

<p>1 Wednesday, 5 September 2018</p> <p>2 (9.30 am)</p> <p>3 Housekeeping</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to</p> <p>5 today's hearing.</p> <p>6 In a moment we are going to resume Mr Johnson's</p> <p>7 evidence, but before we do that, I think Mr Millett has</p> <p>8 something he wants to say.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, thank you very much.</p> <p>10 I should just say that, after some overnight</p> <p>11 discussion with the LFB and the chairman, the team has</p> <p>12 been able to put the evidence of Pete Wolfenden back</p> <p>13 a few days to Tuesday, 11 September, and rejig the</p> <p>14 timetable so that we are now going to ask Mr O'Neill,</p> <p>15 Dave O'Neill, to come on 26 September. We hope that</p> <p>16 doesn't disturb people's planning.</p> <p>17 We're extremely grateful to the LFB for their</p> <p>18 assistance in enabling us to rejig the timetable in that</p> <p>19 way. The simple reason we've had to do that is because</p> <p>20 the timetable for this week has become rather clogged</p> <p>21 up, and we don't want to rush the evidence or drop any</p> <p>22 particular lines of questions that seem to us to be</p> <p>23 relevant.</p> <p>24 So I just thought I ought to make that clear so that</p> <p>25 everybody knows where we are.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I'm not familiar with what his position was. It wasn't</b></p> <p>2 <b>in isolation to him. He was a group manager who was</b></p> <p>3 <b>senior to me at the time. So it would have been the</b></p> <p>4 <b>people ultimately who were the policyholders for that</b></p> <p>5 <b>specific policy, so it would be the specific group that</b></p> <p>6 <b>oversees that policy, incident command.</b></p> <p>7 Q. I think you told us yesterday you didn't know who they</p> <p>8 were.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Well, it's the department that I'm currently in, so it's</b></p> <p>10 <b>operational response.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Can you give us some names?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Now or back then?</b></p> <p>13 Q. Back then.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Back then, I don't know, but now it's Julian Spooner and</b></p> <p>15 <b>Peter Critchell.</b></p> <p>16 Q. But back then?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I'm not aware of that.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Do you know what Neil Withers does now?</p> <p>19 <b>A. He's left London Fire Brigade and I believe he's working</b></p> <p>20 <b>for the Lifeboat Association.</b></p> <p>21 Q. At the time, do you know which committees or policy</p> <p>22 groups Terry Harrington and Neil Withers were members</p> <p>23 of?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>25 Q. You mentioned also -- this was at pages 230 to 231 of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>2 So we can ask Mr Johnson to come in.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you.</p> <p>5 PETER JOHNSON (continued)</p> <p>6 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (continued)</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, Mr Johnson.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: Good morning.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do sit down and make yourself</p> <p>10 comfortable.</p> <p>11 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: Mr Johnson, good morning.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Good morning.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Thank you very much for coming back to us. I hope it</p> <p>16 hasn't caused too much inconvenience.</p> <p>17 <b>A. That's fine.</b></p> <p>18 Q. I have a couple of short follow-up questions on the</p> <p>19 evidence you gave yesterday about training, and they are</p> <p>20 short, but they're really by way of clarification.</p> <p>21 In your evidence -- and for the transcript, it's</p> <p>22 page 204, line 17 -- you mentioned Neil Withers as the</p> <p>23 person that you made your recommendations to in relation</p> <p>24 to changes to policy FSG 790.</p> <p>25 What was Neil Withers's position at the time?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 the transcript -- that Babcock were responsible, and</p> <p>2 solely responsible, for delivery of training.</p> <p>3 My question is: to your knowledge, was Babcock also</p> <p>4 solely responsible for deciding what went into</p> <p>5 a training package?</p> <p>6 <b>A. It's slightly more complicated than that. The Brigade</b></p> <p>7 <b>kind of put a bid in for what is required. It's a long</b></p> <p>8 <b>process. There is a cost to it, which is a cost to the</b></p> <p>9 <b>Brigade, which Babcocks may agree to or may not agree</b></p> <p>10 <b>to, and, as such, the training course is then designed.</b></p> <p>11 <b>There's consultation over what is inserted, is it going</b></p> <p>12 <b>to be adequate, is it not going to be adequate, there's</b></p> <p>13 <b>back and forth, but it's a long process that could take</b></p> <p>14 <b>I would suggest a minimum of one year to complete.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 My question is: when designing the training, was</p> <p>17 Babcock guided by the LFB as to the needs and</p> <p>18 requirements of the service?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. It was?</p> <p>21 <b>A. But ultimately they would then go away, design the</b></p> <p>22 <b>package, and then ultimately there would be</b></p> <p>23 <b>a conversation about whether it was adequate or not and</b></p> <p>24 <b>then changes could be made.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Thank you. Very well.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 Can I now turn to a different topic, which is</p> <p>2 command unit facilities.</p> <p>3 On pages 3 and 4 of your statement, you've described</p> <p>4 the command unit and the physical facilities or</p> <p>5 electronic facilities that it's supposed to have.</p> <p>6 I just want to ask you to elaborate on a few of them.</p> <p>7 <b>A. Sure.</b></p> <p>8 Q. First of all, page 3 of your statement, two-thirds of</p> <p>9 the way down, you refer to the Toughbook laptop. This</p> <p>10 is the second entry down in your list. You say:</p> <p>11 "There is a Toughbook laptop, that is designed to be</p> <p>12 used during operational incident and taken out and</p> <p>13 feedback live information back to Command Unit. That</p> <p>14 has never worked."</p> <p>15 How is it supposed to work, using the laptop?</p> <p>16 <b>A. So it works in conjunction with the element below, which</b></p> <p>17 <b>is the mesh node, which is kind of a secure Wi-Fi</b></p> <p>18 <b>network. You can pass information, and it has to be</b></p> <p>19 <b>over a secure Wi-Fi network and a dedicated localised</b></p> <p>20 <b>network that enables information to be passed from</b></p> <p>21 <b>a remote computer back to the main computer, which would</b></p> <p>22 <b>be on the CU.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Who is meant to feed live information back from the</p> <p>24 incident? Who operates it?</p> <p>25 <b>A. It could be anyone. So if you're looking at something</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I've never used a Toughbook on an operational incident</b></p> <p>2 <b>in my career. They've never been operationally ready to</b></p> <p>3 <b>be working.</b></p> <p>4 Q. I see, so they weren't --</p> <p>5 <b>A. Never.</b></p> <p>6 Q. -- available at all on the CU?</p> <p>7 <b>A. They were on there but it wouldn't work.</b></p> <p>8 Q. In an operable state.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. And mesh node, was that also available on the night of</p> <p>11 the fire?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No, it's never worked.</b></p> <p>13 Q. If mesh node and Toughbook had been available on the</p> <p>14 night of the fire -- I know this is a hypothetical</p> <p>15 question to some extent -- what use could have been made</p> <p>16 of them?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I fail to see how any technology could've worked better</b></p> <p>18 <b>than the way that the Brigade worked on that night.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 CSS, which is another item in your shopping list,</p> <p>21 the fourth one down, command support system, you say</p> <p>22 that it's:</p> <p>23 "... designed to record every tactical or strategic</p> <p>24 decision that the Officer in Charge makes. These</p> <p>25 decisions are held on a central server at Union Street</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 <b>at a simple incident, it would be not the team leader,</b></p> <p>2 <b>it would be the map -- person that's responsible for</b></p> <p>3 <b>mapping the incident, so they can map it and then</b></p> <p>4 <b>everything that they find, everything that they come</b></p> <p>5 <b>across, could be fed directly, instantly, onto CSS</b></p> <p>6 <b>whilst walking around with a remote laptop.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Would the Toughbook combined with mesh node enable</p> <p>8 an incident commander to communicate directly with, for</p> <p>9 example, the control room?</p> <p>10 <b>A. That's a difficult question because it depends what</b></p> <p>11 <b>program control are using. So control have different</b></p> <p>12 <b>programs that they use to pass information on.</b></p> <p>13 Q. They use Vision.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes, they do. So Vision isn't available to pass</b></p> <p>15 <b>specific information or notes across, if you follow me.</b></p> <p>16 <b>So the initial idea of the introduction of the</b></p> <p>17 <b>Toughbooks was that they would be able to use CSS and</b></p> <p>18 <b>CSS would be able to be constantly updated whilst out.</b></p> <p>19 <b>So you can update CSS, but control wouldn't be able</b></p> <p>20 <b>to update CSS because it would mean going to a different</b></p> <p>21 <b>screen and a different operative. It would've</b></p> <p>22 <b>complicated matters significantly.</b></p> <p>23 Q. I follow.</p> <p>24 Was Toughbook used on the night of the Grenfell fire</p> <p>25 at the incident?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 called the 'Gold Server'. It does not work at any large</p> <p>2 incidents and if it does not record, then decisions are</p> <p>3 not recorded and it is worthless."</p> <p>4 Just to clarify, do you say that actually the CSS is</p> <p>5 never useful at any large incident?</p> <p>6 <b>A. At a large incident -- so my definition of a large</b></p> <p>7 <b>incident would be anything over six appliances, and</b></p> <p>8 <b>I would say no, it's useless.</b></p> <p>9 Q. To be a little bit more particular, when you say it does</p> <p>10 not work at any large incidents, do you mean that it</p> <p>11 doesn't functionally operate at a large incident or</p> <p>12 there's just no point in using it because of the nature</p> <p>13 of the large incident?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No, it's the first point: it doesn't functionally work</b></p> <p>15 <b>due to IT issues, continuing IT issues, where it's been</b></p> <p>16 <b>unable to deal with information.</b></p> <p>17 <b>At a large incident you have a lot more information</b></p> <p>18 <b>coming in, as you can appreciate, than a smaller</b></p> <p>19 <b>incident. Therefore, the IT systems on the CUs just</b></p> <p>20 <b>struggle significantly. You could be spending</b></p> <p>21 <b>20 minutes doing something and then it would crash and</b></p> <p>22 <b>you'd have to restart the computers, and that would be</b></p> <p>23 <b>a continuing theme that is, in my knowledge, still</b></p> <p>24 <b>current to this day.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Is that something in your own personal experience?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 <b>A. Just my experience and everyone that's ever worked on</b>  2 <b>a command unit, yes.</b>  3 Q. Have you been at large incident, as you define it, over  4 six pumps, and had these kinds of problems with the CSS  5 yourself?  6 <b>A. I went to the previous largest incident in London, which</b>  7 <b>was opposite the closing ceremony of the London</b>  8 <b>Olympics, and CSS didn't work there. It didn't work on</b>  9 <b>the night of Grenfell either.</b>  10 Q. Did you try to use it?  11 <b>A. I turned it on and off three times, the computer, to try</b>  12 <b>and get it to work, and then the distraction of trying</b>  13 <b>to turn it on and off was just so great that it was</b>  14 <b>decided not to bother anymore and just plough ahead</b>  15 <b>without it. But I was confident it wouldn't have worked</b>  16 <b>anyway because my experience is it just doesn't work</b>  17 <b>past six appliances.</b>  18 Q. Do you have a recollection of the CSS on CU8 -- let's  19 start with that one -- crashing at any stage?  20 <b>A. I was on CU7, which is Wembley's command unit.</b>  21 Q. Yes.  22 <b>A. No, I don't have a memory of it crashing because it</b>  23 <b>never started.</b>  24 Q. We may have to come back to that.  25 Just in terms of what it might be able to do, does</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 LFB in the period leading up to Grenfell?  2 <b>A. It was delivered to me five years prior, and to other</b>  3 <b>command unit staff within their first initial weeks.</b>  4 <b>There is no continuation of training.</b>  5 Q. Five years prior to Grenfell?  6 <b>A. Yes. But it's a system that you're expected to use</b>  7 <b>daily. It's a system that you are expected to refresh</b>  8 <b>yourself on continually. It was something that I would</b>  9 <b>attempt to use at every incident. Sometimes it was</b>  10 <b>successful, sometimes it was brilliant, sometimes,</b>  11 <b>unfortunately, it did let us down.</b>  12 Q. You then go on in your list to describe the webcam  13 facility and you say that doesn't work.  14 <b>A. Yes.</b>  15 Q. Who is intended to be using that webcam facility?  16 <b>A. So, again, you can record certain decisions. You can</b>  17 <b>record a tactical co-ordination group meeting, TCGM, or</b>  18 <b>silver meeting, or you could just record somebody coming</b>  19 <b>on giving you a vital piece of information that needs to</b>  20 <b>be recorded.</b>  21 Q. Who was intended to be looking in remotely at what the  22 webcam was picking up?  23 <b>A. So the webcam in reality is more designed for recording</b>  24 <b>purposes rather than for people to remotely monitor.</b>  25 <b>The CSS itself, you have the facility for anyone</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 it pick up Vision entries?  2 <b>A. It does, yes.</b>  3 Q. You say in this part of your statement that it is  4 designed to record every tactical or strategic decision  5 that the officer in charge makes.  6 Is there anything else it records, as well as the  7 Vision entries?  8 <b>A. Yeah, so as an idea, it's fantastic, and you can record</b>  9 <b>video points, you can record points that anyone makes.</b>  10 <b>You can record key decision logs, tactical decisions.</b>  11 <b>You have a timeline that you can populate and set</b>  12 <b>prompts for the future to enable you to anticipate</b>  13 <b>things to happen and you'd have a reminder icon that</b>  14 <b>would be present. You can upload documents to it. It's</b>  15 <b>a very useful tool on a smaller incident for debriefing</b>  16 <b>purposes because it has a timeline and everything is</b>  17 <b>date and time stamped as you progress throughout the</b>  18 <b>incident.</b>  19 <b>So it's a very useful tool to see how well</b>  20 <b>an incident commander performed and also how the</b>  21 <b>decisions were made at a correct time, and, you know,</b>  22 <b>potentially you can back it up with rationale behind the</b>  23 <b>decisions as well.</b>  24 Q. To your knowledge, was training on the use of CSSs, if  25 that's the right expression, delivered throughout the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 <b>remotely to monitor the whole program. So the whole</b>  2 <b>program is, for want of a better word, a package of</b>  3 <b>other little programs within it. So if a large incident</b>  4 <b>is occurring, prior to someone attending, someone</b>  5 <b>monitoring remotely, they can log on to CSS and see</b>  6 <b>what's happened. Or if it is a large incident and</b>  7 <b>you're expected to be going to attend this large</b>  8 <b>incident as a relief, potentially, you can see what's</b>  9 <b>happened, what would be anticipated, what would be</b>  10 <b>expected, what kind of thing would be happening, and</b>  11 <b>photographs would be uploaded as well to give you</b>  12 <b>an idea of what you are seeing and what you are</b>  13 <b>expecting to see to give you kind of a tactical decision</b>  14 <b>in your brain and start to think about what you can</b>  15 <b>offer when you arrive.</b>  16 Q. Would it have been functionally possible for those in  17 the control room to access the webcam facility, if it  18 had been working, in order to see what was happening on  19 the incident ground, obviously depending on where the  20 camera was placed?  21 <b>A. On the webcam?</b>  22 Q. Yes.  23 <b>A. No. No, for something like that --</b>  24 Q. Why is that?  25 <b>A. For something like that, you'd probably need a striker</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 <b>camera.</b></p> <p>2 Q. You mention a striker camera in your first item in your</p> <p>3 shopping list on a tripod that raises up to a height of</p> <p>4 20 feet. Is that used regularly in the Brigade?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Well, it doesn't work, so no.</b></p> <p>6 Q. You say it doesn't work; what is it about it that</p> <p>7 doesn't work?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Again, it was an IT glitch. It was tested -- it's</b></p> <p>9 <b>a fantastic piece of kit. It's military grade kit used</b></p> <p>10 <b>for remotely monitoring incidents, and you can place it</b></p> <p>11 <b>somewhere, walk away, safe in the knowledge that it will</b></p> <p>12 <b>record. You can tilt it, you can zoom in, you can zoom</b></p> <p>13 <b>out.</b></p> <p>14 <b>Unfortunately, due to the IT systems that were</b></p> <p>15 <b>installed on our command units, it never worked.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Can you elaborate a bit? What was it about the</p> <p>17 connection between the IT systems --</p> <p>18 <b>A. You'd have to speak to our IT systems to get to the</b></p> <p>19 <b>bottom -- but I was involved in the testing of it. It's</b></p> <p>20 <b>a fantastic, fantastic camera, I was very impressed by</b></p> <p>21 <b>it, but ultimately it never worked.</b></p> <p>22 Q. You then go on in your shopping list over the page --</p> <p>23 we've discussed Vector -- to mention a webmail service</p> <p>24 and video player and you say that is very temperamental.</p> <p>25 Could you elaborate for us, what is the webmail</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Those did work.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Can I just now ask you some questions on policy number</p> <p>5 541, and I am pausing only because I'm not sure that's</p> <p>6 made it into the policy bundle that everybody else has.</p> <p>7 The reference is LFB00000232.</p> <p>8 I want to ask you, first of all, are you familiar</p> <p>9 with this policy?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. This is the one reviewed as current as at 15 April 2014.</p> <p>12 It's owned by the head of incident command policy and</p> <p>13 operations review team.</p> <p>14 Just to be clear, that wasn't a team in which you</p> <p>15 sat, or was it?</p> <p>16 <b>A. That is the team that I'm currently in.</b></p> <p>17 Q. The team you're currently in?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Were you on that team in April 2014?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>21 Q. When did you join that team?</p> <p>22 <b>A. May 4 this year.</b></p> <p>23 Q. This year?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 service and the video player?</p> <p>2 <b>A. That enables officers or anyone with an e-mail account</b></p> <p>3 <b>to be able to log into webmail remotely. All officers</b></p> <p>4 <b>have a mobile phone, and they can send and receive</b></p> <p>5 <b>e-mails, or you could send in a picture, e-mail</b></p> <p>6 <b>a picture in and then get it up onto the screen, which</b></p> <p>7 <b>would give you a better understanding of what you're</b></p> <p>8 <b>seeing, for example.</b></p> <p>9 <b>The video player, again, due to restrictions and due</b></p> <p>10 <b>to the fact that we were running a very outdated version</b></p> <p>11 <b>of Windows, it didn't quite have the correct permission</b></p> <p>12 <b>sometimes to view video.</b></p> <p>13 Q. You say it's very temperamental.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. What do you mean?</p> <p>16 <b>A. So I remember there was a period of five or six months</b></p> <p>17 <b>a few years ago where we had no internet access on the</b></p> <p>18 <b>command units, and it would just not work. We'd</b></p> <p>19 <b>continually send requests for it to work because</b></p> <p>20 <b>sometimes at incidents vital information is required via</b></p> <p>21 <b>the internet, via Google or via the planning or just to</b></p> <p>22 <b>give you a better understanding of the incident. And if</b></p> <p>23 <b>we had no internet access and no webmail service, that</b></p> <p>24 <b>would then put us on the back foot.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Then you talk about whiteboards and pens.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 Now, first of all, are you familiar with this</p> <p>2 policy?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 <b>(Pause)</b></p> <p>5 Q. Can I ask you to go to LFB00023355. I'm sorry, I just</p> <p>6 realised what's on the screen doesn't appear to be the</p> <p>7 2014 version, Mr Johnson, so could you just bear with</p> <p>8 me.</p> <p>9 <b>(Pause)</b></p> <p>10 LFB00023355. This is the one that was in force at</p> <p>11 the time. There it is. It's gone back to April 2014,</p> <p>12 which is what we were on.</p> <p>13 I will repeat the question: are you familiar with</p> <p>14 this policy, the one that was reviewed as current as</p> <p>15 at April 2014 and was in force at the time of the</p> <p>16 Grenfell fire?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I'm familiar with it, but I wouldn't say that I know it</b></p> <p>18 <b>verbatim.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Can I ask you to turn to internal page 3, which is also</p> <p>20 page 3 of the exhibit. It describes the functions there</p> <p>21 of an incident command pump, and there is on the next</p> <p>22 page a picture, 3.2 -- a picture at 3.1 in fact as well,</p> <p>23 and at 3.2, just above 3.2, there is a photograph of</p> <p>24 a command unit. At 3.2, it says:</p> <p>25 "The command area is accessed by a door located on</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 the near side of the vehicle body. The near side of the</p> <p>2 vehicle also incorporates an external 32" touch screen</p> <p>3 that can display all of the information available on the</p> <p>4 internal computer systems. This provides a briefing</p> <p>5 area for crews and officers at an incident."</p> <p>6 There's a picture underneath it which shows two</p> <p>7 firefighters and a watch manager standing by what looks</p> <p>8 like the external screen.</p> <p>9 First of all, was this facility something which was</p> <p>10 available or in force at the time of the Grenfell Tower</p> <p>11 fire?</p> <p>12 <b>A. The briefing from that screen?</b></p> <p>13 Q. Yes.</p> <p>14 <b>A. I've only ever seen it once on any incident I've ever</b></p> <p>15 <b>been on, and it wasn't used at Grenfell, no.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Was it physically available?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Is there a reason, do you know, why it wasn't used at</p> <p>19 Grenfell?</p> <p>20 <b>A. The command unit that I was on specifically was</b></p> <p>21 <b>significantly remote from the scene. To give a briefing</b></p> <p>22 <b>there would be unrealistic, and by the time anyone would</b></p> <p>23 <b>have been committed to the incident, due to the travel</b></p> <p>24 <b>distance, information could've changed or the</b></p> <p>25 <b>operational plan would have changed significantly,</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 command units at the time of the fire generally?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Do you know whether they were used on the night?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes, I do; they weren't.</b></p> <p>5 Q. They weren't?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Do you know why they weren't?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Because that's since been superseded by a repeater</b></p> <p>9 <b>system, a radio repeater system.</b></p> <p>10 Q. So are you saying that in 2017, leaky feeders were not</p> <p>11 used, repeaters were?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I believe repeaters were put in place, but I can't</b></p> <p>13 <b>attest to their success.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Okay. We'll come back to radio communications shortly,</p> <p>15 but just continuing with this policy for the moment.</p> <p>16 Can you look at the next bullet point, please:</p> <p>17 "Matel field telephone and cable for point to point</p> <p>18 wired communications."</p> <p>19 Do you know if the CU you were on had a Matel field</p> <p>20 telephone?</p> <p>21 <b>A. The CU that I arrived on did.</b></p> <p>22 Q. That is CU2?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, that's correct. I can't attest to whether there</b></p> <p>24 <b>was one available on the CU I was working on, but</b></p> <p>25 <b>I would assume that it would be there, yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 <b>potentially.</b></p> <p>2 Q. What internal computer system on the CU is reflected by</p> <p>3 this external touchscreen?</p> <p>4 <b>A. So it can be any computer system that's on the CU. It's</b></p> <p>5 <b>a touchscreen. It's the same as what you can see here.</b></p> <p>6 <b>You can put whatever you want on there if it's on the</b></p> <p>7 <b>CU.</b></p> <p>8 Q. I see.</p> <p>9 I think you said, so far as you're concerned, it</p> <p>10 wasn't used by you on the night.</p> <p>11 <b>A. It wasn't used by anyone on the night.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Was it actually physically working, do you know?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes, it would've been working, absolutely.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Would it have helped if it had been used in any way?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I can't think of any scenario where there would've been</b></p> <p>16 <b>a benefit.</b></p> <p>17 Q. At 3.8, if I could just ask you to look on to the next</p> <p>18 page, page 5, the policy has a paragraph headed</p> <p>19 "Incident communications", and it goes on to say:</p> <p>20 "The CU has the following communication facilities."</p> <p>21 Then we see, third bullet point down:</p> <p>22 "A leaky feeder cable for enhancing radio</p> <p>23 communications at sub surface incidents or where</p> <p>24 communications are difficult."</p> <p>25 Do you know whether leaky feeders were available on</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you know whether it was used or not?</p> <p>2 <b>A. To the best of my knowledge, it was not used, but,</b></p> <p>3 <b>again, I can't see any circumstance where it would've</b></p> <p>4 <b>been used and would've been of benefit.</b></p> <p>5 Q. It might be suggested that it might be of use in</p> <p>6 communicating directly with the bridgehead.</p> <p>7 <b>A. From where?</b></p> <p>8 Q. From the command unit.</p> <p>9 <b>A. No, the distance would've been too great.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Over what distances does it work?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I believe -- and I wouldn't swear on this -- it's about</b></p> <p>12 <b>100 metres, and from the command unit to where the</b></p> <p>13 <b>bridgehead was was significantly further than</b></p> <p>14 <b>100 metres. We had up to 300, 400 people walking over</b></p> <p>15 <b>that area. We had hose, we had appliances, we had</b></p> <p>16 <b>a significant amount of falling debris. We had a huge</b></p> <p>17 <b>amount of water. To deploy that in that situation</b></p> <p>18 <b>would've been wholly unrealistic.</b></p> <p>19 Q. I didn't put the second part of the bullet point to you,</p> <p>20 "cable for point to point wired communications". Does</p> <p>21 that show that this is actually essentially a kind of</p> <p>22 landline? It's a cable. It's a physically linked</p> <p>23 network.</p> <p>24 <b>A. If you can imagine a Second World War film where someone</b></p> <p>25 <b>is winding-up a radio, it's similar to that.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 Q. It then says, in the next bullet point:</p> <p>2 "A downlink capability to view images from the MPS</p> <p>3 helicopter."</p> <p>4 Do you know whether that was working on the night?</p> <p>5 <b>A. It was working, yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Was it used?</p> <p>7 <b>A. The signal was scrambled by the MPS.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Was there any way in which the CU could know what the</p> <p>9 police helicopter was doing?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes, if they'd unscrambled it. I repeatedly asked for</b></p> <p>11 <b>the image to be available and they said it's</b></p> <p>12 <b>transmitting, it's on this channel, it's on another</b></p> <p>13 <b>channel. They tried it on at least two CUs. But</b></p> <p>14 <b>unknown to us, the MPS had scrambled it without making</b></p> <p>15 <b>us aware of that.</b></p> <p>16 Q. When did you discover that they'd scrambled it?</p> <p>17 <b>A. My time frame is very hazy, but I would suggest around</b></p> <p>18 <b>10.00, 10.30 in the morning.</b></p> <p>19 Q. How did you find out that the MPS had scrambled --</p> <p>20 <b>A. I mean -- so the frustration with the CSS is that the</b></p> <p>21 <b>CSS isn't going to work. Sometimes the downlink, the</b></p> <p>22 <b>heli-tele as it's called, wouldn't work. You try it two</b></p> <p>23 <b>or three times, you give up out of frustration. There</b></p> <p>24 <b>is no way specifically to know whether it's an IT</b></p> <p>25 <b>failure on our side or if it's a failure within -- or if</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 <b>but I would suggest it was inspector rank or above due</b></p> <p>2 <b>to the high ranking officers that were on the command</b></p> <p>3 <b>unit at that time.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 Is the scrambling of an MPS heli-tele message</p> <p>6 something you've experienced before Grenfell?</p> <p>7 <b>A. In truth, no. They may have done it previously but,</b></p> <p>8 <b>again, it could've been an assumption that -- in reality</b></p> <p>9 <b>I've used it five or six times in the past, and every</b></p> <p>10 <b>time I've used it in the past, it's always worked.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 <b>A. So there is no way to assume that it would've -- or even</b></p> <p>13 <b>consider that it's been scrambled. The access to the</b></p> <p>14 <b>heli-tele itself is not something that's available to</b></p> <p>15 <b>the layperson on the street; it is a dedicated channel</b></p> <p>16 <b>and repeater of what the helicopter is viewing from live</b></p> <p>17 <b>pictures.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Do you know why the MPS scrambled the heli-tele message?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did you ask?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I think my frustration at that time was just to move on</b></p> <p>22 <b>and see if we can benefit from what we're seeing.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Did you raise the fact, as you've just told us, that the</p> <p>24 MPS had scrambled the message with anybody at the LFB?</p> <p>25 <b>A. No. It may have been recorded by the loggist who kept</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 <b>it has been scrambled by the MPS. I asked three or four</b></p> <p>2 <b>times different police officers of different ranks, "Can</b></p> <p>3 <b>we get it?" and they said it's transmitting. If I'm</b></p> <p>4 <b>being told it's transmitting and I've tried two, three,</b></p> <p>5 <b>four times, the assumption is it's a problem our end</b></p> <p>6 <b>rather than that they haven't unscrambled it.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Did somebody tell you that the MPS had scrambled the</p> <p>8 message?</p> <p>9 <b>A. They did at around 10.30, yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Who told you?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I don't have the name of that individual, but it was</b></p> <p>12 <b>a member of the police service. I would suggest</b></p> <p>13 <b>inspector rank or above.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Was that at a meeting or --</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, I believe they came on and said, "If you can try the</b></p> <p>16 <b>heli-tele now, it has been scrambled, you can view it</b></p> <p>17 <b>now". So quite late on in the day we had facilities to</b></p> <p>18 <b>view the heli-tele.</b></p> <p>19 Q. So the police officer came on to the command unit and</p> <p>20 told you that?</p> <p>21 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>22 Q. You say "I would suggest inspector rank or above"; do</p> <p>23 you remember?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I don't remember and if you lined up 200 police officers</b></p> <p>25 <b>in front of me, there's no way I could pick any of them,</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 <b>an account of what was going on on the command unit, but</b></p> <p>2 <b>I can't confirm that.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Right, the loggist. We have a name for the loggist at</p> <p>4 an early stage as Jackie McConochie.</p> <p>5 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>6 Q. At this stage, 10.30 in the morning, was it still</p> <p>7 Jackie McConochie?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I believe so, yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you know or can you remember who else was party to or</p> <p>10 listening to the conversation you had with this</p> <p>11 inspector or senior police officer about the scrambling</p> <p>12 of the message?</p> <p>13 <b>A. It wasn't a conversation. I believe he just came on,</b></p> <p>14 <b>"Try the CSS now" -- sorry, as you were, "Try the</b></p> <p>15 <b>heli-tele now, it should be working". I tried it. It</b></p> <p>16 <b>was working. He said, to the best of my knowledge,</b></p> <p>17 <b>"Sorry about that, it was scrambled", and then that was</b></p> <p>18 <b>the end of the conversation.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Did anybody else hear that conversation or was it just</p> <p>20 you and the senior police officer?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I can't remember anyone that was there other than</b></p> <p>22 <b>myself, but other command units were trying to access</b></p> <p>23 <b>heli-tele, so it wasn't just myself that was trying to</b></p> <p>24 <b>access it. I know that the FSG command unit was trying</b></p> <p>25 <b>to access heli-tele and they just gave up because they</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 <b>couldn't access it.</b></p> <p>2 Q. What about the control room, do you have any knowledge</p> <p>3 about that?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I have no knowledge of the control room, no.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Finally in the bullet point list on page 5 of this</p> <p>6 policy under paragraph 3.8, it says:</p> <p>7 "Message conferencing facility for all users</p> <p>8 actively logged into an incident accessed via the CSS</p> <p>9 Conferencing Screen."</p> <p>10 That was something I think you referred to before,</p> <p>11 but who would be the people intended to use that</p> <p>12 facility, normally?</p> <p>13 <b>A. It was never used. It was nice to have. It was kind of</b></p> <p>14 <b>a chat room for people on the command units at</b></p> <p>15 <b>an incident. But in reality it would've been easier to</b></p> <p>16 <b>contact people via the mobile phones on the rear of the</b></p> <p>17 <b>command units.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Could it have been used for communications between</p> <p>19 either of the command units, CU8 or CU7, and the</p> <p>20 bridgehead?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, the bridgehead didn't have any CSS access.</b></p> <p>22 Q. What about the CU to CU means of communication, could it</p> <p>23 have been used for that?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Would it have been useful?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 <b>were continually happening with the command units was</b></p> <p>2 <b>that there was a pro forma started, and every time you</b></p> <p>3 <b>went to an incident, you had to tell them whether it was</b></p> <p>4 <b>working or not. And as it says in my statement, around</b></p> <p>5 <b>40 per cent of the time, it just wouldn't work.</b></p> <p>6 Q. You say, three lines up from the bottom of the second</p> <p>7 main paragraph on page 4:</p> <p>8 "The Connectivity Report were re-introduced some</p> <p>9 years later for CSS."</p> <p>10 It sounds from that as if it was introduced, then</p> <p>11 taken away and then re-introduced?</p> <p>12 <b>A. So familiarity breeds contempt within the amount of</b></p> <p>13 <b>e-mails people were sending. If you keep sending the</b></p> <p>14 <b>same e-mail 20 times in a two-month period and nothing's</b></p> <p>15 <b>changed, there's not really a great need to keep sending</b></p> <p>16 <b>that e-mail. They've got the evidence they need but</b></p> <p>17 <b>it's unfortunately not been acted upon. So we were told</b></p> <p>18 <b>to stop sending the connectivity reports, and then, as</b></p> <p>19 <b>it's mentioned there, due to a change in management,</b></p> <p>20 <b>a change in senior management, it was requested that</b></p> <p>21 <b>more connectivity reports were started and sent again.</b></p> <p>22 Q. When were they re-introduced?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I can't give you that date. I would hazard a guess</b></p> <p>24 <b>around about end of 2015, 2016.</b></p> <p>25 Q. To your knowledge, was there a system for dealing with</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 <b>A. I can't imagine a scenario where it would've been.</b></p> <p>2 Q. I want to turn then to a related issue, which is IT.</p> <p>3 At the top of your statement on page 4, you say that</p> <p>4 there had historically been connectivity issues.</p> <p>5 Particularly you say there are dead spots in certain</p> <p>6 areas in London which affects the signal and</p> <p>7 connectivity, rendering the whole computer system</p> <p>8 useless.</p> <p>9 Are those problems that you've identified here and</p> <p>10 in the next paragraph of your statement problems which</p> <p>11 you yourself ever raised with LFB senior management?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Or more senior management.</p> <p>14 You did? Who, could you tell us?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Anyone that would listen. We had a large turnover of</b></p> <p>16 <b>staff. From the day that I joined, I was raising, as</b></p> <p>17 <b>it's mentioned below that, a connectivity report. It</b></p> <p>18 <b>would probably be more beneficial to mention the</b></p> <p>19 <b>connectivity report. So the connectivity report itself</b></p> <p>20 <b>was designed for the sole purpose of: is it working? Is</b></p> <p>21 <b>the CU working?</b></p> <p>22 Now, if it was always working, then you wouldn't</p> <p>23 need to create a pro forma to ask that question.</p> <p>24 <b>I don't ever see the need to contact my garage to tell</b></p> <p>25 <b>them my car is working. But the amount of faults that</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 those issues that are raised in connectivity reports?</p> <p>2 <b>A. So connectivity reports, yes, should be recorded and</b></p> <p>3 <b>sent. As has been mentioned continually by other</b></p> <p>4 <b>people, our IT department isn't renowned for dealing</b></p> <p>5 <b>with issues and, as such, all of the issues that were</b></p> <p>6 <b>reported by various people weren't dealt with, weren't</b></p> <p>7 <b>sorted and to this day are repeated.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Do these IT issues, in your own personal experience,</p> <p>9 ever adversely affect command unit performance at</p> <p>10 an incident?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Can you give us some instances?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I'll give you 40 per cent of every incidents that went</b></p> <p>14 <b>on the CSS didn't work. The whole purpose of the CSS is</b></p> <p>15 <b>to record the officer in charge's decisions. It's</b></p> <p>16 <b>a recording tool, it's an accountability tool, and, as</b></p> <p>17 <b>such, if it doesn't work, then it's not doing what it's</b></p> <p>18 <b>designed for.</b></p> <p>19 That's not to say that the crew themselves weren't</p> <p>20 performing to a high level and they can record decisions</p> <p>21 using the whiteboards, using the headline board. But</p> <p>22 the CSS program itself was very poor and had a continual</p> <p>23 habit of failing.</p> <p>24 Q. Are those issues you experienced things that you raised</p> <p>25 in connectivity reports once they were re-introduced?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 <b>A. I did it originally and I did it when they were</b>  2 <b>re-introduced.</b>  3 Q. Can I now turn to the night of the fire, which starts on  4 page 6 of your statement.  5 Now, on that night -- we can take this quickly --  6 you were riding CU2.  7 <b>A. That's correct.</b>  8 Q. You were with Watch Manager Patrick Delaney.  9 <b>A. That's correct.</b>  10 Q. You were the team leader, I think, of CU2.  11 <b>A. That's correct.</b>  12 Q. Three-quarters of the way down page 6, you say that when  13 you started your shift at 20.00, you started up the  14 systems and, you say in the third line there, you began  15 the shift by testing the equipment on the appliance:  16 "We test all the computer systems that are relevant  17 such as CSS/Heli Tele/internet access. We started up  18 the systems and ensured we had connections to all the  19 required programs."  20 Just pausing there, is it the case that all the IT  21 systems that are supplied on your CU2 worked effectively  22 at that point?  23 <b>A. At that point in the bay. So within each command unit,</b>  24 <b>within each fire station, we have a closed Wi-Fi</b>  25 <b>network, so we were testing it upon Wi-Fi, we were not</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 caused problems.  2 Were the problems capacity overload for this  3 incident or were they intrinsic failures of design and  4 performance in those electronic --  5 <b>A. It's the latter.</b>  6 Q. Is there anything you want to add to what we've  7 discussed earlier this morning about those in order to  8 elaborate on --  9 <b>A. So I'm no IT expert. I'm relatively clued up on IT</b>  10 <b>issues but I'm no expert. I'm just repeating what I've</b>  11 <b>been told. It may be that ultimately there's something</b>  12 <b>completely different, but my understanding is that the</b>  13 <b>server, the signal, the amount of -- and from my</b>  14 <b>experience, anything above a six-pump incident, it just</b>  15 <b>has a complete meltdown and can't handle it.</b>  16 Q. You were assigned to the incident at 01.38 hours and you  17 were mobilised to a 25-pump fire. That is essentially  18 what you say on page 7.  19 If you go to page 9 of the short incident log,  20 please, which is at tab 23 of our documents bundle,  21 page 9, we can see that CU2 was mobile at 01.40 hours --  22 it's about a quarter of the way down that page, we have  23 it highlighted there -- and then on scene at 01.58.45.  24 Does that sound right to you?  25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 <b>tested it with a cellular signal.</b>  2 Q. Did that test include the Toughbook, the mesh node and  3 the CSS?  4 <b>A. No. We never test the Toughbook. They were only kept</b>  5 <b>on there for security reasons. The mesh node doesn't</b>  6 <b>work, has never worked, never been trained on how to use</b>  7 <b>it, so I wouldn't test it.</b>  8 Q. You then go on to say in the next paragraph:  9 "However, it turned out that at Grenfell (and other  10 larger scale incidents), the systems did not work due to  11 the server and 3G signal not being able to handle the  12 amount of information and high number of log ons at one  13 time."  14 Just breaking that down a little bit, which exact  15 systems worked when you tested them at the base but  16 didn't work when you got to the incident?  17 <b>A. CSS didn't work at the incident -- and, again, I wasn't</b>  18 <b>on my command unit, I was on another command unit.</b>  19 <b>I was on Wembley's.</b>  20 <b>CSS didn't work on Wembley's. Heli-tele did work on</b>  21 <b>Wembley's but ultimately the signal was scrambled.</b>  22 <b>Internet access was intermittent and did ultimately work</b>  23 <b>as I did receive e-mails concerning the incident.</b>  24 Q. You say that due to the server and the 3G signal not  25 being able to handle the amount of information, that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 Q. On page 7 of your witness statement, you say that when  2 you got to the incident, you parked on Walmer Road.  3 To the best of your recollection, how far roughly  4 was that from the tower?  5 <b>A. I'd estimate probably, as it says in my statement, 150</b>  6 <b>to 200 metres.</b>  7 Q. Yes, I mean, your statement at the bottom of page 7 says  8 at about 150 or 200 metres after that, which looks like  9 it's after you got through the traffic?  10 <b>A. Oh, apologies, yeah. So, yeah, it was probably about</b>  11 <b>300 metres -- I did have a Google Maps picture which</b>  12 <b>would better describe the exact distance.</b>  13 Q. Okay.  14 Now, you knew, I think, that there were already two  15 command units on scene.  16 <b>A. Yes.</b>  17 Q. Did you know where they were parked?  18 <b>A. No.</b>  19 Q. Did you know what they were doing?  20 <b>A. I didn't categorically know what they were doing, but</b>  21 <b>I know what would've been expected of their role to be</b>  22 <b>and has always been at any incident I've been to.</b>  23 Q. Which is?  24 <b>A. To do the main incident command and for a secondary one</b>  25 <b>to be FSG.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>



