. He had remained in the lobby for a few minutes. From the descriptions that others give of Denis's condition and the firefighters 'descriptions, he had clearly suffered significant smoke exposure in his own flat by the time he was moved, and was quite badly affected by the inhalation of irritant smoke particles, causing coughing and breathlessness. He will have inhaled some

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asphyxiant gases, but Professor Purser says he was still able to walk and was not showing obvious signs of asphyxiant intoxication at that time.

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At some point, most likely after the exterior fire was outside flat 113 bedrooms -- and that would have been approximately 03.33 -- when frame and smoke had penetrated the bedrooms, but before flames spread outside the living room, it is likely that Denis and Zainab became semiconscious and unresponsive due to the inhaled dose of asphyxiant gases, especially that inhaled after 03.33.

During this period, the pattern of smoke exposure will have resulted in a slow uptake of asphyxiant gases, with a slow increase in blood COHb up to approximately 3.33, and then a more rapid increase up to 3.52 over the period approximately until 04.00 hours.

The description of the conditions from the phone calls show that all three occupants were affected by the incapacitating effects of inhalation of asphyxiant

Denis's remains were recovered from flat 113 in the kitchen area. He was lying on his left side, towards the door from the kitchen to the hall of the flat.

Anne Marie Murphy says this:

"Denis taught his family to never look away from

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people's pain. His lesson was simple: Don't look away, don't look down; don't pretend not to see hurt. Look people in the eye. Even when their pain is overwhelming. And when you are in pain, find the people who can look you in the eye. The family ask all of you here today to take a moment to look them in the eye. We need to know: we are not alone, see our pain and hurt of losing Denis as it is still so immense."

It has been said that time is a great healer, but the family are still waiting to heal. Each day there are moments when they realise there is a part of them missing. Sometimes it's manageable, sometimes it's not.

Denis's home is gone. The image of Grenfell Tower is now one that is seared in the public consciousness. It is that of a burnt-out shell, unrecognisable from the homes that once were there.

Mrs Murphy once said to her daughter, "I might not live to see justice served". We are glad that she is still here and she is still fighting for her son.

The celebrated architect Bertholt Lubetkin was a pioneer of British modernism. He designed council houses and health centres and leisure centres for working class people in north London over 80 years ago. Many of these buildings are now listed buildings. At the opening of one of his most beautiful designs, the

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people in the room or following on the live stream, and

room, then they should do so now, or to look away from

to them I would say that, if they wish to leave the

1 Finsbury Health Centre, in 1938, he said his now oft 1 the live stream similarly. 2 quoted words: "Nothing is too good for ordinary people". 2 Subject to that, Ms Munroe, thank you. 3 As Peter Murphy remarked, his father was an ordinary 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. Yes, 4 man, living in an area of ordinary people. Nothing was 4 Ms Munroe Presentation relating to ZAINAB DEEN and JEREMIAH DEEN 5 too good for Denis Murphy and his neighbours. They all 5 by MS MUNROE 6 deserved a good, safe place to live. 6 MS MUNROE: Thank you, sir. Anne has also been asked many times how she feels 7 and how does she describe losing her brother, and she 8 8 Sir, panel, can I just start by introducing Francis, 9 describes it thus: 9 who is here in person. He is a good friend of Zainab 10 10 ' ... since Denis's death ... one of my answers has and I will be referring to him, and you may recall 11 been 'it's like never being able to find your way home 11 reference to Francis in Phase 1. 12 12 again and what makes it even harder is that Denis will Zainab's mother. Hannah, is not in the country, so 13 never find his way home again. His home was Flat 111 13 cannot be with us here today. Her father is watching 14 Grenfell Tower.' 14 remotely, as is her sister, Saalma 15 I will end with the words of the family, and these 15 The pictures that we have just looked at are very lovely pictures indeed. They show a beautiful young 16 16 words they have written directly to their brother Denis: 17 "Denis. we wish you knew how much of you there is in 17 woman, Zainab, and a gorgeous little toddler, Jeremiah. Mother and child. 18 everything we do. It can be the smallest thing, but 18 19 you're there, under the surface somewhere. We wish you 19 Putting aside stereotypes of traditional parenting 20 knew how we carry you with us everywhere, always. Our 2.0 roles, the image of a mother and child, and motherhood 2.1 precious memories of you will be cherished forever." 21 generally, are powerful, iconic and enduring ones across 2.2 Sir, thank you. 22 cultures and time. Religions all over the world, SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 2.3 23 whether Christian, Judaic, Hindu, Islamic, all accord 2.4 2.4 Thank you, Ms Munroe. Now, at this point, we shall a very important place to the concept of motherhood. 25 2.5 Zainab Deen loved being a mother. Jeremiah was have a break. MS MUNROE: Sir, can we have a shorter break? 1 truly her pride and joy. SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes. How long do you think would be 2. 2 She was born on 25 May 1985 in Freetown, 3 appropriate? 3 Sierra Leone. Zainab spent her childhood years there MS MUNROE: 20 minutes. and then moved to England when she was about 15 or 16. SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, all right. 5 5 At the commemoration hearings, her family described her MS MUNROE: Perhaps 15. 6 6 as a beautiful, smart, warm, caring and confident young SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Shall we say 12.35? 7 7 woman. She had a lively personality, and her great 8 sense of humour was enjoyed by all who came across her. 8 MS MUNROE: Yes, thank you. 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Thank you very much. 9 Zainab was a much loved mother, daughter, sister, 10 12.35, then, please. 10 niece, granddaughter and cousin. She is survived by two 11 (12.20 pm) 11 other children; her father, Zainu Deen; her mother, 12 (A short break) 12 Hannah Thomas; her cousin Ejatu Deen; her stepmother, 13 13 (12.35 pm) Maria Deen: and her sister. Saalma Dean. SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett, Her cousin Linda saw her regularly, and she says 14 14 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I would now invite 15 15 this about Zainab: 16 Ms Allison Munroe Queen's Counsel to come back to the 16 "I knew Zainab more than most people. Zainab was very social. When she died, even in America and back 17 podium, please, and to make the presentation on behalf 17 18 of Zainab Deen and Jeremiah Deen from flat 115 on 18 home a lot of people knew her." 19 floor 14 of Grenfell Tower. 19 She was very religious and used to like going to 2.0 2.0 As before, I would just make the trigger warning church and spent a lot of time there. She liked to help 21 21 again, that during the course of this presentation there out with the church. 2.2 may be discussion or material which is distressing to 2.2 Linda goes on:

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"Zainab was very kind, liked helping people

including those who had nowhere to go, she would help

homeless people in the community and offer them her

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sofa/her own home while they got themselves sorted ... Anytime you go to Zainab's house there's somewhere on her sofa or in her spare room, even in Grenfell. She was very generous, very family oriented. She didn't have anything herself but she was always helping others.

"Zainab liked to go out and eat. She was funny. She made people laugh. She liked dancing, she loved music. I liked going out with her, shopping, dressing. She was always smiling. Anywhere Zainab goes, there would be fun. People liked her."

One of the most enduring memories that Linda has is that Zainab was a happy person, and when you were around her, you're happy. She was just one of those people who was very sociable. Anywhere she went in London, there would be somebody who knew her, and Linda met a variety of people after Zainab died who all knew and loved her.

Linda gives another anecdote:

"At Grenfell, there was a person, a man, who was having some issues with his family and his wife, and he got kicked out, and Zainab let him stay with her for a month or so. This was just before the fire."

Her mother Hannah says this:

"Zainab was the only child I gave birth to. When she came to England, she was always sending me money and things that I could sell because she knew how hard life

was for me back in Sierra Leone. I was living in a village and life in the village was very hard. We had different ways of keeping in touch. If someone was travelling to Sierra Leone, she would find out and tell them to come and see me and bring me something. If I could get somewhere by a telephone, I would call her. Lately I was able to use the internet on other people's phones to get in touch with her, and she recently sent me a phone myself so I could call her. It was hard but, like I say, she was always with me and I know she always had me on her mind.

"I don't know the details of what happened to my daughter and my grandson. She had called me on the Monday to tell me she was sending me some money on Tuesday for rent. She put Jeremiah on the phone and he said, 'I love you, grandma'. But by Tuesday, they were both dead. Someone called asking if I was Zainab's mum, but no one gave me any information. I was too scared to ask, and too hurt. It's overwhelming. I can't believe that she's gone and I can't believe that I'll never get to see Jeremiah again. I just want to see my grandchild. I'm so scared and lonely and I have no support. All I know is that my daughter and her son died in a terrible fire in the middle of London far from me. I can't believe it would happen there like that.

"A mother's love is very precious, and the same for me as everyone anywhere in the world. I lost a daughter that I gave birth to and my baby grandson. I wish I could see my grandchildren. They are the only branch of my roots that are left."

Francis was present on the night of the fire and watched from the outside of the unfolding scene. He says this about Zainab:

"Over time, Zainab told me a lot about her life. She had a really difficult life. She had struggled. But she was so bubbly and fun and her energy and enthusiasm was infectious. Despite her hardships, she found faith and was happy as a born again Christian."

Francis goes on and says

"That gave her purpose and participation in so many churches that, when she passed away in Grenfell Tower, many churches held services in her memory. She was part of many congregations. She was like champagne — very bubbly."

Jeremiah.

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Jeremiah Deen was born in December 2014 in London. He was only two years old when he died. His life was only just starting. As a toddler, he was beginning to explore and appreciate the world around him, and he loved football.

Two years old. That's an age where children are walking and talking and sometimes talking back. They are growing out of their infancy and into childhood. However, they're still very young, and when a two—year—old cries, they cry like a baby. When they're in pain, they show their pain like babies. They want to be held in your arms and cuddled and told everything will be all right.

