

<p>1 Thursday, 19 July 2018</p> <p>2 (9.30 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to</p> <p>4 today's hearing.</p> <p>5 I think we are going to hear from more firefighter</p> <p>6 witnesses during the course of today.</p> <p>7 Good morning, Mr Millett.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Morning, Mr Chairman, we are. We are going to</p> <p>9 start with Firefighter Richard Hippel from Kensington,</p> <p>10 if he could please be called.</p> <p>11 RICHARD HIPPEL (affirmed)</p> <p>12 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, Mr Hippel. Thank you</p> <p>14 for coming along. Make yourself comfortable.</p> <p>15 Mr Millett will ask you some questions and explain</p> <p>16 about the material before you.</p> <p>17 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: Good morning, Mr Hippel.</p> <p>19 A. Morning.</p> <p>20 Q. Could I say, first of all, thank you very much for</p> <p>21 coming to the inquiry and assisting us with our</p> <p>22 investigations. We very much appreciate it.</p> <p>23 Could I also say, as I do to all witnesses, that my</p> <p>24 questions are intended to be short and simple. They</p> <p>25 sometimes don't turn out that way. If you don't</p> <p>Page 1</p>	<p>1 I take you to a part of your statement, it gets</p> <p>2 highlighted in yellow so you can see it and we can look</p> <p>3 at it together.</p> <p>4 Have you discussed your statement or evidence before</p> <p>5 coming here today?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Now, in terms of your position, you have served,</p> <p>8 I think, in the LFB for some 30 years.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. And you've been an active firefighter for all that time;</p> <p>11 is that right?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. You're currently a firefighter at Kensington fire</p> <p>14 station?</p> <p>15 A. I am.</p> <p>16 Q. You've been there for I think -- is that right? --</p> <p>17 25 years?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. And firefighter was your rank as at the night of</p> <p>20 14 June --</p> <p>21 A. Yes, it was.</p> <p>22 Q. -- 2017?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. And you were at Kensington at that time?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p>Page 3</p>
<p>1 understand a question or you want me to repeat it in the</p> <p>2 same way or differently, please just ask me; I will.</p> <p>3 If you want a break at any stage, please just</p> <p>4 indicate and we can take a break. We will be aiming for</p> <p>5 a break in any case halfway through the morning, subject</p> <p>6 to the chairman.</p> <p>7 Can I start by asking you to take your statement,</p> <p>8 which should be in the little blue bundle in front of</p> <p>9 you, and it is MET00008300, and it's your statement</p> <p>10 dated 5 January 2018 which you gave to the police.</p> <p>11 Have you read it recently?</p> <p>12 A. I have, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Can you confirm its contents are true and accurate?</p> <p>14 A. It is.</p> <p>15 Q. There is also a set of contemporaneous notes that you</p> <p>16 made at the time of the fire, and those are MET00013057,</p> <p>17 which you should also have at the next tab of your</p> <p>18 little file.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Have you read those recently?</p> <p>21 A. I have, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Now, you can use the pieces of paper in front of you,</p> <p>23 but we tend to work from the screens, which are at the</p> <p>24 back of the room or on the screen/monitor on the desk in</p> <p>25 front of you. So that's what we tend to do. When</p> <p>Page 2</p>	<p>1 Q. Now, just a short question about Shepherds Court.</p> <p>2 On page 12 of your statement, if you just go to it,</p> <p>3 you say that you worked on a high-rise fire at Shepherds</p> <p>4 Court just last year, and you say:</p> <p>5 "... where similarly the fire breached containment</p> <p>6 and jumped 2 flats up."</p> <p>7 Was that a case where compartmentation in</p> <p>8 a high-rise failed?</p> <p>9 A. It did in that fire, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. In your long experience as a front-line firefighter, was</p> <p>11 that a common event, where compartmentation failed?</p> <p>12 A. It was not uncommon, no.</p> <p>13 Q. What was the mechanism for fire spread up the building</p> <p>14 at Shepherds Court, do you remember?</p> <p>15 A. At Shepherds Court, personally, from my own personal</p> <p>16 opinion, it was quite different from Grenfell. We were</p> <p>17 faced with a flat that was fully on fire, everything in</p> <p>18 that flat was on fire, and from my perspective, the heat</p> <p>19 and the energy that was created in there breached the</p> <p>20 windows, the fire then came out of those windows,</p> <p>21 breached the windows of the flat above, caught that fire</p> <p>22 alight and then the same mechanism worked up to the next</p> <p>23 flat.</p> <p>24 And that worked at quite a slow speed, maybe</p> <p>25 20 minutes, 25 minutes, and that allowed us enough time</p> <p>Page 4</p>

<p>1 to get ourselves, our equipment up to the floors, get 2 ourselves ready, make entry to the flats and put the 3 fire out before it spread further.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you remember whether the fire was spread by means of 5 the exterior itself being alight at Shepherds Court?</p> <p>6 A. Not from what I saw. Looking at pictures since, the 7 make-up is rather different. Underneath each window you 8 had two small panels that were attached to it, whereas 9 Grenfell was completely covered in cladding.</p> <p>10 Q. You say, "Looking at pictures since, the make-up is 11 rather different". Have you had cause after the 12 Shepherds Court fire to look at pictures of the 13 Shepherds Court fire?</p> <p>14 A. I have looked at pictures of the Shepherds Court fire.</p> <p>15 Q. In what circumstances did you come to look at pictures 16 of the Shepherds Court fire?</p> <p>17 A. I looked at the document that was introduced in 18 Mike Dowden's testimony earlier in this inquiry.</p> <p>19 Q. But before that?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. I see. You're talking about the facades slideshow 22 produced by the LFB?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Anything else?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 Q. Would that be about right?</p> <p>2 A. If that's what the log says, that would be the correct 3 time.</p> <p>4 Q. You say you parked 200 metres away down Grenfell Road -- 5 that's the third line.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. From Grenfell Tower. Why so far?</p> <p>8 A. I seem to remember on the night that we knew that access 9 to the tower was quite difficult with parked cars, so we 10 did try to move further down the road to allow other 11 machines and other emergency vehicles, if needed, to get 12 access.