1 Q. At that stage, the point of arrival at 01.58, did you  
2 have any idea of the volume and intensity of FSG calls?  
3 **A. At the time of arrival?**  
4 Q. Yes.  
5 **A. I remember hearing the radio on the way to the incident**  
6 **and a number of FSGs being passed across. I believe**  
7 **I grabbed a pad to make secondary notes in case, as has**  
8 **happened in the past, control can contact an oncoming**  
9 **appliance, in my instance would be most likely a CU, in**  
10 **case they started ask us points. I believe I made some**  
11 **rudimentary notes in case when I arrived, the**  
12 **information had not been correctly recorded.**  
13 Q. Do you remember what happened to that pad or those  
14 secondary notes?  
15 **A. I left it on the CU and it was discarded ultimately.**  
16 **You wouldn't have been able to read it. We were**  
17 **travelling at speed and it would've been very roughly**  
18 **written.**  
19 Q. Do you remember the kinds of things you wrote down?  
20 **A. I believe it was flat numbers and persons.**  
21 Q. You were writing those down as you heard them over -- is  
22 this right? -- the main scheme radio?  
23 **A. Yes, that's correct.**  
24 Q. Who was driving?  
25 **A. Pat Delaney.**

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1 Q. So you were able to grab a pen and write?  
2 **A. Yes.**  
3 Q. You say, as you did a moment ago, that they would've  
4 been discarded. Do you mean discarded and left in the  
5 CU or destroyed?  
6 **A. I can't actually remember specifically, but my best**  
7 **recollection would be that they would be left on the CU,**  
8 **on CU2. Because people were answering the information.**  
9 **It was being passed on to somebody, I can't remember**  
10 **specifically who, but it was being -- if it wasn't being**  
11 **answered then I would've been able to take that**  
12 **information and use it in a useful fashion.**  
13 Q. What would you have done?  
14 **A. I would have taken over the FSG or assisted with the FSG**  
15 **command unit.**  
16 Q. On arrival?  
17 **A. Yes.**  
18 Q. Not remotely?  
19 **A. No.**  
20 Q. Right. Okay.  
21 Now, on arrival, did you know what you would be  
22 tasked to do?  
23 **A. No.**  
24 Q. Did anybody have overall command of the use and  
25 deployment of the now three command units in attendance

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1 at just before 2 am?  
2 **A. Sorry, can you repeat the question?**  
3 Q. Did anybody have overall command of the use and  
4 deployment of all three command units at this point?  
5 **A. I'm not sure I understand the question.**  
6 Q. Let me try it again.  
7 You have three command units now in attendance.  
8 You're the third to arrive just before 2 o'clock.  
9 **A. Yes.**  
10 Q. To your knowledge, was anybody overseeing how all three  
11 command units should be used?  
12 **A. No, but then there is no one to do that role. That's**  
13 **not a role that is expected within the Fire Brigade, or**  
14 **one that I am familiar with.**  
15 Q. Who decides which command unit does what?  
16 **A. So the initial command unit which is tipped out would be**  
17 **the incident command unit. You also have the option**  
18 **that if an FSG is carrying on, it's up to the officer in**  
19 **charge to re-designate, potentially, the command unit to**  
20 **take the role of FSG. If FSG is occurring, then the**  
21 **second command unit would be mobilised. That second**  
22 **command unit can then come on and do exclusively FSG or**  
23 **vice versa if that role has been passed on.**  
24 **Due to the incident size, a further command unit is**  
25 **ordered to support the other command unit, and then**

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1 **further command units are tipped on depending upon the**  
2 **size. Their role is to support the other command units.**  
3 Q. So did you assume, being the third to arrive, that your  
4 role would be in a support role?  
5 **A. Absolutely.**  
6 Q. So no one told you to do that; that was just a natural  
7 assumption from your experience; is that right?  
8 **A. That is our role, to support.**  
9 Q. Okay.  
10 When you left CU2, having parked it, you tell us  
11 that you went from there to check in at the command  
12 unit.  
13 Do you remember which number that was at that stage?  
14 **A. We initially went to Fulham's command unit, because it**  
15 **was the first command unit we came across. There were**  
16 **a few people outside but, as we are command unit**  
17 **individuals, it is normal for us to just go on and**  
18 **introduce ourselves. It was very obvious that that was**  
19 **being set up for another reason, that being the FSG.**  
20 **I asked -- I can't remember who exactly, possibly**  
21 **Dan Meyrick -- where the main CU was because we had to**  
22 **book in. He said it's just around the corner, and**  
23 **that's when I went to Wembley's command unit, CU7.**  
24 Q. There may be a bit of confusion between Wembley and  
25 Fulham here, so we need to explore that in just

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9 (Pages 33 to 36)

<p>1 a moment.</p> <p>2 Just before I do, can I ask you, how long did it</p> <p>3 take you to go from CU2 where you parked it to the first</p> <p>4 command unit that you went to?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I would say the walk probably took 4 or 5 minutes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. 4 to 5 minutes, right.</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Did you leave anybody on the command unit or was it</p> <p>9 empty when you left it?</p> <p>10 <b>A. It was empty. It was locked up. It was secured. Me</b></p> <p>11 <b>and Pat walked together to the incident ground.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Where did he go?</p> <p>13 <b>A. He came with you.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Was he with you at all times after that?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, I believe it's referenced in my statement. He</b></p> <p>16 <b>disappeared. He got given another task or went out to</b></p> <p>17 <b>look for another task and I didn't see him again until</b></p> <p>18 <b>the next day.</b></p> <p>19 Q. We'll come back to him later because he does reappear in</p> <p>20 the story.</p> <p>21 Can I now develop a similar topic, which is your</p> <p>22 check-in at the first command unit.</p> <p>23 On page 8 of your statement you say -- it's</p> <p>24 paragraph 3 in the middle of the page -- that you walked</p> <p>25 past the leisure centre:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 <b>A. He was on CU8 but he also returned back to CU7. He was</b></p> <p>2 <b>gathering information, taking notes from one command</b></p> <p>3 <b>unit to the other to prepare to set up the FSG CU.</b></p> <p>4 Q. So when you arrived, is it right that CU7 was going to</p> <p>5 be set up for the FSG calls and information was being</p> <p>6 taken across?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, CU8 was being set up. Fulham. If we call it Fulham</b></p> <p>8 <b>and Wembley, so Fulham was being set up.</b></p> <p>9 <b>Norman Harrison was on Fulham's command unit, and I went</b></p> <p>10 <b>around the corner to ultimately the command unit I was</b></p> <p>11 <b>on all evening, which was Wembley's command unit.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Yes. I think there is this confusion here.</p> <p>13 So Fulham is CU8.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Wembley is CU7.</p> <p>16 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>17 Q. You go first to CU8, as you just told us.</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, first to Fulham, yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Fulham.</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. And my question is: on the Fulham command unit --</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. -- what was happening? What was Norman Harrison doing?</p> <p>24 <b>A. He was moving backwards and forwards from that. He was</b></p> <p>25 <b>on the phone. He had a phone glued to his ear, as did</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 "... and on Grenfell Road we came across CU7, the</p> <p>2 Command Unit from Wembley. On this Command Unit was</p> <p>3 Norman Harrison and asked him if that was the main</p> <p>4 Command Unit, to which he said 'No'. We were directed</p> <p>5 around the corner to CU8, the Command Unit from Fulham.</p> <p>6 This was the main Command Unit at the time."</p> <p>7 How soon after you arrived did you get to CU8?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Apologies, I've got CU8 and CU7 around the wrong way</b></p> <p>9 <b>there.</b></p> <p>10 Q. I was wondering about that. That's helpful.</p> <p>11 So just to be clear, you went to CU8 first?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. The command unit?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. You found Norman Harrison on CU8 --</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. -- and he said that CU7 was the command unit and you</p> <p>18 went to CU7?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. So we can essentially swap CU7 and CU8 in your</p> <p>21 statement.</p> <p>22 <b>A. Apologies, I got confused.</b></p> <p>23 Q. No, I wondered about that. That's very helpful.</p> <p>24 Just focusing on Norman Harrison, did you see what</p> <p>25 he was doing on CU8 at the time?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 <b>Tony Peckham and I believe I saw Dan Meyrick there, and</b></p> <p>2 <b>they were preparing to start that command unit up, the</b></p> <p>3 <b>Fulham command unit as the main FSG command unit.</b></p> <p>4 Q. What about CU7? Do you know what was happening with</p> <p>5 that?</p> <p>6 <b>A. So we walked round the corner from Fulham into Wembley's</b></p> <p>7 <b>command unit, where they were hurriedly writing</b></p> <p>8 <b>information down and trying to copy as best they can via</b></p> <p>9 <b>photographs, mobile phone photographs, stuff that had</b></p> <p>10 <b>been recorded up until that point.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Right. Why were they doing that?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Because the initial command unit that turned up would've</b></p> <p>13 <b>been Wembley. They wanted to change command units and</b></p> <p>14 <b>have a dedicated command unit. As I mentioned earlier,</b></p> <p>15 <b>if numerous command units are mobilised, it is up to the</b></p> <p>16 <b>officer in charge to designate what is what. If you've</b></p> <p>17 <b>only got one there, then you can try and do both</b></p> <p>18 <b>functions at the same time. With something on the scale</b></p> <p>19 <b>of Grenfell then that would definitely be advisable.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Now, just so we're clear, when you arrived at the first</p> <p>21 command unit you went to, you say you saw it being set</p> <p>22 up for FSG calls, were people actually handling FSG</p> <p>23 calls?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I believe there was somebody on the phone.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Who was that?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 <b>A. I believe Norman was on the phone. That's the only</b>  2 <b>individual that I remember being on the telephone.</b>  3 Q. You mentioned a moment ago Dan Meyrick and Tony Peckham.  4 <b>A. Yes.</b>  5 Q. What were they doing?  6 <b>A. Again, I saw them walking backwards and forwards. I had</b>  7 <b>a greater conversation with Dan and Tony when I went</b>  8 <b>onto the other command unit. I said, "You need me on</b>  9 <b>there?" They went, "No, we're on top of this, we've got</b>  10 <b>this".</b>  11 Q. You say walking backwards and forwards, between where  12 were they walking backwards and forwards?  13 <b>A. The two command units. It was approximately 50 metres</b>  14 <b>between the two command units.</b>  15 Q. From your recollection, which was nearer the tower, CU8  16 or CU7?  17 <b>A. It would be Fulham's, CU8.</b>  18 Q. Right.  19 You then say you went around the corner -- this is  20 the middle of the same page, page 8 -- to CU8, the  21 command unit from Fulham.  22 "This was the main Command Unit at the time. We  23 walked on to Bomore Road and found CU8."  24 To the best of your recollection, being the second  25 unit you visited, was that the one doing FSGs or setting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I travelled in with him this morning.</b>  2 Q. Right. I take it that wasn't the first introduction.  3 <b>A. No, no, no.</b>  4 Q. Did anybody give you any command instructions when you  5 arrived at the second command unit?  6 <b>A. No.</b>  7 Q. Fulham command unit, you say.  8 <b>A. No. I asked where the team leader was and they said</b>  9 <b>they're out on the incident ground. As such, I said,</b>  10 <b>"Is there anything I can do?" and I believe</b>  11 <b>I answered -- the radio was quite frantic at that time</b>  12 <b>and I was answering the radio messages.</b>  13 MR MILLETT: You do say that in the next paragraph.  14 I just wonder, Mr Chairman, we've been going for  15 just about an hour and I'm going to start exploring this  16 topic a little bit more. Is that a convenient moment  17 for a break? We can carry on happily if we need to.  18 THE WITNESS: I'm totally fine if you want to carry on.  19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Shall we try and go on a bit longer  20 and we can give ourselves a slightly longer break?  21 MR MILLETT: Certainly. Certainly.  22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.  23 MR MILLETT: Just before we do, I wonder if we can iron out  24 this CU7/CU8, Fulham/Wembley possible confusion.  25 <b>A. Sure.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 up for FSGs or was that the one --  2 <b>A. The second command unit that I went to --</b>  3 Q. Yes.  4 <b>A. -- which should read CU7, was the one that was doing</b>  5 <b>incident command and FSG at the same time.</b>  6 Q. FSG and incident command at the same time?  7 <b>A. Yes.</b>  8 Q. Did it come only to do FSG or only to do incident  9 command after a time?  10 <b>A. I don't know the answer to that question.</b>  11 Q. Who did you see there on the second command unit?  12 <b>A. Andy O'Loughlin was there, Dan Meyrick was there, Tom</b>  13 <b>Goodall was there, at that period of time.</b>  14 Q. Did you see Group Manager Welch at any point?  15 <b>A. No.</b>  16 Q. You didn't?  17 <b>A. No.</b>  18 Q. Did he ever arrive when you were on that CU?  19 <b>A. I never saw Group Manager Welch that evening except at</b>  20 <b>the base of the tower.</b>  21 Q. What about Station Manager Loft?  22 <b>A. I didn't see Station Manager Loft that evening.</b>  23 Q. Do you know him?  24 <b>A. I do, yes.</b>  25 Q. You would be able to recognise him if --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 Q. We've had other evidence about the roles of each and how  2 one changed to the other. I just wonder, looking back  3 at your statement --  4 <b>A. Sorry, sorry, yeah, I am correct, so apologies.</b>  5 Q. In your statement you are correct?  6 <b>A. In my statement, I am correct, and please disregard the</b>  7 <b>confusion from prior. I just remembered -- because</b>  8 <b>I went to Wembley the following night, and the command</b>  9 <b>unit which was the main FSG command unit was there but</b>  10 <b>was locked. So apologies for any confusion. I'm sorry</b>  11 <b>about that.</b>  12 Q. No, that's very helpful. I didn't have to work too hard  13 to --  14 <b>A. I don't know how that happened. I've been reading that</b>  15 <b>the last few days and I must have confused myself.</b>  16 Q. Just to be clear, the first one you go to was CU7.  17 <b>A. Yes.</b>  18 Q. That was being set up for FSG --  19 <b>A. That's correct, absolutely.</b>  20 Q. -- and then you went to the OIC command unit, 8.  21 <b>A. Yes.</b>  22 Q. On that unit, you say in the last paragraph on page 8:  23 "Pat and I introduced ourselves to CU8 saying we  24 were from Islington, and asked what we can do. The  25 Officer in Charge at the time was Andy O'LOUGHLIN."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 Do you know how long he had been there when you got 2 onto that command unit?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>4 Q. You then say:</p> <p>5 "Also on the Command Unit was Watch Manager Dan 6 MEYRICK, Group Manager Tom GODDALL[sic] and a couple of 7 others whom I did not know [or] remember."</p> <p>8 Then you say:</p> <p>9 "I answered the main scheme radio for the first few 10 minutes, using channel Flon-Ops 4 [and you explain that] 11 ... I was receiving Fire Survival Call information from 12 our Control Room concerning people within the tower." 13 First of all, was anybody else doing that, receiving 14 FSG information from control, when you arrived?</p> <p>15 <b>A. When I arrived?</b></p> <p>16 Q. Yes, on CU8.</p> <p>17 <b>A. Other than seeing Norman with a phone who was talking, 18 I believe, to control, I didn't see anybody on the 19 command unit doing that, no.</b></p> <p>20 Q. That was on CU7 though?</p> <p>21 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>22 Q. When you got to CU8, which I think is what you're 23 talking about in this paragraph --</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. -- who did you see also taking FSG calls from control?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 received?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I can imagine I would've written down maybe two.</b></p> <p>3 Q. What would you have written them down on?</p> <p>4 <b>A. On the FSG pad.</b></p> <p>5 Q. That's the quadruplicate, multicoloured control 6 information form pad?</p> <p>7 <b>A. That's correct. That's correct.</b></p> <p>8 Q. What then happened to the pieces of paper that you wrote 9 that information down on?</p> <p>10 <b>A. They were passed on to -- once the FSG command unit was 11 ready to be set up, I believe Dan Meyrick came back and 12 I said, "I've got these, you need to look at these", and 13 he said -- yeah, yeah.</b></p> <p>14 Q. So you handed them to Dan Meyrick?</p> <p>15 <b>A. There was a lot of repetition, so maybe this information 16 had been passed on previously. So I'm not sure, but 17 I think Dan may have said, "Oh, yeah, we've got that 18 one", as in we have the information for that specific 19 call.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Do you remember any information for specific flats?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I do not, no.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you remember generically any information for 23 particular flats changing or being updated?</p> <p>24 <b>A. In the period of time -- as I said, there was a very 25 brief period of time when they had very little</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Yes, Dan Meyrick was in the process of moving boards 2 from one command unit to the other, which would've left 3 the command unit without any CU personnel, so I was the 4 person that said, "I'll take over the radios", or just 5 without speaking took over the radios.</b></p> <p>6 Q. So they were moving from CU8 to CU7 to do FSG, to 7 summarise what you've said --</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. -- I hope fairly.</p> <p>10 Why did you take over the FSG call-receiving 11 function?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Because there wasn't anybody else to do it at that time. 13 So the incident command CU is very obvious and the role 14 of that and the FSG command unit is very obvious, but 15 there would be a period of time between the two for them 16 to be set up, and I know just by helping out, just by 17 moving -- for them moving between the two and myself 18 taking on the radio, it would be for a short period of 19 time before the other command unit would be set up as 20 a main FSG. So I stepped in for a period of time that 21 I would assume or would expect to be no more than one or 22 two minutes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. How long was it in the end?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No more than one or two minutes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. So many FSG calls do you think you dealt with or</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 <b>information -- as you were, very little amount of flats 2 that were highlighted at that period of time.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did you receive those messages via the -- or you said by 4 radio.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. So you were sitting at the radio control desk, were you, 7 in the CU?</p> <p>8 <b>A. As I went on, the radio was being called, and then 9 I didn't sit down but I just grabbed it and spoke and 10 said, "Charlie Uniform 7".</b></p> <p>11 Q. Did you send any informative or any other radio message 12 at that point?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I devised an informative message for DAC O'Loughlin.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Going back to this question of the written-down FSG 15 information on one of the sheets, what colour was the 16 sheet that you gave Dan Meyrick?</p> <p>17 <b>A. The top sheet is white, so I would've passed all the 18 information to him, because he was the individual 19 responsible and the CU is responsible, and then it's up 20 to them and the officer in charge of the FSG to 21 disseminate the coloured pieces of paper. But as 22 I said, I believe he said to me, "We've got that one".</b></p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 <b>A. As in we've got the information already concerning that 25 individual.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 Q. When you filled out the form, do you remember writing 2 a time mark?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I don't -- again, I don't remember any specifics about 4 writing that down. Again, it was repeated -- evidence 5 or information that had already been passed on.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Do you know what Dan Meyrick did with the pieces of 7 paper?</p> <p>8 <b>A. He took it onto the CU.</b></p> <p>9 Q. You don't know what happened to them after that?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I never attended that CU for the rest of the evening.</b></p> <p>11 Q. From what you could observe on CU8 when you arrived on 12 it, was anybody in radio contact with the bridgehead?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I did not observe anyone in radio contact. I got on one 14 step and I couldn't see further than that. It was 15 a hectic scene. It was a busy scene.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Going on to page 9 of your statement, in the third 17 paragraph, you say there that you saw Watch Manager 18 Kentfield coming onto the command unit. You say: 19 "He was not in good way, struggling to walk, bright 20 red in the face and under an extreme amount of stress. 21 He was not in a good state due to the heat and dynamic 22 incident and clearly needed to sit down and recover." 23 First of all, was this before or was this after 24 Watch Manager Meyrick and Group Manager Goodall had gone 25 to CU7?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 "I discussed with Mark whether he wanted me to take 2 over and became the Team Leader for the main Command 3 Unit, CU8. We agreed that this would be for the best 4 and it was then my role to facilitate the officer in 5 charge for the time I was there."</p> <p>6 When you say "facilitate the officer in charge", do 7 you mean support?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Staff, yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Then you say:</p> <p>10 "I introduced myself to Deputy Assistant 11 Commissioner (DAC) Andy O'LOUGHLIN and explained to him 12 that I was taking over the Team Leader role on the 13 Command Unit."</p> <p>14 Did he agree?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I don't believe there was any question about not 16 accepting that. There was no questioning.</b></p> <p>17 Q. So far as you could observe, what was DAC O'Loughlin 18 doing?</p> <p>19 <b>A. He was listening to radio messages, listening to 20 incoming information. After I formulated an informative 21 message and gave it to him, he was trying to get a map 22 and a plan. He wanted to try to get an understanding of 23 the overall incident itself.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Leaving aside the very few FSG calls that you handled 25 when you first arrived on CU8, do you remember whether</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 <b>A. That was after.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Do you know whether Watch Manager Kentfield actually 3 went into the tower?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I believe he did, yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Are you trained to identify signs of metabolic heat 6 stress in firefighters?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Specifically as a CU personnel?</b></p> <p>8 Q. Yes. Well, as a member of the London Fire Brigade?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. From what you know from that training and your own 11 experience, did you think that Mark Kentfield was 12 suffering from metabolic heat stress?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I now know that he had an underlying medical condition 14 that was not metabolic heat stress.</b></p> <p>15 Q. We'll not talk about that. 16 Do you know where he had been or what he had been 17 doing?</p> <p>18 <b>A. He had been on the incident ground trying to gather 19 information that would assist him within his role as 20 team leader.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Do you know why CU7 was chosen to be the FSG command 22 unit?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I do not.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You then go on to say in your statement in the same 25 paragraph:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 you or anybody else on CU8 handled any further FSG calls 2 after that?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I don't believe we did.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Once CU7 took over running FSG calls, did you on CU8, or 5 to your knowledge anybody else on CU8, get any updates 6 from CU7 about FSG calls?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Continually throughout the night.</b></p> <p>8 Q. How was that done? Through what means of communication?</p> <p>9 <b>A. All communications that were available to us, so it 10 would be mobile phone, it would be radio, it would be 11 main scheme radio using the FLON-OPS channels.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Was there a problem with communication or was it smooth 13 and seamless?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Between us and the other command unit?</b></p> <p>15 Q. Yes.</p> <p>16 <b>A. Specifically, I can't remember. I'm fully aware that 17 they had an incredibly hard job, an incredibly important 18 job, one that would not have been beneficial by me 19 interrupting them to get updates on something that was 20 information that was available elsewhere.</b></p> <p>21 Q. What did you and your team do on CU8 with the FSG 22 information that you were continually getting from CU7?</p> <p>23 <b>A. It was to update the officer in charge to ensure that he 24 could update the incident plan.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Did you update the officer in charge with that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 information?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Continually.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Was that you who did that?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes, it would've been myself or I could've devolved that</b></p> <p>5 <b>task to another member of the CU that was working</b></p> <p>6 <b>alongside me.</b></p> <p>7 Q. When it was you, what did you tell DAC O'Loughlin or the</p> <p>8 officer in charge --</p> <p>9 <b>A. Again, it wasn't -- the bulk of my information was not</b></p> <p>10 <b>coming from the other CU, it was coming from the</b></p> <p>11 <b>bridgehead or from intermediaries or from the</b></p> <p>12 <b>marshalling officers. It wasn't coming from that CU.</b></p> <p>13 Q. How did the officer in charge update the incident plan</p> <p>14 using FSG information or updates that had come from CU7?</p> <p>15 <b>A. That's a very complicated question.</b></p> <p>16 <b>The officer in charge themselves has an overall</b></p> <p>17 <b>control of the incident and they have devolved</b></p> <p>18 <b>responsibilities for each sector, as has previously been</b></p> <p>19 <b>discussed in these hearings.</b></p> <p>20 <b>The officer in charge at that point would be able to</b></p> <p>21 <b>increase personnel to certain areas and increase the</b></p> <p>22 <b>amount of the Brigade presence.</b></p> <p>23 <b>If we need to redirect resources, that was something</b></p> <p>24 <b>that the officer in charge can do as well. But it's not</b></p> <p>25 <b>done solely as the officer in charge's decision; it is</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 information or information about FSGs from CU7? Was</p> <p>2 that you or was that anybody else?</p> <p>3 <b>A. As the team leader -- any CU person on there.</b></p> <p>4 Q. How did you as team leader pass that information to DAC</p> <p>5 O'Loughlin?</p> <p>6 <b>A. In that period of time, due to the setting up and due to</b></p> <p>7 <b>the great amount of information, DAC O'Loughlin would've</b></p> <p>8 <b>just had the information and let them set themselves up,</b></p> <p>9 <b>let themselves get into a position before they're ready</b></p> <p>10 <b>to pass that information on.</b></p> <p>11 <b>Would I be the person? Yes, I possibly could've</b></p> <p>12 <b>been the person. I have a very poor memory of the time</b></p> <p>13 <b>of DAC O'Loughlin being in charge. For me, in my</b></p> <p>14 <b>memory, it lasted minutes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Do you remember DAC O'Loughlin or Andy Roe when he took</p> <p>16 over as incident commander reacting in any way to FSG</p> <p>17 information and changing the plan, whether it's</p> <p>18 deployment or whether it's resourcing or anything like</p> <p>19 that, in order to deal with the updated information as</p> <p>20 it had come from CU7?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Again, that's a complicated question, because the</b></p> <p>22 <b>information coming in specifically to him wouldn't</b></p> <p>23 <b>enable him to specifically change the information. So</b></p> <p>24 <b>if there needed to be resources to be redirected, you'd</b></p> <p>25 <b>have to understand what resources are currently</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 <b>done within the command structure, within the FSG, with</b></p> <p>2 <b>the bridgehead, with the lobby sector, with the</b></p> <p>3 <b>marshalling sector, with the BA sector, with the BA main</b></p> <p>4 <b>control sector and, again, with the FSG sector.</b></p> <p>5 Q. That's a lot of sectors for the officer in charge to</p> <p>6 oversee and brief.</p> <p>7 <b>A. There would be responsibility of an ops commander, which</b></p> <p>8 <b>DAC O'Loughlin later became.</b></p> <p>9 Q. But prior to him becoming ops commander -- well, let me</p> <p>10 ask you this: when he became ops commander, who was OIC?</p> <p>11 <b>A. That would be AC Andy Roe.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Prior to Andy Roe taking over as incident commander,</p> <p>13 then -- so we're talking about the period between 02.15</p> <p>14 or so and perhaps 02.44, and we'll have to explore those</p> <p>15 times with others, perhaps -- what did DAC O'Loughlin do</p> <p>16 by way of making use of the FSG information in updating</p> <p>17 his plan? How did things change based on that</p> <p>18 information?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I can't specifically answer that question. That was</b></p> <p>20 <b>a question you need to put to DAC O'Loughlin. All</b></p> <p>21 <b>I know is that, as described, the huge amount of</b></p> <p>22 <b>information coming in needs to be collated and passed</b></p> <p>23 <b>on, and DAC O'Loughlin was performing at a very high</b></p> <p>24 <b>level in an incredibly difficult situation.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Who was the contact point on CU8 for receiving FSG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 <b>deployed, what are those resources, what resources do we</b></p> <p>2 <b>have in reserve, what resources are -- what is the plan?</b></p> <p>3 <b>So, for example, if someone had been sent to floor 15</b></p> <p>4 <b>but had been redirected to floor 12 by discovering</b></p> <p>5 <b>somebody, then that feeds back into the plan.</b></p> <p>6 <b>The officer in charge is someone that takes</b></p> <p>7 <b>an overall, much more strategic view of the incident,</b></p> <p>8 <b>rather than getting caught in the minutiae of specific</b></p> <p>9 <b>singular FSG calls.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Were you aware -- I'm just asking you for your own</p> <p>11 experience and memory -- of any difficulties of</p> <p>12 communication about BA deployments in response to FSG</p> <p>13 calls coming back from the bridgehead?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Sorry, in what respect?</b></p> <p>15 Q. Let me ask the question in a slightly different way.</p> <p>16 Were you aware of any difficulties in getting</p> <p>17 information from the bridgehead about the success or</p> <p>18 failure of any deployments?</p> <p>19 <b>A. There were communication difficulties throughout the</b></p> <p>20 <b>evening from different parts.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Were you aware of any gaps in information about</p> <p>22 particular deployments in response to FSG information</p> <p>23 you had?</p> <p>24 <b>A. There was gaps in information about every single thing</b></p> <p>25 <b>due to the huge amount of information coming in. We had</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 hundreds of people with vested interests, with  2 information that each individual felt was vitally  3 important. How that feeds into the tactical plan, how  4 that feeds into the officer in charge is something that  5 needs to be collated. But, yes, there were  6 communication problems throughout the night, which have  7 already been explored throughout this hearing.  8 MR MILLETT: Yes.  9 Mr Chairman, we are going to turn to a different  10 subject, or a slightly different subject, and I am  11 conscious that the witness has been going for an hour  12 and a quarter.  13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, all right. Would you like to  14 have a break now?  15 MR MILLETT: I think the witness might.  16 THE WITNESS: I'm fine. I'll carry on.  17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We normally do have a break  18 mid-morning.  19 MR MILLETT: It is also the transcribers I am thinking of.  20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course, everyone too.  21 All right. We'll have a break now.  22 Can we spare a quarter of an hour, Mr Millett?  23 MR MILLETT: Yes, we can.  24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll have a quarter of an hour's  25 break. Come back at 11 o'clock, please. Don't talk to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 page 209.  2 At 02.39.17, we see, just halfway down the page, it  3 says:  4 "CU8 send informative message to the Radio Operator  5 at Brigade Control.  6 "Charlie Uniform 8, informative message from D-A-C  7 O'Loughlin.  8 "Fire on all floors, from 2nd to 27th floor. Large  9 number of persons involved. FSG Calls being dealt with.  10 Major incident declared. High-rise procedure  11 implemented. TL, ALP, EDBA.  12 "Main control F-S-G, ground monitor, five jets,  13 safety cordon in place. Tactical mode Oscar, Charlie  14 Uniform 8, over."  15 Is that your message?  16 <b>A. I believe so, yes.</b>  17 Q. At the foot of page 9, you say that AC Roe came on board  18 and assumed command, and then you sent another  19 informative message to say he had taken charge.  20 If you turn on to page 218 in the same document, or  21 if you could please be shown that, you can see at  22 02.43.51, a third of the way down the page, there's  23 an informative message to the radio operator at Brigade  24 control:  25 "Charlie Uniform 8, for your information AC Andy Roe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 anyone about your evidence while you're out of the room.  2 THE WITNESS: Yes.  3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. Would you like  4 to go with the usher.  5 Right, 11 o'clock, please. Thank you.  6 (10.45 am)  7 (A short break)  8 (11.00 am)  9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Johnson, happy to continue,  10 I hope.  11 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.  12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett.  13 MR MILLETT: Mr Johnson, thank you very much for coming back  14 to us.  15 Can I ask you to look at page 9 of your statement,  16 please, and go to the bottom of the page, where in the  17 paragraph which starts shortly after that, three lines  18 up from the bottom, you say:  19 "I composed another informative message stating that  20 Assistant Commissioner Andy ROE had taken over as the  21 Officer in Charge of the incident. This was composed to  22 inform control and others across the incident ground."  23 Can I ask you to look at what we call the second  24 hour ORR, which is an LFB composite document, which is  25 LFB00004828, and go to internal page 208, document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 is now incident commander of this incident. Tactical  2 Mode Oscar. Charlie Uniform 8 over."  3 Again, is that your message?  4 <b>A. Yes.</b>  5 Q. There's another message actually sent earlier on which  6 says that DAC O'Loughlin was the officer in charge.  7 If you could please be shown page 144 of the same  8 document, I just want to ask you whether this is yours  9 as well.  10 "02:11:48. CU8 sends informative message to the  11 Radio Operator at Brigade Control.  12 "Charlie Uniform 8 D-A-C O'Loughlin is now Officer  13 in Charge of this incident. D-A-C O'Loughlin. Charlie  14 Uniform 8 over."  15 Again, is that your informative message?  16 <b>A. I don't believe so, no.</b>  17 Q. You don't think that's yours?  18 <b>A. No.</b>  19 Q. Do you know whose it might be?  20 <b>A. That would be Mark Kentfield's.</b>  21 Q. Was Mark Kentfield on the radio at that stage?  22 <b>A. I don't believe I was on the command unit, so I can't</b>  23 <b>attest to that.</b>  24 Q. I see. So you don't think that at this stage, 02.11,  25 you were yet on CU8?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Right. I see.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Alternatively, he could've got over channel 10 and</b></p> <p>4 <b>informed someone to send that message, but I'm confident</b></p> <p>5 <b>I didn't send that message.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Now, we can take that off the screen and move to</p> <p>7 a different point.</p> <p>8 In your statement, at the top of page 10, you refer</p> <p>9 again to the CSS. You say in the third line there it</p> <p>10 wasn't working and hadn't worked during the entire</p> <p>11 incident. I said I'd come back to this.</p> <p>12 Can I ask you to look at a document which is</p> <p>13 MET00018246, which is -- or should be when it comes on</p> <p>14 to the screen -- Andy Roe's decision log taken by</p> <p>15 Jackie McConochie. In fact, it's an exhibit to her</p> <p>16 statement.</p> <p>17 I just want to show you this to see if you remember</p> <p>18 anything about it. It's MET00018246.</p> <p>19 (Pause)</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think there's a problem,</p> <p>21 Mr Millett.</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: Let me try a different reference. MET00005404.</p> <p>23 This document appears in a number of places, so it</p> <p>24 may be that that particular reference isn't right.</p> <p>25 That's it, that's the document.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 I can, just to see if you can help us with them. If you</p> <p>2 can't, we'll move swiftly on.</p> <p>3 First of all, MET00008722.</p> <p>4 Now, this was on CU8. Does this look familiar to</p> <p>5 you?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. What is it, do you know?</p> <p>8 <b>A. It's the headline board which details who is in charge</b></p> <p>9 <b>and the sectors.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Can you just explain the sectors for us there?</p> <p>11 <b>A. So you've got BA sectors -- at the top there you've got</b></p> <p>12 <b>the AC, obviously, who is the incident commander,</b></p> <p>13 <b>DAC O'Loughlin, who was the incident ops commander. You</b></p> <p>14 <b>have the names in the left-hand side, Watch Manager Hall</b></p> <p>15 <b>who was at the RVP, Group Manager Pugsley, who was fire</b></p> <p>16 <b>investigation. Then you have Saunders and Kipling, who</b></p> <p>17 <b>were in the BA sector. Marshalling sector you have</b></p> <p>18 <b>Foster. Again, you have another relief RVP. So this</b></p> <p>19 <b>would've been later on in the incident. This wasn't</b></p> <p>20 <b>an early on headline board.</b></p> <p>21 <b>You also have a water sector, which again, as it</b></p> <p>22 <b>says there, is Station Manager Cook, who directly is</b></p> <p>23 <b>reporting to Group Manager Goulbourne and Group Manager</b></p> <p>24 <b>Welch.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Roughly what time do you think this would have been --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 If I can ask you to go to the time mark at 04.03,</p> <p>2 which is on page 3.</p> <p>3 In fact, if one could go back a page -- I'm sorry,</p> <p>4 that's a different reference. If one goes back one</p> <p>5 page. That's it.</p> <p>6 Now, in entry 3 from the bottom at 04.03 it says:</p> <p>7 "Command Support System has gone down."</p> <p>8 Do you remember being at a meeting when this was</p> <p>9 recorded?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Do you remember anything about the CSS system or a CSS</p> <p>12 system going down?</p> <p>13 <b>A. So when I first went onto the command unit, in between</b></p> <p>14 <b>taking telephone calls and radio calls, I tried to get</b></p> <p>15 <b>CSS to start. Turned it on, turned it off a few times.</b></p> <p>16 <b>This would be approximately 02.20, 02.30 in the morning.</b></p> <p>17 <b>But, as I say in my statement, it never worked. That</b></p> <p>18 <b>may just have been a formal recording of the fact that</b></p> <p>19 <b>it has gone down.</b></p> <p>20 Q. But you can't help us further with that?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Why it was recorded at that time? Probably just to</b></p> <p>22 <b>formalise the fact that it has -- it wasn't working.</b></p> <p>23 Q. You then say that you moved on to the headline board on</p> <p>24 CU8.</p> <p>25 I just want to show you a number of photographs, if</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I'm confident that's after 6 am.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Turning to the next photograph, MET00008724.</p> <p>3 Do you know what that is? It's headed "FLON OPS 1".</p> <p>4 Perhaps it could be expanded a little bit.</p> <p>5 First of all, do you remember this being on CU8? It</p> <p>6 looks as if it's right next to the --</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes, it's a removable whiteboard that is kept next to</b></p> <p>8 <b>the headline board.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you know who was writing on this?</p> <p>10 <b>A. That's not my writing.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Do you know whose it is?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I do not, no.</b></p> <p>13 Q. You can see on it that somebody had written or recorded:</p> <p>14 "Wearers turnover?"</p> <p>15 "Cylinders."</p> <p>16 Then next to that, "Press area", and then above that</p> <p>17 in blue:</p> <p>18 "36 EDBA.</p> <p>19 "60 EDBA.</p> <p>20 "O/S 50 BARLING."</p> <p>21 Can you help us with that?</p> <p>22 <b>A. That would be a running total of EDBA wearers. And OS</b></p> <p>23 <b>is outside, "50 Barling" ...</b></p> <p>24 Q. Yes.</p> <p>25 <b>A. That would just be a running total that had been pressed</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>