Linda shared this memory of Jeremiah:

"He was very clever and a happy child. He was social like his mum and liked to be around people. I used to babysit a lot for him. I saw them both on 13 June, but just briefly. That was the last day. We had fun on that day. I was taking my child to nursery, so me and Zainab met halfway, as she took Jeremiah to nursery. We were laughing. We had ice cream. We went to the shop and we bought ice lollies. It was a really hot day. We were just laughing. It was a beautiful day with a bad ending."

Sir, panel, like so many that we've heard about in the last few weeks, Zainab had her vulnerabilities. Her family want her background to be known and the hardships she faced so that people can see the full picture of who Zainab was, but also how far she came and what she overcame.

re like that. 25 overcame.

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Life for Zainab was never easy. She had learning disabilities and some mental health difficulties.

Doubtless these were exacerbated by other traumas that she encountered in her young life. She had already escaped an unhappy and tormented first marriage.

Additionally, her older children did not live with her, and this caused Zainab immeasurable pain and made her even more protective of Jeremiah. She was determined to make a life for both of them and show people that she could cope. She had also experienced homelessness and unemployment. No doubt again her mental health had been exacerbated and impacted negatively by those experiences and the many other difficulties and challenges she encountered in her life.

But Zainab persevered. She got a tenancy in flat 115 Grenfell Tower on the 14th floor. That was late 2015, and it was a tenancy in her sole name. For someone who had experienced homelessness in the past, having her own flat was just wonderful. Zainab had been unemployed, but very recently she had been offered a new job as a waitress. Francis remembers Zainab dancing for joy at the prospect of a new job. She was due to start on Monday, 19 June 2017. Things were finally on the up for Zainab and Jeremiah. She had created a home for herself and her beloved son. She would have a job.

They were happy.

The last person to see Jeremiah and Zainab was Francis. According to Francis's Inquiry statement, he dropped Zainab and Jeremiah off at Grenfell Tower around 9.30/10.00 pm on the evening of 13 June. CCTV footage shows Zainab and Jeremiah together in the lift lobby. They were waiting to go up to the building. This was at 23.20.17.

During the course, sir, of the previous two presentations this morning, you have heard a great deal of detail about the circumstances and the condition on floor 14. Mr Friedman Queen's Counsel has set the scene and explained the rapid fire spread, the defective doors, and the objective conditions on floor 14. In the last presentation, sir, I told you about the numerous phone calls that had been made by Denis Murphy and Rosemary from flat 113. In this presentation, sir, I will therefore concentrate on the calls that were made by Zainab Deen herself.

Her first call is made at 01.29.02. Here we have Zainab, a scared, vulnerable young woman, alone in her flat with her two—year—old son, Jeremiah. The flat is being compromised by smoke, and as the fire continues to spread on the exterior of the tower, she remains in her flat.

Sir, as I mentioned yesterday, one thing that has been absent in the main part from the Inquiry are the sounds of the night. For Zainab, the sounds of the night would have been particularly terrifying. They were loud, they were constant, and unrelenting, and they went on for hours and hours and hours. That is what Zainab and indeed two—year—old Jeremiah would have been exposed to.

It is clear even from her first call at 01.29 that Zainab found the whole situation petrifying, and it caused a heightened sense of anxiety and fear within her. That was coupled with an all—consuming desire to protect and not lose Jeremiah.

When she made her first call, she begged for help. She advised that she was in floor 14 and the fire was coming into the building, and she said, "I've got a baby with me". Eight minutes later at 01.37, Zainab again makes a 999 call. This time it's answered by CRO Adams. The smoke alarm is audible in the background of the call. After repeatedly stating that she was on floor 14, Zainab described smoke coming in under the door and through the windows and fire coming from the door. CRO Adams advised Zainab to block the door, shut the window, and informed her that someone will soon come and get her out.

The operator tells Zainab to stop shouting and calm down. Remember, this is a young woman with learning disabilities and ill mental health. Now, of course, CRO Adams would not have known that, but her sense of heightened anxiety with her flat being compromised by smoke, it's not surprising that she was shouting and not calm. It's difficult to remain calm when your baby's life is at risk from smoke and fire raging on the exterior of the building. Zainab was deeply distressed. She and her child begged for help. She told the operator, "I'm going to die, and I feel like jumping".

A minute later, Zainab made a telephone call to Francis Dean. She told him, "There's a fire", and she said, "I'm with Jeremiah and the firefighters are in the tower".

At this stage, it's perhaps worth remembering Professor Purser's analysis that it was still possible to safely evacuate from floor 14.

Zainab then contacts the emergency services again, 01.47.17. She says once again, "I have a baby with me". Jeremiah remains her primary concern. She talks about the fire and the smoke.

The report for HM Coroner states:

"Caller and baby. Fire in the flat . Screaming. Obvious panic. Smoke present in the flat via the door

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Advised by controller to block the smoke and stay where she is. Less than a minute later, 01.48.23. Zainab makes another call, this time CRO Howson took the call. The operator tells the caller that the fire is not on the 14th floor, and asks if there's something coming into the flat. The caller, Zainab, "Yes, yes, there is smoke in all the rooms. I have a baby, smoke is coming through the door". The operator tells her to put blankets and towels to stop the smoke. The caller, Zainab, "I have already done that". The operator tells her, "Well, just continue doing that to stop the smoke". Zainab says the smoke is coming from the window and the door. The windows are closed. All the rooms in the house have smoke. The operator says, "We'll tell the Fire Brigade to come as soon as they can. They will come and they will take you out safely". The operator also tells Zainab that there are 100 firefighters and 25 engines there. They're coming to make sure everyone is safe. It is important to note, Zainab's family say, that in this and other calls, Zainab is told the fire is on

From the summary from the coroner's report, it says

" Difficult to understand (possibly African).

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and windows."

the call handler makes a note:

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the 4th floor. Zainab reiterates that smoke is coming into her flat via doors and via the window. Effectively, Zainab is being told that she is wrong and she should disbelieve the sight of her own eyes and the smells of her own nose and the sounds of her own ears. One can only imagine how those words — "You're wrong, the smoke, the fire, is not on your floor" — would have been received by someone like Zainab, who is learning disabled with a history of mental ill—health.

She tells the call operator that there is smoke in every room. Once again, Jeremiah was paramount in her thoughts, and Zainab tells the CRO, "I have a baby with me". She is advised that the crew have been told, that they are coming and they will get her out soon, as soon as it's safe to do so.

We know from the evidence of Firefighters Cornelius and Murphy and the Acton crew that came up just behind them that a decision is made for all the occupants on the 14th floor that they find to go to Olu and Rosemary's flat.

At 02.01.40, an MPS operator made a call back to Zainab regarding "large fire at your location". The operator asks Zainab if she is able to get out, to which Zainab responded, "No, how can I get out?" The operator asks whether there was a fire escape and Zainab

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responded, "There isn't one", and that she needed help. Once again, Jeremiah is on her mind, and Zainab tells the operator she has her son with her. This operator tells her to calm down. Zainab is clearly agitated and distressed. She is advised that the Fire Brigade is coming up the stairs and they're trying to evacuate everyone, and she asks Zainab to look out because they will soon be there. Zainab explains that she couldn't go out and look. The smoke was coming in. At that point the MPS operator advises Zainab three times to go to the window and wave to the police helicopter.

Sir, you will have heard again from the presentation for Denis Murphy about the fire spread and the evidence of Nida, the neighbour who self—evacuated. It's worth noting that Firefighter Merrion is the only one who says of the briefing that he and his colleagues received from the bridgehead that:

"We were told to effect FSG rescue calls on the 14th floor [that's a more general briefing]. This meant that the advice was that it was deemed to be safest to get occupants to stay in their flat. We were told to give the residents on the 14th floor that advice."

Firefighter Sanders, who accompanied him, explains that the team were given no specific details of the occupants in the flats on the 14th floor. He says this:

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"I was not given any information of the condition on the floor or the flat we would attend or who we would be attending [on] in relation to numbers."

And so it appears he did not know what to expect. He goes on further to say:

"... no indication or belief [was made] that the fire would have spread to the 14th floor. My belief was that we would attend the flat and tell those people what we always say in that situation and that is to 'stay put' and we would deal with the fire ... I never doubted this to be the right thing to say as I did not believe people would get down the stairs conscious due to the conditions "

Sir, again, you've heard earlier how Rosemary in particular, once they were all in her flat, was very concerned for Denis and Zainab. She washed Denis's face, she hugged Zainab and she picked up Jeremiah. She described Zainab as deteriorating, so Zainab was put into the bedroom and she sat on Rosemary's bed. According to Rosemary, Zainab was almost hysterical now:

"She was crying and telling me that she wants to keep her baby, that she had fought hard for her baby and she did not want to lose him and did not want her baby to die."

It was now gone 2.00 am.

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At 02.09.25, CRO Gotts took a call at Brigade control room from the MPS control room reporting that they had received an abandoned call from a female who was trapped with her son in flat 115-- that's Zainab's flat -- and states that she does not know where the exits are. The MPS CRO gave a CAD reference number for that call . CRO Gotts states that the advice was to close the windows and block up the door, but if windows offer air , the resident was to open them.

The MPS controller asks if the Brigade are not directing people to fire escapes, and CRO Gotts explained that they do not know where the escapes are or the exits, and she had spoken to a few people who had left but they had to return to their flats because of the smoke. CRO Gotts explains that as the fire is unpredictable, the Brigade do not generally tell people to leave, but if they think they can leave safely, they are to do so. The MPS CRO asks CRO Gotts if she can arrange for the Brigade CRO supervisor to speak to the MPS supervisor in the MPS control room. CRO Gotts says she would try her best but they were very busy at the moment.