</p> <p>13 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>14 Was it near a hydrant? Did you park near a hydrant?</p> <p>15 A. I don't know.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you look for a hydrant?</p> <p>17 A. Not myself, no.</p> <p>18 Q. Did anyone in your cab look for a hydrant?</p> <p>19 A. I don't know; we were up and out.</p> <p>20 Q. Now, you I think were only the third fire appliance on 21 the scene after the two initial attendances from North 22 Kensington, G272 and G271.</p> <p>23 A. Possibly.</p> <p>24 Q. Is that right?</p> <p>25 A. Possibly, I don't know.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 Q. Right.</p> <p>2 Going straight to your attendance at Grenfell Tower 3 on the night of the fire, were you aware from your prior 4 knowledge of Grenfell Tower, such as you describe, that 5 this was a building with a stay-put policy in place?</p> <p>6 A. No, I was not.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you have any thoughts on arrival on the night of the 8 fire as to what the standing instruction to residents 9 was in the event of a fire?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Right. One way or the other?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 Now, the call-out to Grenfell Tower on the night of 15 the fire came for you at about 00.55.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. We can cut straight to your arrival. You say in your 18 statement that you arrived at about 01.05. That's 19 page 2, second paragraph, first sentence. Do you see 20 that?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Now, we've checked the short incident log and it has you 23 confirming arrival -- in other words, status 3 -- at 24 01.08.33.</p> <p>25 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 Q. Right.</p> <p>2 Can you recall how easy it was to access the tower 3 in terms of congestion of parked traffic?</p> <p>4 A. The road with the parked cars was a fire engine's width, 5 so it was quite tight getting down there.</p> <p>6 Q. Did that slow you down, do you think?</p> <p>7 A. No, not necessarily.</p> <p>8 Q. Could you not get any closer to the tower than 9 200 metres?</p> <p>10 A. I think it was a choice of parking further down so that 11 we could leave space then to allow other machines. If 12 we all parked behind each other and then we want to get 13 an aerial in or we need to get an ambulance in, we're 14 blocking further machines and people coming down.</p> <p>15 Q. Now, further down the second paragraph on page 2 of your 16 statement you say:</p> <p>17 "I could see the tower as we approached the entrance 18 on the south side and there I saw no outward indication 19 of fire except for wisps of grey smoke coming out of 20 silver slatted vents I could see above the main entrance 21 doors."</p> <p>22 First of all, when you say, "I could see the tower 23 as we approached the entrance", do you mean on foot or 24 while you were still arriving in your appliance?</p> <p>25 A. On foot.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 Q. When you say "as we approached the entrance on the south 2 side", how far from the tower were you at that stage, do 3 you think, when you first saw the wisps of grey smoke? 4 A. Literally within 10 metres of the building. 5 Q. Right. 6 Did you see any fire at all on the east side? 7 A. No, I looked up but I didn't see anything. 8 Q. Okay. 9 Who were you with when you were approaching the 10 tower, as you describe in that sentence? 11 A. Crew Manager Stern. 12 Q. Anybody else? 13 A. Not to my knowledge, no. 14 Q. Where was the rest of your crew? 15 A. I don't know. They were probably getting themselves 16 ready, helping out outside, I would've thought. 17 Q. Okay. And you were already rigged in your PPE and your 18 BA on arrival at the scene? 19 A. I was, yes. 20 Q. And what about Jamal Stern? 21 A. He was as well. 22 Q. He was as well? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Now, I just want to ask you some questions about these 25 wisps of grey smoke coming out of silver slatted vents</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 the master docs bundle. 2 Now, that is a photograph taken by Studio E, the 3 architects, during the refurbishment, and this is again 4 the south face over the entrance. 5 Again, you don't have the slats, but you can see 6 just towards the top of the picture above the windows 7 a gap with what looks like an extractor vent. 8 Again, is that the same location? 9 A. That would have been, yeah, pretty much the same 10 location. 11 Q. Right. And just one more picture to make this 12 absolutely sure. The last one, it's tab 77 of the 13 master documents bundle, SEA00000363. 14 That is not such a good photograph, but, again, is 15 that -- that may not be as effective. 16 Let's try a different photograph. SEA00000353. 17 (Pause) 18 There, again, we have a closer picture of the 19 extractor unit, I suppose it is, above the main 20 entrance. 21 Again, is that the same location, do you think? 22 A. It is, yes. 23 Q. Now, can you tell us what the colour of the smoke you 24 saw was, do you remember? 25 A. It was pretty much white. Almost like steam-like. So,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 you said you see above the main entrance door. 2 I wonder if you can help us by looking at 3 a photograph. 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Can I ask for BLA00004531 to be shown. 6 This is a photograph of the south side of 7 Grenfell Tower, just above the entrance, which one of 8 the inquiry's experts, Dr Barbara Lane, took in her 9 visit to the building in November last year. So this is 10 after the fire, November last year, 2017. It's 11 a photograph of the south side, as I say, and the green 12 portico is the entrance to the building. 13 I just wonder -- ignoring the scaffolding so far as 14 you can -- whether you can identify where on that 15 photograph do you think you saw the smoke coming out? 16 A. From the vents that you can see just above the windows. 17 Q. Right. Those slatted vents? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. How sure are you about that? 20 A. I'm sure, yeah. 21 Q. Right. 22 Let me just show two or three more pictures to you 23 just to make sure that you see this at a greater 24 distance. 25 Can I just ask for SEA00000356, which is tab 74 of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 yeah, it was a very white colour. 2 Q. How dense was it, do you remember? 3 A. It was quite wispy, yeah, it wasn't -- it was like 4 something was venting out of there, a light smoke. 5 Q. Okay. Was it being propelled out with some force or was 6 it just drifting out? 7 A. No, it wasn't coming out with force, but it was enough 8 that I noticed it as I was walking up, it caught my 9 attention. 