<p>1 <b>on. To me, that looks like a mind map, so it would</b></p> <p>2 <b>be -- the individual that wrote that would be the best</b></p> <p>3 <b>person to attest to what that means to that individual.</b></p> <p>4 <b>I would suggest it would be a significantly senior</b></p> <p>5 <b>officer, AC or above.</b></p> <p>6 Q. There are some arrows at the top, starting on the right:</p> <p>7 CU7, FSG, arrow, arrow, CU8, ICV -- I assume that means</p> <p>8 incident command vehicle?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Then arrow, arrow, FLONOPS1 -- is that right? -- SCCS or</p> <p>11 SLLS? What is that?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Whereabouts are we looking, sorry?</b></p> <p>13 Q. On the left at the top, the second arrow which links CU8</p> <p>14 via FLONOPS1 to something else, CU-something. Can you</p> <p>15 just help us with what that CU is? It looks like CU1?</p> <p>16 <b>A. So you have BCC, which would be set up at control, at</b></p> <p>17 <b>Stratford.</b></p> <p>18 Q. DAC Fenton.</p> <p>19 <b>A. DAC Fenton. Group Manager Leader, who's got "ops" next</b></p> <p>20 <b>to his name.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Is that in the control room?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Sorry?</b></p> <p>23 Q. Is GM Leader ops in the control room?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Well, I didn't see Group Manager Leader that evening</b></p> <p>25 <b>so --</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 CU1, and CU1 was in contact with the Brigade control</p> <p>2 centre. Is that how you remember it?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I was in contact with every CU that was available, every</b></p> <p>4 <b>CU operative that night, the officer in charge, the ops</b></p> <p>5 <b>commander, people on the bridgehead. I spoke to upwards</b></p> <p>6 <b>of 150 people that evening, and I believe that they also</b></p> <p>7 <b>spoke to upwards of, each individual, 150 people as</b></p> <p>8 <b>well.</b></p> <p>9 Q. On the bottom right-hand corner of this board we see in</p> <p>10 brackets with a tick over it "Glen Williams".</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. "G351 (WM)". Can you tell us anything about that?</p> <p>13 <b>A. He left the incident.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Is that why that was recorded up there?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes. So it would be for roll call purposes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Looking at the next slide, then, can I ask you to look</p> <p>17 at MET00008725. Do you know what that is?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, that's another whiteboard, and on it is "DERV",</b></p> <p>19 <b>which is the abbreviation for diesel, "to Bramley Rd 4</b></p> <p>20 <b>OSUs", operational support units, and then there's</b></p> <p>21 <b>a list of appliances that would need DERV, and then H33A</b></p> <p>22 <b>who would be responsible for shuttling DERV back and</b></p> <p>23 <b>forwards from a petrol station.</b></p> <p>24 Q. On the right-hand side we see two things. First of all,</p> <p>25 we see "FIB board" with an arrow. What does that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 Q. Group Manager Leader is a person, not a role?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No, it's Steve Leader.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Steve Leader. Okay. And then underneath that, CU1.</p> <p>4 What does that mean?</p> <p>5 <b>A. SCCS -- I don't know, I've never seen those initials</b></p> <p>6 <b>before. But it just details what would be -- BCC would</b></p> <p>7 <b>be remotely planning and remotely be preparing to come</b></p> <p>8 <b>on to the incident.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you know whether CU8 was in radio contact with any CU</p> <p>10 other than CU7?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Which?</p> <p>13 <b>A. We were in contact with the marshalling CU.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Which CU was that?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I don't know the exact number of it, it may be in my</b></p> <p>16 <b>notes, but it was being run by Lee Drawbridge,</b></p> <p>17 <b>DAC Drawbridge.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Looking at this, does this help your recollection as to</p> <p>19 which number it was? Because it looks like it's CU1</p> <p>20 SCCS. Can you help with that?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I can't, no.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 <b>A. CU1 would be Lewisham -- sorry, Edmonton, yeah,</b></p> <p>24 <b>possibly, but I can't confirm.</b></p> <p>25 Q. It looks from this as if CU8 was in contact with CU7 and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 indicate?</p> <p>2 <b>A. That's where the FIB board was, the forward information</b></p> <p>3 <b>board, that's just to highlight the fact that it's</b></p> <p>4 <b>there. But that's not specific to that evening; that</b></p> <p>5 <b>would be there forever.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Does that mean that that was a permanent --</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. -- piece of writing on the CU?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes. CUs were sometimes stowed differently for certain</b></p> <p>10 <b>items of equipment, so that would be -- if somebody was</b></p> <p>11 <b>standing by, someone from another station needed to find</b></p> <p>12 <b>the FIB board, they would know where it was by the sign</b></p> <p>13 <b>"FIB board".</b></p> <p>14 Q. Was there a FIB board on CU8?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I really can't remember. It wasn't my CU. I wouldn't</b></p> <p>16 <b>have done or been responsible for the inventory, but</b></p> <p>17 <b>it's something you can certainly find out.</b></p> <p>18 Q. The second thing on the right-hand side is for the most</p> <p>19 part redacted, but do you remember what it was?</p> <p>20 <b>A. That looks like a list of telephone numbers for</b></p> <p>21 <b>stations.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Can I ask you to be shown the next photograph, which is</p> <p>23 MET00008726.</p> <p>24 Can you tell us what this is?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes. So, again, this looks like something that a senior</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 officer has done for preparation, a mind map for prompts</p> <p>2 of how they're going to be moving forward with the</p> <p>3 incident. So, again, this would be -- as you have</p> <p>4 marshalling, you've got reliefs, so -- you have also got</p> <p>5 a question mark next to that, 0600 hours.</p> <p>6 So to recount my previous statement, the assumption</p> <p>7 would be that's prior to 0600 hours. Reliefs, spare</p> <p>8 appliances/people -- it's prompts to remember. It's the</p> <p>9 sort of thing that could have been recorded by CSS, but</p> <p>10 it's a lot more direct and visible representation of</p> <p>11 what is to be happening and what is expected to have</p> <p>12 happened.</p> <p>13 Q. Can I ask you to look at MET00008737. Can you just tell</p> <p>14 us what that is?</p> <p>15 A. That is a CSS screen --</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 A. -- showing a map of the area.</p> <p>18 Q. Does this show us or help tell us that the CSS on CU8</p> <p>19 was actually used?</p> <p>20 A. No, that just shows at a time -- I don't know if that's</p> <p>21 specifically -- on the day. It says incident, it says</p> <p>22 connection, which would assume that it is connected.</p> <p>23 Whether it's populated or not is a completely different</p> <p>24 story. So whether that was fully researchable or</p> <p>25 whether it's just a picture -- what's quite common is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 Q. So what happens when somebody comes and presents</p> <p>2 themselves -- I say "somebody" -- when an officer comes</p> <p>3 and presents themselves --</p> <p>4 A. It can be anyone. It doesn't have to be a member of the</p> <p>5 Fire Brigade that can book in. So it can be somebody.</p> <p>6 Q. Do they get given a red --</p> <p>7 A. No. Senior officers have all got a nominal roll board,</p> <p>8 which is their responsibility to hand in. Every</p> <p>9 appliance has a nominal roll board. Luckily you have</p> <p>10 the window there, so that's the window where normally</p> <p>11 you would be booking in, and there would be an LED</p> <p>12 display above that window saying "Booking-in area".</p> <p>13 Then you would pass the board on, say who you are, what</p> <p>14 your role was and why potentially you've been called on</p> <p>15 to this incident. You can either wait outside or you</p> <p>16 could be called on to be briefed or forwarded on to the</p> <p>17 incident.</p> <p>18 Q. Who would fill in the nominal roll board?</p> <p>19 A. All nominal roll boards need to be done at change of</p> <p>20 watch. The officers' nominal roll boards, obviously</p> <p>21 their name doesn't change, so that remains, but every</p> <p>22 shift, the nominal roll boards, you have a day and</p> <p>23 a night board, and the day boards are filled in at</p> <p>24 change of shift at 0930, or -- actually, as you were,</p> <p>25 they are prepared by the offgoing watch for the oncoming</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 you turn it on and all you've got is a picture. So none</p> <p>2 of the appliances would be populated, which should</p> <p>3 automatically occur. If that's the case, to load up 120</p> <p>4 appliances and personnel would've taken two people up to</p> <p>5 3 or 4 hours.</p> <p>6 Q. Looking at the next photograph, if I can move on,</p> <p>7 MET00008738. It should be the next one in the sequence.</p> <p>8 I think we've had some evidence before about what</p> <p>9 this shows us, but it also seems from the window that</p> <p>10 it's daylight by this stage.</p> <p>11 What do we see in that picture?</p> <p>12 A. You can see the two Toughbooks, you can see all the</p> <p>13 nominal roll boards that are in attendance.</p> <p>14 Q. So those red things on the left, those are nominal roll</p> <p>15 boards, are they?</p> <p>16 A. So the red things -- we have the racking, which has</p> <p>17 previously been explained, we have the racking where the</p> <p>18 boards are to be placed, and next to those we have the</p> <p>19 red things with the blue heading, which signifies that</p> <p>20 they are off of all of the appliances, then they have</p> <p>21 the name, the number of individuals that are on there.</p> <p>22 Q. So is there a distinction between the ones with the blue</p> <p>23 sitting underneath the Toughbooks and those with the</p> <p>24 yellow in the racks?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, the yellow are officers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 watch.</p> <p>2 Q. In the station?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. I see. So they're already prepared.</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. When you book in at the CU, you just hand it in?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. I follow.</p> <p>9 Next picture, please, which is MET00008739. Can you</p> <p>10 help us, what does that tell us?</p> <p>11 A. Structural engineer, district surveyor, that was</p> <p>12 an individual to be coming on.</p> <p>13 Q. Interestingly, up on that we can see, on the right,</p> <p>14 "02:47 AC Roe"?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. What does that tell us?</p> <p>17 A. That would be potentially the time that AC Roe booked in</p> <p>18 to be officer in charge.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you know who wrote that up there?</p> <p>20 A. That's not my handwriting.</p> <p>21 Q. No, but --</p> <p>22 A. I do not know.</p> <p>23 Q. You don't know whose it is?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 <b>A. The rest of the information on there isn't familiar to</b>  2 <b>me either. I know both Steve West and Lee Drawbridge</b>  3 <b>but --</b>  4 Q. John Allen, underneath the words "Structural engineer  5 (district surveyor)", does that tell us that John Allen  6 was the structural engineer or district surveyor?  7 <b>A. I don't know.</b>  8 Q. Next picture, please, which is MET00008740. Another  9 whiteboard on the CU. What does that tell us, do you  10 think?  11 <b>A. So a lot of that is my handwriting.</b>  12 Q. Could you tell us which?  13 <b>A. The red on the lower two-thirds on the right-hand side,</b>  14 <b>which says:</b>  15 <b>"12 FRU.</b>  16 <b>"36 pump.</b>  17 <b>"4 [aerial ladder].</b>  18 <b>"9 SM.</b>  19 <b>"8 GM.</b>  20 <b>"1 [commissioner].</b>  21 <b>"1 AC."</b>  22 Q. "BA out" at the bottom, is that your handwriting?  23 <b>A. No, that's far too neat. The left-hand side, FSG --</b>  24 Q. Can I just interrupt you, what does "BA out" signify?  25 <b>A. I have no idea.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 would've written that up there?  2 <b>A. If we could zoom back out again, please.</b>  3 <b>Yeah, so, again, that could be between 06.00 and</b>  4 <b>10.00. The amount of casualties we had confirmed was</b>  5 <b>relatively low for quite some time, unfortunately.</b>  6 Q. Where were you getting that information from that you  7 recorded there?  8 <b>A. So that would be coming back from the bridgehead, that</b>  9 <b>could be coming back from the main FSG CU as well. It's</b>  10 <b>a combination. And they themselves could be passing</b>  11 <b>this information from the bridgehead back to the main</b>  12 <b>FSG command unit and vice versa. So it's kind of</b>  13 <b>a loop. Plus we had a significant amount of people that</b>  14 <b>were runners that were passing on information from the</b>  15 <b>incident ground themselves.</b>  16 Q. You said in that last answer that you would be getting  17 back information from the bridgehead.  18 <b>A. Yes.</b>  19 Q. What was the method of communication by which the  20 bridgehead was communicating with you in the CU8?  21 <b>A. There was a multitude of different types of</b>  22 <b>communications: we used handheld radios, we tried to use</b>  23 <b>FLON-OPS1, and I believe we used mobile phones as well.</b>  24 Q. So you tried to use FLON-OPS1. Did you succeed?  25 <b>A. We did, intermittently. But, again, with the amount of</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 Q. Please carry on.  2 <b>A. So casualty would be -- "CAS" would be how many</b>  3 <b>casualties we would've had, trying to keep a running</b>  4 <b>total at that point in time.</b>  5 Q. Where were you getting that information from, do you  6 remember?  7 <b>A. From various sources. So as you can appreciate, not</b>  8 <b>just myself in isolation on the main CU but other CUs</b>  9 <b>were getting different numbers from different places.</b>  10 <b>So what we were trying to do is collate them to try and</b>  11 <b>get the most rounded figure and the most accurate figure</b>  12 <b>that we could.</b>  13 Q. Right. It says in blue, "FSG 133 A, 38 C".  14 <b>A. Yes.</b>  15 Q. Does that --  16 <b>A. So that would be 133 adults, 38 children, giving you 171</b>  17 <b>in total. Below that is casualty handling, that would</b>  18 <b>be the casualty handling area, and 115 people that would</b>  19 <b>at that point be unaccounted for. That's not to say</b>  20 <b>that the two figures should be added together, 115 and</b>  21 <b>171. It could be that 115 are taken from the 171.</b>  22 Q. Do you remember, first of all, who would've written that  23 on?  24 <b>A. That's my handwriting.</b>  25 Q. Do you remember roughly when during the night you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 <b>people with an interest in using that, sometimes it</b>  2 <b>could become overloaded and, as such, we would resort to</b>  3 <b>other methods of communication.</b>  4 Q. Do you remember who you spoke to personally on --  5 <b>A. At the bridgehead?</b>  6 Q. Yes.  7 <b>A. I spoke to many, many different people at the</b>  8 <b>bridgehead. I spoke to Brien O'Keeffe, Pat Goulbourne.</b>  9 <b>I have one specific memory of speaking to</b>  10 <b>Pat Goulbourne, which is when he mentioned to me about</b>  11 <b>the impossibility of going past a certain floor.</b>  12 Q. Which was the floor, do you remember?  13 <b>A. I can reference my notes, but I believe it was floor 11.</b>  14 <b>I'd rather confirm it within here, but I remember</b>  15 <b>specifically the phrase that we cannot humanly go past</b>  16 <b>floor 11 with the capabilities of the sets that we have.</b>  17 Q. Do you remember what you did with that information?  18 <b>A. I asked Group Manager Goulbourne, now DAC Goulbourne, to</b>  19 <b>hold onto the line. The AC was talking. I interrupted</b>  20 <b>him and gave that information to the AC.</b>  21 Q. Do you think that was recorded in the log by  22 Jackie McConochie?  23 <b>A. Yes.</b>  24 Q. We may be able to find that.  25 Do you know whether that information was passed back</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 to the control room?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I'm not aware if it was passed back, no.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Then finally in the run of pictures, MET00008741.</p> <p>4 Well, I think that probably tells us everything we</p> <p>5 need to know. Is there anything you can identify on</p> <p>6 that picture?</p> <p>7 <b>A. It's an air conditioning unit, but other than that,</b></p> <p>8 <b>everything else is self-explanatory.</b></p> <p>9 Q. I won't ask you if that was working.</p> <p>10 <b>A. It was good.</b></p> <p>11 Q. I am now going to turn back to your statement, if I can,</p> <p>12 and ask you to look, please, at the bottom of page 10.</p> <p>13 In the penultimate paragraph, you say:</p> <p>14 "There was issues with radios quite early on. I had</p> <p>15 asked for Channel 2 to be switched on across the</p> <p>16 incident ground using a CU Repeater which enables</p> <p>17 channel 2 to be utilised and giving us an extra channel</p> <p>18 on the handheld radios. Normally we have ten radio</p> <p>19 channels, but really only have nine channels as</p> <p>20 Channel 2 is only available if you turn it on at the</p> <p>21 Command Unit using the CU repeater. We asked that to be</p> <p>22 switched on, but it did not work. We have always have</p> <p>23 had issues with that specifically."</p> <p>24 First question: what were those issues that you were</p> <p>25 referring to there?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 <b>when a CU is in attendance. It just gives you an extra</b></p> <p>2 <b>radio channel, so we would be able to turn channel 2 on</b></p> <p>3 <b>and have an extra radio channel. But having an extra</b></p> <p>4 <b>radio channel with all the previous explained ways of</b></p> <p>5 <b>communication just gives another way that potentially</b></p> <p>6 <b>information can be passed across, but I fail to see any</b></p> <p>7 <b>benefit of having one extra radio channel.</b></p> <p>8 Q. I think you've just answered the question that I asked</p> <p>9 before, but can I focus on the question I did ask, which</p> <p>10 was about repeaters.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. What effect would the use of repeaters have had if they</p> <p>13 had been working?</p> <p>14 <b>A. It would've enabled channel 2 to be working.</b></p> <p>15 Q. I see.</p> <p>16 <b>A. So channel 2 itself can only be turned on by the CU.</b></p> <p>17 Q. As you say.</p> <p>18 <b>A. With a CU in attendance, you flick a switch, channel 2</b></p> <p>19 <b>works. With the radio engineer attending, the hope and</b></p> <p>20 <b>the goal there was that he could fix whatever the</b></p> <p>21 <b>deficiency was to enable channel 2 to be working. He</b></p> <p>22 <b>couldn't.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Was the use of the airwave radio to communicate with the</p> <p>24 bridgehead considered?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I believe it was used.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 <b>A. They didn't work. The radio channel 2 wouldn't work.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did that impact in any way on your ability to perform</p> <p>3 your role on the night?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>5 Q. How would channel 2 have assisted if you had been able</p> <p>6 to use it?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I can't imagine a scenario where it would've been of</b></p> <p>8 <b>benefit.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Who did you request should deploy the CU repeater?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I can't remember. I know it was somebody from another</b></p> <p>11 <b>command unit. It may have been somebody from Woodside</b></p> <p>12 <b>command unit who came along and asked for the repeater.</b></p> <p>13 <b>But, again, as you can appreciate, on an incredibly busy</b></p> <p>14 <b>night, I can't remember the specific person. But they</b></p> <p>15 <b>came and asked for the repeater.</b></p> <p>16 Q. You referred to the Woodside command unit. Is that</p> <p>17 Edmonton?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No, it's Woodside, as in Woodside, south London.</b></p> <p>19 Q. It's a different one?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes, yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Which number is that, do you know?</p> <p>22 <b>A. 6. Don't quote me on that.</b></p> <p>23 Q. If you don't know, you don't know.</p> <p>24 What effect did the use of the repeater have?</p> <p>25 <b>A. As I say in my evidence, channel 2 is only available</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 Q. Was it used effectively?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. You say in the same paragraph, just halfway down:</p> <p>4 "I also asked for someone from Radio Workshops to</p> <p>5 attend. Normally at a certain number of pump incidents</p> <p>6 (we were way above that) they would send a radio</p> <p>7 engineer to attend assuming there would be interference</p> <p>8 with radio communications. They did send someone out</p> <p>9 that night. I believe the engineer had a look at the</p> <p>10 issue and said that he could not do anything."</p> <p>11 First of all, is it normal -- it does sound as if it</p> <p>12 is -- that over a certain number of pumps, you work on</p> <p>13 the assumption that the radio communications will be</p> <p>14 interfered with?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yeah, that may be -- I may be not explaining it</b></p> <p>16 <b>correctly within my notes. At a large incident, you'd</b></p> <p>17 <b>have a greater demand upon radio channels. So a radio</b></p> <p>18 <b>engineer would be able to come out and assist if there</b></p> <p>19 <b>were anticipated any issues.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Would it be normal at a large incident, which I think</p> <p>21 you've defined as over six pumps --</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yeah, a large incident for a radio engineer I don't</b></p> <p>23 <b>believe is above six pumps, I believe it's above that,</b></p> <p>24 <b>I believe it's ten and above, but that's something that</b></p> <p>25 <b>I could feed back to you.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 Q. Is that a mobilisation policy?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 <b>A. PDA.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Does that tell us that it's normal to despatch or have</p> <p>6 ready, at least, a radio engineer --</p> <p>7 <b>A. Absolutely.</b></p> <p>8 Q. -- at such incidents. I see.</p> <p>9 You say you asked for someone from radio workshops</p> <p>10 to attend. Can I ask you to look at page 25 of the</p> <p>11 short incident log, just to see if we can get a handle</p> <p>12 on the timing of that?</p> <p>13 <b>A. 03.44.20.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Yes. 03.55 ...</p> <p>15 <b>A. 44.</b></p> <p>16 <b>(Pause)</b></p> <p>17 Q. Yes, we have at 03.55.04 --</p> <p>18 <b>A. The initial call went in at 03.44.</b></p> <p>19 Q. 03.44. Let's look further up the page. 03.44.12, is</p> <p>20 that what you're referring to?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you remember that?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. That sounds about the right time you requested one</p> <p>25 first, does it?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 <b>with the booking-in process for the radio engineer, but</b></p> <p>2 <b>potentially that could be the time. It was daylight.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Let me see if I can just put one more time mark to you.</p> <p>4 If you go to page 14 of the short incident log, exactly</p> <p>5 halfway down the page we see RW2, "Donovan, Robert", who</p> <p>6 is status 2, it looks like, at 04.03. In other words,</p> <p>7 mobile to incident.</p> <p>8 Would that correspond with your recollection, 04.03?</p> <p>9 <b>A. That's his mobilisation time; that's not his attendance</b></p> <p>10 <b>time. He hasn't got an attendance time. He's got</b></p> <p>11 <b>a left time but not an attendance time.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Yes. It has an available time and what I called</p> <p>13 a status 2 time, mobile to incident.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes, but I can't say what time he got there because it</b></p> <p>15 <b>in itself does not say what time he got there, and</b></p> <p>16 <b>I don't know where the individual is coming from either.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Fair enough.</p> <p>18 Does the name Robert Donovan mean anything to you?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No. I can describe the individual but I don't know his</b></p> <p>20 <b>name.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Do you know who briefed him?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I spoke to him.</b></p> <p>23 Q. What did you ask him to do?</p> <p>24 <b>A. To get radio channel 2 working and see if he can improve</b></p> <p>25 <b>any other issues that we have on the fire ground</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember or know what time one arrived?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I do not, no. It was daylight.</b></p> <p>4 Q. It was daylight?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. I wonder if we might be able to pin this down a bit more</p> <p>7 closely. If you go down to 03.55, which is the service</p> <p>8 request, bottom of the same page:</p> <p>9 "03:55:04 ... Service Request</p> <p>10 "Service Request InProgress: DR IUP CU8 REQUEST</p> <p>11 URGENT ATTENDANCE OF RADIO ENGINEER TO ASSIST WITH</p> <p>12 CHANNEL 2 FOR FIRE GROUND."</p> <p>13 Now, that's the service request. We've had some</p> <p>14 evidence about how these get completed.</p> <p>15 If you move on to page 32 of the short incident log,</p> <p>16 and look at the time mark there on that page for 5 or</p> <p>17 05.18.02:</p> <p>18 "Service Request Completed: DR IUP CU8 REQUEST</p> <p>19 URGENT ATTENDANCE OF RADIO ENGINEER TO ASSIST WITH</p> <p>20 CHANNEL 2 FOR FIRE GROUND."</p> <p>21 Does that time, 05.18.02, correspond with your</p> <p>22 recollection as to when the radio engineer arrived or</p> <p>23 would it be before that?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Well, that request is for someone to attend. So, yes.</b></p> <p>25 <b>Yes, so if what you're saying -- and I'm not familiar</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 <b>concerning communications.</b></p> <p>2 Q. What did he do, do you know?</p> <p>3 <b>A. He went away for a period of time, come back and said</b></p> <p>4 <b>there's nothing he could do.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Do you know what he did?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I don't know what he did, no.</b></p> <p>7 Q. When he said there's nothing you can do, what did you</p> <p>8 say? Did you say anything?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I expressed the urgency that we need increased</b></p> <p>10 <b>communications, that it was hampering our efforts, and</b></p> <p>11 <b>he said, "Nothing I can do".</b></p> <p>12 Q. Did anybody hear that conversation or were you alone?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Other than himself, no.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Did you report what he told you to the OIC?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes, I'm confident I did, yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. That would have been Andy Roe?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. What did Andy Roe do about that, do you know?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I don't know. If the radio engineer tells us he can't</b></p> <p>20 <b>do anything, then unfortunately we have to accept that</b></p> <p>21 <b>as fact. We can't go to his boss who has got a magic</b></p> <p>22 <b>wand that can make the radios work. That's the evidence</b></p> <p>23 <b>we've been given.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You say at the bottom of the page, this is page 10 of</p> <p>25 your statement:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 "At the time of Grenfell, the Command Units did not 2 have handheld fire link radios (Motorola handheld 3 radios)." 4 Is there a reason for that, do you know? 5 <b>A. There was a security issue with storing them on the 6 appliances.</b> 7 Q. What was the nature of that security issue? 8 <b>A. We didn't have anywhere secure to store them when we 9 were on visits.</b> 10 Q. Physical security? 11 <b>A. Yes.</b> 12 Q. I see. 13 So how were crews on CUs expected to be able to 14 communicate with the bridgehead normally? 15 <b>A. In a normal incident, via handheld radio.</b> 16 Q. Is that also the case with communications with other 17 CUs? 18 <b>A. For one CU to talk to another CU?</b> 19 Q. Yes. 20 <b>A. Yes, handheld radio, channel 10.</b> 21 Q. And anybody on the incident ground? 22 <b>A. Yes.</b> 23 Q. Same again, channel 10? 24 <b>A. Yes.</b> 25 Q. You say in the second line of page 11 of your statement:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you need an airwave radio to access FLON-OPS1? 2 <b>A. Yes.</b> 3 Q. We've heard evidence before that in fact only senior 4 officers, station managers and above, have personal 5 airwave radios. Does that mean that FLON-OPS1 was only 6 accessible by officers of the rank of station manager 7 and above? 8 <b>A. At that time, yes. To qualify that, FLON-OPS1 is also 9 accessible on every appliance, but obviously the radios 10 themselves are fixed in the front of the cab and not 11 being able to be mobile.</b> 12 Q. Yes. You say at that time; do you mean at that time 13 during the incident or at that time generally? 14 <b>A. At that time generally.</b> 15 Q. I think you also had to borrow Andy Roe's airwave radio 16 so as to be able to communicate with other CUs? 17 <b>A. Possibly.</b> 18 Q. Does the command unit have or is it supposed to have 19 an airwave radio of its own? 20 <b>A. So it has an airwave radio the front, it has an airwave 21 radio in the rear. At the time it had two portable 22 handheld radios that were not on the run at that time.</b> 23 Q. Do you remember how long you had Andy Roe's airwave 24 radio for? 25 <b>A. I don't, I know that Keeley Foster went and got an extra</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 "The Commissioner Dany COTTON in the end gave us her 2 handheld radio as we needed it desperately, which was 3 very nice of her." 4 Do you remember when that was? 5 <b>A. I do not. It was approximately, I would suggest, 04.30.</b> 6 Q. Why do you suggest that? 7 <b>A. Because I remember it was light. She asked her staff 8 officer Keeley Foster, if I've got the name correct, to 9 go and get further radios to assist us.</b> 10 Q. Did that mean that she was then without a radio? 11 <b>A. Yes.</b> 12 Q. Now, on pages 11 and 13 of your statement -- I'll take 13 this quickly and summarise it if I can -- you say that 14 the incident command channel that was used was FLON-OPS1 15 across the fire ground. Is that right? Can you confirm 16 that? 17 <b>A. Yes, I believe so.</b> 18 Q. Do you know when that became the command channel? 19 <b>A. I do not, no.</b> 20 Q. Would that be the normal fallback channel to use or was 21 that an exception? 22 <b>A. It was a total exception of an incident, the likes of 23 which I have never seen before and no one I've ever met 24 has ever seen before. We were adapting as best we could 25 using every item of equipment we had.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 <b>battery. It was a considerable period of time that 2 I had both the commissioner's and the AC's radios.</b> 3 Q. Do you remember what channel radio communications were 4 taking place between CU8 and the bridgehead? 5 <b>A. Again, we used many different forms of communications 6 rather than a specific channel. As I spoke earlier, 7 I believe I spoke to Pat Goulbourne on a mobile phone 8 where he passed the information over to me. But, again, 9 we were using every form of communication. So we 10 would've used FLON-OPS1, if -- which I believe they did 11 have an airwave radio up there.</b> 12 Q. Yes, Pat Goulbourne being a senior officer. 13 <b>A. Yes, and Richard Welch, who was up there as well.</b> 14 Q. Yes. They would've had airwave radios. 15 <b>A. Absolutely.</b> 16 Q. So they would've been able to communicate by airwave, 17 FLON-OPS1, with the command units? 18 <b>A. Yes. It's not the assumption that an individual would 19 take an airwave radio onto an incident ground with them. 20 They don't have to because it's a relatively expensive 21 piece of equipment and they could be involved in wet 22 conditions which could make the radio wet. So I can't 23 attest whether one individual had a radio or not. 24 That's something that would have to be followed up with 25 those individuals.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 Q. Do you know for a fact yourself whether Group Manager 2 Welch and Group Manager Goulbourne actually used airwave 3 radios from the bridgehead to communicate with CU7 or 4 CU8? 5 <b>A. I'm confident that they did, yes.</b> 6 Q. Would that have been on FLON-OPS1? 7 <b>A. Yes.</b> 8 Q. At pages 12 to 13 of your statement, you refer to 9 Pat Delaney setting up a radio path with somebody inside 10 the incident or someone at the base of the tower. 11 That's at the bottom of page 12 and over to page 13. 12 You say that was: 13 "... someone halfway between Command Unit and at the 14 Command Unit itself to pass messages back in a four way 15 communication channel due to the high usage of radios at 16 the incident. We used Channel 10 on our handheld 17 radios, which is a Command Unit specific channel." 18 Then you go on to describe FLON-OPS1 as well and 19 FLON-OPS4. 20 I just want to ask you about the Delaney radio path. 21 Do you remember when during the incident that was 22 established? 23 <b>A. No. As I say, I later learnt -- so it wasn't something 24 that I was aware of during the incident, it was 25 something that I learnt later that Pat Delaney told me</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 <b>don't want it to get into. It's a science term.</b> 2 Q. It sounds as if you know or knew that Grenfell Tower was 3 such a structure. Is that right? 4 <b>A. I know it now. I know that it was clad in metal. 5 I know there was rebar continually throughout the 6 concrete construction which is metal, which would've 7 bounced off, and I know that there's a huge amount of 8 metal in the surrounding area, which means that the 9 signals themselves won't be able to necessarily permeate 10 through the structure.</b> 11 Q. Would that sort of information about that sort of 12 structure be something that would be reflected on the 13 operational risk database or the mobile data terminal? 14 <b>A. No.</b> 15 Q. Do you know whether the Pat Delaney system, what you 16 know of it, improved communications into the tower? 17 <b>A. Yes.</b> 18 Q. Do you know why it wasn't used earlier on in the 19 incident? 20 <b>A. Because it was resource intensive. You've got the 21 potential to use Chinese whispers. You have to get the 22 correct persons available. I believe he used CU 23 operatives who are competent and confident on the radio 24 so that they can pass it in. It wasn't until he had the 25 right people with the right skills at the right time</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 <b>concerning what he had set up.</b> 2 Q. Do you know how it worked? 3 <b>A. Yes. So there would be one persons -- as it says there, 4 one person passing the information on, someone at the 5 base of the tower, someone halfway between the tower and 6 then possibly somewhere closer to the FSG CU, and then 7 ultimately they would pass that message on to the CU.</b> 8 Q. What was the purpose of setting up this four-way radio 9 communication path? 10 <b>A. What you have to appreciate is Grenfell Tower itself was 11 a Faraday's cage. It was impossible to get 12 communications in and out due to the construction, due 13 to the metal cladding on the outside. Radio or 14 specifically handheld radio signals would be bouncing 15 off, wouldn't be able to travel very far. So to 16 overcome this, Pat Delaney set up a route that would be 17 able to overcome it.</b> 18 Q. I'm sorry to ask you, you said something that sounded 19 like a Faraday cage. 20 <b>A. Yes.</b> 21 Q. Did you say that? 22 <b>A. I did.</b> 23 Q. What do you mean by that? 24 <b>A. A Faraday cage is, if I have the term correct, a way to 25 stop electronic signals getting into an area that you</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 <b>being able to deliver the right message.</b> 2 Q. Do you know for yourself which channel he was using? 3 <b>A. I don't know, but my belief would be that it would be 4 channel 10 utilising, which is the command channel for 5 CU personnel, which would utilise that channel and the 6 other individuals that were on that channel.</b> 7 Q. Do you know which other individuals, watch managers, 8 et cetera, were involved in his four-way path? 9 <b>A. I don't know. That's a question you'll have to ask 10 Mr Delaney.</b> 11 Q. Do you know whether any FSG messages were passed to or 12 from the tower via that radio path? 13 <b>A. No. It's a closed channel that is specifically for 14 Brigade personnel. There is no way that a member of the 15 public would be able to interrupt it.</b> 16 Q. When I say FSG messages, what I mean is information 17 between members of the Brigade about FSG. 18 <b>A. No. I don't understand how they could pass that 19 information on to someone in that chain.</b> 20 Q. Could that chain have been used, for example, in order 21 to communicate FSG information or outcomes about 22 deployments to and from the tower? 23 <b>A. There's every possibility that could be utilised.</b> 24 Q. Do you know whether it was? 25 <b>A. To the best of my knowledge, no.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 Q. Do you know why that was?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Again, that's something -- I'm not aware if there was</b></p> <p>3 <b>specific communication issues between the bridgehead and</b></p> <p>4 <b>the FSG command unit. That's something that would have</b></p> <p>5 <b>to be asked of those individuals.</b></p> <p>6 Q. I am going to turn to a different topic, which is the</p> <p>7 change in stay-put advice.</p> <p>8 Now, in your contemporaneous notes you say -- I'll</p> <p>9 just ask for this to be put on the screen, it is</p> <p>10 MET00005344. If I could just show you page 3.</p> <p>11 You say that -- this is third paragraph down:</p> <p>12 "The F.S.G advice was still to stay within the flat,</p> <p>13 I received a call from I believe control informing me</p> <p>14 that this advice had now changed. I seem to remember</p> <p>15 that the officer of the day had given the decision to</p> <p>16 tell all callers on the line that they should now exit</p> <p>17 the building."</p> <p>18 My first question is: how were you contacted? You</p> <p>19 say "I received a call", what was it on?</p> <p>20 <b>A. On the telephone.</b></p> <p>21 Q. On the CU?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. CU8?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. You say the telephone; was that the mobile telephone or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I remember specifically the conversation I had and</b></p> <p>2 <b>I remember that conversation and that time stamp is</b></p> <p>3 <b>02.42.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Our transcript of the decision log taken by Jackie</p> <p>5 McConochie actually starts at 02.47 with Andy Roe taking</p> <p>6 over, not at 02.42, so I wonder if you're referring to</p> <p>7 a different document?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No, it is that document. Whatever time is written</b></p> <p>9 <b>within there recorded by Jackie McConochie. If it's not</b></p> <p>10 <b>02.42 then I apologies. Whatever time is recorded by</b></p> <p>11 <b>her, that is the time I said. Like I say, I asked her</b></p> <p>12 <b>specifically because my memory was that it was</b></p> <p>13 <b>significantly later.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Okay. We won't need to take time up on asking you about</p> <p>15 that document. The document speaks for itself.</p> <p>16 Can you remember any details about the conversation</p> <p>17 that you had with the officer of the day?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No, it's very matter of fact. I didn't need any more</b></p> <p>19 <b>information other than that they've changed the policy</b></p> <p>20 <b>advice. I passed it on to the officer in charge.</b></p> <p>21 <b>Again, I interrupted him. It was a matter of urgency.</b></p> <p>22 <b>It was possibly one of the most important messages he's</b></p> <p>23 <b>received that evening and, as such, I passed it on to</b></p> <p>24 <b>him, and then I believe it was passed on to the FSG CU.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Do you remember speaking to DAC Fenton in the BCC about</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 on the CU or was it a different one?</p> <p>2 <b>A. There are only mobile telephones on the CU.</b></p> <p>3 Q. When I say mobile on the CU, is it one fixed to the CU</p> <p>4 or can you move around outside the CU with it?</p> <p>5 <b>A. My belief is it was a fixed handheld mobile phone.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Do you remember who you got the call from? I know you</p> <p>7 say control; do you remember who it was at control?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No. At the time I believed it was the officer of the</b></p> <p>9 <b>day, but it may have been the officer of the watch. I'm</b></p> <p>10 <b>99 per cent confident it was a male, which would lead me</b></p> <p>11 <b>to believe it would be more likely to be the officer of</b></p> <p>12 <b>the day.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Do you remember, even if roughly, what time that was?</p> <p>14 <b>A. It was 02.42.</b></p> <p>15 Q. That's not roughly. Why do you say 02.42?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Because I've read the incident log. I've asked</b></p> <p>17 <b>Jackie McConochie. My memory was it was significantly</b></p> <p>18 <b>later, so my memory is untrustworthy within timescales</b></p> <p>19 <b>due to the traumatic incident and everything, but</b></p> <p>20 <b>I remember specifically asking Jackie what time it was</b></p> <p>21 <b>because I believed it to be somewhere in the region of</b></p> <p>22 <b>04.30, but I believe it was 02.42.</b></p> <p>23 Q. So, in fact, I think the answer to my question is you</p> <p>24 don't remember what time it was and you refreshed your</p> <p>25 memory later by reference to other records?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 the change in advice?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I believe that that may have been the person that</b></p> <p>3 <b>I spoke to.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Do you remember whether he asked you for permission to</p> <p>5 change the stay-put advice or was he just telling you</p> <p>6 that that's what was happening?</p> <p>7 <b>A. My recollection prior to you mentioning that is that he</b></p> <p>8 <b>told me, but now I am questioning that and he may have</b></p> <p>9 <b>asked that question. As such, I can't confidently give</b></p> <p>10 <b>you a direct answer. But as detailed in my statement,</b></p> <p>11 <b>I believed at the time that he had told us that that's</b></p> <p>12 <b>what was happening rather than asking for permission.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Okay. Let's see if we can just push this a little</p> <p>14 further.</p> <p>15 Do you remember whether, having had that</p> <p>16 conversation with who you remember to be DAC Fenton --</p> <p>17 <b>A. Potentially.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Potentially DAC Fenton, you left it on the basis that</p> <p>19 you would get back to him or was it a once-and-for-all</p> <p>20 conversation?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, it was a definite article, it was a definite answer.</b></p> <p>22 <b>There was no need to get back to him. I assured him</b></p> <p>23 <b>I spoke to the officer in charge whilst that information</b></p> <p>24 <b>came in to inform him that information had come in.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Was the person in the BCC you were speaking to about the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>