At 02.10, North West Fire Centre took a call via a BT operator who passed over a female caller who was outside the tower and reporting about the fire. The

caller said that there were people on the 14th floor on the west side of the building, and she specifically wanted to clarify that there was a woman who was screaming and banging on the windows about her kids. The North West Fire Centre operator stated that he would pass the information on to the Brigade. We know there were two children in flat 113: Rosemary and Olu's daughter, and of course Jeremiah.

Zainab then rings her friend Francis again, telling him that the conditions in the tower were getting worse. Francis has provided a witness statement to the Inquiry in Phase  $1. \,$ 

Upon receiving Zainab's call, he makes two 999 calls himself. He's en route to the tower. In the second call in respect of Zainab, Francis tells them that he's calling because of a friend. He says, "People are dying in the high—rise". The operator asks, "Are you in the high—rise?" Francis says, "No, I'm outside". Zainab is trapped in there, and he doesn't know what's happening. She's with her son, a little boy. The operator says, "What, are they on the 11th floor or the ——". Francis interrupts, "They're on the 14th floor". The operator says, "We're going to let the firefighters know". Francis says, "They're all there and nobody is doing anything". The operator says, "We've got 40

fire engines there. I can tell the firefighters what number and the floor they're on". Francis replies, "I'm going to try and call her back again and see whether or not she's still trapped". The operator says, "Let us know".

North West Fire Service again calls back Zainab at 02.21, an earlier connection having failed. Zainab tells them that she is now in flat 113. There is no record that the information was passed on to the LFB, although by that point Zainab would have already been moved into flat 113.

At approximately 02.23, a crew comprising of Firefighters Cook and Flanagan happened to enter flat 113 as they returned from a higher floor. We have just heard, in Denis's presentation, about them. This further BA crew was deployed just before BA crew 25, consisting of Firefighter Orchard and Herrera, and BA team 26, consisting of Firefighter Juggins and CM McAlonen. The briefings were mixed in terms of the flat numbers, the FSG calls, and the number of residents, adults and children.

At the same time that this deployment was ongoing, at 02.31.49, CRO Gotts again at Brigade control took a call from a female who said she was on the 14th floor and that there was now fire on the top. CRO Gotts tried

to confirm if she meant the fire is on top of the building or on top of her flat, and the caller stated it was on top of her flat. There was a loud scream and then a man moaned and then another scream. The caller then shouted, "Look at the fire", and CRO Gotts tried to confirm if the fire was in the caller's flat. The caller explained that they can't get out because they were told to stay inside, but she went on to explain that the fire will come into the flat. CRO Gotts advised that they were to get out if they could. If not, block up the exits and move away from where the smoke is. The line cleared without any further responses from the caller.

As I mentioned in the previous presentation for Denis Murphy, he, Zainab, Jeremiah and Mohammad can be perhaps called the forgotten ones from flat 113.

Once he was back downstairs, one of those firefighters, CM McAlonen, said this:

"I confirmed with the entry control board officer that three people had been rescued from flat 113 but I could not confirm that it was empty as we had escorted people out from the landing and not searched the flat."

Time pressed on

At 03.06.06, CRO Russell took a call from someone in flat 113 on the 14th floor. It took some time to

1	ascertain the flat number. It was a female caller. She	1	us."	
2	was shouting that someone was unconscious. CRO Russell	2	There's no reply after that.	
3	asked her where she was in the flat, but the caller's	3	Zainab makes one further conversation during a phone	
4	response was not clear. CRO Russell then asked were	sell then asked were $4$ call, and that is with CM Batcheldor. CM Batcheld		
5	there flames in the flat and the caller said yes.	5	outside the tower. He noticed Francis Dean speaking on	
6	CRO Russell told the caller to try and get away from the	6	his mobile phone and he approached him. He ascertained	
7	flames and asked if she was able to leave. The caller	7	that Mr Dean was speaking to a person who was trapped in	
8	said she couldn't leave, and then the line cut off.	8	a flat on the 14th floor.	
9	This must have been Zainab, because we know that	9	Sir, the evidence relating to this call is highly	
10	Rosemary was evacuated with the Herrera and Orchard BA	10	distressing . The family have been warned, but I raise	
11	crew.	11	that again for those in the room and those watching	
12	Some 11 minutes later, at 03.17.05, CRO Howson took	12	remotely.	
13	a call from Zainab. She was now shouting. She was	13	Francis speaks to Mr Batchelor whilst he is on the	
14	hysterical . She was reporting fire in the flat .	14	phone to Zainab, and at one point he passes the phone to	
15	CRO Howson advised Zainab to leave with wet towels over	15	CM Batcheldor. CM Batcheldor says as follows	
16	her face and use the stairwell, which was full of smoke.	16	{MET00007511/6-7}:	
17	Zainab explained that she had a baby with her and	17	"I took the phone from Francis and spoke to the	
18	CRO Howson told her to cover the baby with a wet towel.	18	woman. She said 'My name is [Zainab]. I am with my	
19	Zainab appeared to be talking to another person and	19	son. I am on the fourteenth floor — Flat 115.' I said	
20	passing on the advice. It is likely this would have	20	'Stay on the phone to me.' Watch manager Tom [FURNELL]	
21	been either Mohammad or Denis. She then said, "Okay",	21	was dealing with Fire Survival calls from a position	
22	and CRO Howson ended the call.	22	outside the building so I asked his advice. He told me	
23	Two further calls were made from flat 113, but the	23	that a call from [Zainab] had already been recorded so I	
24	timings were unclear and the callers could not be	24	told her 'We know where you are. We're coming up.' I	
25	identified . In one call, the operator tells the caller	25	asked what it was like in the flat and she said that it	
	81		83	
1	that the Fire Brigade were coming. "The fire is	1	was a bit smoky, so I told her to go to the least smoky	
1 2	that the Fire Brigade were coming. "The fire is coming," said the caller, "the fire is coming, the fire	1 2	was a bit smoky, so I told her to go to the least smoky room, shut the door and put clothing down at the bottom	
2	coming," said the caller , "the fire is coming, the fire	2	room, shut the door and put clothing down at the bottom	
2	coming," said the caller, "the fire is coming, the fire is coming". Operator, "Are you in Grenfell Tower?"	2	room, shut the door and put clothing down at the bottom of the door. I told her to lie on the floor, and put	
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24

25

was dead.

"When I took the phone back I could hear her

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flames. The best -- are you able to leave?

"Caller: No, we can't leave. Nobody is coming for

2.0

2.4

2.5

2.0

2.2

2.4

2.0

2.3

2.4

2.0

2.2

2.3

2.4

coughing. I could hear other sounds like banging in the background and I kept thinking that the fire fighters had reached her. I spent another 35—40 minutes on the phone to her in total. I was still in the vicinity of Tom so I asked him 'Where are we?' He then told me that fire fighters were unable to get passed the 12th Floor. She was on the 14th Floor. I knew I couldn't tell her this. I just couldn't tell her that so I basically lied to her and continued to tell her that we were coming for her

"It got to a point where she wasn't talking much. I could hear a bit of coughing and spluttering. I could hear that she was still there but she wasn't responding. I kept on chatting to her. For Francis, I had to keep up the pretence that she was OK. When she stopped responding I could hear a little whimpering but I kept talking to her in case she could hear my voice.

"For five or ten minutes it was silent, but I thought I couldn't cut the phone off. I was looking up at the building and watching it burn. I could hear that the conditions inside the flat were deteriorating. I could hear that things were falling off the wall.

"I then heard ear—splitting screaming. I think that [Zainab] must have been unconscious ... The screaming went on for about 60 seconds. When it stopped I knew

then that was it. I hung up the phone. The whole phone call lasted about an hour and a quarter."

Firefighter Egan, who was dealing with FSG, remembers that it was getting light. Crew

Manager Batcheldor came to him and asked about the phone call with the woman trapped in flat 113. He looked at the board and saw that her flat had already been marked "P" for priority. He believed that this information had been passed on "ages ago". The message was in green for adults, two, and black for children, also two. Egan knew that this flat number had been coming up repeatedly that night. The lady on the phone was still in the flat, and Crew Manager Batcheldor said, "She just wants to die". He then contacted Watch Manager Wolfenden, who said that he had passed on the message about this flat to the bridgehead.

One final deployment was at 03.28 from BA team 40. That consisted of Firefighter Lundquist and Crew Manager Mayne. They reported to the bridgehead wearing EDBA. They were told by either SM Williams or SM Wolfenden that the initial briefing was for them to go to flat 113 on the 14th floor to search for a mother and child in response to an FSG call. However, the briefing then changed at the bridgehead and they were instructed to only go to the 3rd or 4th floor.

During the time that CM Batcheldor believes he was on the phone with Zainab, nine residents from floors 15 to 21 exited the tower. After this time, no further residents exited the tower until 04.13, and those were from floors 10. 11 and 2.

There were no further communications between Zainab and Jeremiah and the outside world.

Sir, in my previous presentation on behalf of the Murphy family, I discussed the report of Professor Purser in relation to both Denis and Zainab, so I don't propose to repeat it now, save for this: due to his age, only being two, doubtless Jeremiah would have succumbed first.

Zainab's father, Zainu, had hoped to attend today. He read in advance what I was going to say on behalf of his daughter and his grandson. He became too emotional and said he couldn't continue. He went on to say this: in his culture, the parents don't bury their children. It's hard to stay strong, but he will have to stay strong. He said that it was like history repeating itself, as his own father had to bury his daughter too, Zainu's elder sister. That is why he's unable to attend today.

So, in conclusion, life for Zainab had always been difficult . She had her vulnerabilities and she had her

painful experiences in life. Being learning disabled was something she was managing and coping with. Her mental health was something she was managing and coping with. It's important to remember when we think about people with disabilities that it's a club that any of us can join. It's an equal opportunity enterprise and makes no distinction for class, race, sex or gender. Any of us can find ourselves, after an accident or through illness, ending up with a physical disability. Any of us could suffer a breakdown, depression and find ourselves with poor mental health. The fact that Zainab suffered was not unusual. It was not unique.