10 Q. Was it moving in any direction? 11 A. It was just dissipating into the air. 12 Q. Did it look like it was being vented by a mechanical 13 force of some kind? 14 A. Not necessarily, no. It didn't look like it was coming 15 out at force. 16 Q. Okay. 17 Did you hear any sounds of ventilation or fans? 18 A. No. 19 Q. When you got into the lobby, did you see any smoke in 20 the lobby? 21 A. No. 22 Q. Could you hear any sounds of ventilation or fans in the 23 lobby? 24 A. No. 25 Q. How high up do you think the smoke went after</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 dissipation?</p> <p>2 A. A couple of metres. I mean, it was dark, so it was hard</p> <p>3 to -- it was probably being lit by the light from the</p> <p>4 atrium, and then once it left the light of the atrium,</p> <p>5 it was hard to see. So whether it was dissipating or</p> <p>6 whether I just couldn't see it because it was going into</p> <p>7 the night sky ...</p> <p>8 Q. Having arrived, or at least providing status 3, at</p> <p>9 01.08.33, how many minutes after arrival do you think</p> <p>10 you saw the smoke?</p> <p>11 A. A minute.</p> <p>12 Q. A minute?</p> <p>13 A. Yeah. No more than two.</p> <p>14 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>15 You then went with Crew Manager Stern to the</p> <p>16 entrance of the tower.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you know where the rest of your crew went?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 In the lobby you say there was no smoke. What were</p> <p>22 the other conditions like, can you tell?</p> <p>23 A. Normal, clear.</p> <p>24 Q. You were with Crew Manager Stern. Were you with anybody</p> <p>25 else when you came into the lobby?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 I would then assume that the bridgehead would be on the</p> <p>2 second.</p> <p>3 Q. The bridgehead, when you got to it, you say was being</p> <p>4 run by Crew Manager Secrett -- this the top of page 3 of</p> <p>5 your statement -- and Firefighter De St Aubin was in</p> <p>6 charge of the BA board.</p> <p>7 Was anybody else there at that point?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you remember whether Firefighters O'Hanlon and Barton</p> <p>10 were present when you arrived at the bridgehead?</p> <p>11 A. No, when we got to the bridgehead we were told that the</p> <p>12 two crews had been committed to the flat.</p> <p>13 Q. Two crews had already been committed?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. They'd already gone up?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. So were you alone?</p> <p>18 A. With Crew Manager Secrett and Alex De St Aubin, yes.</p> <p>19 There was the four of us.</p> <p>20 Q. There were the four of you?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. So you, Crew Manager Secrett, Crew Manager Stern wearing</p> <p>23 BA and Firefighter De St Aubin?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Now, Crew Manager Secrett in his witness statement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 A. Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 You say, third paragraph on page 2, in the second</p> <p>4 line:</p> <p>5 "There is a set of steps on the right which took us</p> <p>6 up to a mezzanine balcony floor and then we turned right</p> <p>7 into a little lobby there and that's where the</p> <p>8 bridgehead was at that point."</p> <p>9 Did anybody tell you to go to the bridgehead?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, when we got off the fire engine, we'd been told to</p> <p>11 report to the bridgehead.</p> <p>12 Q. Who told you that?</p> <p>13 A. Watch Manager O'Keeffe.</p> <p>14 Q. O'Keeffe?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Brien O'Keeffe?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 Did you know by that stage which floor the fire was</p> <p>20 on?</p> <p>21 A. I don't think I did, no.</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 Did you know, as it were, officially which floor the</p> <p>24 bridgehead was on or supposed to be on?</p> <p>25 A. I do remember we were told it was fire on the fourth, so</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 describes you and Crew Manager Stern as looking spooked</p> <p>2 and concerned. Can you help us with that? Is that your</p> <p>3 recollection?</p> <p>4 A. No, no.</p> <p>5 Q. How were you feeling?</p> <p>6 A. I was okay at that point. I have been told since that</p> <p>7 I permanently look spooked! But ...</p> <p>8 Q. Now, the telemetry data we have shows Barton and</p> <p>9 O'Hanlon tallying out at 01.11 and 01.12, so would it</p> <p>10 follow from the fact that you didn't see them -- just</p> <p>11 getting a time slot on this -- you had arrived at the</p> <p>12 bridgehead a little bit after they tallied out?</p> <p>13 A. Yeah. They definitely had been committed before we</p> <p>14 arrived at the bridgehead.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 You then say on the third page of your witness</p> <p>17 statement at the top, third line:</p> <p>18 "I asked CM SECRETT to commit us to back up those</p> <p>19 crews and he replied that he wanted to keep us in</p> <p>20 reserve at that time."</p> <p>21 Did he say why he wanted to keep you in reserve?</p> <p>22 A. He wanted to keep us as an emergency team, which is</p> <p>23 normal practice if that's what he felt.</p> <p>24 Q. Normal practice, you say, if that's what he felt. What</p> <p>25 is normal practice, in your experience, at a high-rise</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 fire?</p> <p>2 A. Well, in any fire, if you've got the resources, you keep</p> <p>3 an emergency crew at BA control if they're needed.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 Why did you think it was necessary to be committed</p> <p>6 to back up those crews?</p> <p>7 A. Why did I think that?</p> <p>8 Q. Yes.</p> <p>9 A. Purely because I wanted to get involved.</p> <p>10 Q. I see, okay.</p> <p>11 Now, you then say, in the second paragraph on</p> <p>12 page 3:</p> <p>13 "I then heard a message over the hand held radio</p> <p>14 from Fire Fighters outside the building stating that</p> <p>15 they had a covering jet and were asking for permission</p> <p>16 to aim the jet into the window of the fire flat."</p> <p>17 You then go on to say:</p> <p>18 "CM SECRETT attempted to contact the BA crews to ask</p> <p>19 them whether they had made entry to the fire flat and</p> <p>20 whether they were already inside or not. He was unable</p> <p>21 to contact either crew to verify their locations so</p> <p>22 denied permission ..."</p> <p>23 Did you see him trying to contact the crews to</p> <p>24 verify their locations?</p> <p>25 A. I didn't see him contact -- I heard him get the message</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 committed to a fire as part of a BA pair, one of you</p> <p>2 would have a BARIE radio and one of you would have no</p> <p>3 comms at all?