<p>1 change in stay-put advice still on the phone when you</p> <p>2 told AC Roe what was happening?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. What did AC Roe say, do you remember?</p> <p>5 <b>A. "Okay."</b></p> <p>6 Q. Do you remember relaying that back to --</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. -- the BCC?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. So it was essentially a three-way conversation.</p> <p>11 <b>A. It was a very similar conversation to the one I had with</b></p> <p>12 <b>Pat Goulbourne concerning not being able to go past what</b></p> <p>13 <b>I believed to be the 11th floor.</b></p> <p>14 Q. It is a fact that it's not recorded on vision or on our</p> <p>15 short incident log. Do you know why that might be?</p> <p>16 <b>A. The conversation with DAC Fenton, potentially?</b></p> <p>17 Q. The change in the stay-put advice.</p> <p>18 <b>A. Because it was not on a recordable device. It wasn't on</b></p> <p>19 <b>FLON-OPS1, it wasn't on the main scheme radio and it</b></p> <p>20 <b>wasn't sent by CSS. So it was sent potentially by</b></p> <p>21 <b>a mobile phone that isn't recorded.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you know why it wasn't sent out as an informative</p> <p>23 message?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes, because remote people can't send informative</b></p> <p>25 <b>messages. The only person who can send informative</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 Q. He says:</p> <p>2 "I asked CU to contact control and ask them to stop</p> <p>3 giving stay-put advice if they still were."</p> <p>4 Now, however one interprets that, does that trigger</p> <p>5 a recollection in your mind as to what Andy Roe said?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 <b>A. But, again, stay-put advice is different to FSG advice.</b></p> <p>9 <b>So to change the FSG advice is fine. Maybe AC Roe was</b></p> <p>10 <b>passing the information on to inform people that are</b></p> <p>11 <b>carrying out stay-put advice, which is different to FSG</b></p> <p>12 <b>advice, that they need to get out and maybe the</b></p> <p>13 <b>individual hasn't considered it.</b></p> <p>14 Q. No, absolutely.</p> <p>15 Looking at the FSG advice change, do you recall</p> <p>16 being asked by Andy Roe to contact control and ask them</p> <p>17 to change the FSG advice at all?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No, control rang me to say that they are changing the</b></p> <p>19 <b>FSG advice.</b></p> <p>20 Q. That's it?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>23 Now, different topic again. If you go to page 13,</p> <p>24 this comes back to this question of 11th floor we looked</p> <p>25 at earlier on. I just want to finish that one off if</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 <b>messages is the officer in charge.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Andy Roe says in his statement that he's given to the</p> <p>3 police, which we've seen -- and we'll obviously explore</p> <p>4 this with him -- that he asked the CU to contact control</p> <p>5 and ask them to stop giving stay-put advice if they</p> <p>6 still were.</p> <p>7 Do you remember that? Is that what you remember?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I don't.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you have a comment on that?</p> <p>10 <b>A. There were three other people on that command unit that</b></p> <p>11 <b>may have sent that message. Maybe discussing the</b></p> <p>12 <b>conversation with them, they may have an answer that</b></p> <p>13 <b>they were the ones that sent that message.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Leaving aside the question of messages, do you actually</p> <p>15 remember being asked by Andy Roe to get hold of control</p> <p>16 yourself and tell them to stop giving stay-put advice?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Are you talking about specifically stay-put advice or to</b></p> <p>18 <b>change the FSG advice? Because there is a wide</b></p> <p>19 <b>difference.</b></p> <p>20 Q. That is, if I may say so, a good question that I'm not</p> <p>21 able to answer. But let me ask you what you remember of</p> <p>22 what Andy Roe said.</p> <p>23 <b>A. I'm sorry, but I can't answer the question if you don't</b></p> <p>24 <b>understand the actual terminology. The best person</b></p> <p>25 <b>would be Andy Roe.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 I can.</p> <p>2 On page 13, in the second paragraph from the bottom,</p> <p>3 you say in the second line:</p> <p>4 "I remember AC ROE was sitting on the rear of the</p> <p>5 Command Unit when I took a radio call over the handheld</p> <p>6 radio from Group Manager GOULBOURNE telling me that he</p> <p>7 was asking crews to do more than is physically possible</p> <p>8 for them to get past the 11th floor."</p> <p>9 Do you remember the approximate time of this?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I don't, but, again, you can check Jackie McConochie's</b></p> <p>11 <b>incident log and it will have the specific time.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember whether you or anybody else on CU8</p> <p>13 passed that information on to control?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I've no recollection of contacting control informing</b></p> <p>15 <b>them of that.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Do you recall talking to CU7 and telling them to speak</p> <p>17 to control about that?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I have no recollection of that, no.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Do you remember receiving any other updates which relate</p> <p>20 to the inability to reach particular floors or relate to</p> <p>21 any decisions not to go above certain floors?</p> <p>22 <b>A. From the incident ground?</b></p> <p>23 Q. Yes.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes, it was constantly changing that the distance of</b></p> <p>25 <b>travel that they could achieve, what floor they were</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 going on to, they were going -- the bridgehead was going</p> <p>2 up and down due to conditions improving and then</p> <p>3 worsening and then improving again. Crews were told not</p> <p>4 to go above certain floors. And then ultimately, due to</p> <p>5 confusion, due to, as has already been explained within</p> <p>6 the hearing, the numbering of the floors, people would</p> <p>7 go higher than would be expected, people would be told</p> <p>8 to go to a certain floor and wouldn't be able to get to</p> <p>9 that floor because they were diverted to rescue</p> <p>10 individuals that were coming down. This was constant</p> <p>11 information that was coming back.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember whether any system was put in place or</p> <p>13 any communications method was set up in order to keep</p> <p>14 control abreast of what floors couldn't be accessed by</p> <p>15 crews so that they could pass that information on to</p> <p>16 anybody calling from floors above that limit?</p> <p>17 A. I don't remember that conversation at all.</p> <p>18 Q. Is there any reason why control --</p> <p>19 A. That would've been after the stay-put and the FSG advice</p> <p>20 would've changed.</p> <p>21 Q. Yes.</p> <p>22 A. So control's advice is for them to get out anyway. So</p> <p>23 us saying that we couldn't get to them, I don't</p> <p>24 understand why that would be passed on to individuals.</p> <p>25 Q. I understand. I think in that last answer you've put</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 and the conversation with Pat Goulbourne was</p> <p>2 significantly later than that.</p> <p>3 Q. I see, okay.</p> <p>4 A different topic again.</p> <p>5 I want to ask you about some plans of the building.</p> <p>6 At the bottom of page 14 of your statement, you say</p> <p>7 that there was a tactical co-ordination group meeting</p> <p>8 between various organisations, and I'll quote:</p> <p>9 "During this meeting, AC Roe had asked the Council</p> <p>10 to provide plans of the building, including the internal</p> <p>11 layout. It is vital that we have plans, as mentioned</p> <p>12 when I was talking about 72D visits. There was no</p> <p>13 detailed information or comprehensive notes of the</p> <p>14 building layout from a London Fire Brigade aspect,</p> <p>15 nothing regarding access/exits/firefighting media. All</p> <p>16 we had was a recent photograph that was taken."</p> <p>17 Then you go on to say:</p> <p>18 "The female representing the Council said that she</p> <p>19 would get the internal layout plans for us and was</p> <p>20 working on it. About 45 minutes later, I went onto the</p> <p>21 incident ground and spoke to the same female asking for</p> <p>22 an update on these plans. She told me she had not yet</p> <p>23 found the plans and were still working on it. At a TCG</p> <p>24 meeting later that morning, AC Roe asked the female for</p> <p>25 the plans again and they still were not present. AC ROE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 the timing of these difficulties about not accessing</p> <p>2 floors as after the change in the FSG advice, so --</p> <p>3 A. I believe so, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Can we be confident about that?</p> <p>5 A. If you give me the exact time that Jackie McConochie</p> <p>6 recorded, the time the stay-put advice was changed, then</p> <p>7 I would feel significantly more confident.</p> <p>8 Q. I can tell you that her first entry is at 02.47 and that</p> <p>9 does record -- perhaps we should look at it because it's</p> <p>10 perhaps something you should see as you've referred to</p> <p>11 it. Got to MET00005404 and look at page 1. I just want</p> <p>12 to make sure there's no confusion about this.</p> <p>13 We see the first time mark is 02.47:</p> <p>14 "AC Roe takes over and receives handover from DAC</p> <p>15 O'Loughlan[sic]. AC Roe records decision to deviate</p> <p>16 from FSG advice being delivered to FSG callers by</p> <p>17 control staff and advise people to make efforts to leave</p> <p>18 the building. Fire Sector is briefed to that effect."</p> <p>19 A. 02.47, I was 5 minutes out, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. That's what you refer --</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. So are you saying that after that time --</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- it was difficult to reach particular floors?</p> <p>25 A. Yes. That was relatively early on within the incident,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 expressed that this will be a big thing that when asked</p> <p>2 for one thing, the Council could not provide it."</p> <p>3 Well, leave that on one side.</p> <p>4 Can I ask you some specific questions about all of</p> <p>5 that.</p> <p>6 First of all, what time, do you remember, was that</p> <p>7 first reference to the plans at the tactical</p> <p>8 co-ordination group meeting?</p> <p>9 A. I don't have that time, but that would be recorded</p> <p>10 within the TCGM notes.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you know whether Andy Roe was the first person to</p> <p>12 request plans or had anyone requested them before that?</p> <p>13 A. He was the first person to formally ask for the plans</p> <p>14 within a TCGM, but questions had been asked by Norman</p> <p>15 Harris and Mark Kentfield concerning plans, and also</p> <p>16 I was asked to get plans from the MDT.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you know what the outcome of Mark Kentfield's and</p> <p>18 Norman Harrison's request for plans was?</p> <p>19 A. Well, they didn't get them, which is why we specifically</p> <p>20 asked for them in the TCGM.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you know why they didn't get them?</p> <p>22 A. Because the individual that was supposed to be supplying</p> <p>23 them just couldn't do the one thing we asked her to do.</p> <p>24 Q. Do you know who --</p> <p>25 A. I do not.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 Q. -- Mark Kentfield and Norman Harrison asked?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Just going back a moment, then, to your last answer but</p> <p>4 one about the time recorded in the TCGM notes. Could</p> <p>5 you please be shown, again, MET00005404 and turn to</p> <p>6 page 4, because we I think pick this up in those notes.</p> <p>7 If you look at 04.53, it's the last entry there:</p> <p>8 "CU staff report building plans should be in fire</p> <p>9 box in lobby."</p> <p>10 That's the first entry we've been able to find in</p> <p>11 that log.</p> <p>12 Do you know whether there was any reference or any</p> <p>13 meeting about it any earlier than that time, 04.53?</p> <p>14 <b>A. So, yeah, I do remember that there was issues concerning</b></p> <p>15 <b>the fire box and the fire box not necessarily being</b></p> <p>16 <b>fully shocked with what should be there, and I believe</b></p> <p>17 <b>that was the information that we were passed on from the</b></p> <p>18 <b>council, that don't worry about it, the plans are in the</b></p> <p>19 <b>box.</b></p> <p>20 Q. You've referred to a recent photograph that was taken in</p> <p>21 your statement which I've just read out to you. Do you</p> <p>22 know what that photograph was of?</p> <p>23 <b>A. From the MDT?</b></p> <p>24 Q. Well, no, you say in your statement -- perhaps we can</p> <p>25 look at -- it, page 15, second line:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 an individual who had fallen on Shaun Murphy.</p> <p>2 By this point, can you help us about what time that</p> <p>3 might have been?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Well, I remember specifically going out and speaking to</b></p> <p>5 <b>the lady at around 07.30.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 <b>A. And I remember speaking to her again to try and find out</b></p> <p>8 <b>where the plans were significantly later, would have</b></p> <p>9 <b>been potentially 09.30, and the answer was the same.</b></p> <p>10 Q. What was the name of the council officer who was asked</p> <p>11 to fetch the plans, do you know?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I don't know the name, that's why I refer to her as "the</b></p> <p>13 <b>lady".</b></p> <p>14 Q. Did the fact that you didn't have plans in your</p> <p>15 recollection hamper any search and rescue efforts?</p> <p>16 <b>A. The plans themselves would've fed into the operational</b></p> <p>17 <b>plan. It is a vital part and a vital role, detailing</b></p> <p>18 <b>fixed installations and detailing everything within the</b></p> <p>19 <b>building. It would detail the pipeline of gas, of</b></p> <p>20 <b>water, where electricity were. It was vital that we</b></p> <p>21 <b>needed those plans.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Is there any specific way in which not having those</p> <p>23 plans hampered the Brigade search and rescue efforts at</p> <p>24 Grenfell?</p> <p>25 <b>A. For search and rescue, the layout of all the flats were</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 "All we had ..."</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. "... was a recent photograph ..."</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes, that's from the MDT, so the MDT wasn't fully</b></p> <p>5 <b>populated.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Do you remember what the photograph was of?</p> <p>7 <b>A. It was of Grenfell Tower prior to the cladding being</b></p> <p>8 <b>installed.</b></p> <p>9 Q. What, the exterior?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 <b>A. That the best of my recollection.</b></p> <p>13 Q. You say that was on the MDT, was it?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Do you remember whether the plans that you kept asking</p> <p>16 for were actually ever given to you?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I never saw them.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Seeing if I can give a time on it, page 18 of your</p> <p>19 statement, second paragraph, it's a single sentence, you</p> <p>20 say:</p> <p>21 "We still had not received any plans of the building</p> <p>22 layout from the Council by this point."</p> <p>23 Now, the point you're referring to is, if you look</p> <p>24 at the previous paragraph, you seeing Crew Manager</p> <p>25 Shaun Murphy discussing with Andy Roe about</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 <b>the same, but specifically the layout of utilities, the</b></p> <p>2 <b>isolation points for all the utilities, that would all</b></p> <p>3 <b>have been marked on the plans. The fixed installations,</b></p> <p>4 <b>the dry riser, the wet riser, the smoke vents, the fire</b></p> <p>5 <b>doors, all of that would be detailed on the plans that</b></p> <p>6 <b>we were waiting upon.</b></p> <p>7 Q. So in terms of what not having the plans prevented the</p> <p>8 Brigade from doing --</p> <p>9 <b>A. Adequately dealing with the fire.</b></p> <p>10 Q. -- relate to specific locations of specific valves,</p> <p>11 taps, points like that?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes. I mean, I've not looked at the detailed plans of</b></p> <p>13 <b>Grenfell, but I do know that there was extensive</b></p> <p>14 <b>building work that went on, and if something had</b></p> <p>15 <b>changed, if as you go higher there were different</b></p> <p>16 <b>layouts of flats, that's something that would definitely</b></p> <p>17 <b>have aided our crews.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Refocusing on my question, did the fact you didn't have</p> <p>19 plans hamper the search and rescue efforts in any way?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I would say yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. In what way?</p> <p>22 <b>A. If we can't isolate items, if we can't operate smoke</b></p> <p>23 <b>vents, if we can't isolate dry risers, where the doors</b></p> <p>24 <b>are, that's potentially going to make the incident</b></p> <p>25 <b>significantly worse. If the incident is getting</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 significantly worse, that is going to affect our crews.  2 It is going to make the response time greater and put  3 them in greater danger and the individuals inside the  4 property in greater danger.  5 Q. Turning to a final topic, list of residents. If I can  6 ask you to look at page 19 of your statement. In the  7 second paragraph there you say:  8 "We were desperately trying to find a list of the  9 residents in the -- inside the tower."  10 "We were desperately trying to find a list of the  11 residents inside the tower. I received a call from  12 somebody saying he had a potential list of residents,  13 which the Command Units could cross reference and tally  14 who had been rescued. At 13:18 hours I received an  15 email from Station Manager Vince BELL, which contained a  16 list of residents ..."  17 You go on to explain what happened to that e-mail  18 trail.  19 My question is, first of all: can you recall who you  20 received the call from?  21 <b>A. Station Manager Vince Bell.</b>  22 Q. No, sorry, in the first sentence of that paragraph you  23 say:  24 "I received a call from somebody saying he had  25 a potential list of residents."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 I just wanted to say that any negativity that came  2 across yesterday with the Brigade was completely blown  3 out the water by the efforts of my team and everyone  4 I work with on the evening, from the commissioner to the  5 AC to everyone else, and I'd like to recognise the  6 admiration and the pride that I have for working for  7 London Fire Brigade, and how brilliantly everyone did on  8 that evening with the sole purpose to save life and  9 provide the best for the people of London.  10 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> Yes. Well, thank you very much.  11 <b>MR MILLETT:</b> Thank you.  12 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> Well, Mr Millett doesn't have any  13 more questions himself. We'll take a short break now.  14 It's possible that other questions will emerge during  15 the break, so I'm going to ask you to be ready to come  16 back if we need to ask you any further questions.  17 <b>THE WITNESS:</b> Okay.  18 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> If we don't need you to come back,  19 I'll say now how grateful we are to you for coming to  20 give us such a wide-ranging amount of evidence, which is  21 going to be very helpful indeed.  22 <b>THE WITNESS:</b> Thank you.  23 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> We'll resume at 12.25, and better if  24 you don't talk about your evidence to anyone for the  25 time being.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 Did you receive the call from Vince Bell?  2 <b>A. I believe so.</b>  3 Q. Can you recall whether a list of residents was actually  4 requested?  5 <b>A. Continually.</b>  6 Q. Who made that request? Was that Vince Bell?  7 <b>A. No, that would've been the IC.</b>  8 Q. Were you aware that Group Manager Goodall had received  9 a list of residents from the council?  10 <b>A. I was not.</b>  11 Q. Ordinarily, would you have expected a list of residents  12 to have been obtained earlier?  13 <b>A. Absolutely.</b>  14 Q. Would you expect a list of residents to be held on site  15 in some way, normally?  16 <b>A. No.</b>  17 Q. You wouldn't?  18 <b>A. No.</b>  19 <b>MR MILLETT:</b> Okay.  20 Mr Johnson, you've been very patient with my  21 questions and I want to say thank you. I've come to the  22 end of my questions.  23 I think now is an appropriate moment for a break.  24 There may or may not be some further follow-ups.  25 <b>A. Can I just say something?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 Would you like to go with the usher and then we'll  2 have a break. Thank you.  3 (The witness withdrew)  4 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> Right. 12.25, please.  5 (12.15 pm)  6 (A short break)  7 (12.25 pm)  8 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> Well, Mr Millett, I gather you may  9 have some more questions.  10 <b>MR MILLETT:</b> From a surprising array of sources. Very short  11 questions.  12 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> All right. Yes, well we had better  13 get Mr Johnson back in.  14 (The witness returned)  15 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> Now, Mr Johnson, I'm sorry to have  16 to ask you to come back, but there are a few more  17 questions for you. Now, you are going to have  18 difficulty because they've rearranged the furniture for  19 the next witness.  20 <b>THE WITNESS:</b> It was explained, it's fine.  21 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> Do you mind standing?  22 <b>THE WITNESS:</b> That's fine.  23 <b>MR MILLETT:</b> The gratitude we've expressed previously  24 continues to apply.  25 I have very short questions for you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 First of all, you told us quite a lot about the CSS</p> <p>2 on the CU.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Can one normally use the CSS to access the Vision log?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Only for that specific incident.</b></p> <p>6 Q. So for that specific incident, is it possible,</p> <p>7 therefore, to get on the CU to the Vision log and see</p> <p>8 what informative and other messages have been passing</p> <p>9 from, say, control to the incident ground?</p> <p>10 <b>A. You can, but you can also do that using the internet</b></p> <p>11 <b>interface via our hot wire and log on to BOSS, Vision,</b></p> <p>12 <b>to enable you to access it. So there's two different</b></p> <p>13 <b>places you can access it.</b></p> <p>14 Q. For the latter of those, would you need access to the</p> <p>15 internet?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Was there access to the internet from CU7 or 8 on the</p> <p>18 night?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes. I accessed e-mail, which is only available via the</b></p> <p>20 <b>internet and intranet, which is our in-built internet</b></p> <p>21 <b>service.</b></p> <p>22 Q. So far as you know, to the best of your recollection, do</p> <p>23 you know whether on CU8 the CSS was used or usable to</p> <p>24 access the Vision log?</p> <p>25 <b>A. No, it wasn't. The CSS wasn't working at all. But the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: Right. Thank you very much.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's it?</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: That's it.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Johnson, I'm glad to say</p> <p>5 there were not too many extra questions.</p> <p>6 Once again, thank you very much for coming to give</p> <p>7 your evidence, it will be very helpful, and now you are</p> <p>8 free to go.</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So would you like to go with the</p> <p>11 usher.</p> <p>12 (The witness was released)</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, I see we've already rearranged</p> <p>14 the furniture.</p> <p>15 MR MILLETT: We have, Mr Chairman. I'm very happy to take</p> <p>16 the next witness immediately.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: Or I'm happy to take an early lunch now and</p> <p>19 come back at 1.30.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think we'd be better to start,</p> <p>21 wouldn't we?</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: Very good, certainly.</p> <p>23 BRETT LOFT (sworn)</p> <p>24 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Loft.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 <b>computer itself would've been able to use Vision.</b></p> <p>2 Q. So can I summarise it this way: so far as you know, the</p> <p>3 CSS, if it had been working, would've been able to</p> <p>4 access the Vision log, but it wasn't working so you</p> <p>5 couldn't?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. My second question relates to the fire box.</p> <p>8 Did you know whether there was a fire box at</p> <p>9 Grenfell?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I was just informed that there was a fire box and that</b></p> <p>11 <b>the plans were in there. That's all. I did not see</b></p> <p>12 <b>a fire box or an LFB box, as it's sometimes called, and</b></p> <p>13 <b>that wasn't my role. I was so remote from the incident,</b></p> <p>14 <b>other than going in a couple of times, it wasn't</b></p> <p>15 <b>something that I witnessed.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Do you know who told you that there was a fire box and</p> <p>17 the plans were in there?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I believe, to the best of my knowledge, it was</b></p> <p>19 <b>Mark Kentfield.</b></p> <p>20 Q. If Mark Kentfield had told you that the fire box was</p> <p>21 there and had plans in it, can you explain why it was</p> <p>22 necessary to keep pursuing the plans with the council</p> <p>23 until --</p> <p>24 <b>A. To the best of my knowledge, there were no plans in</b></p> <p>25 <b>there.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 Now, I gather you are happy standing to give your</p> <p>2 evidence?</p> <p>3 THE WITNESS: I am indeed, sir, yes.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think everything is ready for you.</p> <p>5 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: Mr Loft, first of all, can I ask you, please,</p> <p>7 to give your full name to the chairman?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, it's Brett Ashley loft.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>10 Can I start by saying thank you very much to you for</p> <p>11 coming to us and assisting us with our investigations</p> <p>12 in this inquiry. We really do very much appreciate it.</p> <p>13 My questions are intended to be short and simple,</p> <p>14 but if you have any difficulty understanding them or</p> <p>15 want me to rephrase them in any way, I'm happy to do so.</p> <p>16 If you need a break at any time, you need only indicate.</p> <p>17 <b>A. Okay.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Can I please ask you, first of all, to take your</p> <p>19 statement, which should be either in the blue folder in</p> <p>20 front of you or, as we normally look at it, on your</p> <p>21 right, on my left, on your screen in front of you.</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. It's dated 31 October 2017, and it is MET00007518. So</p> <p>24 we've read that into the record.</p> <p>25 Have you read it recently?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 <b>A. I have, yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Can you confirm that its contents are true?</p> <p>3 <b>A. They are, yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. We also have your contemporaneous note, which is</p> <p>5 referenced MET00005294. Have you read that recently?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I have, yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Can you confirm that the contents of that are true as</p> <p>8 well?</p> <p>9 <b>A. They are, yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. There are also 13 photographs that you took on the</p> <p>11 night, which are exhibits BLO/2 to 13. If you don't</p> <p>12 mind, I'll read the numbers into the record: that's</p> <p>13 MET00015644, MET00015633, MET00015607, MET00015628,</p> <p>14 MET00015601, MET00015635, MET00015643, MET00015605,</p> <p>15 MET00015638, MET00015614, MET00015647 and MET00015604.</p> <p>16 Have you discussed your statement or the evidence</p> <p>17 that you're going to give to us today with anybody else</p> <p>18 before coming here today?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, I haven't.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>21 Can I start with your role and your training.</p> <p>22 As at the date of your statement, I think you'd been</p> <p>23 in the LFB for 23 years or so?</p> <p>24 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. You are currently a station manager?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 Q. Did you ever give or receive any training on the lessons</p> <p>2 learnt at Shepherds Court?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Did you ever give or receive training in strategies for</p> <p>5 full or partial evacuation of high-rise residential</p> <p>6 buildings?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Did you ever receive or give any training about the</p> <p>9 circumstances in which you would consider implementing</p> <p>10 any kind of evacuation of a building which had</p> <p>11 a stay-put policy in place?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No, not at all.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Can I then turn to mobilisation and arrival at Grenfell</p> <p>14 on the night of the fire.</p> <p>15 In your statement on page 2, you say in the first</p> <p>16 line that you were on the night shift on that night and</p> <p>17 were using the camping-out facility at Fulham fire</p> <p>18 station. You were awake because you were monitoring</p> <p>19 another incident in Oxford Street. You received a pager</p> <p>20 message mobilising you to the incident.</p> <p>21 We have a time for that of 01.15.28. We have that</p> <p>22 in our short incident log. I don't need to go to it,</p> <p>23 but does that ring a bell with you?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. That sounds right, does it?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 <b>A. I am.</b></p> <p>2 Q. And you're based at Chelsea?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I am, yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. In June 2017, I think you were a station manager -- is</p> <p>5 this right? -- based at Stanmore?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes, I was based at Stanmore. I moved to Chelsea in</b></p> <p>7 <b>the August.</b></p> <p>8 Q. August 2017?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes, that's right.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Have you ever received or delivered training on fighting</p> <p>11 high-rise fires?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes, I have. Many times over the last 20-odd years</b></p> <p>13 <b>we've had training at stations. As a station manager,</b></p> <p>14 <b>a couple of years ago we did what we call back to basics</b></p> <p>15 <b>training, which I believe has been mentioned before,</b></p> <p>16 <b>where I obviously helped facilitate it as a station</b></p> <p>17 <b>manager.</b></p> <p>18 Q. More specifically, did you ever receive or deliver</p> <p>19 training on high-rise fires that covered the subject of</p> <p>20 ignition of the facade?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Are you aware of a fire at Shepherds Court in</p> <p>23 August 2016?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I am aware of it because I saw it on the news, but</b></p> <p>25 <b>that's as far my --</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. You say you called control, and we have a summary of</p> <p>3 that conversation in the new operational response report</p> <p>4 for the second hour. Can I show you that, please.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. I'd ask you to go to page 28 in that document, or 29 in</p> <p>7 the electronic version, Mr Documents Director.</p> <p>8 It's LFB00004828.</p> <p>9 If you go to page 29 electronically, 28 internally,</p> <p>10 of that document, the time mark 01.17.21, this is the</p> <p>11 summary I want to ask you about. It says:</p> <p>12 "SM Loft calls Brigade Control and says he has been</p> <p>13 paged to a six pump fire. CRO Peter Duddy confirms he</p> <p>14 is the first SM. He then informs SM Loft that Golf 271</p> <p>15 with WM Dowden, Golf 272 and Golf 331 are all in</p> <p>16 attendance. Golf 361, Golf 362 and Alpha 212 are on the</p> <p>17 way. He then says the second SM is Walton and the Group</p> <p>18 Manager (GM) is Patrick Goulbourne. He continues to say</p> <p>19 we also have SM Daniel Egan assigned as FSO and SM Cook</p> <p>20 as PLO.</p> <p>21 "SM Loft asks if it has gone straight to six pumps,</p> <p>22 CRO Duddy says it is a standard fire, three pumps first</p> <p>23 then sends a message back for six pumps and one HP for</p> <p>24 high rise. SM Loft asks how many calls have been</p> <p>25 received, CRO Duddy tells him we have four calls</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 altogether. SM Loft asks to be shown as Status 2."</p> <p>2 Now, I've read it all out to you, it's rather a lot</p> <p>3 of information there, but is there any part of that</p> <p>4 which you think might be wrong?</p> <p>5 <b>A. According to that, I was told I was the first SM. As</b></p> <p>6 <b>far as I was aware, I was the second, because --</b></p> <p>7 <b>actually at the time, no, I wasn't aware I was the</b></p> <p>8 <b>second, but I did know that I'd just heard Andy Walton</b></p> <p>9 <b>go out before I made that call, and then when I was told</b></p> <p>10 <b>I was on that incident, I then assumed I was the second</b></p> <p>11 <b>SM, even though I had been told I was the first.</b></p> <p>12 Q. So do you think that your reference in your statement</p> <p>13 that you were the second SM might be a mistake?</p> <p>14 <b>A. That will be from knowing that Andy Walton was called</b></p> <p>15 <b>before me, so I knew I was the second at the time.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 <b>A. Obviously control at the time, when they were making the</b></p> <p>18 <b>mobilisations, they had me down as the first.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Do you remember control informing you that you were in</p> <p>20 fact the first SM?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I can't remember that detail.</b></p> <p>22 Q. To be clear on what the first SM means, was it your</p> <p>23 understanding when you spoke to control, as recorded</p> <p>24 here, that you would be taking over from Watch Manager</p> <p>25 Dowden on arrival as the most senior person present?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 <b>and then a couple of minutes' phone call with control,</b></p> <p>2 <b>end of that conversation would have been status 2.</b></p> <p>3 Q. We also have an arrival time, status 3, for you of</p> <p>4 01.32.08. That's also page 13 of the short incident</p> <p>5 log. Again, does that's accord with your recollection?</p> <p>6 <b>A. That does, yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. In your statement you say that the CU from Fulham was</p> <p>8 behind you en route. This is about two-thirds of the</p> <p>9 way down the page. It's not very easy to navigate</p> <p>10 because there are no paragraph breaks, or only one. But</p> <p>11 if you go to just below halfway down the page, you say</p> <p>12 after the reference to the time being 01.30:</p> <p>13 "The Command Unit from Fulham was behind me and had</p> <p>14 not yet been set up."</p> <p>15 The command unit from Fulham is CU8. Do you have</p> <p>16 any recollection as to who was running that command</p> <p>17 unit?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Not at the time, no. I've since become aware who it was</b></p> <p>19 <b>that was actually in charge of it, which I spoke to</b></p> <p>20 <b>later on.</b></p> <p>21 Q. We'll come back to that.</p> <p>22 You then say, seven lines up from the bottom of the</p> <p>23 page:</p> <p>24 "There was very little smoke, but there was smoke</p> <p>25 coming from the top of the building. Initially I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 <b>A. If I'd been the first station manager to arrive, then</b></p> <p>2 <b>normal procedure would be the first senior officer to</b></p> <p>3 <b>arrive would take over. Being called as the first SM on</b></p> <p>4 <b>a pager, you may not necessarily get there first because</b></p> <p>5 <b>there may be another station manager that beats you to</b></p> <p>6 <b>it, basically, gets there before you.</b></p> <p>7 Q. On the way to the incident, did you think that you were</p> <p>8 going to be taking over incident command?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I didn't, for the simple reason I knew Station Manager</b></p> <p>10 <b>Walton had already left Fulham before I made the call,</b></p> <p>11 <b>so he had a good 3/4-minute head start on me.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Did you speak to Andy Walton before you left for the</p> <p>13 incident?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Before I left the incident?</b></p> <p>15 Q. Before you left for the incident.</p> <p>16 <b>A. No, I didn't, no. He had already left.</b></p> <p>17 Q. He had already gone?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. We have a record that you asked control to book you in</p> <p>20 as status 2. We have a time for that of 01.19.15.</p> <p>21 That's the short incident log at page 13. I don't need</p> <p>22 to go to it, but, again, does that accord with your</p> <p>23 recollection? Status 2, mobile to incident, at</p> <p>24 01.19.15?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes, that would do, because I had been paged at 01.17,</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 thought that it was netting on scaffolding that had</p> <p>2 caught fire. This happens a lot and I have seen this</p> <p>3 many times in my career but usually this type of fire</p> <p>4 goes out very quickly. However I knew the amount of</p> <p>5 fire appliances had increased steadily so I could tell</p> <p>6 that this was probably not the case and that this wasn't</p> <p>7 a 'run of the mill fire'."</p> <p>8 Was that a thought you had at the time, that this</p> <p>9 probably wasn't a fire involving netting or scaffolding?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes, it was. That was my initial thoughts when</b></p> <p>11 <b>I first -- because I didn't see the incident until I was</b></p> <p>12 <b>literally parking up in Bomore Road because of the other</b></p> <p>13 <b>high buildings around, so my first initial thought when</b></p> <p>14 <b>I saw it was that it was netting on the sides, but then</b></p> <p>15 <b>I quickly dismissed that because it wouldn't have made</b></p> <p>16 <b>pumps 25 by that point if that had been the case.</b></p> <p>17 <b>I realised it fairly quickly. It was a fleeting</b></p> <p>18 <b>thought, really.</b></p> <p>19 Q. When you did dismiss it, what did you then think it was?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Well, we had a serious fire. He had made pumps 25 just</b></p> <p>21 <b>before I booked in, so I knew it was going to be very</b></p> <p>22 <b>resource intensive and needed a lot of firefighters</b></p> <p>23 <b>there to assist with it. I knew originally it was</b></p> <p>24 <b>a fire in a flat on the 4th floor, because that was what</b></p> <p>25 <b>my pager message had told me. So I knew we had more</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 <b>than just that, so it was definitely something more</b></p> <p>2 <b>substantial.</b></p> <p>3 Q. If it wasn't netting, what did you then think it was</p> <p>4 that had ignited and was on fire?</p> <p>5 <b>A. From looking at the building straight off, you could see</b></p> <p>6 <b>the fire going from the 4th floor, and it went -- there</b></p> <p>7 <b>was fire spread all the way up the outside of the</b></p> <p>8 <b>building up to about the 12th, up the middle, and then</b></p> <p>9 <b>it sort of jumped across to the left-hand side as I'm</b></p> <p>10 <b>looking at the east face, which was then almost to the</b></p> <p>11 <b>roof on that side.</b></p> <p>12 <b>So as far as I could tell, it looked like it was</b></p> <p>13 <b>something on the outside of the building that was</b></p> <p>14 <b>alight.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Did you give any thought to the possibility that the</p> <p>16 cladding, the exterior rainscreen on the building, was</p> <p>17 on fire?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I can't remember having that actual thought, but I'm</b></p> <p>19 <b>sure that crossed my mind at some point because what</b></p> <p>20 <b>else could there be on the outside that's burning?</b></p> <p>21 Q. Did you have experience of cladding fires, rainscreens,</p> <p>22 igniting?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Nothing like that, no.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You'd never seen something like that before?</p> <p>25 <b>A. No, not at all.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 Q. At the moment you arrived at the base of the tower, did</p> <p>2 you know by then that the fire had penetrated into</p> <p>3 individual compartments?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Again, I don't have an actual recollection of thinking</b></p> <p>5 <b>that at the time, but it was obvious to me fairly</b></p> <p>6 <b>quickly. Whether it was at that point or a little bit</b></p> <p>7 <b>later, I'm not sure.</b></p> <p>8 Q. You say on page 3 of your statement at the top that you</p> <p>9 didn't give your roll board in because the system hadn't</p> <p>10 been set up, and then you say:</p> <p>11 "... I went straight to Watch Manager (WM) Mike</p> <p>12 Dowden from North Kensington Fire Station."</p> <p>13 How soon was that after you had booked in status 3</p> <p>14 at 01.32?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Well, I'd have booked in on my airwave radio, then I'd</b></p> <p>16 <b>have got my PPE on, my fire gear, et cetera, and then</b></p> <p>17 <b>I would've looked to see where I could see the incident</b></p> <p>18 <b>commander was, and then it would've been a walk down</b></p> <p>19 <b>Grenfell Road to where Mike was standing. So no more</b></p> <p>20 <b>than 5 minutes, probably not even that long.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Did you know that Mike Dowden was incident commander?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Who told you?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I was told by control when I originally got the pager</b></p> <p>25 <b>message, and as far as I was aware, it hadn't changed,</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 Q. At the bottom of page 2 of your statement, you say:</p> <p>2 "... I could see that this was more than a flat fire</p> <p>3 as it seemed to be in multiple premises."</p> <p>4 Where were you standing when you observed that the</p> <p>5 fire seemed to be in multiple premises?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Initially I was -- well, where I parked up in Bomore,</b></p> <p>7 <b>which was right by CU8, I walked down Grenfell Road and</b></p> <p>8 <b>you had quite a good view of the building from there,</b></p> <p>9 <b>and you could see the east face was quite well alight.</b></p> <p>10 <b>Whether I had that thought at that point or it may have</b></p> <p>11 <b>been a bit later on when I realised it was inside the</b></p> <p>12 <b>building, not just the outside, I'm not sure. So it</b></p> <p>13 <b>could've been that initial thought or it could've been</b></p> <p>14 <b>a little bit later on.</b></p> <p>15 Q. When you say a little bit later on, how much later on?</p> <p>16 <b>A. 5/10 minutes. So fairly early on it was obvious it was</b></p> <p>17 <b>within the building.</b></p> <p>18 Q. What did you see yourself to lead you to think or know</p> <p>19 that there were fires within flats as opposed simply to</p> <p>20 being on the outside?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Well, where I said before you could see the cladding on</b></p> <p>22 <b>the outside alight going up, you could see basically</b></p> <p>23 <b>there was fire within some of the flats next to where</b></p> <p>24 <b>the cladding was alight. So you could actually see it</b></p> <p>25 <b>was burning inside the building.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 <b>and Mike was also wearing the incident commander tabard</b></p> <p>2 <b>at that point.</b></p> <p>3 Q. That was the call we saw earlier on the ORR at 01.17</p> <p>4 with Pete Duddy?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. You say in the next sentence:</p> <p>7 "WM Dowden informed me that there had been a fire on</p> <p>8 the fourth floor and that they had put the fire out.</p> <p>9 However he had seen the fire travelling up outside of</p> <p>10 the building and was asking for extra resources, he was</p> <p>11 unsure if there were fires in other flats, his initial</p> <p>12 thoughts were that we would get to the roof and put</p> <p>13 water into the tower from the top."</p> <p>14 Are you quoting here from what he told you, to the</p> <p>15 best of your recollection?</p> <p>16 <b>A. I am, yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. So when he said to you, "I'm not sure if there are fires</p> <p>18 in other flats", did you say anything to him in</p> <p>19 response?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Well, again, that might help with my recollection of</b></p> <p>21 <b>when I saw fire or realised there was fires within the</b></p> <p>22 <b>flats, because I may not have seen it at that point, but</b></p> <p>23 <b>then after I'd spoken to him -- and then we'd noticed it</b></p> <p>24 <b>after that. So that would make more -- yeah, make more</b></p> <p>25 <b>sense.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>