But she was a fighter and, throughout her life, she strove to overcome adversities and to beat the terrible odds that life had dealt her. As her cousin Linda says:

"Zainab was looking for a job, she was trying to get her life back together. She was looking forward. She had found a job. Maybe that would help her with all her children. She was trying to see if it could help for a better future."

As her father, Zainu, said, things were turning. She was turning her life around and achieving a level of happiness for her and her beloved son. Cruelly, she was only able to enjoy that for a very short period of time.

The remains of Zainab Deen were recovered from 

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Τ	flat 113. The remains of Jeremian were recovered from	1	houses rise in tiers precariously above the city. From
2	the same flat. According to the archaeological	2	a distance, it seems almost as if they would tumble into
3	investigation, Zainab died in close proximity to her	3	the waters, where they meet the dazzling blue sea below.
4	son, Jeremiah. Both were found in the southwest corner	4	The ancient ruins of Lixus speak of a civilisation and
5	of the flat .	5	a long history of this area, dating back to the days of
6	Zainab's greatest fear was losing Jeremiah. That	6	antiquity. It is beautiful. This place is called
7	single thought occupied her final hours on this earth.	7	Larache, and it holds a special place in the hearts of
8	Jeremiah and Zainab died as they lived: inseparable.	8	many in the expat Moroccan community in London.
9	They will be together forever.	9	For the El-Wahabi family it is particularly dear,
L O	Thank you.	10	because this wonderful coastal city was the birthplace
L1	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.	11	of both Abdulaziz and Faouzia El-Wahabi. This is where
L2	Thank you very much, Ms Munroe. At that point we'll	12	they would later return with their own children every
L3	break. We'll resume, please, at 2.30 this afternoon.	13	year in the summer to spend time there, long hot days on
L4	2.30, please. Thank you.	14	the breaches, cooling off in the sea with the whole
L5	(1.25 pm)	15	family. It was, in the words of Faouzia's mother,
L6	(The short adjournment)	16	Menana, the family's home away from home.
L7	(2.30 pm)	17	In the UK, the El-Wahabi family lived in flat 182 on
L8	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.	18	the 21st floor of Grenfell Tower, and the Wahabi family
L9	MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, good afternoon. Members of	19	lived at flat 66. These two families were as close as
20	the panel, good afternoon.	20	a sibling family could possibly be: one family, two
21	I would now invite Ms Allison Munroe	21	branches.
22	Queen's Counsel, please, to come back to the podium to	22	Flat 182 Grenfell Tower was home to
23	make the presentation on behalf of the family of	23	Abdulaziz El-Wahabi, his wife, Faouzia, and his three
24	Abdulaziz El–Wahabi, Faouzia El–Wahabi, Yasin El–Wahabi,	24	children, Yasin, Nur Huda, and little Mehdi. Flat 66
25	Nur Huda El-Wahabi and Mehdi El-Wahabi, all from	25	was the home to his younger sister, Hanan, her husband
	,		
	89		91
1	flat 182 on floor 21 of Grenfell Tower.	1	and her children. The two families loved, lived,
2	As before, throughout this module, I would invite	2	laughed as one. Up until 14 June 2017, Hanan remarked
3	those to understand that there is difficulty in relation	3	the only difference between the families was that their
4	to some of the contents of what we are about to hear,	4	father, Mohammed, had forgotten to add the "EI" to
5	and if there are those who wish to absent themselves	5	Hanan's birth certificate . The families shared their
6	from the room now or look away from the live stream,	6	lives with their siblings, who lived close to the tower.
7	then they should do so.	7	These included Hanan's sister, Amina. The rest of the
8	Thank you very much.	8	sibling group for Hanan and Abdulaziz consisted of
9	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Ms Munroe.	9	Ghita, Malika, Amina, Fatima, Asia, Amin and Abdelhamed.
L O	MS MUNROE: Thank you, sir.	10	The events of the fire would change everything
L1	SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Ms Munroe, before you begin, may	11	irrevocably.
L2	I just say that if any of those present find it very	12	Abdulaziz.
L3	difficult to carry on, I hope you will indicate that	13	He was the fourth of the nine children to his
L4	it's time we had a break, and we can have a break as	14	parents, Mohammed and Sodia. Abdulaziz was born in
L5	often as you or they feel is necessary.	15	Larache in Morocco on 1 December 1964. His father moved
L6	MS MUNROE: Sir, I'm grateful, thank you.	16	to London in 1970 and, in the proceeding years, the rest
L7	SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Thank you.	17	of the family, including Abdulaziz, joined him. From
L8	Presentation relating to ABDULAZIZ EL-WAHABI,	18	the age of nine, he was brought up in the Portobello
L9	FAOUZIA EL-WAHABI, YASIN EL-WAHABI, NUR HUDA EL-WAH.	ABI an1ld9	area of west London. The links within the Grenfell
20	MEHDI EL-WAHABI by MS MUNROE	20	community are deep and long—lasting. Abdulaziz knew
21	MS MUNROE: Chair, Ms Istephan, Mr Akbor, and all of the	21	Ramiro and Manny Urbano from his school days.
22	family members who are here today.	22	He worked as a hospital porter at University College
23	There is a city on the northwest coast of Morocco	23	London Hospital. At the time of his death, he had been
24	where the Loukkos River meets the Atlantic ocean, the	24	there 22 years. It was a job he loved.
) 5	crowded streets teem with life and the white fronted	2.5	When his father Mahammad died in March 2000

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Abdulaziz took on the paternal role within the family, and it is clear from the rest of the wider family that he was the go—to person, the one who would listen, who would give sound advice, the one who would cheer you up.

He was also the one who could talk. Abdulaziz was never short of a word or two. He was a protector, a trait that was taken on by his daughter, Nur Huda. But talking was one of his specialities. You have heard the phrase, "You can talk the hind leg off a donkey"; Abdulaziz could talk the hind leg and the front leg off the entire herd. Hanan recalls a time when she was heavily pregnant with one of her children. She was standing talking to Abdulaziz. He went on for such a long time she almost fainted.

Amina was one year older than Abdulaziz and she cherished her very special relationship with him and his family. She recalls him as a close and caring brother, and he had a very close relationship with their mother. Each time he would greet their mother, he would go to her, go to his knees and kiss her feet. He did this when he arrived and when he left. This was a gesture of his deep love and respect for their mother. Amina recalls Abdulaziz's love of family gatherings and the joy he expressed for the time they spent together.

His youngest brother, Hamed, said at the

commemoration hearings:

"He was so proud if anyone in the family achieved anything in life. Our mother became so reliant on Abdulaziz. He used to visit our mother often and would just sit with her and chat. Whoever knew Abdulaziz would know just how much he could talk. For our mother, who loved his company, she could listen to him all day, and now she is at a loss. One of the hardest things we had to do as a family was to tell her the heartbreaking news of what had happened to such a wonderful family. What happened to our family. It has almost been a year since the tragedy and yet she still calls out his name.

"I'll start by greeting you the way my brother would, and it would be 'Good morning, governor' if you were a man and a 'Good morning, darling' if you're a lady.

"We used to have our own private conversations -- it was our private time -- by the garages down from the tower. People who lived there would know where that is. Just me and him.

"Boy, I wish I could talk to him now."

Colleagues at UCH remember him with real affection.

One of the nurses, Janet, said this:

"To remember Aziz is a remember, 'Awright, mate! Hello, Jane! Hello, sis!' He had a twinkle in his eye

and did not take life too seriously — he had the ideal temperament as a porter, laid back, chatty and friendly to staff, especially patients. It was an honour to know him "

Another colleague, Margaret, noted:

"Aziz was a wonderful man who knew how to make you laugh even if you didn't want to smile. He had a beautiful smile that lit up the room."

At the time of his death in June 2017, Abdulaziz was 52 years of age.

His nephew Zak said of him:

"He was the glue to the family. He kept the gears running. When he passed away, someone threw a wrench and the car stopped. He was the number one guy."

Faouzia.

Faouzia, like her husband, was born in Larache, Morocco on 1 June 1975 to Menana Jebari and Mustapha Rami.

In commemorations, her mother recalled that she was an ambitious, creative child, who channelled her infectious energy into crafts and embroidery, skills that, as we will hear later, she had a great talent for. She blossomed into a loving, caring young woman, who placed her family at the centre of everything she did. On her wedding day, she was described as "the most

perfect princess, she made the whole room glow".

Faouzia moved to London to live with Abdulaziz shortly after their marriage. Here, she embraced her role as a wife, provider and later a mother to three beautiful children: Yasin, Nur Huda and Mehdi. This was a role that she adored. She was the anchor to the family.

Faouzia had some serious culinary skills and was able to create mouthwatering dishes from all over the world. She also excelled in baking. She was a very good hostess and she loved to entertain. Their home was a hub for the family and friends. She was skilled in crafts, in particular sewing, knitting and crocheting, filling the home with her creations. Sara, Hanan's daughter, was so impressed that she asked her aunt to teach her, and Faouzia was more than happy to oblige.

Faouzia was well known in the local community and attended various classes at the Westway Trust Community Centre. She had plans for the future which would utilise her skills and give back to the community. Her last project was making scarves, headbands and baby clothes. All of these items were sold on Portobello Road Market, and the profits went back into the community. Faouzia had planned to teach knitting and crochet as a volunteer at the community centre and

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was eagerly awaiting confirmation that all the relevant DBS checks had been completed before she could begin. Her DBS checks arrived in the post shortly after 14 June 2017.