</p> <p>4 A. It can be. It can be that way.</p> <p>5 Q. You say it can be that way; is that normal?</p> <p>6 A. It's as it's written down in the rule books. Some</p> <p>7 people will put their radios on. I put my radio on</p> <p>8 later on in the job. But at that point, everyone around</p> <p>9 you has got radios on, you can hear what's going on most</p> <p>10 of the times.</p> <p>11 Q. I'm just trying to get a feel for what normal practice</p> <p>12 is. It sounds as if you are saying that some</p> <p>13 firefighters who haven't got the BARIE set but are BA</p> <p>14 wearers as part of a pair choose not to put their</p> <p>15 handhelds on and some do.</p> <p>16 A. The policy is that you don't put your radio on. Some</p> <p>17 people do. Sometimes I've had it on.</p> <p>18 Q. So the policy is you don't but some people depart from</p> <p>19 policy?</p> <p>20 A. Some people do, if you want to try and find out what's</p> <p>21 going on while you're working.</p> <p>22 Q. Right, I see. Okay.</p> <p>23 Did Crew Manager Secrett discuss the fact that he</p> <p>24 couldn't contact the BA crews with anybody, did you</p> <p>25 hear?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 from outside.</p> <p>2 Q. How did you hear that?</p> <p>3 A. It would've been on someone else's radio, a handheld</p> <p>4 radio. I didn't have my own switched on. So it was</p> <p>5 probably from -- he was standing next to me.</p> <p>6 Then I remember him trying to contact the crews and</p> <p>7 he couldn't get hold of them. I don't know how he</p> <p>8 contact -- whether it was through his own radio or more</p> <p>9 likely through Alex De St Aubin.</p> <p>10 Q. What radio comms equipment did you have on you?</p> <p>11 A. I had a handheld radio on me, but it was switched off.</p> <p>12 Q. Why?</p> <p>13 A. Because they're not intrinsically safe and we were</p> <p>14 thinking about going into a fire.</p> <p>15 Q. Not intrinsically safe -- why is that?</p> <p>16 A. So they can create sparks in an explosive atmosphere and</p> <p>17 create an explosion, so you would turn them off.</p> <p>18 Q. Is that practice, that a firefighter going up to</p> <p>19 commit --</p> <p>20 A. For their handhelds.</p> <p>21 Q. For handhelds?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you have a BARIE radio with you?</p> <p>24 A. Crew Manager Stern was wearing a BARIE radio.</p> <p>25 Q. Would that mean then, ordinarily, if you were being</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 A. After he couldn't contact the BA crews, he relayed</p> <p>2 a message back outside, denying them permission to put</p> <p>3 the covering jet that was already working into the</p> <p>4 window because he couldn't get hold of the crews.</p> <p>5 Q. Do you know why Crew Manager Secrett couldn't contact</p> <p>6 either BA crew?</p> <p>7 A. I don't know that.</p> <p>8 Q. You say he then denied the message; did you see him make</p> <p>9 radio contact with the outside of the tower?</p> <p>10 A. I heard him make contact, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. You heard him?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you hear him get any confirmation back?</p> <p>14 A. I can't remember but I would assume he would've done,</p> <p>15 yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Did it surprise you that he couldn't make contact with</p> <p>17 the BA wearers who had been committed?</p> <p>18 A. No, not at all.</p> <p>19 Q. Whose radio was it that you heard the confirmation come</p> <p>20 back over?</p> <p>21 A. What, confirmation from outside?</p> <p>22 Q. Yes.</p> <p>23 A. I don't remember him confirming outside that they</p> <p>24 weren't going to put it in.</p> <p>25 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 Now, you then say in your statement, in the third 2 paragraph on page 3: 3 "A few seconds later Kensington's officer in charge, 4 WM O'KEEFFE arrived at the bridgehead and took charge. 5 I asked him to commit myself and CM STERN to back up the 6 other crews and he agreed so we readied ourselves and 7 started our BA." 8 Do you know what had changed, if anything, between 9 Crew Manager Secrett saying he needed to keep you in 10 reserve and Watch Manager O'Keeffe deciding to agree to 11 send you into the tower? 12 A. I don't think anything had changed at all; it was just 13 a different perspective he had to Crew Manager Secrett. 14 Q. Had other crews arrived by that point? 15 A. No. 16 Q. Now, Watch Manager O'Keeffe came some days ago to the 17 inquiry and he gave some evidence about your deployment. 18 In summary, he says that he committed you and Crew 19 Manager Stern initially as hose management. Do you 20 remember that? 21 A. I don't specifically remember him saying hose 22 management. He may have detailed that to Crew Manager 23 Stern. My general brief was to go and back the crews up 24 that were up there, and within that, that would be hose 25 management. It would be encompassed within that.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 that sound about right to you? 2 A. Yes, that sounds about right. 3 Q. You went under air, did you, as soon as you left the 4 bridgehead? 5 A. Yes, we'd be under air before we tally out. 6 Q. What equipment did you take with you when going up to 7 act as backup? 8 A. I don't think we took any equipment up with us. We had 9 a thermal imaging camera with us. 10 Q. Why no hose? 11 A. I don't remember. I can't remember there actually being 12 any hose at the bridgehead at that point. 13 Q. What about a branch? 14 A. No branch, no. Same thing. 15 Q. Would that be normal, to go up as a backup crew to two 16 sets of two BA wearers without a hose or a branch? 17 A. Yeah. Well, I mean, you'd assume if there's two crews 18 up there, they'd be running two lengths of hose out by 19 then. So at that point we would be purely to back them 20 up, as I say, with the handling of the hose behind them. 21 Q. Now, you say at the end of the third paragraph on 22 page 3: 23 "The stairwell was clear and visibility was good, 24 the lights were on and there were no issues as we made 25 our way up."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 Q. Do you remember whether you got any kind of deployment 2 briefing from Watch Manager O'Keeffe? 3 A. Just to go and back the crews up. 4 Q. Right. Which floors did that require you to go to to 5 back them up? 6 A. Well, initially the fourth floor, yes. 7 Q. The fourth floor. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. What would that involve, or what did you understand at 10 that time it would involve? 