<p>1 Q. So you don't recall correcting him and saying, "No, 2 there are fires in flats"?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Also on page 3 -- we've just seen it -- you say his 5 initial thoughts were to get to the roof and put water 6 onto the tower from the top.</p> <p>7 Just on that, did you yourself have any thoughts 8 about this proposed course of action?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Not at that time, no. Only having just arrived, I was 10 still trying to get a bit of awareness of what was going 11 on, so I was listening to what Mike had to tell me, and 12 that was one of his suggestions.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Did you have any discussion with Mike Dowden about that 14 prop us proposal?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Not at that time, no. Not any time, actually.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Did you have any thoughts yourself about how that 17 proposal might be achieved in practice?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I could see the reasoning behind it, but seeing how the 19 fire had quickly spread up the front, how practical that 20 would've been, without having more information about the 21 conditions inside, I wouldn't have been able to 22 basically implement that at that time.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Is that practical proposal something that you had ever 24 experienced being deployed before?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Not at all, no.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 <b>not at that time I knew about the insulation inside, but 2 it became apparent as the incident went on.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did there ever come a time that you thought 4 Mike Dowden's plan about getting to the roof and putting 5 water from the roof down was feasible or --</p> <p>6 <b>A. No, it wasn't, no. It was a nice idea at the beginning, 7 but with the spread of the fire and how quick it was, 8 that was just never going to happen.</b></p> <p>9 Q. In your contemporaneous notes, if I can just ask you to 10 look at those, you say -- it's right at the foot of the 11 page -- you say:</p> <p>12 "In my 23 years as a firefighter I have never 13 witnessed fire spread like this. The speed at which it 14 spread meant we were always chasing it and never had 15 a chance to extinguish it."</p> <p>16 It's page 2, I'm sorry, I'm getting ahead of the 17 screen. The bottom of page 2.</p> <p>18 That thought that you recorded in your 19 contemporaneous note, was that something that you 20 appreciated on arrival or is that just a summary of your 21 thoughts throughout the night?</p> <p>22 <b>A. That's a summary of my thoughts at the end of it. At 23 the time I don't -- ironically, I don't think -- it was 24 happening so quick, I didn't have time to have that 25 thought, if that makes sense. Yeah, it was</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 Q. So this was a novelty, was it?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yeah, it was a -- using the equipment we've got, 3 obviously with line rescue, that doesn't get involved in 4 fires at all, but being such an incident as it was, 5 never been seen before, it was an idea that could've 6 worked, depending on what the situation was like inside 7 the tower.</b></p> <p>8 Q. How could it have worked, do you know?</p> <p>9 <b>A. The problem with the cladding is it's designed to keep 10 the rain and water out, so by putting water against it, 11 all it's going to do is throw the water straight off it 12 again, so you're not actually going to get to the fire 13 itself. But by getting to the top or at least to any of 14 the breaks within the cladding, you would be able to put 15 water down the inside of the cladding which would be 16 able to put out the insulation that was actually burning 17 and not the metal on the outside.</b></p> <p>18 Q. How much did you yourself know about this precise -- or 19 even in general terms, the construction and design and 20 materials which constituted the cladding that you could 21 see on the fire in front of you?</p> <p>22 <b>A. At that point, I didn't. As the incident went on, you 23 could see that we had loads of metal sheeting coming off 24 the tower that was dropping to the ground and you could 25 see the insulation that was burning underneath it. So</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 <b>definitely -- when I was writing my notes up at the end 2 of it, it's like, yeah, I've never seen anything like 3 that before.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Did you have any discussion with Mike Dowden about 5 whether you should be focusing on firefighting or 6 whether you should be focusing on search and rescue?</p> <p>7 <b>A. At the time when Mike was talking to me, he had 8 everything in place for high-rise procedure. I know he 9 had jets in there, he had BA crews in there, he told me 10 he had a couple of FSG calls at that point, so I knew 11 that both was happening at that time. We were 12 firefighting and we were also doing rescues, or at least 13 if it wasn't actually a rescue, it was going to the 14 places where the FSGs were being made from.</b></p> <p>15 Q. You say he told you he had a couple of FSG calls at that 16 point.</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes, I believe so.</b></p> <p>18 Q. To the best of your recollection, the word "couple", is 19 that your impression or did he use those words, do you 20 know?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I can't remember to be precise. I know it wasn't 22 anywhere near how many then started to come through 23 a little bit after that.</b></p> <p>24 Q. En route to the incident, did you pick up over the main 25 scheme radio any impression of the volume and intensity</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 of FSGs beginning to come in?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Not at all, no. The only radio message I remember was</b></p> <p>3 <b>the make-ups. I don't remember hearing any other</b></p> <p>4 <b>messages at the time.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Do you know by what means of communication Mike Dowden</p> <p>6 had come to know about those FSG calls?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, I haven't.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Do you know what he was doing about them?</p> <p>9 <b>A. As far as I know, he'd passed that information to the</b></p> <p>10 <b>bridgehead and they were actioning them from there.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Do you know how he passed that information to the</p> <p>12 bridgehead?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I don't, no.</b></p> <p>14 Q. We'll come back to this in a moment.</p> <p>15 Just on these discussions, did you have a discussion</p> <p>16 with him, as I say, about firefighting or evacuation and</p> <p>17 which should be prioritised?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No, not at that time.</b></p> <p>19 Q. In your statement on page 3, you go on to say, just</p> <p>20 after the reference to the roof that we've just looked</p> <p>21 at, still in the first paragraph on that page, you say:</p> <p>22 "We had a general discussion as to our next course</p> <p>23 of action and it was decided that WM Dowden would</p> <p>24 continue with his role and that as we had started to</p> <p>25 receive fire survival guidance calls (FSG) I would start</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 <b>station manager not far away that would then be able to</b></p> <p>2 <b>assist Mike with the incident and take over that while</b></p> <p>3 <b>I concentrated on the FSGs.</b></p> <p>4 Q. We are going to break that answer down a little bit.</p> <p>5 We're going to come back to Watch Manager Kentfield's</p> <p>6 document in a moment.</p> <p>7 Before I do, you said in that answer that the task</p> <p>8 was to carry on what they were doing getting crews in</p> <p>9 there up to where FSGs were and making the decision</p> <p>10 whether to take them out or not.</p> <p>11 Just focus on that.</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Was the plan then that you might possibly go to a flat</p> <p>14 where an FSG was coming from but nonetheless leave the</p> <p>15 occupants in there? Was that part of the strategy?</p> <p>16 <b>A. It does -- at incidents, it has happened before. You'll</b></p> <p>17 <b>get someone phoning up believing they're trapped by</b></p> <p>18 <b>fire. Quite often what will happen is it will be smoke</b></p> <p>19 <b>travel within the building. In the meantime, the crews</b></p> <p>20 <b>have put the fire out, and you then go there to reassure</b></p> <p>21 <b>the residents that the fire is out, smoke will clear,</b></p> <p>22 <b>you're going to be fine where you are and you leave them</b></p> <p>23 <b>there. Obviously in this situation, that wasn't the</b></p> <p>24 <b>case, and the fire, as we know, spread quite rapidly.</b></p> <p>25 Q. So although that was the plan, are you saying that in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 running this."</p> <p>2 Let's break that down if we can.</p> <p>3 First of all, did you and Mike Dowden discuss his</p> <p>4 overall tactics?</p> <p>5 <b>A. He told me what he had in place at the time. He told me</b></p> <p>6 <b>the reasons why he'd made it up to 25 is because he knew</b></p> <p>7 <b>we needed a lot of BA because of scale and the speed of</b></p> <p>8 <b>the fire. And he also knew we had some fire survival</b></p> <p>9 <b>guidance calls and they weren't on -- they weren't on</b></p> <p>10 <b>the floors where the fire was, it was further up the</b></p> <p>11 <b>tower, so we knew we had quite a lot of smoke travel at</b></p> <p>12 <b>least at that point and also we could see on the front</b></p> <p>13 <b>the actual fire spread.</b></p> <p>14 <b>So the actual next course of action at that point</b></p> <p>15 <b>was really to carry on with what they were doing, which</b></p> <p>16 <b>was getting crews in there, up to where the FSGs were,</b></p> <p>17 <b>and make the decision whether to take them out or not.</b></p> <p>18 <b>The actual -- when I say started to receive fire</b></p> <p>19 <b>survival guidance calls, that was when Watch Manager</b></p> <p>20 <b>Kentfield from the command unit came over to me with</b></p> <p>21 <b>a big list, A4 list, of calls they'd had through. And</b></p> <p>22 <b>it was sort of at that point that we knew we had</b></p> <p>23 <b>a serious number of FSGs. It felt appropriate for me to</b></p> <p>24 <b>take that and let Mike carry on doing what he was doing,</b></p> <p>25 <b>the main reason being that I knew there was another</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 fact once crews got into the building, they did not</p> <p>2 carry out the plan of leaving people where they were?</p> <p>3 <b>A. As far as I know, yeah.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Did you support what Mike Dowden was telling you about</p> <p>5 his overall plan?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yeah, so the plan that was in place at the time was</b></p> <p>7 <b>working as best it could. The issue we had with the</b></p> <p>8 <b>plan was we didn't have enough resources at the time,</b></p> <p>9 <b>but because of the make-up in such quick succession and</b></p> <p>10 <b>the speed of the fire, as I've said in my statement, we</b></p> <p>11 <b>were chasing it, because it was travelling so quickly we</b></p> <p>12 <b>just needed to get the resources there as quickly as we</b></p> <p>13 <b>could.</b></p> <p>14 Q. The resources coming as quickly as they could, to come</p> <p>15 back to the question I was on a moment ago, was the</p> <p>16 priority to use the resources for search and rescue or</p> <p>17 was the priority to use the resources to fight the fire?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I would've said it would've been a bit of both because</b></p> <p>19 <b>the quicker you can put the fire out, the less people</b></p> <p>20 <b>you have to rescue, so --</b></p> <p>21 Q. Did you notice when you first went to Mike Dowden and</p> <p>22 started having this discussion with him whether</p> <p>23 occupants of the tower were self-evacuating?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I didn't have that conversation. I do remember some</b></p> <p>25 <b>people -- some residents coming out of the building, but</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 <b>didn't pay that much attention to them at all, really.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did you observe whether they were suffering from the</p> <p>3 effects of smoke inhalation?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No, that's it. I knew there were people coming out but</b></p> <p>5 <b>I don't remember seeing what sort of condition they were</b></p> <p>6 <b>in.</b></p> <p>7 Q. You say you saw some residents coming out; was it</p> <p>8 a stream or were they coming out in dribs and drabs?</p> <p>9 <b>A. No, at that point there was only one or two. There</b></p> <p>10 <b>wasn't many when I first arrived.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Did that tell you anything about the nature of the</p> <p>12 conditions inside the building?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Not from seeing them come out, no.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Did you discuss the stay-put advice with Mike Dowden at</p> <p>15 that moment when you first went in?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No, not at all.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Did you discuss the possibility of full or partial</p> <p>18 evacuation?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did you consider declaring a major incident as the most</p> <p>21 senior officer present?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, I didn't have that thought, no.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Presumably you didn't have a discussion with Mike Dowden</p> <p>24 about that either?</p> <p>25 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 <b>myself -- what felt like only me and Mike outside the</b></p> <p>2 <b>building. I was confident that he would be able to</b></p> <p>3 <b>carry on doing what he was doing until another station</b></p> <p>4 <b>manager arrived.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Were you aware that Station Manager Walton was either</p> <p>6 shortly behind you or was on the way?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I knew he had to be not far away because he left -- he</b></p> <p>8 <b>camped out at Fulham with me as well and I heard him</b></p> <p>9 <b>leave before I did, so I knew he couldn't be far away.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Were you in touch with him?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I wasn't, no.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Was there a reason for that?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Time. I didn't have a chance to give him a ring and</b></p> <p>14 <b>find out where he was.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Did you tell Mike Dowden that Station Manager Walton was</p> <p>16 also en route?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I did say to him I knew there was another station</b></p> <p>18 <b>manager within minutes of me so he should be here any</b></p> <p>19 <b>moment.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did you have any thoughts about what role Station</p> <p>21 Manager Walton might take up when he arrived?</p> <p>22 <b>A. My initial thoughts was he would then take over charge</b></p> <p>23 <b>of the incident because I was dealing with the FSG and</b></p> <p>24 <b>then we go from there really.</b></p> <p>25 Q. That was your thought?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 Q. Is it correct that the normal procedure would be that</p> <p>2 you, as the senior officer present so far as you were</p> <p>3 concerned, would take over as IC?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Absolutely, yes, yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Whose decision was it for you to take over FSGs and</p> <p>6 leave Mike running the incident?</p> <p>7 <b>A. It was -- well, my initial thoughts when I was heading</b></p> <p>8 <b>towards Mike was I was going to take over, knowing I was</b></p> <p>9 <b>the first SM. Having the conversation with Mike and</b></p> <p>10 <b>what was in place, that was still primarily going --</b></p> <p>11 <b>that was going to be what I was going to do, but when we</b></p> <p>12 <b>got the large list of FSG calls come through, Mike and</b></p> <p>13 <b>I -- it was a joint agreement, really, that he was happy</b></p> <p>14 <b>to carry on doing what he was doing, I'd carry on with</b></p> <p>15 <b>the FSGs, because we knew we had lots of resources on</b></p> <p>16 <b>the way and there would be other people to assist</b></p> <p>17 <b>within minutes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. So I think what you are saying was that it was seeing</p> <p>19 the list and the volume which meant that FSG calls were</p> <p>20 actually more important than incident command?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Absolutely, yes, life is always a priority.</b></p> <p>22 Q. I follow.</p> <p>23 Did you feel confident that it was appropriate for</p> <p>24 Mike Dowden to retain control of the incident?</p> <p>25 <b>A. At that point, yes. Because there was only Mike and</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. What happened to that thought? What actually happened</p> <p>3 when he arrived, do you remember?</p> <p>4 <b>A. As far as I know -- yeah, he did. I spoke to him</b></p> <p>5 <b>briefly --</b></p> <p>6 Q. Face-to-face?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yeah, face-to-face, he came up to me, and I think I said</b></p> <p>8 <b>to him "Mike is still in charge, can you go and talk to</b></p> <p>9 <b>Mike", which is what he did.</b></p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, it's 1 o'clock is that</p> <p>11 a convenient moment?</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think it is. We are going to have</p> <p>13 a break, Mr Loft, so you and others can get some lunch.</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: No problem.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I have to ask you not to talk about</p> <p>16 your evidence or anything relating to it while you're</p> <p>17 out of the room and we'll resume at 2 o'clock, please.</p> <p>18 All right?</p> <p>19 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. If you would</p> <p>21 like to go with the usher.</p> <p>22 2 o'clock, then, please. Thank you.</p> <p>23 (1.00 pm)</p> <p>24 (The short adjournment)</p> <p>25 (2.00 pm)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right to carry on, Mr Loft?</p> <p>2 THE WITNESS: Absolutely, yes.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Mr Loft, thank you very much for coming back to</p> <p>4 us.</p> <p>5 Before I continue with where we were in your</p> <p>6 discussion with Mike Dowden, can I go back a little bit</p> <p>7 and look at your trip to the incident, which finished</p> <p>8 with your arrival at the incident at 01.32.08 when you</p> <p>9 were programmed in as status 3.</p> <p>10 What communications equipment did you have with you</p> <p>11 en route?</p> <p>12 <b>A. En route I had my airwave radio switched on on</b></p> <p>13 <b>channel 4, listening for any messages. I had my</b></p> <p>14 <b>handheld radio in the car with me, but I don't believe</b></p> <p>15 <b>I'd switched it on at that point.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Were you able to listen to the main scheme radio?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I did hear some messages through the main scheme, yeah.</b></p> <p>18 <b>I'm aware now I didn't hear all of them due to --</b></p> <p>19 <b>I don't know what reason, I just didn't pick up on the</b></p> <p>20 <b>messages that were coming through.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Would you have used your airwave radio to pick up main</p> <p>22 scheme messages?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. That would have been channel 1?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Channel 4, that would've been.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 you say that Mike Dowden asked you to start running the</p> <p>2 FSGs, what precisely did you understand Mike Dowden to</p> <p>3 be asking you to do?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Again, it wasn't Mike asking me to do it, it was a joint</b></p> <p>5 <b>discussion and decided between the two of us that that's</b></p> <p>6 <b>what I would do. My role was going to be to take the</b></p> <p>7 <b>FSG calls, pass them up to the bridgehead so that they</b></p> <p>8 <b>could action them and hopefully resolve those FSGs.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Did you understand that there was any system already in</p> <p>10 place for running the FSG calls?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Not that I was aware of, only that the messages were</b></p> <p>12 <b>being passed to the bridgehead.</b></p> <p>13 Q. How did you think you were going to receive the FSG</p> <p>14 information from control, by what means of</p> <p>15 communication?</p> <p>16 <b>A. At that point, I had -- Watch Manager Kentfield from the</b></p> <p>17 <b>command unit was taking the messages from control. I'm</b></p> <p>18 <b>not sure if that was by radio or by phone. They were</b></p> <p>19 <b>writing them on A4 paper and bringing them over to me</b></p> <p>20 <b>where I was. Then I was relaying that information up to</b></p> <p>21 <b>the bridgehead.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Now, you say that.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. How did you know that that was the system when you first</p> <p>25 decided with Mike Dowden to take over the running of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 Q. Sorry, channel 4.</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. The main scheme, channel 1.</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. We looked earlier on about whether you heard any FSG</p> <p>6 calls en route. Can I just put one to you to see if it</p> <p>7 triggers a recollection. It was just before you</p> <p>8 arrived.</p> <p>9 Could you please be shown the short incident log,</p> <p>10 page 18, and go, please, just below halfway down to the</p> <p>11 time mark of 01.31.38, which is before you are shown as</p> <p>12 status 3.</p> <p>13 You see:</p> <p>14 "Service Request Created: RT4 - G271 - FURTHER CALL</p> <p>15 TO SAY FIRE ON 20TH FLOOR ALSO - PEOPLE TRAPPED."</p> <p>16 Do you recall, either specifically or generally,</p> <p>17 that message or that kind of message?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No, I don't remember that message at all.</b></p> <p>19 Q. So if I was to ask you about any specific FSG messages</p> <p>20 coming over RT4, would you have any recollection of</p> <p>21 those?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, I don't remember any FSG messages, but I do remember</b></p> <p>23 <b>a couple of the make-ups. I don't know why that is but</b></p> <p>24 <b>they stick in my mind.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Just focusing on what you were being asked to do when</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 FSG calls?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I didn't. All I knew was the messages -- I was getting</b></p> <p>3 <b>the FSG information from command unit staff, so the only</b></p> <p>4 <b>way they would've got that would've been through control</b></p> <p>5 <b>to their radio or their mobile.</b></p> <p>6 Q. You say you were getting the information from command</p> <p>7 unit staff. Leaving aside the piece of paper which we</p> <p>8 may look at in a moment, depending on whether we can</p> <p>9 identify it, how else were you getting information from</p> <p>10 the command unit staff at that point?</p> <p>11 <b>A. At that point there wasn't any other way, no.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Let's just take it in stages.</p> <p>13 Did you know that FSG messages had been sent by</p> <p>14 radio to G271?</p> <p>15 <b>A. At that time I didn't, no, because I'd missed --</b></p> <p>16 <b>I hadn't heard those messages on the radio. Obviously</b></p> <p>17 <b>since then I found out that they did, but I didn't at</b></p> <p>18 <b>the time, no.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Did you know that FSG messages had been sent to the</p> <p>20 Acton pump ladder?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I didn't, no.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did you know at that time that Watch Manager Meyrick on</p> <p>23 CU8 had started receiving FSG information by radio from</p> <p>24 the control room?</p> <p>25 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 Q. Did you know that CU8 was involved in FSGs at all?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Only from the fact that the watch manager was sending</b></p> <p>3 <b>them over from the command unit and giving the list to</b></p> <p>4 <b>me, so that's where he was getting them from.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Let's at last come to that. You say in your statement,</p> <p>6 as you've just said to us now, on page 3 just below</p> <p>7 halfway down, about two-thirds of the way down the page:</p> <p>8 "As I was standing outside the tower I was</p> <p>9 approached by a colleague (from Fulham) at about 1.30am</p> <p>10 with a list of FSG calls. A Station Manager generally</p> <p>11 has to deal with FSG calls."</p> <p>12 Pausing there, on the timing, given the discuss</p> <p>13 we've had so far about your time of arrival, your walk</p> <p>14 to the tower, discussions with Mike, do you think that</p> <p>15 that 01.30 am is right?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No, that would've probably been about 10 minutes later,</b></p> <p>17 <b>so about 01.40.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Then you say:</p> <p>19 "A Station Manager generally has to deal with FSG</p> <p>20 calls. This I believe was on a A4 piece of paper.</p> <p>21 I cannot recall his name but he would have come from the</p> <p>22 Command Unit."</p> <p>23 You now say that it was Mark Kentfield.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. What's led you to remember that?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 <b>him we would use channel 3 on the handheld radios so we</b></p> <p>2 <b>had a clearly line of communication, because channel 1</b></p> <p>3 <b>was being used on the incident ground and was quite busy</b></p> <p>4 <b>at that time as well.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Are you familiar with the FSG policy 790?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I'm familiar with it, yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Were you familiar with it on the night of the fire?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I was, yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Have you had training on it, do you think?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Not that I recall, only from lectures done at the</b></p> <p>11 <b>station when I was station-based. So nothing --</b></p> <p>12 Q. Can I ask you to be shown it, please, which is tab 5 of</p> <p>13 the policies bundle, and I'd like, please, to direct</p> <p>14 your attention to paragraph 7.6, which is on page 4.</p> <p>15 That says:</p> <p>16 "As soon as resources allow, the IC should give</p> <p>17 priority to appointing a dedicated officer known as a</p> <p>18 FSG co-ordinator (minimum role of SM), to collate record</p> <p>19 and retain all the information on FSG calls received and</p> <p>20 the subsequent actions on the incident ground. The IC's</p> <p>21 briefing to this officer must explain the communication</p> <p>22 lines and their limits of authority."</p> <p>23 When you and Mike Dowden were discussing your taking</p> <p>24 over the FSG role, did you have this part of this policy</p> <p>25 in mind?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 <b>A. I recalled it afterwards. I did know who he was but</b></p> <p>2 <b>I couldn't recall his name at the time of doing the</b></p> <p>3 <b>statement.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Before we look at the detail of that in a minute, did</p> <p>5 you understand your role was to take FSG information</p> <p>6 coming to the command unit and get it to the bridgehead,</p> <p>7 in simple terms?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Rather than being involved in taking FSG information</p> <p>10 from control directly?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes. Yeah, the way the system worked at that time was</b></p> <p>12 <b>it was -- I had in effect a radio operator talking to</b></p> <p>13 <b>control who would then get me the information, and that</b></p> <p>14 <b>left me free to get that information to the bridgehead</b></p> <p>15 <b>to get it to where it needed to be.</b></p> <p>16 Q. In your discussions with Mike Dowden, did he give you</p> <p>17 any indication or did you discuss how he thought you</p> <p>18 should go about getting the FSG information from the</p> <p>19 command unit as that information came in?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No. That wasn't discussed.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Did you have any discussion about how you should then</p> <p>22 transfer that information to the bridgehead?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I told him that I would -- first of all, I asked him who</b></p> <p>24 <b>was on the bridgehead, which was Watch Manager O'Keeffe,</b></p> <p>25 <b>who I then spoke to, and then we decided -- or I told</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 <b>A. I knew that FSGs were dealt with by station managers.</b></p> <p>2 <b>Whether it was in that exact role or not, I can't</b></p> <p>3 <b>remember.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Did you have in mind the policy requirement that the FSG</p> <p>5 co-ordinator must collate, record and retain</p> <p>6 information?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes, that was -- well, the command unit was writing down</b></p> <p>8 <b>that information, so I knew we had a copy of that</b></p> <p>9 <b>information from the start.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Right. We'll explore that in a moment.</p> <p>11 But when you took over the role, I think your answer</p> <p>12 is you did know that the co-ordinator's job was to</p> <p>13 collate, record and retain information?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. That's right.</p> <p>16 Were you also aware that there had to be</p> <p>17 communication lines with the IC and an understanding of</p> <p>18 the limits of your authority?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Do you know what those communication lines were going to</p> <p>21 be with the IC?</p> <p>22 <b>A. At that point, no, because of the dynamic situation we</b></p> <p>23 <b>were in anyway and how things were so fast-flowing, that</b></p> <p>24 <b>would've been something I would've discussed with</b></p> <p>25 <b>possibly Andy Walton or someone, another officer that</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 148</p>