She was a calm and caring woman. She cared not only for her own children, but also looked after often.

for her own children, but also looked after often Hanan's children, Zak and Sara. She was like a second mum to them. She was calmed and grounded. When Nur Huda was born, and she breathed through pain — no screaming — she kept calm for the baby. She was the same when Yasin and Mehdi were born. She stayed calm on the night for her family, for the same reason.

Amina recalls that Faouzia was like a sister to them all . She remembers Faouzia's beautiful smile. She would smile and be cheerful and be kind with everyone in the family and with neighbours and friends. She also recalls Faouzia's incredible cooking and delicious food which she would prepare for the family.

Faouzia was 42 at the time of her death.

Yasir

He was the eldest of the El—Wahabi children, born on 22 9 August 1996. He was just 20 years of age when he 23 passed away. Like his sister, he was born in 24 Paddington. He was a student. Those who knew Yasin 25 spoke eloquently of his leadership qualities. This was

a young man who was going places and he was going to make a mark. To his cousins, he was a real role model.

Yasin inherited his father's gift of the gab, which he used to great effect. If you had a problem with Yasin, then there was a problem with you. He was like a local celebrity. To know Yasin was to love Yasin. He was, as Zak says, the realest guy you would ever meet. To Zak, he was more than a cousin; he was his older brother.

Nur Huda

The only girl in the family, she was born on 27 June 2001. She attended Thomas Jones Primary School and Holland Park Secondary School. She was described by her teachers at Holland Park as a warm and good—spirited 15—year—old. She loved playing football, and she was incredibly skilled, aggressive and agile. There was no one like her.

Nur Huda had finished some of her GCSEs just before the fire. Her aunt Hanan picked up the results when they came. She had got an A in additional science, and Bs in core science, history, PE, maths, English language and literature. "Her parents would have been so proud of her," says Hanan.

She, like her father, was a protector of the family. She attended meetings of the Grenfell Compact group to

translate for her mother and to keep her father up to date. She looked out for and looked after her family, helping her mum with her English course and assisting her with completing the awaited DBS checks. She was very funny and good with children of all ages. Her cousins adored her.

Mehdi.

He was the baby of the family, and everyone just loved him. He was born on 22 February 2009, and was just eight years old when he passed away. He attended Oxford Gardens Primary School.

Headteacher Sara Cooper had to break the news to his class that Mehdi had passed away. She says this:

"It was incredibly hard. There was lots of sobbing, but I think it was important because they were ready -- they were at that point where they could cry, because of all the amazing work their teachers had done with them. We all cried together."

Mehdi had an amazing imagination and was a wonderful storyteller . Again, a chip off the old block, he had the gift of the gab and talked non—stop.

Constantine Gras, who was a local west London filmmaker, made a documentary called "Grenfell: The Untold Story", and in that documentary, he filmed the children in the tower playing, laughing, and joking. We

see Mehdi drawing and telling his amazing stories. He uses his imagination to tell tales of spacecrafts and monsters. His aunt Hanan says of him in the film, "He was just such a jolly, jowly soul".

In the same film, Marcio Gomes describes the special bond that his children had with Mehdi. They would play and laugh together. Marcio remembers Mehdi being born and speaks lovingly of his lost neighbours, the whole EI—Wahabi family.

Mehdi had an infectious laugh. His cousin Sara says he was so funny and she had a recording of him which she still often re—listens to. Amazing imagination, storyteller, non—stop talking like his dad, with added imagination.

Amina also treasures her memories of the three children and the time they spent together at her home with her wider family. She remembers the children as respectful and loving.

The family moved into Grenfell Tower on 8 October 1996 under a council tenancy. They lived together in flat 182 on floor 21. This is their story.

On 13 June, the various family members were seen entering the tower from the CCTV footage in the lobby. Abdulaziz's movements during the day are unknown, but his younger sibling, Hanan, states that she'd met him

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and Faouzia just outside the entrance to the tower as she was coming back in from work. This would have been around about 7 o'clock in the evening. Hanan states that Yasin and Mehdi were there with them but Nur Huda was not. They apparently told Hanan that they were just going to the supermarket, with Abdulaziz mentioning he planned to buy some water.

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The CCTV footage from the lift lobby of the tower on Tuesday, 13 June 2017 shows, at 18.15, Nur Huda entering, and then, at 21.17 hours, we see Abdulaziz, Faouzia and their son Mehdi approaching the lift. In the image, Abdulaziz can be seen carrying bottles of water. Then, at 00.47 on 14 June, we see Yasin approaching the lift.

We know, sir, from all the presentations that we've heard to date about the rapid fire escalation. By the time that the first 999 call was made at 00.54, soon after, calls were being made from the 21st floor. The fire had spread to the external northeast along the 6s by 01.26, the kitchen window of flat 186 and the lounge; the external fire spread was outside the window of flat 181. That's separated only by the fire in the Grenfell column which first was subjected to the vertical impact. This position, for example, can be seen on a floor plan of which we've seen many.

We also know that the El—Wahabis' next door neighbour. Ligava Moore, also sadly died in the fire.

Another resident of the 21st floor, Mustafa Abdu, in flat 184, woke up at 1.10. He was awoken by a phone call from his brother telling him that the tower was on fire and urging him to leave. He reports smelling and seeing smoke on the landing even at that point.

Sir, panel, you have heard in graphic detail, both in Phase 1 and again during the presentation for Logan Gomes, the details of the conditions on the 21st floor, how they deteriorated and how they changed. Given those conditions described by Marcio Gomes over a very short period between 01.26 to 01.30, it appears that flat 186, the front door, which had been replaced by the TMO, was not in fact effective to prevent the spread of smoke from that flat to the lobby areas.

It's against that background that we then look at the 999 calls that were made that night by the El—Wahabi family, and also the telephone calls that were exchanged between various family members and those within the flat

As with many others that night, the phone calls between those trapped in the building and the outside world tell their story in real time. These calls highlight how the official advice had been given and

acted upon by the El—Wahabi family, and that's juxtaposed against the increasingly desperate calls from families outside the tower urging, willing and pleading with them to leave.

Day 308

A striking feature of all these telephone calls by the El—Wahabi family is how calm and polite, almost to the point of being apologetic, they are. This is in the face of being told that they are wrong to believe what they are seeing and hearing. This is particularly the case in the call that begins with Nur Huda speaking at 01.38.38 that lasts for 59 minutes. The family are heard apologising throughout this phone call, showing their respect and deference for authority, and following the advice they were given over the telephone.

Meanwhile, Hanan and her family and other family members who were gathering outside were urging them to leave. She had managed to evacuate. Hanan, as we said, lived at flat 66, one of the 6s. They became aware of the fire early on and fled their flat shortly after seeing flames shoot up the outside of the building behind their living room window. They did not make any 999 calls before they left. She simply took to the stairs. Salah, who had diabetes and mobility problems, escaped last. The CCTV images show Zak and Sara escaping at 01.19.54, Hanan at 01.21.34 and Salah at

01.22.

Once she had evacuated the tower, Hanan's first instinct was to call her brother. She did this at 01.22 am. She looked up at the tower and she could see the extent of the fire. It was now up to the 17th floor on her side of the building. Zak took a photo at 01.22 and a video recording.

The first call to the family came from Hanan Cherbika. Initially she tried to speak to Faouzia but, when she could not get through, she called Nur Huda's phone. After initially not answering, Nur Huda answered the phone. She was told there was a fire in the building and they needed to get out. She was told to tell her mother. Nur Huda said, "Okay, okay, I'll go to her". She puts the phone down.

Hanan Wahabi then called her brother from her mobile phone. This was the first phone call she made that night to him. She says in her Inquiry statement {IWS00000074/15}:

"Abdulaziz answered my call and I said to him, 'there's a fire' ... Abdulaziz said he was aware of something going on, and he kept saying, 'shall I come down? What do you think?' I said, 'I think you should get out', and told him, 'it's on my side now not on your side'. He said, 'alright sis I'm coming'."