11 A. For me, personally, just to go up there and see whether 12 they needed helping out, ie managing the hose, because 13 it's hard to work hose through flats, any building, see 14 if they were getting tired and needed to be replaced at 15 the branch, and generally -- sometimes knocking up doors 16 to see if people next door were okay, sometimes checking 17 upstairs and below the flat -- below the floors to see 18 if there's been any fire spread. 19 Q. Right. 20 Now, we have the BA telemetry data, and I don't need 21 to take you to it unless you want to see it, but we have 22 the data showing you and Crew Manager Stern tallying out 23 at 01.17 or so. 24 A. Mm-hm, yes. 25 Q. The seconds are different but it is about 01.17. Does</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 Pausing there, when you made your way up, did you 2 count the floors by reference to anything? 3 A. It was two floors, yeah. 4 Q. Did you noticed whether the floors were numbered? 5 A. I didn't notice because it was just two floors, so it 6 was a case of going up two flights of stairs. 7 Q. Now, you then say in the last paragraph on page 3: 8 "I got to the 4th floor and entered the lobby from 9 the stairwell, there was some smoke in the lobby and the 10 crews had made entry to the fire flat." 11 Do you know where the smoke in the lobby had come 12 from, do you think? 13 A. I'm assuming from the fire flat, yes. 14 Q. Did you notice any smoke coming from anywhere else? 15 A. No. 16 Q. Did you notice whether there were smoke vents in the 17 lobby on the fourth floor? 18 A. I didn't see any, no. 19 Q. You didn't, okay. 20 Did you know that there was an AOV system in place 21 at Grenfell Tower? 22 A. I didn't, no. 23 Q. You go on to say that you saw Firefighters Badillo and 24 O'Beirne in the lobby, but not wearing BA. 25 Did you know that Firefighters Badillo and O'Beirne</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 were up on the fourth floor?</p> <p>2 A. I didn't know, not until I got up there.</p> <p>3 Q. So nobody told you; is that right?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Did it surprise you?</p> <p>6 A. No, not at all. It's quite common practice for</p> <p>7 firefighters without BA to be facilitating hose and</p> <p>8 setting gear up and -- yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 Now, you say that -- well, let me ask you, rather</p> <p>11 than putting words in your mouth.</p> <p>12 Where were Firefighters Batterbee and Brown at this</p> <p>13 stage, the first BA crew, do you remember?</p> <p>14 A. They would've been in the fire flat.</p> <p>15 Q. In the flat. What about Firefighters O'Hanlon and</p> <p>16 Barton?</p> <p>17 A. In the flat as well.</p> <p>18 Q. So all four of them were in the flat?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. So we can put all four of them in the flat at some point</p> <p>21 after 01.17?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 You I think recall some smoke coming from the door</p> <p>25 to flat 16 into the lobby. Can you describe the smoke</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 lobby. I pretty much walked into the fourth-floor</p> <p>2 lobby, had a quick look around and then I had the</p> <p>3 information that there was smoke on the fifth and the</p> <p>4 sixth.</p> <p>5 Q. Who told you that information?</p> <p>6 A. I'm not 100 per cent sure.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you know where that information came from?</p> <p>8 A. It would've been from a firefighter.</p> <p>9 Q. A firefighter who was with you at the time?</p> <p>10 A. Again, when you're in a BA set, you become very insular.</p> <p>11 You lose your peripheral vision, you lose a lot of your</p> <p>12 hearing, so you get information when you're looking at</p> <p>13 something and it's sometimes hard to tell who is giving</p> <p>14 you that information. It could've been shouted down the</p> <p>15 stairs. So it's hard to tell. I just remember having</p> <p>16 that information.</p> <p>17 Q. Given that you had no operating handheld radio and no</p> <p>18 BARIE set, would it be right that you must have heard it</p> <p>19 from a voice --</p> <p>20 A. Yes, it would've been someone shouting and it would've</p> <p>21 been a firefighter.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay. Right.</p> <p>23 You say it would've been a firefighter; what about</p> <p>24 the possibility of it being an occupant of the building?</p> <p>25 A. I wouldn't have thought so, no. At that point, I hadn't</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 for us?</p> <p>2 A. It wasn't a lot, just a little bit of black smoke.</p> <p>3 Nothing to concern us to be in the lobby.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you remember whether it was logging or whether it was</p> <p>5 dispersing?</p> <p>6 A. It was dispersing, really. As I say, the lobby was</p> <p>7 pretty clear of smoke, so there was minimal smoke coming</p> <p>8 out of the door of the flat.</p> <p>9 Q. Right. So my next question may be obvious, but you say</p> <p>10 it was dispersing; how and where was it dispersing to?</p> <p>11 A. Well, it would be dispersing within the lobby area, and</p> <p>12 possibly the lobby door was propped open with a hose.</p> <p>13 But there was little smoke coming out.</p> <p>14 Q. Right. Given that Firefighters Badillo and O'Beirne</p> <p>15 were not wearing BA, do you remember how respirable the</p> <p>16 air was in the lobby at that point?</p> <p>17 A. For them, they were having no problems at all.</p> <p>18 Q. Now, you then say, at the bottom of page 3 of your</p> <p>19 statement:</p> <p>20 "We were informed that there was smoke on the 5th</p> <p>21 and 6th floor."</p> <p>22 And just to be clear, is this while you were all</p> <p>23 standing in the fourth-floor lobby that you got this</p> <p>24 information?</p> <p>25 A. I almost immediately that I got to the fourth-floor</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 seen any occupants.</p> <p>2 Q. Now, you then say at the top of page 4 "CM STERN and</p> <p>3 I decided to go up and have a look".</p> <p>4 At that stage, do you know whether any of the other</p> <p>5 firefighters had actually been further up in the tower</p> <p>6 to see what was going on?</p> <p>7 A. I didn't, no.</p> <p>8 Q. Just to be clear, you say in your statement that you</p> <p>9 were told that there was smoke on the fifth and sixth</p> <p>10 floor.</p> <p>11 Was it restricted to smoke or do you remember</p> <p>12 whether there was anything more reported?</p> <p>13 A. No, it was just smoke.</p> <p>14 Q. You're clear about that?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 You then say "CM STERN and I decided to go up and</p> <p>18 have a look". Was there a discussion between you and</p> <p>19 Crew Manager Stern?</p> <p>20 A. All of our decisions that night were made together. It</p> <p>21 was usually one would suggest it and other one agree.</p> <p>22 I can't remember who made those decisions, who first</p> <p>23 initiated it, they were all done together.