1 **came on, so I could have that link between the IC and**  
2 **myself.**  
3 Q. Did you come to have a discussion with the incoming  
4 IC --  
5 **A. I didn't, no.**  
6 Q. -- about lines of -- did you ever have that discussion  
7 while you were running the FSGs?  
8 **A. I didn't, no.**  
9 Q. Do you know why not?  
10 **A. Time, I think. Again, I was busy with passing that**  
11 **information up the chain. By the time I sort of had**  
12 **a chance to do that sort of thing, it had been taken off**  
13 **me and given to someone else to deal with.**  
14 Q. Did you have any discussion with Mike Dowden as to how  
15 you were going to record, retain and collate the FSG  
16 information?  
17 **A. No, I didn't.**  
18 Q. He just left it to you, did he?  
19 **A. Yes, that's right.**  
20 Q. Similarly, did you have a discussion with him about how  
21 you were going to keep him informed for as long as he  
22 was incident commander?  
23 **A. Not at that time, no.**  
24 Q. Where were you physically going to be based in order to  
25 carry out that role?

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1 **A. I stayed where I met Mike, really, which was sort of on**  
2 **the corner of the east and south face of the tower, in**  
3 **that part of Grenfell Road, because it was -- I'm not**  
4 **sure why I didn't go back to the command unit,**  
5 **I could've done, because that's where the information**  
6 **was coming from, but I stayed where I was in that area.**  
7 **While I was doing that, I was also carrying out**  
8 **a few other tasks. Only sort of unofficially. I was**  
9 **keeping my eye on, like, the turntable ladder that was**  
10 **there. I made sure a safety officer got put in in**  
11 **places where we needed one. I was answering questions**  
12 **people were asking me.**  
13 **But it just ended up me staying in that spot.**  
14 **I didn't end up going back to the command unit at that**  
15 **point.**  
16 Q. Would it follow from what you've just said that you  
17 weren't in fact 100 per cent focused on running the FSG  
18 calls?  
19 **A. No, I wouldn't say that. I would say you've got**  
20 **a natural break in between passing the information up**  
21 **and receiving it and then letting you know they've**  
22 **received it, and also a break from when I was getting**  
23 **more information from the command unit to me. So there**  
24 **were natural gaps where there wasn't any information**  
25 **being passed through.**

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1 Q. You say you don't know why you didn't go back to the  
2 command unit. Does that mean that you would accept that  
3 actually that was the more appropriate place for you to  
4 be when running the FSG calls?  
5 **A. At the time, as I say, it didn't occur to me because of**  
6 **everything else that was going on around the incident,**  
7 **but ideally that would've been a better place to have**  
8 **been located.**  
9 Q. From where you were located, to the south-east of the  
10 tower, on the outside, by using what equipment were you  
11 going to be able to record, retain and collate FSG  
12 information?  
13 **A. Well, all the information I had was coming through from**  
14 **the command unit on the paper I had with me, so I knew**  
15 **what the flats were. Any information that would've come**  
16 **back I would've written down against those numbers on**  
17 **the sheet.**  
18 **But as I have said in my statement, at one stage we**  
19 **didn't realise -- we were getting flat numbers and we**  
20 **were getting numbers of people, but we didn't know what**  
21 **floors they were on.**  
22 Q. Let's see if we can identify the Kentfield A4 piece of  
23 paper, if we can call it that in shorthand.  
24 First of all, do you remember how many flat numbers  
25 were on that piece of paper?