1	At that stage, Hanan could see the flames had	1	44 seconds and, during the course of it, various other
2	reached the top of the tower. She could hear and see	2	members of the family spoke to CRO Jones. Just reading
3	people screaming and see chunks of material and debris	3	a few extracts from that call $\{LFB00055498\}$ , it begins:
4	falling from the tower.	4	"Operator: the Fire Brigade are there
5	Helen Gebremeskel from flat 186 made a 999 call at	5	"Caller: the fire's coming up they're not
6	01.26.54. She stated that she could smell smoke inside	6	here I'm trapped in my flat
7	her flat . She went on to the 21st floor landing. When	7	"Operator: what flat number?
8	she returned to her flat, she found that the fire had	8	"Caller: 182 it's coming up.
9	broken into her kitchen window via an extractor fan.	9	"Operator: Have you got all your doors and
10	This call was transferred from a BT operator in	10	windows closed?
11	Nottingham. The female caller says, "There is a fire in	11	"Caller: Yeah
12	my flat, flat 186". The operator says, "Where are	12	Operator: is there still smoke coming in?
13	they". The caller says, "Everyone is out". The	13	"Caller: Yes we tried to go downstairs it's
14	operator says, "Stay outside". There seems to be	14	too smoky
15	a language issue. Helen clarifies in her Inquiry	15	"Operator: stay in your flat
16	statement that she meant that the El-Wahabi family were	16	"Caller: we're in the front room.
17	outside their flat .	17	"Operator: put down something at the door to
18	At this time, Helen opened the exit door leading to	18	keep the smoke out
19	the stairwell and saw a lot of people coming upstairs,	19	"Caller: I will turn the gas meter off
20	which prevented her from descending. She reports that	20	"Operator: window you can open it to give
21	these people told her and her daughter and the El-Wahabi	21	yourself some fresh air
22	family to go back to their flat . She saw the El–Wahabi	22	"Caller: Yes"
23	family go back into their flat .	23	Then the caller says:
24	At this point in time, the conditions in the	24	" don't worry, [Yasin], come here I'm talking
25	stairwell were sufficiently clear for occupants who were	25	to my son
	105		107
1	able to do so safely to evacuate via the communal	1	"Operator: I don't want you to breathe in smoky
2	stairs .	2	air
3	Hanan makes a second phone call to her brother a few	3	"Caller: it's not from outside but the smoke is
4	minutes later at around about 1.30:	4	coming in from the $\dots$ front of the flat $\dots$ It's very
5	"I called him back a few minutes later and he	5	smoky on the landing
6	said, 'I tried but I couldn't because there was too much	6	"Operator: don't go out there Has that smoke
7	black smoke and we can't see, we can't breathe'. The	7	stopped coming in
8	description of the smoke was completely different from	8	"Caller: it has stopped
9	the smoke I had seen. He said, 'it's going to be	9	"Operator: How many people are in your flat?
10	alright sis isn't it? It's going to be alright'. He	10	"Caller: Five Me, the wife and three kids
11	kept telling me to say it was going to be alright so	11	I'm looking through the spyhole it's very smoky
12	that Mehdi wouldn't panic. He was especially worried	12	We have tired to leave to walk downstairs by
13	about Mehdi, because Mehdi had epileptic fits when he	13	the stairway [but] we came back quickly some
14	was anxious, including recently. Faouzia had told me	14	smoke followed us [into the flat ] this is why I'm so
15	about it at the gym. I said, 'it'll be fine, it'll be	15	confused now."
16	fine'."	16	At around 01.45, CRO Jones was informed by the
17	In the period between 01.26.54 and 01.38, the	17	family that the flames were to the left of their flat,
18	control room operators received a number of other calls	18	182, and then at around 01.56, that the flames were next
19	from occupants on the 21st floor, including further	19	door to their flat, and just before 01.58, that the flat
20	calls from Helen Gebremeskel. These calls made it clear	20	was now "really smoky".
21	that the fire had been adversely affecting those on that	21	At around 01.59, CRO Jones was informed that the
22	floor and that the situation was getting worse and	22	smoke had started coming into the flat through the
23	worse.	23	windows as well. These are the windows that she had
24	At 01.38, Nur Huda begins her call that is taken by	24	originally advised the family to open for fresh air.
25	CRO Jones. This phone call lasted some 59 minutes and	25	She then advises the family to close the windows where

1 the smoke is coming in and to wet tea towels and put approaching your window, I will call you back" 2 them over their mouths. 2 After this third call to Abdulaziz and his family, 3 At 02.05, CRO Jones was told that the fire was near 3 Hanan could see that the fire spread has now turned into 4 the living room and that it had reached the kitchen. 4 an upside-down L-shape. First it went up to the top of 5 Having established that there was nowhere else to go and 5 the building on her side, then suddenly it started to no balcony, CRO Jones advises the family to move into move across, past the corner of the tower with all the 6 6 7 the bedroom, ie the parents' bedroom, which is opposite 7 flats ending 1, and in the direction of the corner of the building where her brother's flat was. From there, 8 the front door, and to open a window and remain there. 8 9 9 it went down the building again on the side where her She says: 10  $^{\prime\prime}\ldots$  wanna let them know where you are  $\ldots$  the 10 brother's flat was. As this horror unfolded, Hanan and 11 fire brigade will have oxygen when they get to you ...' 11 her family outside the tower could see Abdulaziz and his 12 12 At 02.12, she advises them that hopefully the family inside their flat at the windows. 13 firefighters would be there soon. This was said again 13 At 02.15, she makes her fourth call to Abdulaziz. at 02.13 and at 02.16. Then, just before 02.21, she 14 14 Faouzia again picks up. Hanan was more forceful and 15 again advises the family that the firefighters would be 15 desperate this time, and she simply said, "Get out". Her  $\operatorname{sister} - \operatorname{in} - \operatorname{law}$ 's plaintive reply was, "We are trying, 16 there soon, saying, "Believe me", and a few seconds 16 17 17 later she reassures the family that the firefighters we are trying". 18 knew where they were. 18 By this stage. Hanan's sister. Amina, had joined It was during this period of this call to CRO Jones 19 19 her, together with Amina's daughter, Yousra. Faouzia 2.0 that Marcio made his call at 02.21.04. He told 2.0 was saying, "The fire is in the kitchen now; we have 21 CRO Heidi Fox that he could not get out, that his wife 21 been told to go the bedroom and put down wet towels". 22 was pregnant and he had two daughters with him. He also 22 Zak was able to phone his cousins Yasin, Nur Huda, 2.3 23 mentioned the neighbour and her daughters. CRO Fox Abdulaziz and Faouzia. He used a friend's phone. 2.4 advised him that the firefighters were going to his flat 2.4 In respect response to the call that commenced at 25 at that moment. He made it clear in calls at 02.46.58, 2.5 02.39.09 and confirming that flames are coming through, 109 111 02.55.38 and 03.09.52 that the situation was becoming 1 1 2 increasingly unbearable. At 03.28.15, during 2 3 a 999 call, Marcio, whilst on the phone to CRO Fox, led 3 his family down the stairs. 5 Back to Nur Huda's call. 5 At approximately 02.22, CRO Jones was told that the 6 6 7 7 fire was in the corridor of the flat and, at 8 8

approximately 02.24, that the smoke was coming into the bedroom now. She told the family to cover their mouths and, at approximately 02.20(sic), to get as close to the floor as they could because they could not open any more windows Throughout this lengthy 999 call, Hanan and other

members of her family were having desperate phone calls with Abdulaziz, Faouzia and the children. Hanan phones a third time. This time, Faouzia picked up the telephone. Hanan told her that the fire was now on top of the building. She pleaded, "You need to get out". In the background, she could hear Abdulaziz speaking to the emergency services. This is most likely the long telephone call of 59 minutes with CRO Jones.

Hanan understood that the family had been told that firefighters were coming to rescue them and they were to stay put. Faouzia seemed calm. Hanan recalls telling her sister-in-law, "As soon as I see the fire

the family were again told "they [the firefighters ] are

At 02.43.54, there was a further call again with CRO Fox. She asked Nur Huda whether they are able to get out safely. She advised her to get out, but then the line cleared before she could say any more.

A brief extract of that call  $\{LFB00000374\}$ :

"Caller: I've just spoken to someone, I'm stuck in my house ... five of us ... Two adults, three children ... We're dying ... [we're not able to get out by ourselves safely outside the property].

"Operator: ... get some damp towels or ... sheets and put them over yourself ...

The line then goes dead.

Three minutes later, CRO Adams has a call from Nur Huda. During this call, the family say they are now under the bed. "We are dying and we can't get out". They are told the fire service is on its way.

Abdulaziz stated:

"I could have got out a long time ago, we could have but they said stay in the flat . stay in the flat . We stayed in the flat; we didn't leave."

On then being repeatedly advised to leave the building the family explain that there's now too much smoke and they can't breathe.

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20th floor. They located Fadumo Ahmed in the corner of

1	The caller, likely to be Abdulaziz:	1	the stairwell .
2	"There are five of us [we're stuck now in the	2	Firefighter Dean Roberts states that he left her
3	flat ]	3	with Firefighter Gillam and proceeded to floor 21 and 22
4	"Operator: Right, what you need to do now is get	4	to see if he could locate further casualties . He says
5	yourself out of the building.	5	that he opened the door to each floor and found the
6	"[Abdulaziz]:   can't!	6	lobbies were heavily filled with smoke. He says he
7	"Operator: We're advising people now to try and	7	shouted and kicked the entrance door to the stairwell.
8	leave the building You're going to have to make your	8	This appears to be the only firefighter who made it to
9	way [out of the building] Don't go in the lift	9	the 21st floor. No firefighters were able to get to the
LO	Cover yourself, get some wet towels, wet sheets I'm	10	floor and knock on any of the doors.
L1	going to have to leave you we've got so many calls	11	Firefighters Reddington and Upton were deployed to
L2	coming in	12	flats 182 and 183 on the 21st floor. They tallied out
L3	"[Abdulaziz]: You can't leave	13	at 02.44.07 and 02.44.39 respectively. They never
L4	"Operator: sorry, I've got to go."	14	reached as far as floor 21 as they found an unresponsive
L5	The call ends. But it's then reconnected. This	15	female and then a woman, who is likely to have been
L6	time again CRO Adams. The caller says, "We're dying,	16	Farah Hamdan and her child, Malak, from flat 175, on the
L7	please help me, please". CRO Adams advises that the	17	floor at floor 20. On reaching back at the bridgehead,
L8	family need to get out, but she was again told that they	18	Firefighters Reddington and Upton reported that they had
L9	could not do so because of the smoke. She repeats the	19	been unable to get to floor 21. Their end—of—wear time
20	advice. She tells them to try and leave.	20	was 03.06.59 and 03.07.52 am.
21	At 02.53.57, the family make another call.	21	The family made no further calls. They had no
22	CRO Howson is the operator this time. She is told that	22	further contact with Abdulaziz, Faouzia and the children
23	the family is stuck, that they cannot breathe and that	23	thereafter.
24	the fire is now inside their flat . She said in that	24	When it got light, Salah took Sara to Amina's house.
25	case they needed to leave. She is told that they have	25	Some of the family went to the Portobello Rugby Club,
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1	tried but the smoke is black and it's in the corridors,	1	which someone said had opened early. They stayed on the
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2	and they can't leave because they would faint.	3	Scene.
	CRO Howson's advice was that they should feel their way	4	Yousra reported the family missing to the
4	to the stairwell and get down and get out of the	5	Metropolitan Police Casualty Bureau. Her and her mother
5 6	building. She was told that they would try and do so.	6	had been present throughout, desperately waiting with
7	The caller says {LFB00000387}: "Caller we're going to die we're going to	7	other family members for news of Abdulaziz and his
		8	family. People were giving them conflicting
8	faint	9	information, alleged sightings of Mehdi and Yasin.
9	"Operator: You need to feel your way along the		Meanwhile, Faouzia's mother, Menana, was hundreds of
L0	walls get some wet towels around your mouth Stay	10	miles away in Morocco. She was helpless, desperately
L1	together, small steps	11	trying to reach her daughter and son—in—law, but they
L2	"Caller: We're trying to leave."	12 13	never picked up. No one official contacted her to tell
L3	In this final reconnection, all that can be heard on		her what had happened. For over two weeks, she was
L4	listening to the recording is a female screaming.  That's at 02.57.34.	14	reliant upon the family in London providing her with
L5		15	updates, but they themselves knew little and struggled
L6	Flat 182 should have been a priority for evacuation	16	to get information from the authorities.
L7	as it was known that there were children in the flat.	17	The family did not receive final confirmation that
L8	There were no firefighter crews deployed or making it to	18	Abdulaziz, Faouzia, Yasin, Nur Huda and Mehdi had all
L9	that floor.	19	died until weeks later on 7 July 2017. They identified
20	We know that, at 01.56, a Paddington crew had been	20	jewellery belonging to Abdulaziz and his family.
21	deployed to go to the roof to try and throw water over	21	The remains of each of the family members were found
22	the external façade, and around 02.12,	22	in their flat and they were identified through DNA and
23	Crew Manager Wigley, with Firefighters Harris, Gillam,	23	dental records. According to Dr Harrison's
24	Gonzales and Roberts, believed that they had reached the	24	archaeological records, they died in close proximity to