</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 When you made that decision, you didn't have radio,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 as you've told us, but did Crew Manager Stern</p> <p>2 communicate your decision with him to go up and have</p> <p>3 a look to anybody else?</p> <p>4 A. I couldn't tell you that.</p> <p>5 Q. You don't remember him radioing or trying to --</p> <p>6 A. I can't remember. It was literally -- because it was</p> <p>7 5 seconds from that floor to the next floor, all</p> <p>8 I remember is hearing the call that there's smoke on</p> <p>9 there and then 5 seconds later we were upstairs on the</p> <p>10 fifth floor.</p> <p>11 Q. When you made your decision, do you remember where</p> <p>12 Firefighter Justin O'Beirne was?</p> <p>13 A. No. At that point, everyone was running around, and</p> <p>14 again, as I say to you about being in a BA set, it's</p> <p>15 hard to see people when they're running around, so it</p> <p>16 was just people running up and down, doing their stuff.</p> <p>17 Q. Now, you then say, first sentence of the first main</p> <p>18 paragraph on page 4:</p> <p>19 "I made my way up the stairwell to the 5th floor in</p> <p>20 company with CM STERN, FF BADILLO and DO O'BEIRNE. "</p> <p>21 I don't know what the "DO" stands for:</p> <p>22 "FFs BADILLO and DD O'BEIRNE ..."</p> <p>23 What is that, "DD" or "DO", can you help us?</p> <p>24 A. Sorry, where is that?</p> <p>25 Q. In your statement you call him DO O'Beirne and then</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 Q. Can I just mention for the record the transcript</p> <p>2 reference, which is 6 July at pages 35 to 37. I do that</p> <p>3 so we can find it later.</p> <p>4 But you don't remember -- or you're sure you didn't.</p> <p>5 Okay.</p> <p>6 Do you remember having a discussion at all, or</p> <p>7 whether Crew Manager Stern had a discussion at all, with</p> <p>8 Watch Manager O'Keeffe about your decision to go up to</p> <p>9 the fifth and sixth floors to look?</p> <p>10 A. As I said, I didn't. It's possible that Crew Manager</p> <p>11 Stern spoke to him on the radio.</p> <p>12 Q. You then say in the third line of the first paragraph on</p> <p>13 page 4:</p> <p>14 "When I got to the 5th floor I could see that there</p> <p>15 was some smoke coming from the flat directly above where</p> <p>16 the fire flat had been on the 4th floor."</p> <p>17 Did that alarm you?</p> <p>18 A. Not overly.</p> <p>19 Q. What did you think was happening?</p> <p>20 A. Either we've got smoke travel up from the floor below or</p> <p>21 we've got fire spread up from the floor below.</p> <p>22 Q. Would fire spread up from the floor below not alarm you?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Why not?</p> <p>25 A. Because I have been doing this for 30 years and this is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 DD O'Beirne.</p> <p>2 A. That's a typo.</p> <p>3 Q. Can we call him firefighter?</p> <p>4 A. That should be firefighter, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. "... were still without BA and were not having any</p> <p>6 issues breathing as the stairwell was clear."</p> <p>7 Now, the fact that Firefighters Badillo and O'Beirne</p> <p>8 were going up without BA, did that concern you, given</p> <p>9 that there were reports of smoke on the fifth and sixth</p> <p>10 floors that you were going to investigate?</p> <p>11 A. No, they're competent firefighters. We all know how to</p> <p>12 keep safe when there's smoke around without BA on.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 Now, when Watch Manager O'Keeffe came to the inquiry</p> <p>15 to give evidence, he said -- again, I'm summarising the</p> <p>16 gist of what he said -- that after he had committed you</p> <p>17 and Crew Manager Stern for hose management, you came</p> <p>18 down to the bridgehead to tell him about reports of fire</p> <p>19 on the fifth floor. He then asked you to go up and tell</p> <p>20 him more about what was going on?</p> <p>21 A. I don't remember coming down to the bridgehead.</p> <p>22 Q. You don't remember coming down?</p> <p>23 A. No. I'm sure we didn't.</p> <p>24 Q. You're sure we didn't?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 what I'm used to.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>3 When you get to the fifth floor, you say there was</p> <p>4 some smoke. Could you describe that smoke for us?</p> <p>5 A. At the fifth? Again, it was quite white and it was</p> <p>6 coming out from around -- the door was shut and it was</p> <p>7 coming out from around the door frames. There wasn't</p> <p>8 a lot of smoke. It was -- yeah, quite grey. But you</p> <p>9 could see it seeping out.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 You say it was coming out from the bottom of the</p> <p>12 closed door.</p> <p>13 A. And from all around, and from the sides and the top. It</p> <p>14 was seeping out. It didn't look like it was coming out</p> <p>15 under pressure.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you have a thought at the time about whether that</p> <p>17 door was properly smoke-sealed?</p> <p>18 A. No, I didn't personally, no.</p> <p>19 Q. In your experience, if smoke is coming out of a door</p> <p>20 like that, what would that indicate to you about whether</p> <p>21 that door was properly smoke-sealed or not?</p> <p>22 A. Well, clearly, if smoke's coming out then it hasn't</p> <p>23 sealed.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you notice when you arrived at the fifth floor any</p> <p>25 particular change in temperature?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. What about visibility in the fifth-floor lobby?</p> <p>3 A. Visibility was fine.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 You said the smoke was "quite grey". Was it towards</p> <p>6 the black end of the spectrum or the white end?</p> <p>7 A. No, towards the white end, yeah.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 What would that have indicated to you in terms of</p> <p>10 what was combusting?</p> <p>11 A. That there wasn't -- well, it's hard to tell until you</p> <p>12 get into the flat because the fire could be a distance</p> <p>13 away from the front door, so it's speculation and --</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 Now, when you go into the fifth-floor lobby, who</p> <p>16 comes with you?</p> <p>17 A. Again, I can't be certain. I know Crew Manager Stern</p> <p>18 was there. It is possible Dave Badillo and</p> <p>19 Justin O'Beirne, and possibly Chris Dorgu as well. But</p> <p>20 I can't tell because it was such a short period and</p> <p>21 everyone was running in and out and up and down.</p> <p>22 Q. Now, you say in the next sentence in virtually the</p> <p>23 middle of page 4:</p> <p>24 "We decided we would set up another firefighting jet</p> <p>25 from the dry riser on the outlet of the 5th floor and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 Q. And that decision to change that role was yours; it</p> <p>2 didn't come from anyone who'd instructed you?