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1 **A. I don't. I can only estimate around eight or ten.**  
2 Q. Can I ask you to be shown, please, MET00016967. Perhaps  
3 we can just expand the piece of paper.  
4 Does this look familiar to you?  
5 **A. It does, yes.**  
6 Q. In what way is that familiar to you?  
7 **A. The numbers -- I don't remember having my name on the**  
8 **top of it before, but I know the numbers -- some of the**  
9 **numbers are quite familiar. I remember flat 205 being**  
10 **the first one.**  
11 Q. You say it's a piece of A4 paper. We've had evidence  
12 from Watch Manager Sadler that it came in on  
13 an envelope, but maybe it doesn't matter.  
14 What do you remember?  
15 **A. I just remember a piece of paper on a clipboard.**  
16 Q. Do you know where Mark Kentfield got that from or who he  
17 got it from?  
18 **A. I only know he came from the command unit, but I didn't**  
19 **ask him exactly how he got that information, no.**  
20 Q. At that stage, you're talking to Mike Dowden, I think,  
21 as you told us. Would the timing of your being given  
22 that piece of paper be at the time of that initial  
23 conversation with Mike Dowden?  
24 **A. More or less, yeah. It would've been probably a minute**  
25 **or so after I started speaking to him, so it was towards**

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38 (Pages 149 to 152)

<p>1 the end of the conversation anyway, and then it turned 2 up, yeah.</p> <p>3 Q. What did you do with that piece of paper?</p> <p>4 A. That's when we made the decision that I would take the 5 FSG and Mike would carry on doing what he was doing, and 6 that's when I contacted Watch Manager O'Keeffe, switched 7 to channel 3, because I told him we had lots of FSGs, 8 and then I started passing the information up to the 9 bridgehead.</p> <p>10 Q. When you say you contacted Watch Manager O'Keeffe on 11 channel 3 and started passing information up to the 12 bridgehead, does that mean that you were passing this 13 information on this piece of paper in that method to 14 him?</p> <p>15 A. As far as I know, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. So your memory is that you got on channel 3 and passed 17 these addresses and flats to Watch Manager O'Keeffe by 18 radio?</p> <p>19 A. Yeah. As far as I remember, it was those -- they look 20 familiar, so I would say it was those FSGs, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. What did you do with the piece of paper after that?</p> <p>22 A. I kept hold of it, and eventually, when I was tasked 23 with different activity, I took it back onto the command 24 unit.</p> <p>25 Q. Who did you give it to on the command unit?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 him, what was it?</p> <p>2 A. That was the clipboard that had the piece of paper on 3 it, so that's what he gave to me.</p> <p>4 Q. Oh, I see. Right.</p> <p>5 Did you receive any other pieces of paper at that 6 point after you had started taking over running the FSG 7 calls from your vantage point, if that's the right word, 8 outside the tower?</p> <p>9 A. I believe he gave me another piece of paper with more 10 FSGs on it, sort of 5 minutes later or so.</p> <p>11 Q. Mark Kentfield did?</p> <p>12 A. To pass up -- yeah, I believe.</p> <p>13 Q. Let me see if I can try another one. LFB00001968, 14 page 28.</p> <p>15 Does that look familiar to you?</p> <p>16 A. It doesn't look familiar, no. But that doesn't mean to 17 say I didn't receive it. I may just not remember.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you recall receiving any written FSG information or 19 lists from an officer from pump ladder A261 from Acton?</p> <p>20 A. No, I don't.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you speak to anybody at control when you started 22 setting up FSGs?</p> <p>23 A. No, I didn't.</p> <p>24 Q. I don't know whether we can go back to the policy, 25 policy 790, Mr Documents Director, if we can just have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 A. I cannot remember specifically, but it was one of the 2 command team.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you know what happened to the piece of paper after 4 that?</p> <p>5 A. I don't, no.</p> <p>6 Q. Are you familiar with Watch Manager Sadler?</p> <p>7 A. I know of Watch Manager Sadler but I don't actually 8 remember seeing him that evening at that stage.</p> <p>9 Q. What did you observe at this time when Mark Kentfield 10 gave you this piece of paper? What did you observe him 11 to be doing?</p> <p>12 A. Sorry, can you rephrase that?</p> <p>13 Q. What was Mark Kentfield doing apart from giving you 14 a piece of paper?</p> <p>15 A. He had come from the command unit. He had this board 16 with him. He told me he had got multiple FSGs. I'm not 17 entirely sure what else he was doing at the time because 18 he soon left me and went back to the command unit.</p> <p>19 Q. Was he on the radio or was he --</p> <p>20 A. He had a radio with him as well, yes. I don't know if 21 he was speaking to anyone or not, but our conversation 22 was face-to-face.</p> <p>23 Q. You say in the last answer -- and this may be 24 a transcription error -- "He had this board with him". 25 He had come from the command unit, he had something with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 that back again, tab 5 of the policy bundle. I just 2 want to ask you about paragraph 7.7 in the policy. It 3 says:</p> <p>4 "One of the first actions of this dedicated officer 5 [FSG co-ordinator] should be to speak by telephone to a 6 supervisor at control to gather the latest information 7 on the progress of FSG calls. The names of callers may 8 be passed to the incident ground by telephone to aid 9 identification. Contact can be established through the 10 officer of the watch at control."</p> <p>11 First, were you aware on the night of that policy 12 requirement?</p> <p>13 A. I don't remember that, no.</p> <p>14 Q. Did you have any thoughts about getting hold of control 15 directly and obtaining FSG information directly from 16 control?</p> <p>17 A. No, I didn't, because I knew the information was going 18 through to the command unit we had at the time.</p> <p>19 Q. Just going back to your statement, page 4, you then 20 say -- and this is the third line down on that page:</p> <p>21 "The Command Unit kept giving me pieces of paper 22 with details of FSG calls."</p> <p>23 This links to something you said a moment ago in 24 your evidence today.</p> <p>25 Does that mean that there was a continuous flow to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

<p>1 you of pieces of paper from the command unit?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I can't remember how many there was, but at the time it</b></p> <p>3 <b>felt like as soon as I had given all the information off</b></p> <p>4 <b>one piece of paper, I got another one. Whether it was</b></p> <p>5 <b>that many or not, I really can't recall.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Was pieces of paper the way in which you were getting</p> <p>7 information from the command unit?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, it was, yeah.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Who brought you those pieces of paper?</p> <p>10 <b>A. As far as I remember, it was Watch Manager Kentfield.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Just Watch Manager Kentfield or were there any others?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I cannot remember that. There may have been, but</b></p> <p>13 <b>I can't remember.</b></p> <p>14 Q. How long were you receiving these pieces of paper from</p> <p>15 Mark Kentfield for?</p> <p>16 <b>A. It could've been no more than 15 to 20 minutes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 <b>A. Only because I know that around about 2 o'clock I was</b></p> <p>19 <b>given another task to do.</b></p> <p>20 Q. And you stopped doing FSG?</p> <p>21 <b>A. That's when I gave it back to the command unit, yeah.</b></p> <p>22 Q. So focusing, therefore, on this 20-minute slot between</p> <p>23 01.40 and 02.00 am --</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. -- how many pieces of paper do you think you received,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 Q. Did you ever get any slips of paper which were, as it</p> <p>2 were, fireman's notebook slips?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No, they were all on A4.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Going back into your statement at page 4, in the next</p> <p>5 sentence, four lines down from the top of that page you</p> <p>6 say:</p> <p>7 "At one stage there were reports of eight people on</p> <p>8 the roof and residents trapped in Flat 205."</p> <p>9 Would that information have been on one of the slips</p> <p>10 of paper passed to you?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 <b>A. That was on -- I remember flat 205 was the first one</b></p> <p>14 <b>I sent up to the bridgehead, and also I remember the</b></p> <p>15 <b>eight people on the roof because it didn't seem the sort</b></p> <p>16 <b>of thing you would've expected.</b></p> <p>17 Q. I wonder if I can just ask you to look at a document,</p> <p>18 LFB00001922 and turn to page 33.</p> <p>19 This is a control information form which has</p> <p>20 flat 205 on it. I know you said they were all A4 pieces</p> <p>21 of paper, but might that be the piece of paper you saw?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, it wasn't. The piece of paper I had had a list of</b></p> <p>23 <b>different flats on it. It wasn't just the one flat on</b></p> <p>24 <b>the piece of paper.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 even roughly?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Two or three.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Two or three?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yeah, it may have been more. I really can't remember.</b></p> <p>5 Q. What form were these pieces of paper, were they all A4?</p> <p>6 <b>A. They were all A4 and they literally had flat numbers,</b></p> <p>7 <b>number of people involved, some had floor numbers, but</b></p> <p>8 <b>by that time I'd taken a photograph of the floor numbers</b></p> <p>9 <b>and flat numbers from the lobby, which had the details</b></p> <p>10 <b>of what floor each flat was on, so I could work it out</b></p> <p>11 <b>and pass that up to the bridgehead.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Yes. We'll come to that.</p> <p>13 Did you ever speak to anyone in the command unit by</p> <p>14 radio?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Not that I recall, no.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Did you know which command unit number it was that was</p> <p>17 sending you these messages?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, it was command unit 8.</b></p> <p>19 Q. You never took any messages from 7?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No, 7 hadn't been set up at that point.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Were these A4 pieces of paper plain or were any of them</p> <p>22 control information forms?</p> <p>23 <b>A. As far as I can remember, they were all plain.</b></p> <p>24 Q. They were all plain.</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 <b>A. It was plain paper as well.</b></p> <p>2 Q. You are clear about that, are you?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>5 Do you remember any more detail about the situation</p> <p>6 in flat 205 and who was there?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No. The only information I had was what flat it was and</b></p> <p>8 <b>how many people were involved, and then some of them had</b></p> <p>9 <b>the floor as well. But from that, I don't know any more</b></p> <p>10 <b>information than what I had.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Why does that one stick out in your mind particularly?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Only because it was the first one, first one on my first</b></p> <p>13 <b>piece of paper, so I just happen to remember that one.</b></p> <p>14 Q. I see.</p> <p>15 Do you have any specific recollection or even</p> <p>16 general recollection of other flats and floors, other</p> <p>17 than remembering that you received the list which we</p> <p>18 looked at?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No. No. Simple answer, no. I had so many that I did</b></p> <p>20 <b>in that first initial 10 minutes, so the only one</b></p> <p>21 <b>I remember is the first one I sent. I don't remember</b></p> <p>22 <b>the others.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Do you have any specific recollection of any updates</p> <p>24 about particular flats coming to you during the</p> <p>25 20-minute period you were running these FSG calls?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p>



<p>1 <b>A. No, I had no information coming back from the bridgehead</b>  2 <b>in that time.</b></p> <p>3 Q. In relation to these A4 pieces of paper and the  4 information on them, you told us what you did in  5 relation to the first one, the slightly yellow picture  6 that we saw.</p> <p>7 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b></p> <p>8 Q. In relation to the others, what did you do with the FSG  9 information on those pieces of paper?</p> <p>10 <b>A. They all stayed -- once I passed the information on,</b>  11 <b>I kept them on the board and they all went back to the</b>  12 <b>command unit once I'd been relieved of that role.</b></p> <p>13 Q. You say they --</p> <p>14 <b>A. I kept them all together.</b></p> <p>15 Q. You kept them all together, and then did you hand them  16 to anybody on the CU?</p> <p>17 <b>A. It was one of the command staff, but I couldn't tell you</b>  18 <b>who.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Did you pass the information on those other pieces of  20 paper to the bridgehead?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. How did you do that?</p> <p>23 <b>A. By radio on channel 3.</b></p> <p>24 Q. So you never sent any pieces of paper into the  25 bridgehead yourself; is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 Q. -- with flat 205 at the top, did he hand you the board,  2 clipboard, or take a piece of paper out of the  3 clipboard, give you the piece of paper and take the  4 clipboard away?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No, he handed me the piece of paper on the board itself,</b>  6 <b>and the next piece of paper that come along, he gave me</b>  7 <b>to the piece of paper, which I then put on the board.</b></p> <p>8 Q. I follow. And then subsequent pieces of paper --</p> <p>9 <b>A. All on the same board, yes, and then that board was then</b>  10 <b>given to the command unit later on.</b></p> <p>11 Q. So you weren't using a forward information board?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I wasn't, no.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Or any other poster or something like that?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No, not at all.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 Can I ask you to be shown a photograph at  17 MET00015935.</p> <p>18 While we are on the subject of boards, do you  19 recognise this item?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I know it's a forward information board, but I've not</b>  21 <b>seen that board before, no.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>23 Just going back, if I can, to the way in which you  24 communicated with the bridgehead. On page 3 of your  25 statement, about nine lines up from the bottom of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 <b>A. I didn't, no. It was all on radio.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did you have a system for recording what information you  3 had received from the CU independently of the pieces of  4 paper that you had?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Now on page 5 of your statement in the second line, just  7 following up on that, you refer to fire safety guidance  8 paperwork. You say -- I pick this up at the bottom of  9 page 4 for completeness:</p> <p>10 "GM Richard Welch directed me to be in charge of the  11 Breathing Apparatus crews (BA) and Group Manager (GM)  12 Tom Goodall was told to take over the Fire Survival  13 Calls. I handed the Fire Safety Guidance paperwork (on  14 a board) to the Command Unit. I went to the leisure  15 centre ..."</p> <p>16 Had you been using a board to record the FSG  17 information that came to you?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No, that board I was referring to was the clipboard the</b>  19 <b>pieces of paper were on, so they were all on that one</b>  20 <b>clipboard. So I literally just had an A4 clipboard with</b>  21 <b>A4 pieces of paper on it at that point.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Let me just follow that up a little bit more.</p> <p>23 When Mark Kentfield came to you with the first one  24 we referred to earlier --</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 page, you say:</p> <p>2 "I informed the two WMs on the Bridgehead (O'Keeffe  3 and DeSilvo) that I had FSG calls. We sorted out radio  4 communications, initially we spoke on Channel 1, it was  5 decided we would use Channel 3 purely for FSG and this  6 would leave Channel 1 for other 'radio traffic'."</p> <p>7 Did you have an actual conversation with either  8 Watch Manager O'Keeffe or Watch Manager De Silvo or both  9 of them about radio communications?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Only to first of all make contact and tell them that</b>  11 <b>I was there, going to deal with FSG, and then I told</b>  12 <b>them that we need -- or I told Watch Manager O'Keeffe</b>  13 <b>because Watch Manager De Silvo wasn't there at that</b>  14 <b>point, I said I was going to use channel 3 for FSG</b>  15 <b>because of the radio traffic on channel 1, so that was</b>  16 <b>when we switched over.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Right. Because in your statement you say you informed  18 not just O'Keeffe but also De Silvo.</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes. I got my timelines a little bit confused there.</b>  20 <b>I realise now that Louisa De Silvo wasn't there at that</b>  21 <b>point but she arrived a little bit later, but I never</b>  22 <b>saw her go in, so to speak.</b></p> <p>23 Q. There was another officer there on the bridgehead  24 running entry control at that early stage. Do you  25 remember who that was?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Does the name De St Aubin ring a bell with you?</p> <p>3 <b>A. It rings a bell, yeah, I know he's at North Kensington,</b></p> <p>4 <b>but I don't remember at the time.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Do you remember having any conversation about fire</p> <p>6 survival guidance communications with --</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, not at all.</b></p> <p>8 Q. After that initial conversation, did you actually use</p> <p>9 channel 3 to communicate FSG information?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. You did?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Which individual specifically do you remember speaking</p> <p>14 to?</p> <p>15 <b>A. To start with, it was Watch Manager O'Keeffe, and then</b></p> <p>16 <b>after I'd been into the tower and taken the photo of the</b></p> <p>17 <b>lifts -- the lift -- floors and then come back out</b></p> <p>18 <b>again, that's when I started talking to Watch Manager</b></p> <p>19 <b>De Silvo, who had also gone up to the bridgehead at that</b></p> <p>20 <b>point.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Was that all within that first 20-minute period?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Did you use any other method of communication? I think</p> <p>24 you say you didn't?</p> <p>25 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 unit occupying the role you were occupying and doing so</p> <p>2 by radio directly with the bridgehead as you were?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Again, as we referred to earlier, I could've done that,</b></p> <p>4 <b>been on the command unit myself, so it was</b></p> <p>5 <b>a possibility, yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Would it be right to look at it that you were</p> <p>7 essentially part of the command unit but you just</p> <p>8 happened to be sitting out by the tower rather than in</p> <p>9 the vehicle?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yeah, I suppose you could.</b></p> <p>11 Q. I think you mentioned earlier on about the photograph of</p> <p>12 the floors and flat numbers.</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Let's just see if we can identify that. I think it's</p> <p>15 your second exhibit, MET00015644. Let's first of all</p> <p>16 look at that.</p> <p>17 Is that what you're referring to?</p> <p>18 <b>A. That is exactly, yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Where was that in the tower?</p> <p>20 <b>A. It was on the wall of the lobby, in the lift lobby</b></p> <p>21 <b>itself.</b></p> <p>22 Q. I have another photograph to show you. Could the</p> <p>23 witness please be shown INQ00000302.</p> <p>24 This is a photograph taken on camera 5 of the CCTV</p> <p>25 camera system at Grenfell. It has an adjusted time of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 Q. Just to confirm that.</p> <p>2 Did you know whether any other fire survival</p> <p>3 guidance information was going to the bridgehead other</p> <p>4 than via you?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I was not aware of any others, no.</b></p> <p>6 Q. What assumptions did you make about you being the sole</p> <p>7 source of contact with the bridgehead?</p> <p>8 <b>A. It was still the fairly early stages. We still hadn't</b></p> <p>9 <b>got that much there in the way of resources. What we</b></p> <p>10 <b>did have was going straight in with the breathing</b></p> <p>11 <b>apparatus sets on.</b></p> <p>12 <b>So as far as I knew, the only way the information</b></p> <p>13 <b>was getting up there was from the command unit to me to</b></p> <p>14 <b>the bridgehead.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Can you explain why the FSG information that you were</p> <p>16 passing on wasn't being passed on directly from the</p> <p>17 command unit to the bridgehead?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Just at the time, I suppose, when it started, there</b></p> <p>19 <b>wasn't enough resources in place at the bridgehead to be</b></p> <p>20 <b>able to take those. By having me as an intermediary, so</b></p> <p>21 <b>to speak, it then left the command unit crew to sort out</b></p> <p>22 <b>the incident command stuff as well as take the calls</b></p> <p>23 <b>from control, which then obviously left me to give all</b></p> <p>24 <b>that information to the bridgehead.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Why wasn't it possible for somebody to be on the command</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 01.49.49.</p> <p>2 First of all, is that you?</p> <p>3 <b>A. That is indeed, yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. What are you taking a photograph of?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Of the previous picture you've just seen.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Thank you very much.</p> <p>7 Just in terms of the timing, does that sound correct</p> <p>8 in terms of when you went into the tower and took</p> <p>9 a photograph and came out again?</p> <p>10 <b>A. That would do, yeah.</b></p> <p>11 Q. So it was in that 20-minute period?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Absolutely, yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. What did you do with that photograph?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I used that -- when I was getting information from the</b></p> <p>15 <b>command unit, any flats that didn't have a floor number</b></p> <p>16 <b>on, I was able to work out which floor it was from the</b></p> <p>17 <b>picture I'd taken.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Does that mean some of the information you were getting</p> <p>19 from the command unit on pieces of paper had flats but</p> <p>20 no floor numbers?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes, that's right.</b></p> <p>22 Q. On page 4 of your statement, you say in the fifth line</p> <p>23 down:</p> <p>24 "Whilst I was at the front of the building, I began</p> <p>25 to be approached by groups of people, that were friends</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 and family of those in the tower, they were speaking to 2 them on their mobile phones." 3 You go on to say, after some detail: 4 "... I did not speak to the person on the phone as I 5 did not want to be distracted from my job. I was 6 approached by a couple of other people with similar 7 calls but again my advice was the same and I did not 8 speak to any members of the public on the phone. I just 9 felt that I had to get on with my job." 10 My question is: did you take any information from 11 these people who had approached you? 12 <b>A. No. I didn't, no.</b> 13 Q. Were you able to pass on what you had been told by them 14 to the bridgehead in any way? 15 <b>A. No, I didn't. I got very little information from them 16 because I didn't want to bypass our recording methods, 17 basically. If it had gone to me and got lost in 18 translation somewhere, we'd have no record anywhere 19 else, whereas if they phone 999 and spoke to control, 20 there's a written record of where they were and what the 21 situation was.</b> 22 Q. I am going to turn to a different topic, which is the 23 role of Station Manager Andy Walton. 24 Can I start by asking you to look at your 25 contemporaneous notes and go to page 2.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 <b>A. That's when I actually saw him by the tower, so I spoke</b> 2 <b>to him physically, yeah, face-to-face.</b> 3 Q. Given that this was after you taking the photograph at 4 01.49.49, was it around about that time or shortly after 5 that time, therefore, that you first saw him? 6 <b>A. Yes, it would've been, yes.</b> 7 Q. Right. That's very helpful. 8 Did you and Station Manager Walton have 9 a conversation? 10 <b>A. Very brief. It was just literally along the lines of</b> 11 <b>saying to Andy, "Can you go and talk to Mike because</b> 12 <b>Mike's still in charge and I'm dealing with FSG". That</b> 13 <b>was literally it.</b> 14 Q. That was it? 15 <b>A. Yes.</b> 16 Q. Did Andy Walton ask you who was in charge of the 17 incident? 18 <b>A. He may have done. I can't recall that. But I know once</b> 19 <b>he'd spoken to me he knew where he was going.</b> 20 Q. Because, as you say, you told him Mike's in charge? 21 <b>A. Yes.</b> 22 Q. Do you know what he did next? 23 <b>A. He went and spoke to Mike Dowden and started to get</b> 24 <b>a handover from him.</b> 25 Q. Do you know whether he did in fact get a handover</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 At the top of page 2 you refer to going into the 2 lobby to photograph the floor numbers, and we've seen 3 that now, and then you say: 4 "More calls were received and passed on." 5 So that refers, I think, to you -- is this right? -- 6 going back outside and continuing to receive pieces of 7 paper from Mark Kentfield -- 8 <b>A. Absolutely.</b> 9 Q. -- put them onto the clipboard, pass them on to the 10 bridgehead by radio? 11 <b>A. That's exactly it, yes.</b> 12 Q. Then you go on to say: 13 "During this SM Andy Walton arrived and I asked him 14 to liaise with the WM (G27)." 15 We have an arrival time for Station Manager Walton 16 of 01.40. So is it right, taking that as read, that 17 this arrival of Andy Walton you're referring to would be 18 then or just after then? 19 <b>A. That's when I saw Andy Walton around the tower where</b> 20 <b>I was. I'd say it was after I came out the lobby, so</b> 21 <b>I would say it's probably nearer 01.50 when I saw him.</b> 22 Q. When you say arrived, do you mean arrived with you 23 personally -- 24 <b>A. Yes.</b> 25 Q. -- physically, or arrived on scene?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 from -- 2 <b>A. I'm not entirely sure because I don't remember any</b> 3 <b>messages saying that Andy Walton was now the IC. The</b> 4 <b>first one of those I heard -- or the first time I heard</b> 5 <b>there had been a charge was when it was Group Manager</b> 6 <b>Welch.</b> 7 Q. Yes. At 02.04, as it turns out. 8 <b>A. Yes.</b> 9 Q. That's about right. 10 So did the fact that you didn't hear about a change 11 of IC tell you anything about who remained as incident 12 commander after you saw Andy Walton? 13 <b>A. Well, I knew that Andy Walton was going to take over</b> 14 <b>from Mike, so in my mind Andy Walton was now going to be</b> 15 <b>the IC. The fact I hadn't heard a message on the radio</b> 16 <b>I wasn't that concerned about, because the radio traffic</b> 17 <b>was quite busy anyway.</b> 18 Q. Did you find out what Andy Walton actually did after he 19 had gone to see Mike Dowden and take a handover from 20 him? 21 <b>A. I don't know the details, no.</b> 22 Q. Turning on to a different topic, do you remember 23 a firefighter from North Kensington being there called 24 Justin O'Beirne? 25 <b>A. I know Justin, but I don't have any clear recollection</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p>

<p>1 <b>that night where I saw -- I know I did see him, but</b></p> <p>2 <b>I don't know where it was.</b></p> <p>3 Q. He says that he had a conversation with you after he had</p> <p>4 come out of the tower having gone up to one of the</p> <p>5 higher floors with two other firefighters, namely</p> <p>6 Firefighter Hippel and Crew Manager Stern, who had been</p> <p>7 asked to rescue a man on the 16th floor.</p> <p>8 Do you remember a conversation with Justin O'Beirne</p> <p>9 about that subject?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Do you remember -- does this trigger a recollection --</p> <p>12 any discussion with any firefighter about a bed-bound</p> <p>13 man on the 16th floor who needed rescuing?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I don't remember a discussion, but I do have</b></p> <p>15 <b>a recollection of a bed-bound person on the 16th, but</b></p> <p>16 <b>I don't know where I know the information from. But it</b></p> <p>17 <b>is something I recall.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Is it something that you recall knowing on the night or</p> <p>19 is it something that you think you might have learnt</p> <p>20 later?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, it's something on the night, but I cannot recall</b></p> <p>22 <b>whether it was someone told that to me or it was one of</b></p> <p>23 <b>the messages I passed up to the bridgehead or got the</b></p> <p>24 <b>message back from the bridgehead, I'm not sure.</b></p> <p>25 Q. But I think you said you had no recollection of this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>2 Q. You don't?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Going back to your statement, if I can ask you, please,</p> <p>5 to go back to page 4, you say on that page in the</p> <p>6 paragraph second from bottom, which starts:</p> <p>7 "The officer in charge was initially Station Manager</p> <p>8 (SM) Andy Walton but was replaced by Group Manager (GM)</p> <p>9 Richard Welch."</p> <p>10 We talked about that.</p> <p>11 You then go on to say:</p> <p>12 "GM Richard Welch arrived on scene and asked me if</p> <p>13 we had firefighters above the fire level without water.</p> <p>14 I hadn't thought about this as we had been busy with FSG</p> <p>15 calls but I realised that we did have firefighters above</p> <p>16 the fire level without water. I know fire fighter crews</p> <p>17 were dealing with FSG calls, they were checking on</p> <p>18 residents above the fourth floor and bringing people out</p> <p>19 of their properties if they could."</p> <p>20 Now, my first question is: how did you know that you</p> <p>21 had firefighters above the fire level without water?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Just by the sheer number of calls we'd had, FSG calls.</b></p> <p>23 <b>Knowing the amount of crews they would've needed to go</b></p> <p>24 <b>up there, there wouldn't have been enough water supplies</b></p> <p>25 <b>for each of those crews to take.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 exchange with Firefighter O'Beirne?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>3 Q. You don't say it didn't happen though, do you?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I don't say it didn't happen. As I said, when I was at</b></p> <p>5 <b>the bottom of the tower there, when I was passing the</b></p> <p>6 <b>FSG, I was doing other small tasks as well. So it</b></p> <p>7 <b>could've been I was sending information up while he was</b></p> <p>8 <b>telling me and just didn't -- just don't remember it.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you have any recollection about any details of any</p> <p>10 specific calls or specific FSG information that came in</p> <p>11 during your 20-minute or so period managing FSGs other</p> <p>12 than the pieces of paper?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>14 Q. You don't remember any details about conditions in flats</p> <p>15 or persons or numbers of persons other than on the</p> <p>16 pieces of paper?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Not from the information I was passing up. I wasn't</b></p> <p>18 <b>getting any information back from the bridgehead because</b></p> <p>19 <b>obviously the volume of information going to them meant</b></p> <p>20 <b>they were busy deploying people and I wasn't getting any</b></p> <p>21 <b>information back at that point, but it had only been</b></p> <p>22 <b>20 minutes anyway, so ...</b></p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember any firefighter coming out of the tower</p> <p>24 having had a wear, a BA wear, and talking to you about</p> <p>25 a deployment they'd just done?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 <b>So it was an assumption on my part, but once it was</b></p> <p>2 <b>sort of highlighted to me by Group Manager Welch, it</b></p> <p>3 <b>sort of made sense. I thought, well, yes, there's</b></p> <p>4 <b>a very high probability. Obviously I couldn't be</b></p> <p>5 <b>100 per cent sure because I didn't know, but high</b></p> <p>6 <b>probability that was the case, yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. At that time, after the arrival of Group Manager Welch,</p> <p>8 which, as I say, we've got at around about 02.00/02.04,</p> <p>9 doesn't matter for present purposes, you were still</p> <p>10 standing outside the south-east corner of the tower,</p> <p>11 were you?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I was, yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. At that time, what could you see of the state of the</p> <p>14 building on fire or the spread of fire?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Obviously I can't -- well, no, I can't recall exactly</b></p> <p>16 <b>how it was at that time. I know obviously it got</b></p> <p>17 <b>steadily worse as the evening went on, but I don't know</b></p> <p>18 <b>what it was like at that time, no.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Did anything of what you saw give you any information as</p> <p>20 to how firefighters were above the level of the fire but</p> <p>21 without water?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No. I wouldn't have been able to get anything from</b></p> <p>23 <b>that, no.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Did you have any information yourself about the</p> <p>25 conditions inside the tower, such as in the lobbies and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 in the stairwell?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No. I'd heard nothing from inside the tower, so I was</b></p> <p>3 <b>unaware.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Did anybody report to you about the success or failure</p> <p>5 of any particular deployments of BA crews in response to</p> <p>6 FSG information that you had been sending to the</p> <p>7 bridgehead?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No. No, I got no information back about the FSGs</b></p> <p>9 <b>I passed up.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Did you seek any information from the bridgehead about</p> <p>11 success or failure of deployments?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I didn't because I was still busy passing information to</b></p> <p>13 <b>them, which was obviously -- the priority was to get the</b></p> <p>14 <b>information to them and I didn't receive anything back,</b></p> <p>15 <b>no. I didn't ask for it back either.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Do you remember receiving any information from anybody</p> <p>17 about the success or failure of any deployment while you</p> <p>18 were still handling FSG calls?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Going back to this exchange with Group Manager Welch,</p> <p>21 where did that take place?</p> <p>22 <b>A. That was on the south-east corner where I had been --</b></p> <p>23 <b>I was still there, yeah.</b></p> <p>24 Q. In the final paragraph on that page you say:</p> <p>25 "GM Richard Welch declared the fire as a major</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 officer in charge.</p> <p>2 Do you know anything about that?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No, that's the first I've heard of that one.</b></p> <p>4 Q. He says that that was immediately after the major</p> <p>5 incident was declared.</p> <p>6 <b>A. Okay, no, I know nothing about that, no.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Do you remember seeing or observing Group Manager Welch</p> <p>8 receiving any handover from anybody?</p> <p>9 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>10 Q. You didn't give him a handover?</p> <p>11 <b>A. No, I didn't, no.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember being asked by Group Manager Welch for</p> <p>13 information based on or using the decision-making model,</p> <p>14 or DMM?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No. I'd say the only conversation I remember having</b></p> <p>16 <b>with Group Manager Welch was asking about the crews</b></p> <p>17 <b>above the fire floor and asking me to go back to the</b></p> <p>18 <b>command unit.</b></p> <p>19 Q. That was all outside the tower?</p> <p>20 <b>A. That was all outside the tower, yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Were you aware at any time that Group Manager Welch</p> <p>22 thought you were, as far as we can tell, the officer in</p> <p>23 charge of the incident?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No, that was the first I've heard of it, you've just</b></p> <p>25 <b>told me now.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 incident (forty PF) as the fire was now at the top of</p> <p>2 the tower ..."</p> <p>3 We have that in the short incident log as occurring</p> <p>4 at 02.06.38. Just for the transcript, that's at</p> <p>5 page 21. There's no need to turn it up. It is shown as</p> <p>6 coming from CU8.</p> <p>7 At that point, had you gone back to CU8, the command</p> <p>8 unit, or were you still outside the tower?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I honestly can't remember. The information about the</b></p> <p>10 <b>major incident and the 40-pump fire, I remember getting</b></p> <p>11 <b>that information, but it was more from what I was</b></p> <p>12 <b>hearing around the incident ground as opposed to</b></p> <p>13 <b>directly from Group Manager Welch. So I'm not sure</b></p> <p>14 <b>where I was at the time when I found that information</b></p> <p>15 <b>out.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Did you ever see Group Manager Welch on CU8 or did you</p> <p>17 only see him outside the tower when you first saw him?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I believe it was only outside the tower because that's</b></p> <p>19 <b>where he asked me to go back to the command unit, hand</b></p> <p>20 <b>over the FSG to the command unit staff, and to start to</b></p> <p>21 <b>set up BA main control.</b></p> <p>22 Q. The reason I ask you is this: Group Manager Welch in his</p> <p>23 witness statement -- and clearly we'll have to explore</p> <p>24 this with him, but just while you're here -- says when</p> <p>25 he arrived at CU8, he had been told that you were the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 Q. When you spoke to him, did he ask you who the IC was?</p> <p>2 <b>A. He may have done, but I can't recall. Obviously I did</b></p> <p>3 <b>know at the time so I would've told him to speak to</b></p> <p>4 <b>Andy Walton, but I don't remember that.</b></p> <p>5 Q. So would I be right in thinking that Group Manager Welch</p> <p>6 never actually said to you, "I'm taking over command"?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, he didn't, no.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Are you clear about that?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes, absolutely.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Going to your statement on page 5, we've looked at the</p> <p>11 sentence in the second line, but I want to look at the</p> <p>12 first sentence. Again, it starts at the bottom of</p> <p>13 page 4, but you say:</p> <p>14 "GM Richard Welch directed me to be in charge of the</p> <p>15 Breathing Apparatus crews (BA) and Group Manager (GM)</p> <p>16 Tom Goodall was told to take over the Fire Survival</p> <p>17 Calls."</p> <p>18 Where was that discussion?</p> <p>19 <b>A. As far as I remember, that discussion was at the bottom</b></p> <p>20 <b>of the tower. What I can say, in my statement I say</b></p> <p>21 <b>that Group Manager Goodall was told to take over fire</b></p> <p>22 <b>survival. That was information I found out later.</b></p> <p>23 <b>I didn't know that on the night. I discovered that</b></p> <p>24 <b>afterwards.</b></p> <p>25 <b>So all I knew was I was giving the fire survival</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 180</p>