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each other, together in one bedroom. They were all

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lying close to each other.

From his analysis of the family, the following can be gleaned according to Professor Purser. From approximately 2.00 am to 2.45, the family would have had a reasonably good possibility of escape or rescue if they had felt able to cross the smoke—filled lobby and enter the stairwell. This was because the conditions in the stairwell were more hazardous by this time, but for those with limited pre—exposure to smoke inside their own flats up to that time, it may have been possible to

descend with a low probability of collapsing in the

stairs for the adults. Younger children would have had

more difficulty, and been more susceptible to collapse

Around approximately 02.45, the smoke and asphyxiant gases concentration in the bedroom and the hallway of the flat is likely to have increased rapidly. The flat 182 occupants are likely to have accumulated a significant dose of asphyxiants by this time, so that although they might have been able to cross the lobby to flat , say, 183, as did the occupants of flat 192, they would have been likely to have collapsed on the stairs before they could have walked to the ground floor. So pre—02.45, they could have escaped, which is significant

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when you look at the advice they were given.

Concluding remarks.

The rapper and activist Low Key in his "Ghosts of Grenfell" called out the bravery of Yasin. He ends his rap with these bars:

"To whom it may concern, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, where is Yasin El—Wahabi? Where is his brother Mehdi? Where is his sister Nur Huda? Where is their mother and where is their father?"

Low Key then asks the same question for each and every resident who died that night.

Returning to the film, "Grenfell: The Untold Story", towards the end, Constantine Gras shows a clip from the Inquiry, Phase 1, when Hanan gave evidence. Sir, panel, you may well remember that part of the Inquiry, where Hanan made a heartfelt and coruscating plea on behalf of her family and all the families at Grenfell for truth, justice and accountability.

One branch of the family survived: Hanan, her husband, her children. Because they lived in flat 66, they became aware of the fire early on and fled their flat shortly after seeing those flames. They did not make any 999 calls before leaving, and all took the stairs, the last member escaping at 01.22. They evacuated. They survived. They lived to mourn the loss and guestion why.

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The other branch of the family on the 21st floor did not survive. Abdulaziz and his entire family, his beloved wife, his cherished three children, they all died that fateful night.

One of the most heartbreaking things arising out of this heartbreaking loss of life for this family was breaking the news to Sodia that her son, her daughter-in-law and three grandchildren had all gone. Tragically, this devastating loss was replicated on the other branch of the family, with Faouzia's mother, Menana, learning from the shores of Larache, this family's special place, that her daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren had gone. Two mothers, grandmothers from each branch of the family, united by the incomprehensible tragedy of losing not only a child, but a grandchild, a common experience that flies in the natural order of life, and that no person should ever have to endure. In the intervening years, the family have had more loss: Abdulaziz's beloved sister and his brother-in-law

When Grenfell Tower caught alight on 14 June 2017, the news filtered through across the globe. People watched and heard about the horrors. They cried for strangers they had never met. One part of the globe was particularly hurt: the city of Larache mourned. It

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mourned for its lost sons and daughters, for friends and families taken too soon, for people who would never again see the beautiful city, its golden beaches and its clear, azure blue waters. For the people who had lost their futures, and who would never realise their hopes and aspirations. For the people whose dreams would never be fulfilled. For Abdulaziz, Faouzia, Yasin, Nur Huda and Mehdi El—Wahabi.

Thank vou. sir.

10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.

11 Thank you very much, Ms Munroe. We'll have a short 12 break at this point. We'll rise now. We'll resume, 13 please, at 3.40. Thank you very much.

14 (3.25 pm)

15 (A short break)

16 (3.50 pm)

17 Closing statement by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY
18 SIR MARTIN MOORE—BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.

19 MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman, members of the panel, we have now come to the end of Module 8, the final module in this Inquiry.

During the last three weeks, in addition to the evidence of the professionals who worked on recovery, identification and cause of death of the deceased, we

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have heard many accounts of the facts bearing on how counsel's chair. Sitting here, my team and I can only 2 those who lost their lives in the tower in the early 2 admire the dignified bearing of those left behind, the 3 hours of 14 June 2017 came to meet their end. 3 grieving families who still travel a hard road. They 4 The Inquiry team and I are grateful to all counsel 4 have endured many months of detailed and often dry 5 for the bereaved for their presentations, and for the 5 evidence with patience, and they have now come here to mostly neutral way in which the relevant facts were sit and hear these graphic and unsparing accounts in 6 6 modest and silent reflection. Their dignity and their 7 presented. That cannot have been easy. We are also 7 grateful, at this advanced point in our work, for the courage in the face of the ineffable horror is its own 8 8 9 sensitive and dignified recalling of who each of the 9 tribute, a light shining out in the darkness. 10 10 individuals who died were, what they were like in life, Mr Chairman, I would now ask those who are able to 11 and what they went through in their final hours and 11 stand for a 72-second period of silent reflection, after 12 12 minutes. There can be nobody whoever had a heart who. which we will read the names of each of the names and 13 13 hearing those presentations, could remain unmoved and faces of those who perished at Grenfell. 14 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Millett. unthinking 15 I offer two reflections on what we've heard. 15 Well, I invite you all to stand with me for a period 16 16 of silence First, there may have been times in the last 17 three weeks when you were struck by the vast distances 17 (Pause) 18 between the final terrible experiences of those who 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: While we remain standing, Mr Millett 19 died, what they saw, smelt, heard, felt, feared and said 19 will read the names of those who died. 2.0 in those last hours, and the matters that we have 20 MR MILLETT: Mariem Elgwahry. 21 investigated over the last two and a half years in this 21 Eslah Elgwahry. phase. How great is the gulf between, for example, what 22 22 Fatemeh Afrasiabi. 2.3 Jessica Urbano Ramirez experienced in her final hour and 23 Sakina Afrasehabi. the filler debate? What did Hamid Kani's end have to do 2.4 Mohamed Neda. 25 with the NBS specification? Raymond Bernard's final 2.5 Rania Ibrahim. 121 123 moments with the evolution of GRA 3.27. The Choucairs 1 1 Hania Hassan deaths with class 0? Hesham Rahman's with the Lakanal Fethia Hassan. 2 2 3 case study? What did Arconic's test 5B have to do with 3 Debbie Lamprell. Mehdi El-Wahabi's last moments? Jessica Urbano Ramirez. Hamid Kani. 5 At times in these weeks you might have wondered 5 6 whether we were sitting in a completely different room 6 Berkti Haftom. 7 7 listening to something wholly unrelated to all the other Biruk Haftom. 8 8 threads making up the fabric of this disaster, and it is Raymond Bernard. this perception of distance in itself which is 9 Abdeslam Sebbar. 10 an important discovery in our work. It tells us how so 10 Hesham Rahman. 11 many actions and omissions of so many people -- working 11 Husna Begum. 12 in offices and on their smartphones, in meeting rooms, 12 Kamru Miah. 13 13 Mohammed Hamid on sites, in testing houses, discharging endless strings 14 of emails -- have consequences perhaps far remote from 14 Mohammed Hanif. 15 15 Rabeya Begum. their consciousness, but which were always objectively 16 present in the perpetually contingent. 16 Majorie Vital. 17 17 Ernie Vital. Each presentation that we have heard has built 18 a bridge across that gulf. Each presentation not only 18 Marco Gottardi. 19 reminds us again of who we do this work for and why we 19 Gloria Trevisan. 2.0 2.0 do it, but it also tells us that every decision, every Sirria Choucair. 21 21 Bassem Choukair. act. omission, interpretation, understanding, practice. 2.2 policy, protocol, affects someone somewhere, someone who 2.2 Nadia Choucair. 2.3 2.3 Mierna Choucair.

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Fatima Choucair

Zainab Choucair.

is unknown and unseen, but who is an adored child,

a beloved sister, a respected uncle, a needed mother.