</p> <p>3 A. It was a decision that we all made that were on the</p> <p>4 fifth floor. We between us decided we were going to set</p> <p>5 a jet up and that we were going to get ourselves into</p> <p>6 that fifth-floor flat.</p> <p>7 Q. Was that decision communicated in any way, to your</p> <p>8 knowledge, either to Brien O'Keeffe at the bridgehead or</p> <p>9 Mike Dowden on the incident ground outside?</p> <p>10 A. Not to my knowledge, but I expect it would've been.</p> <p>11 Q. You expect it would've been?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Why would you expect it would've been?</p> <p>14 A. Because it was information that they need to know, that</p> <p>15 we've got a suspected fire up on the fifth floor now.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 To your recollection, did you see or hear anybody</p> <p>18 communicating that decision to the bridgehead or to the</p> <p>19 fire ground?</p> <p>20 A. I didn't. It was literally 20 to 30 seconds that all</p> <p>21 this was happening.</p> <p>22 Q. Right. So is the answer to my question no?</p> <p>23 A. No, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Fine.</p> <p>25 You then say, in the next sentence, that you had two</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 make entry to the flat."</p> <p>2 That decision, was that part of your role as</p> <p>3 a backup crew that you've been tasked with?</p> <p>4 A. Not necessarily. You tend to do things as and when</p> <p>5 you're able to do them. So at the moment we weren't</p> <p>6 necessarily needed down on the fourth floor, so you make</p> <p>7 yourself useful when something more important comes</p> <p>8 available.</p> <p>9 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>10 If it was part of your role to do that and to fight</p> <p>11 a fire, why did you not come up with a branch, ready to</p> <p>12 do that if that was part of your exercise?</p> <p>13 A. Because we were initially sent to back the crew up.</p> <p>14 Q. So your role as backup crew changed?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, our role throughout the night changed, and that's</p> <p>16 the flexibility that you need to change at times.</p> <p>17 Q. So is this right, just to summarise -- tell me if this</p> <p>18 is wrong -- when you get to the fifth floor, you see the</p> <p>19 smoke coming out of flat 26, the flat immediately above</p> <p>20 the fire flat that you were originally tasked to back</p> <p>21 up, and your role changes from being backup to active</p> <p>22 firefighting?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. So you then look around for firefighting equipment?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 lengths of 45-millimetre hose but no branch:</p> <p>2 "... so someone called up on the radio for one to be</p> <p>3 brought up to us."</p> <p>4 Following on from my last set of questions, do you</p> <p>5 remember who it was who had called on the radio?</p> <p>6 A. No. And it might have been that they actually went down</p> <p>7 the stairs to get one, I don't remember, I just remember</p> <p>8 that we didn't have a branch, so one of the firefighters</p> <p>9 without BA sorted it out. They either radioed down or</p> <p>10 they went down themselves to get it.</p> <p>11 Q. Your statement says, "someone called up on the radio for</p> <p>12 one to be brought up", I just want to test how strong</p> <p>13 that recollection is.</p> <p>14 A. So, as I said, it could've been someone went down to get</p> <p>15 one, so I'm not sure. I just know we tried to get</p> <p>16 a branch.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay. You then say:</p> <p>18 "While we were waiting CM STERN and I decided we</p> <p>19 should go and have a look at the 6th floor to see what</p> <p>20 was happening there as smoke had been reported there as</p> <p>21 well."</p> <p>22 What reports are you talking about here?</p> <p>23 A. From the initial, when we were on the fourth floor, to</p> <p>24 say that there was fire on -- sorry, there was smoke</p> <p>25 reported on the fifth and the sixth.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 Q. To be fair to you, can I just capture this in terms of</p> <p>2 your contemporaneous recollection.</p> <p>3 Could you just look at your contemporaneous notes,</p> <p>4 please, which is MET0005209.</p> <p>5 Halfway down that page, you say, now at the top of</p> <p>6 the screen:</p> <p>7 "As we were doing so [this I when you're on the</p> <p>8 fourth floor] we were informed of smoke on the 5th and</p> <p>9 6th floor."</p> <p>10 So your information or recollection at the time was</p> <p>11 that you were told of both floors --</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. -- having smoke on them?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>16 So it's the same source of information?</p> <p>17 A. The original one when we were on the fourth.</p> <p>18 Q. Just to go back a minute to the sentence in your</p> <p>19 statement in the first paragraph, page 4, you say:</p> <p>20 "While we were waiting [for the hose] CM STERN and I</p> <p>21 decided we should go and have a look at the 6th</p> <p>22 floor ..."</p> <p>23 While you were waiting, did you knock on the door of</p> <p>24 the flat where smoke was coming out?</p> <p>25 A. No. Literally this happened within 15 seconds,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 A. Because at that point -- again, the same as on the</p> <p>2 fourth floor -- I'd literally walked into the -- got to</p> <p>3 the fifth floor, two lengths of hose had been bowled out</p> <p>4 and they said, "We got no branch", so then me and</p> <p>5 Jamal Stern went up to the sixth floor.</p> <p>6 Q. Only when you look at your statement, you say, "While we</p> <p>7 were waiting". The impression given there is you were</p> <p>8 hanging about a bit.</p> <p>9 A. No, when I mean waiting -- the decision -- we knew it</p> <p>10 would be a minute or so before we got a branch up, so we</p> <p>11 decided in that minute we would pop upstairs to the</p> <p>12 sixth and see what was going on up there.</p> <p>13 Q. Oh, I see.</p> <p>14 A. So it's not a minute of waiting; it's as soon as the</p> <p>15 decision that we haven't got a branch, then we decide</p> <p>16 we're going to go up because we know there's going to be</p> <p>17 someone running up two flights of stairs with a branch,</p> <p>18 and that will take them 30 seconds. So that's the wait.</p> <p>19 Q. So you use the waiting time to look at the sixth</p> <p>20 floor --</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. -- not to make the decision to go to the sixth floor?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Got it.