<p>1 <b>guidance back to the command unit and was being asked to</b></p> <p>2 <b>help set up the BA main control.</b></p> <p>3 Q. So let's see if I can clarify this then.</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. You have a conversation with Richard Welch who comes to</p> <p>6 you at the base of the tower -- yes?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes, that's right.</b></p> <p>8 Q. And he tells you to take over or take charge of the</p> <p>9 breathing apparatus crews.</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. But he also tells you to go to CU8.</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. That's right, is it?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes. He asked me to go to CU8 and hand the fire</b></p> <p>15 <b>survival guidance stuff over to the command unit, and</b></p> <p>16 <b>then to help Dan Kipling, station manager, set up the</b></p> <p>17 <b>breathing apparatus main control.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Your reference to Group Manager Tom Goodall taking over</p> <p>19 fire survival guidance calls -- you weren't privy to</p> <p>20 that conversation between him and Richard Welch; is that</p> <p>21 right?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, I didn't know at the time he was taking over, but</b></p> <p>23 <b>obviously as soon as I did the statement, I did.</b></p> <p>24 Q. That's clarified that.</p> <p>25 Did you go to CU8 next?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 <b>knew how to start up the generator, but Station Manager</b></p> <p>2 <b>Nick Saunders was with us and he used to be command</b></p> <p>3 <b>unit, so he was able to get it up and running.</b></p> <p>4 <b>Just after that was done, we then got told that was</b></p> <p>5 <b>being used for FSG so we needed to go and find somewhere</b></p> <p>6 <b>else, and that's when me and Dan went down to the tower.</b></p> <p>7 Q. First of all, who told you to go to CU7?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I don't know. I believe the general brief was to find</b></p> <p>9 <b>a command unit and use that for BA main control.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 <b>A. That was the closest one to where we were at that time.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Who told you it was going to be used for FSG, CU7?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Again, I can't remember who was there, but it was</b></p> <p>14 <b>someone else who came along while we were about to use</b></p> <p>15 <b>it.</b></p> <p>16 Q. You don't know who?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I can't remember who it was, no.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Do you remember at this stage the involvement or any</p> <p>19 involvement of DAC O'Loughlin?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>21 Q. You don't remember seeing him on --</p> <p>22 <b>A. I don't remember seeing him at that stage, no.</b></p> <p>23 Q. You didn't see him on either command unit?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No. That doesn't mean he wasn't there, but as I say,</b></p> <p>25 <b>command unit 8 was quite busy, so he may have been</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 <b>A. I did, yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Who did you see on CU8 when you got there?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I can't remember names or faces, even, but I gave the</b></p> <p>4 <b>paperwork I had to one of the staff on the command unit.</b></p> <p>5 <b>I also gave them my mobile at the time because that had</b></p> <p>6 <b>the picture of the flat numbers, et cetera. But who</b></p> <p>7 <b>that was, I couldn't tell you.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Are you sure it was CU8?</p> <p>9 <b>A. It was definitely CU8, yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. What were people doing on CU8 when you got there?</p> <p>11 <b>A. To be honest, I don't really recall. I know it was</b></p> <p>12 <b>busy. There was lots of people on there, doing whatever</b></p> <p>13 <b>they were doing, but I didn't really -- didn't get that</b></p> <p>14 <b>far onto it to take that much notice, really, I was more</b></p> <p>15 <b>concerned with just giving over the information I had</b></p> <p>16 <b>and then going and setting up BA main control.</b></p> <p>17 Q. I think I may have asked you before, but let me ask it</p> <p>18 again: do you remember who you handed the FSG pieces of</p> <p>19 paper to on CU8?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I don't know. I just know it was one of the command</b></p> <p>21 <b>staff, but I don't know who.</b></p> <p>22 Q. What happened next after that?</p> <p>23 <b>A. After that, myself and Dan Kipling went to command</b></p> <p>24 <b>unit 7, which was parked in Grenfell Road. The whole</b></p> <p>25 <b>unit was switched off at that point and neither of us</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 <b>there, but I don't recollect seeing him.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember observing or being present in any</p> <p>3 briefing given by DAC O'Loughlin to Group Manager</p> <p>4 Goodall about FSG?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Do you remember that you weren't involved?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Sorry, yeah, I wasn't involved. I didn't give any</b></p> <p>8 <b>handover to anyone about the FSG apart from giving the</b></p> <p>9 <b>information back to the command staff.</b></p> <p>10 Q. My question was whether you were involved in or observed</p> <p>11 any discussion between DAC O'Loughlin and Group Manager</p> <p>12 Goodall --</p> <p>13 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>14 Q. At the bottom of page 4, top of page 5, as we've seen,</p> <p>15 you were told by Group Manager Welch to be in charge of</p> <p>16 the BA crews.</p> <p>17 Do you remember exactly what Group Manager Welch</p> <p>18 told you that you would be doing?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, not any specifics, just that myself and Dan were to</b></p> <p>20 <b>run BA main control and make sure we had enough BA</b></p> <p>21 <b>resources.</b></p> <p>22 Q. So it was a resourcing job, was it?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Station Manager Kipling in his witness statement recalls</p> <p>25 that it was he, Kipling, who asked you to assist him</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 184</p>

<p>1 with BA crews and not Group Manager Welch.</p> <p>2 <b>A. As far as I can remember, I was asked by Group Manager</b></p> <p>3 <b>Welch to do it jointly with Mr Kipling.</b></p> <p>4 Q. That instruction you say was given to you with no one</p> <p>5 else present -- is this right? -- at the foot of the</p> <p>6 tower when you were out there?</p> <p>7 <b>A. As far as I remember, yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Station Manager Kipling also says that he took you and</p> <p>9 Station Manager Saunders to go and set up BA main</p> <p>10 control in the second command unit, and I think that</p> <p>11 tallies with your recollection as you've just told us.</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. That's right, is it?</p> <p>14 <b>A. That's right.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Nick Saunders, what had he been doing up to that point,</p> <p>16 do you know?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I don't know. That's the first time I saw him.</b></p> <p>18 Q. In terms of the system that you had in place for BA main</p> <p>19 control, you say in your statement -- this is page 5 in</p> <p>20 the second paragraph, if we can just look at it:</p> <p>21 "... any fire fighters that turned up, were</p> <p>22 instructed to put on their BA set and any that were</p> <p>23 trained in EDBA, the same."</p> <p>24 Then you explain what EDBA are, and then you say:</p> <p>25 "The crews were told to put on their breathing</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 <b>A. They would've done. If they were being told to go to</b></p> <p>2 <b>the leisure centre, they would have been told to take</b></p> <p>3 <b>their sets as well.</b></p> <p>4 Q. So you don't remember anyone turning up without one and</p> <p>5 being told to go back to their appliance to get one?</p> <p>6 <b>A. It may have happened but I don't recall that, no.</b></p> <p>7 Q. In that same paragraph that we've just seen, you say</p> <p>8 that Dan Kipling was organising them and you were</p> <p>9 communicating with him to get the crews in.</p> <p>10 When you say that Dan Kipling was organising the BA</p> <p>11 crews, what was he doing?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Well, Dan was at the leisure centre with the BA main</b></p> <p>13 <b>control. He was -- basically he had the marshalling</b></p> <p>14 <b>area for all the SDBA and EDBA sets that he had</b></p> <p>15 <b>available to him. I was down near the covered walkway,</b></p> <p>16 <b>and as the bridgehead called down for more BA crews,</b></p> <p>17 <b>I then would speak to Dan to get him to send more down</b></p> <p>18 <b>to where I was so I had more to put into the bridgehead</b></p> <p>19 <b>when they wanted it.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did there come a point when the bridgehead stopped</p> <p>21 committing standard breathing apparatus crews into the</p> <p>22 tower?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I know there was but I can't remember when it was, the</b></p> <p>24 <b>time.</b></p> <p>25 Q. How was that decision communicated to you?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 apparatus and SM Dan Kipling was organising them, I was</p> <p>2 communicating with SM Dan Kipling to get the crews in."</p> <p>3 How did the firefighters know that they had to go to</p> <p>4 the leisure centre to be deployed to wear BA?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I'm not sure how that happened, but the message would've</b></p> <p>6 <b>got out to any oncoming crews that that's where they</b></p> <p>7 <b>needed to deploy to.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 <b>A. That's probably done when each machine booked in at the</b></p> <p>10 <b>command unit, they would've been told to take their</b></p> <p>11 <b>crews to the leisure centre.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember whether any general message was</p> <p>13 broadcast from control on the main scheme radio</p> <p>14 informing all crews that they had to muster at the</p> <p>15 leisure centre?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No, I don't know, no.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Do you have any recollection of any general message</p> <p>18 going or are you just assuming that that's how it was</p> <p>19 done?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No, I've no recollection of any message, but I'm</b></p> <p>21 <b>assuming that as appliances were turning up, they were</b></p> <p>22 <b>told to report to the leisure centre with their sets.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Did the firefighters know that they had to bring their</p> <p>24 BA sets with them from their appliances when going to</p> <p>25 the leisure centre?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 <b>A. The only way I knew about it was they were asking for</b></p> <p>2 <b>EDBA. They didn't want any SDBA crews in there, they</b></p> <p>3 <b>were asking me to send in EDBA crews.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Do you recall if there was a point which came when the</p> <p>5 bridgehead stopped committing any BA wearers above</p> <p>6 a certain floor?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I don't, no.</b></p> <p>8 Q. That doesn't ring a bell with you?</p> <p>9 <b>A. No, it doesn't.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Did there come a time when the mustering and deployment</p> <p>11 of BA wearers moved from the leisure centre to</p> <p>12 underneath the walkway to the south of the tower?</p> <p>13 <b>A. That sort of happened from the start because we had</b></p> <p>14 <b>a few BA crews down at the walkway anyway before we set</b></p> <p>15 <b>up BA main control. So once we set up BA main control,</b></p> <p>16 <b>anyone else went to the leisure centre, and then we used</b></p> <p>17 <b>all those under the walkway first to supplement the</b></p> <p>18 <b>bridgehead.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Was this initially where you were based in your role as</p> <p>20 BA co-ordinator?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Initially, yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Then you moved?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I went round to the west side of the tower, yeah, behind</b></p> <p>24 <b>the playground later on.</b></p> <p>25 Q. To be clear, when you deployed them, did you actually go</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 188</p>

<p>1 with BA crews into the lobby to be sent up the building</p> <p>2 or did you just send them from the initial base under</p> <p>3 the walkway?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No, I stayed under the walkway and sent them through to</b></p> <p>5 <b>the lobby.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Were you communicating with the bridgehead at that</p> <p>7 stage?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, I was, yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. By radio?</p> <p>10 <b>A. By radio.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Which channel?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Channel 1, I believe.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Channel 1?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Do you remember at that stage -- this is once you took</p> <p>16 over deployment of the BA crews -- who you were actually</p> <p>17 speaking to at the bridgehead?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No, I can't recall. It was -- yeah, it was more than</b></p> <p>19 <b>one person, but I couldn't recall who it was.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 <b>A. Andy Walton may have been one of them -- in fact, I know</b></p> <p>22 <b>Andy Walton was one of them, sorry, because I remember</b></p> <p>23 <b>having a conversation with him.</b></p> <p>24 Q. What were these conversations, these communications,</p> <p>25 about?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 189</p>	<p>1 <b>you whether that was straight away or later on.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did you notice a watch manager doing the same exercise</p> <p>3 on the top of dustbins underneath the walkway at a later</p> <p>4 point?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I just remember people there doing the FSG bits, but</b></p> <p>6 <b>I couldn't remember what they were actually on, as such,</b></p> <p>7 <b>car bonnet or what.</b></p> <p>8 Q. You weren't involved with that at that stage?</p> <p>9 <b>A. No, no.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Did you notice when you did look at them what they were</p> <p>11 actually doing?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I didn't take that much notice of what was happening,</b></p> <p>13 <b>no, I was focused on my task I was doing. I could see</b></p> <p>14 <b>they were writing down numbers, but I didn't get</b></p> <p>15 <b>involved in what exactly they were doing.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Could you see at least this much: could you see them</p> <p>17 deploying or sending runners into the building? Do you</p> <p>18 remember that?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I can't remember exactly. But there were a lot of</b></p> <p>20 <b>people running around all over the place as expected, so</b></p> <p>21 <b>I'm guessing, yes, they could've been runners, but</b></p> <p>22 <b>I don't specifically recall that, no.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Going back to the system for deployment of BA, how long</p> <p>24 were you under the walkway for deploying BA wearers into</p> <p>25 the building?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 191</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Literally he would call me down and say, "We need</b></p> <p>2 <b>another three/four crews of two SDBA or EDBA, have you</b></p> <p>3 <b>got them, can you send them?" and then I'd send them in.</b></p> <p>4 Q. What message would you communicate to him?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I would say those crews are on their way, and then</b></p> <p>6 <b>I would then speak to Dan Kipling and say I need</b></p> <p>7 <b>another -- you know, to replace them back down where</b></p> <p>8 <b>I was.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Where was Dan Kipling physically located?</p> <p>10 <b>A. He was over by the leisure centre. I was under the</b></p> <p>11 <b>covered walkway and then later on in the west part -- on</b></p> <p>12 <b>the west side of the tower.</b></p> <p>13 <b>At one stage it was easier for me and Dan to</b></p> <p>14 <b>communicate by mobile because the radio traffic was so</b></p> <p>15 <b>heavy, so we used our mobiles for a fair bit of the</b></p> <p>16 <b>evening to contact each other.</b></p> <p>17 Q. What sort of time did you arrive under the covered</p> <p>18 walkway in order to carry out your task of BA</p> <p>19 deployment?</p> <p>20 <b>A. That probably wouldn't have been more than probably</b></p> <p>21 <b>about 02.15, I suppose, 02.20, something like that.</b></p> <p>22 Q. At that time, did you notice a watch manager collating</p> <p>23 FSG information on a car bonnet?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I don't know if it was then, but I do remember that</b></p> <p>25 <b>happening at some point under there, but I couldn't tell</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 190</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Again, with time, it's very difficult to put a time on</b></p> <p>2 <b>how long I was under there. It was probably about</b></p> <p>3 <b>an hour, I would say.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Just to explain the system then, is this right -- tell</p> <p>5 me if this is wrong.</p> <p>6 <b>A. Okay.</b></p> <p>7 Q. You essentially would have crews waiting under the</p> <p>8 walkway --</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. -- as the sort of initial store, and then you would call</p> <p>11 down a supply of BA, particularly EDBA wearers from the</p> <p>12 leisure centre as and when your supply ran low?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes, that's right.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Have I got that right?</p> <p>15 <b>A. That's right, yeah. So I would send -- the people I had</b></p> <p>16 <b>with me would be the ones to replenish the bridgehead,</b></p> <p>17 <b>and then I would get more from the leisure centre to</b></p> <p>18 <b>replenish the forward holding area, as it sort of</b></p> <p>19 <b>became, so we always had crews to send into the</b></p> <p>20 <b>bridgehead when they wanted them.</b></p> <p>21 Q. You've exhibited a number of photographs of the scene</p> <p>22 outside the tower as you were marshalling the BA, and</p> <p>23 some of them have been reproduced in the new operational</p> <p>24 response report. Can I just ask you to look at that at</p> <p>25 internal 211, and exhibit reference 212.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 192</p>



<p>1 That's where the photographs are. The time stamp 2 does start on page 210 internally, 211 exhibit number, 3 at 02.41. If one goes back a page, one can see at the 4 foot of that page, "02:41" in italics with an asterisk: 5 "SM Loft is under the covered walkway outside the 6 South elevation. Whilst there he takes two below photos 7 of the BA Teams waiting to be committed into 8 Grenfell Tower." 9 Then over the page, going back to the page, these 10 two photographs I think are among those you exhibited; 11 is that right? 12 <b>A. That is, yes.</b> 13 Q. Can you describe for us the scene? We can see it 14 visually, a long queue of BA wearers. 15 First of all, how far back under the walkway to the 16 left of the left-hand picture does that queue extend? 17 <b>A. So that queue -- those photos, as you can see, are</b> 18 <b>virtually next to each other. So you've got the queue</b> 19 <b>from the door. It comes all the way back out to the</b> 20 <b>back. That is actually -- the firefighter nearest us on</b> 21 <b>the left-hand photo is the end of the queue and the</b> 22 <b>queue just snakes around to the door, so that is the</b> 23 <b>whole queue.</b> 24 Q. That is the whole queue? 25 <b>A. It is yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 193</p>	<p>1 Mr Chairman, this may be an appropriate point for 2 a short break. I do not have very far to go, but 3 I think probably we've been going long enough. 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, we've been running an hour and 5 10 minutes. It probably would be a good time. 6 MR MILLETT: Yes. I only have about 15 or 20 more minutes 7 to go with the witness. 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think still it might be good to 9 have a break. 10 THE WITNESS: No problem. 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So we'll have a 10-minute break now. 12 Please don't talk to anyone about your evidence while 13 you're out of the room and we'll resume at 3.20. All 14 right? 15 THE WITNESS: Yes. 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the 17 usher. 18 Right, 3.20, please. 19 (3.12 pm) 20 (A short break) 21 (3.20 pm) 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, happy to continue, Mr Loft? 23 THE WITNESS: Absolutely, sir. 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Very good. 25 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 195</p>
<p>1 Q. I can see -- this is just me -- two officers in white 2 helmets. There's one in the foreground in the left-hand 3 picture or the middle ground. Who is that, do you know? 4 <b>A. I don't know.</b> 5 Q. Might that be you? 6 <b>A. No, because I'm taking the photo.</b> 7 Q. You are taking the photo? Right. Technology is -- 8 <b>A. It would be a good trick!</b> 9 Q. It would be. It would even defeat me. 10 Do you know who the other white helmet wearer is in 11 the distance? 12 <b>A. Again, not without a better photo, I couldn't tell you.</b> 13 Q. Do you remember having assistance from other watch 14 managers or more senior officers? 15 <b>A. I remember Watch Manager Stuart Brown from Battersea, he</b> 16 <b>was there. There were other watch managers around but</b> 17 <b>I couldn't remember who they were.</b> 18 Q. What was Stuart Brown from Battersea doing, do you 19 remember? 20 <b>A. Just generally assisting with me and the queue and</b> 21 <b>making sure we had enough equipment to take into the</b> 22 <b>bridgehead if it was required, which is -- in those</b> 23 <b>photos, you can see is the -- you can see a pile of hose</b> 24 <b>there, ready to be taken in, if needed.</b> 25 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 194</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Loft, thank you for coming back 2 to us. 3 Just a few tidy-up questions from the last evidence 4 you've given this afternoon. 5 When you spoke to anybody at the bridgehead and 6 passed on FSG information to the bridgehead by radio, as 7 you said you did -- 8 <b>A. Yes.</b> 9 Q. -- did you receive any confirmation back from them that 10 they'd got your message? 11 <b>A. Yes, yes, I made sure that they'd got the message.</b> 12 Q. What did they say to you to indicate to you they 13 understood it? 14 <b>A. They repeated it back to me. Yes, generally they'd</b> 15 <b>repeat it back to me so I knew they'd received it.</b> 16 Q. When you were running FSG in that 20-minute or so slot 17 that you described to us earlier, was any decision being 18 made by anybody as to prioritisation of FSG calls? 19 <b>A. I don't know. The way I did it was I literally started</b> 20 <b>at the top of the list and worked my way down, because</b> 21 <b>I don't think there was any prioritisation for the</b> 22 <b>simple reason there wasn't that much detail to the</b> 23 <b>calls.</b> 24 Q. Do you remember -- sorry. 25 <b>A. No, carry on.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 196</p>

<p>1 Q. Do you remember being asked by anybody to prioritise or</p> <p>2 ask the bridgehead to prioritise deployments on the</p> <p>3 basis of information about smoke density?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Do you remember receiving any information about relative</p> <p>6 smoke density in any of the flats?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Not through those calls, no.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Can I ask you to look at a document which is LFB00001968</p> <p>9 at page 29.</p> <p>10 This is a piece of paper found on one of the command</p> <p>11 units after the incident.</p> <p>12 Does this document look familiar to you? It's an A4</p> <p>13 piece of paper.</p> <p>14 <b>A. No, it doesn't.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Why does this one not look familiar to you and the other</p> <p>16 one I showed you looked familiar?</p> <p>17 <b>A. For the main reason it's got too much information on it.</b></p> <p>18 <b>I never had that much information on the information</b></p> <p>19 <b>I gave up to the bridgehead.</b></p> <p>20 Q. In one of your exhibits, you have a photograph. It's</p> <p>21 photograph 8. I just want to show it to you. It's</p> <p>22 MET00015595.</p> <p>23 This is a photograph I think taken by you; is that</p> <p>24 right?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes, it does look like it, yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 197</p>	<p>1 I know this is a hypothesis, but if Mr O'Beirne's</p> <p>2 recollection is correct and you were told about</p> <p>3 a bedridden man on the 16th floor while you were still</p> <p>4 co-ordinating FSGs, what would or should you have done</p> <p>5 in terms of procedure?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I would've made sure the information was at the</b></p> <p>7 <b>bridgehead. First of all, I'd want to know, because</b></p> <p>8 <b>Justin's come past the bridgehead, whether he told them</b></p> <p>9 <b>or not, and if he had I would leave it with the</b></p> <p>10 <b>bridgehead to either prioritise or send resources to it.</b></p> <p>11 <b>But I would make sure the bridgehead knew about it.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Apologies for chasing what may be a hare, but let me</p> <p>13 just see if we can get something nailed down.</p> <p>14 Could you go, please, to the second hour ORR,</p> <p>15 LFB00004828 and turn to page 86.</p> <p>16 In the middle of that page we have a time mark of</p> <p>17 01.38.50, again in italics with an asterisk, which means</p> <p>18 it's not a hard time, but it says:</p> <p>19 "SM Loft approaches the main door and talks to WM</p> <p>20 Paul Watson."</p> <p>21 Do you recall a discussion with Paul Watson at</p> <p>22 around that time, 01.38, so very shortly after you</p> <p>23 arrived?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No, I have no recollection of that at all. I have</b></p> <p>25 <b>spoken to Mr Watson since then and we still don't know</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 199</p>
<p>1 Q. My question is: do you know which side of the tower that</p> <p>2 is that you are photographing?</p> <p>3 <b>A. That is the east side.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Looks like the east side.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Because the ALP is there, that's the only side it could</b></p> <p>6 <b>get to.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Do you know what time you took that photograph?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I know it was time-stamped, but I can't remember what</b></p> <p>9 <b>the time stamp was.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Is that time stamp information available?</p> <p>11 <b>A. It should be with the evidence. If not, I can get it.</b></p> <p>12 <b>It was around about -- as far as I know, it was around</b></p> <p>13 <b>about 4 o'clockish.</b></p> <p>14 Q. It looks from the photograph to the untutored eye that</p> <p>15 light was coming up, but then this would be facing west,</p> <p>16 so --</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yeah.</b></p> <p>18 Q. But you think it's about 4 o'clock?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I think so, yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. What made you go out and take photographs at 4 o'clock</p> <p>21 in the morning?</p> <p>22 <b>A. To be honest, I can't remember.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Before I go back to BA, can I just ask you to go back to</p> <p>24 an exchange we had earlier this afternoon about</p> <p>25 a bedridden man on the 16th floor.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 198</p>	<p>1 <b>what we spoke about.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 <b>A. So it doesn't really help, I'm afraid.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Does looking at this trigger any recollection about any</p> <p>5 discussion with any other firefighter about any other</p> <p>6 topic at that point, at that point in the tower?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, it doesn't.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 Going back to the question of the supply of BA,</p> <p>10 either while you were managing BA from under the walkway</p> <p>11 or when you moved around to the west side of the tower</p> <p>12 later on, as you describe in your statement, did there</p> <p>13 come any time when you were receiving requests for</p> <p>14 breathing apparatus from the bridgehead that you</p> <p>15 couldn't supply?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No. No, I always had enough resources to meet the</b></p> <p>17 <b>demand that was there.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Were the requests that you were getting from the</p> <p>19 bridgehead specific as to whether it was to be SDBA or</p> <p>20 EDBA?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes, yes, it was.</b></p> <p>22 Q. It was specific?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, it needed to be because obviously with EDBA, they</b></p> <p>24 <b>would've wanted them for further travel within the tower</b></p> <p>25 <b>and anything else could be done with SDBA. So they</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 200</p>

<p>1 would've made sure they got the right resources in the 2 right place.</p> <p>3 Q. What was the means of communication about that subject 4 with the bridgehead?</p> <p>5 A. That was by handheld radio.</p> <p>6 Q. Which channel?</p> <p>7 A. Channel 1.</p> <p>8 Q. Channel 1?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Do you recall any difficulties in communication with the 11 bridgehead at any time in the night?</p> <p>12 A. Yeah, occasionally, because there would be a lot of 13 radio traffic. Sometimes you'd have to call up three or 14 four times to get a reply, and I wouldn't always hear 15 them calling me just because of the sheer volume of 16 traffic on the radio.</p> <p>17 Q. Did that cause any difficulties or delays in despatching 18 BA wearers from your holding point outside the tower up 19 to the bridgehead?</p> <p>20 A. Not that I can recall, no.</p> <p>21 Q. Did anybody ever complain to you that there was a delay 22 in despatching BA wearers up to the bridgehead?</p> <p>23 A. No, not at all.</p> <p>24 Q. Let's see if I can iron something out.</p> <p>25 In your statement on page 6, if I could ask you to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 201</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Was that at the front, were ready to go?</p> <p>3 A. That was at the front of the queue, ready to go into the 4 building, yes, and then the other 40 or 50 were in the 5 holding area on the west side, behind the playground.</p> <p>6 Q. Did that move from under the walkway to the west side?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Because of the difficulties with the debris?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. What time was that move?</p> <p>11 A. I honestly don't know.</p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 A. I'm really not sure.</p> <p>14 Q. At that stage, even after the move to the playground, 15 you were still getting your ultimate supply of BA 16 wearers from the leisure centre?</p> <p>17 A. Yes. They were still coming from the leisure centre, 18 but instead of going under the covered walkway, they 19 were going through the underground garages and out the 20 rear exit they've got there into the west side play 21 area.</p> <p>22 Q. From the play area, you'd call off 12 or 15 at a time, 23 would you?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, then they'd walk down the side of the garages 25 towards Grenfell Tower itself and then would be taken in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 203</p>
<p>1 look at the sixth line down in the statement on page 6, 2 you say, after the reference to the biggest issue being 3 falling debris, you say:</p> <p>4 "We had approximately twelve or fifteen firefighters 5 at a time waiting to go into the tower. In the staging 6 area of the playground and walkway we had forty or fifty 7 firefighters waiting to go in."</p> <p>8 I want to try and understand the relationship 9 between those two numbers.</p> <p>10 The 12 or 15, where were they?</p> <p>11 A. This was once we'd moved around to the west side of the 12 building. Where the covered walkway was, we were -- 13 between that and the playground at the side, there was 14 an open walkway to the west side entrance that they'd 15 made into the tower, and crews waiting to go in were 16 queued up along that wall and then everyone else was at 17 the back of the playground on the west side waiting to 18 be deployed to that queue.</p> <p>19 So we had a holding area where everyone was sitting, 20 and then when we knew we had a few more to go in, 21 because at that stage we were taking them in two at 22 a time with police shields, we had them lined up ready 23 to go into the building, if that makes sense.</p> <p>24 Q. I am trying to get to the -- 12 or 15 firefighters at 25 a time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 202</p>	<p>1 two at a time under a police shield.</p> <p>2 Q. So by that time you had essentially three groups: big 3 store by the leisure centre, smaller store or pool in 4 the playground and then the ready-to-go group, 12 or 15 5 at the front of the queue?</p> <p>6 A. Almost, yes. Yeah, the crew ready to go in were all 7 part of that area which became sector 2 at one stage.</p> <p>8 Q. We know from the short incident log that the incident 9 was made up to two FRUs at 01.36, six FRUs at 02.11 and 10 ten FRUs at 02.16. We don't need to go to the short 11 incident log for that, I'm summarising it for you.</p> <p>12 Did that provide you with a sufficient flow and 13 supply of EDBA for the incident?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, so far as I know. I've never had any shortfalls. 15 Whatever was needed on the bridgehead we were able to 16 supply to them.</p> <p>17 Q. So you don't recall any gaps or delays in supply?</p> <p>18 A. No, not at all.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you recall a time when you were waiting for the 20 initial -- or was there a delay in waiting for the 21 initial supply of EDBA wearers?</p> <p>22 A. Not that I can recall, no, no.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you ever send a message to Dan Kipling asking for 24 EDBA wearers only?</p> <p>25 A. Again, I may have done, but I don't recall that.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 204</p>

<p>1 Q. In terms of waiting times, were you satisfied that BA</p> <p>2 crews were not spending too long waiting to get into the</p> <p>3 tower but were being deployed in a timely manner?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Difficult to tell. Because I had so many firefighters</b></p> <p>5 <b>there all the time, it was difficult to tell how long</b></p> <p>6 <b>they'd been there for, but there was a steady flow going</b></p> <p>7 <b>in, so I wouldn't have said anyone was waiting longer</b></p> <p>8 <b>than they needed to, no.</b></p> <p>9 Q. We have some telemetry data which shows -- I can show it</p> <p>10 to you if you like -- that some firefighters would</p> <p>11 unplug their sets from their vehicles but only tally</p> <p>12 out -- in other words pull their tallies out of their BA</p> <p>13 sets -- an hour or so later.</p> <p>14 Assuming that that is correct on the telemetry data,</p> <p>15 it would mean that people were waiting to go into the</p> <p>16 tower with EDBA sets for up to an hour. Did that cause</p> <p>17 a problem?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I don't remember it being a problem at the time, no,</b></p> <p>19 <b>because that would've been when they've taken them out</b></p> <p>20 <b>of the appliance, gone to the leisure centre, then been</b></p> <p>21 <b>sent from there to the tower, and then obviously once</b></p> <p>22 <b>the bridgehead needs it, then being sent in. So it's --</b></p> <p>23 <b>yeah, it's quite possible. Could easily have been</b></p> <p>24 <b>an hour.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Do you remember being involved with or listening to or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 205</p>	<p>1 forever hold your peace.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No.</p> <p>3 Well, it sounds as though that's the end of it,</p> <p>4 Mr Loft. Thank you very much for coming and giving your</p> <p>5 evidence. It's very helpful. Now you are free to go.</p> <p>6 Thank you very much.</p> <p>7 (The witness was released)</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I am grateful to you for allowing</p> <p>9 me to catch up, and I am now embarrassed to say we have</p> <p>10 an hour in hand which I'm unable to employ usefully</p> <p>11 other than outside this room.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, it's demonstrated that you</p> <p>13 were right to call off Mr Wolfenden.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: Well, I think so, but --</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I am sure the time can be put to</p> <p>16 good use by everyone in different ways, so ...</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Yes. So I apologise for rising a little early.</p> <p>18 We have a full roster for tomorrow.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: Mr Kinnier will be taking those witnesses</p> <p>21 tomorrow.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We have quite a full day, haven't</p> <p>23 we?</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: We have I think seven firefighters tomorrow.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 207</p>
<p>1 hearing any instructions about specific deployments</p> <p>2 being given to BA crews?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No. No.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Do you remember observing who was giving instructions to</p> <p>5 BA crews?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No. Obviously that was all happening inside in the</b></p> <p>7 <b>bridgehead and I was outside. I didn't see or hear</b></p> <p>8 <b>anything.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Did you go into the tower, even into the lobby, at any</p> <p>10 stage after you'd taken over command of the --</p> <p>11 <b>A. No, the only time I went into the tower was to take that</b></p> <p>12 <b>photograph early on.</b></p> <p>13 Q. At the very early --</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes, I never went into the tower after that. I had no</b></p> <p>15 <b>reason to.</b></p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: Mr Loft, you'll be glad to hear I have no</p> <p>17 further questions for you, so I just want to say thank</p> <p>18 you very much for coming along and assisting us with our</p> <p>19 inquiries. We're very appreciative and very grateful.</p> <p>20 Thank you.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, are you confident that</p> <p>23 there are no further questions that might need to be</p> <p>24 asked?</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: Yes. I think it's a question of shout now or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 206</p>	<p>1 Well, as you have heard, we have no one else to hear</p> <p>2 from today. We'll resume at 10 o'clock tomorrow with</p> <p>3 another batch of firefighters. So look forward to</p> <p>4 seeing you all then.</p> <p>5 Thank you very much. Thank you.</p> <p>6 (3.35 pm)</p> <p>7 (The hearing adjourned until Thursday, 6 September 2018 at</p> <p>8 10.00 am)</p> <p>9 INDEX</p> <p>10 Housekeeping .....1</p> <p>11 PETER JOHNSON (continued) .....2</p> <p>12 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY .....2</p> <p>13 (continued)</p> <p>14 BRETT LOFT (sworn) .....115</p> <p>15 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY .....115</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 208</p>

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