Secondly, I must add one further observation from

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1	Hashim Kedir.	1	closing statements that will be heard during the week of
2	Nura Jemal.	2	7 November.
3	Yahya Hashim.	3	As the hearings come to an end, we enter the next
4	Firdaws Hashim.	4	stage of our work, and it may appear to some that
5	Yaqub Hashim.	5	the Inquiry is no longer active, but I want to assure
6	Gary Maunders.	6	you that that is not the case. The task facing the
7	Anthony Disson.	7	panel is now one of considerable proportions.
8	Ligaya Moore.	8	The Inquiry has disclosed to core participants over
9	Sheila.	9	300,000 documents, all of which are considered to be of
10	Victoria King.	10	relevance in one way or another to the matters under
11	Alexandra Atala.	11	investigation . It has obtained over 1,500 witness
12	Mary Mendy.	12	statements and has sat for more than 300 days, most of
13	Khadija Saye.	13	which have been devoted to taking evidence from a wide
14	Farah Hamdan.	14	range of factual and expert witnesses.
15	Omar Belkadi.	15	The panel's task, with the assistance of the Inquiry
16	Malak Belkadi.	16	team and its assessors, is to digest all that material
17	Leena Belkadi.	17	and identify the causes of the Grenfell Tower fire and
18	Logan Gomes.	18	the responsibilities of those involved.
19	Ali Yawar Jafari.	19	Anyone who has followed the Inquiry's proceedings
20	Khadija Khalloufi.	20	will understand that that is not a simple task.
21	Mohamednur Tuccu.	21	Although it's possible to identify some decisions
22	Amal Ahmedin.	22	relating to the refurbishment that had an immediate
23	Amaya Tuccu Ahmedin.	23	effect, the wider causes of the fire have their roots in
24	Amna Mahmud Idris.	24	the culture of the construction industry and the
25	Isaac Paulos.	25	regulatory regime which applies to building work,
23	13440 1 44103.	23	regulatory regime which applies to building work,
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23	125	23	127
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	125		127
1	125 Vincent Chiejina.	1	127 amongst other things. Many decisions taken by many
1 2	125 Vincent Chiejina. Joseph Daniels.	1 2	amongst other things. Many decisions taken by many different people over the course of many years conspired
1 2 3	Vincent Chiejina. Joseph Daniels. Steve Power.	1 2 3	amongst other things. Many decisions taken by many different people over the course of many years conspired to create a building which, in June 2017, was vulnerable
1 2 3 4	Vincent Chiejina. Joseph Daniels. Steve Power. Abufras Ibrahim.	1 2 3 4	amongst other things. Many decisions taken by many different people over the course of many years conspired to create a building which, in June 2017, was vulnerable to a catastrophic fire resulting from the failure of
1 2 3 4 5	Vincent Chiejina. Joseph Daniels. Steve Power. Abufras Ibrahim. Isra Ibrahim.	1 2 3 4 5	amongst other things. Many decisions taken by many different people over the course of many years conspired to create a building which, in June 2017, was vulnerable to a catastrophic fire resulting from the failure of a common type of domestic appliance.
1 2 3 4 5	Vincent Chiejina. Joseph Daniels. Steve Power. Abufras Ibrahim. Isra Ibrahim. Fathia Ahmed Elsanousi.	1 2 3 4 5 6	amongst other things. Many decisions taken by many different people over the course of many years conspired to create a building which, in June 2017, was vulnerable to a catastrophic fire resulting from the failure of a common type of domestic appliance.  In the course of the hearings, it has become
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Vincent Chiejina. Joseph Daniels. Steve Power. Abufras Ibrahim. Isra Ibrahim. Fathia Ahmed Elsanousi. Mohammad Alhajali.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	amongst other things. Many decisions taken by many different people over the course of many years conspired to create a building which, in June 2017, was vulnerable to a catastrophic fire resulting from the failure of a common type of domestic appliance.  In the course of the hearings, it has become apparent that many mistakes were made, and many
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Vincent Chiejina. Joseph Daniels. Steve Power. Abufras Ibrahim. Isra Ibrahim. Fathia Ahmed Elsanousi. Mohammad Alhajali. Denis Murphy.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	amongst other things. Many decisions taken by many different people over the course of many years conspired to create a building which, in June 2017, was vulnerable to a catastrophic fire resulting from the failure of a common type of domestic appliance.  In the course of the hearings, it has become apparent that many mistakes were made, and many witnesses have acknowledged that they or the
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Vincent Chiejina. Joseph Daniels. Steve Power. Abufras Ibrahim. Isra Ibrahim. Fathia Ahmed Elsanousi. Mohammad Alhajali. Denis Murphy. Zainab Deen. Jeremiah Deen. Abdulaziz El—Wahabi. Faouzia El—Wahabi. Yasin El—Wahabi.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	amongst other things. Many decisions taken by many different people over the course of many years conspired to create a building which, in June 2017, was vulnerable to a catastrophic fire resulting from the failure of a common type of domestic appliance.  In the course of the hearings, it has become apparent that many mistakes were made, and many witnesses have acknowledged that they or the organisations they represented failed in one way or another to meet the standards to be expected of them. However, in order properly to identify and evaluate the underlying causes of the fire, the panel will have to
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Vincent Chiejina. Joseph Daniels. Steve Power. Abufras Ibrahim. Isra Ibrahim. Fathia Ahmed Elsanousi. Mohammad Alhajali. Denis Murphy. Zainab Deen. Jeremiah Deen. Abdulaziz El—Wahabi. Faouzia El—Wahabi. Yasin El—Wahabi. Nur Huda El—Wahabi. Mehdi El—Wahabi. Mehdi El—Wahabi. Maria del Pilar or Pily Burton, who, as I explained at the start of this module, did not die at Grenfell and had no inquest opened for her, but she lived at	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	amongst other things. Many decisions taken by many different people over the course of many years conspired to create a building which, in June 2017, was vulnerable to a catastrophic fire resulting from the failure of a common type of domestic appliance.  In the course of the hearings, it has become apparent that many mistakes were made, and many witnesses have acknowledged that they or the organisations they represented failed in one way or another to meet the standards to be expected of them. However, in order properly to identify and evaluate the underlying causes of the fire, the panel will have to consider the evidence in detail to determine the extent to which such failures contributed to the disaster. When seeking to identify the causes of a major tragedy in which so many people died, it is important that criticism should be directed at those who truly bear substantial responsibility for what occurred.

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interest in the outcome of the Inquiry -- and I think

residents  $\,--\,$  need us to complete our work as quickly as

possible . We ourselves are anxious to do that. But we

particularly of the bereaved, survivors and local

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Closing statement by THE CHAIRMAN

The completion of Module 8 brings us to the end of

the Inquiry's hearings, apart, that is, from overarching

SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.

Day 308

1	also know that if our report is to carry weight, and if	1	(4.10 pm)
2	the recommendations it contains are to have real force,	2	(The hearing adjourned until Monday, 7 November 2022)
3	it must be comprehensive, well reasoned and persuasive.	3	
4	It is not possible to produce a report that meets all	4	
5	those requirements overnight. We shall work as hard as	5	
6	we can, but the task may take us a little while. We	6	
7	understand that those most seriously affected by the	7	
8	fire will find waiting for our report difficult, but we	8	
9	ask everyone to bear with us while we carry out our	9	
10	work.	10	
11	As you know, the Inquiry team has shouldered	11	
12	an enormous task in preparing for and organising the	12	
13	hearings, and I should like to thank them all for their	13	
14	hard work and commitment. They will now help us to	14	
15	marshal all the evidence for the purposes of writing our	15	
16	report, and have already made significant progress	16	
17	towards that end.	17	
18	We cannot reach any final conclusions until we've	18	
19	heard the overarching closing statements, of course, but	19	
20	that will not prevent us from starting work immediately	20	
21	after the summer break. We have already had some	21	
22	preliminary discussions about the shape of the report,	22	
23	and will be pursuing our review of the evidence without	23	
24	delay.	24	
25	At this point I should like to express my profound	25	
23	The time point I should like to express my protound	23	
	129		131
1	gratitude to all those who have worked tirelessly to	1	INDEX
2	support the hearings and ensure that they could be	2	Presentation relating to2
3	conducted as effectively as possible. I have in mind		MOHAMMAD ALHAJALI
4	not only our counsel, solicitors, secretariat and	3	by MR FRIEDMAN
5	support staff, but also those who provide the filming	4	Presentation relating to30
6	and live stream service, the rolling transcript, and the		DENIS MURPHY by MS MUNROE
7	electronic document management system. And, of course,	5	
8	I should not omit our team of ushers, who have done so		Presentation relating to ZAINAB DEEN63
9	much to ensure that the hearings ran smoothly.	6	and JEREMIAH DEEN by MS MUNROE
10	Above all, however, before we conclude this session,	7	Presentation relating to90
11	I should like on behalf of the panel to pay our own		ABDULAZIZ EL-WAHABI,
12	respects to the bereaved, survivors and residents of	8	FAOUZIA EL-WAHABI,
13	North Kensington, some of whom have attended the		YASIN EL-WAHABI,
14	hearings regularly, and many of whom have been here	9	NUR HUDA EL-WAHABI and
15	during the past three weeks to observe and, by their		MEHDI EL-WAHABI by MS MUNROE
16	presence, to contribute to the presentations we have	10	·
17	heard. We have been greatly impressed by their dignity		Closing statement by COUNSEL TO THE120
18	in the face of the evidence, much of which has been of	11	INQUIRY
19	a distressing nature, and by their fortitude in response	12	Closing statement by THE CHAIRMAN126
20	to an appalling tragedy.	13	,
21	Thank you all very much. That closes our hearing	14	
22	for today. We shall, as I've said in my remarks, be	15	
23	working very hard as quickly as we can to produce our	16	
24	report.	17	
25	Thank you all very much.	18	
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