</p> <p>25 Now, then, you then say in the last sentence of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 20 seconds, so we realised we didn't have a branch and</p> <p>2 then we decided to go upstairs to have a quick look</p> <p>3 upstairs.</p> <p>4 Q. Did anybody communicate, either to the bridgehead or to</p> <p>5 Mike Dowden outside, "There's a fire in flat 26"?</p> <p>6 A. Again, as I said earlier, I didn't hear that or see</p> <p>7 anyone do that, but I assumed they would.</p> <p>8 Q. You assumed they would?</p> <p>9 A. Because we were going to set a jet up on that floor.</p> <p>10 That information would be relayed to someone, because</p> <p>11 that would've been the first point that there was</p> <p>12 suspicion that the fire had spread outside the original</p> <p>13 flat.</p> <p>14 Q. Yes. So you assume that someone would've had that</p> <p>15 information but you can't recall it being passed on?</p> <p>16 A. I can't recall and I didn't have comms on, so I was busy</p> <p>17 doing my own thing.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you look through the letter box or try to look</p> <p>19 through the letter box at the state of the smoke-logging</p> <p>20 or fire or anything like that inside flat 26?</p> <p>21 A. I didn't, no.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you seek to knock on any of the other doors on</p> <p>23 floor 5?</p> <p>24 A. No, not at that point.</p> <p>25 Q. Again, why is that?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 first paragraph on page 4:</p> <p>2 "We then went up the stairwell to the 6th floor, I</p> <p>3 can't remember who initiated our actions as we work</p> <p>4 together as a pair bouncing ideas off each other and</p> <p>5 most of our decisions were agreed jointly."</p> <p>6 The "we" there is, I'm assuming, Crew Manager Stern;</p> <p>7 is that right?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Now, you go up to the sixth floor. Where were</p> <p>10 Firefighters Badillo and O'Beirne at that point?</p> <p>11 A. I don't know.</p> <p>12 Q. Were they with you?</p> <p>13 A. I believe when we left at least one of them was probably</p> <p>14 still on the fifth floor, but as I say, everyone was</p> <p>15 moving around.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 Now, I just want to ask you detailed questions about</p> <p>18 people.</p> <p>19 At the point you left the fifth floor --</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. -- you were with Jamal Stern, Crew Manager Stern. Do</p> <p>22 you remember being with anybody else?</p> <p>23 A. Not specifically. As we left the fifth floor, I got</p> <p>24 distracted by a member of the public coming out of the</p> <p>25 flat to the left of the fire flat, so --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 Q. On the fifth floor?</p> <p>2 A. On the fifth floor. As we were going to go up to the</p> <p>3 sixth floor, the door opened to the left-hand side of</p> <p>4 the fire flat on the fifth floor and a gentleman came to</p> <p>5 the door, and I went over to him and spoke to him.</p> <p>6 Q. Now, that experience you do cover in your statement,</p> <p>7 that after you'd come back down to the fifth floor --</p> <p>8 A. I actually had two encounters with him and the first one</p> <p>9 isn't in my police statement, because I didn't remember</p> <p>10 it until afterwards.</p> <p>11 Q. I follow. So as you leave the fifth floor to go to the</p> <p>12 sixth for the first time, somebody comes out of the</p> <p>13 flat?</p> <p>14 A. Yes. So I went over to him, told him he needed to get</p> <p>15 out, and he said his wife was in there so I said he</p> <p>16 needed to go and grab his wife and leave, and then</p> <p>17 I went up to the sixth floor.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 As you leave to go to the sixth floor from the fifth</p> <p>20 floor on that first occasion, do you remember being with</p> <p>21 Justin O'Beirne?</p> <p>22 A. I don't know.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember whether you were alone or with anybody</p> <p>24 else?</p> <p>25 A. I couldn't tell you whether there was anyone there at</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 A. Clear -- normal.</p> <p>2 Q. Visibility clear?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. No signs of smoke?</p> <p>5 A. Not that I could see.</p> <p>6 Q. Now, we looked at those three sentences I've just read</p> <p>7 to you from your statement, and you then say in the</p> <p>8 second-last sentence of that same paragraph:</p> <p>9 "This was the first indication I had that this</p> <p>10 incident was something unusual."</p> <p>11 What was it that was unusual or had become unusual</p> <p>12 to you which was not unusual before?</p> <p>13 A. Purely at that point the colour and the density of the</p> <p>14 smoke on the sixth floor.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 When you opened the door from the stairwell into the</p> <p>17 sixth-floor lobby, did smoke come out?</p> <p>18 A. It would've done, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you remember it?</p> <p>20 A. I don't remember it actually coming out, I just remember</p> <p>21 seeing a wall of smoke in front of me.</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 You say in your statement:</p> <p>24 "... I briefly looked into the lobby before closing</p> <p>25 the door between the lobby and the stairwell again to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 that point.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember Crew Manager Stern saying anything to</p> <p>3 you at that point about the 16th floor?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 When you then go up to the sixth floor -- and this</p> <p>7 covered in the second main paragraph on page 4 of your</p> <p>8 statement -- you say:</p> <p>9 "On the 6th floor, I opened the door to the lobby</p> <p>10 and found it completely filled with thick black smoke</p> <p>11 with zero visibility. In nearly 30 years of service I</p> <p>12 have never seen smoke like that in a domestic property</p> <p>13 fire. The closest equivalent I can equate it to is the</p> <p>14 thick black smoke you get from car tyres as the burn."</p> <p>15 Just pausing there, on that first journey up from</p> <p>16 the fifth to the sixth floor, did you pass anybody on</p> <p>17 the stairs?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you see any firefighters?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you see any residents?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. What were the conditions on the stairs like?</p> <p>24 A. Clear, clear.</p> <p>25 Q. Temperature?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 contain the smoke."</p> <p>2 That's one line up from where we have indicated on</p> <p>3 the screen.</p> <p>4 Did smoke remain in the stairwell once you'd closed</p> <p>5 the door?</p> <p>6 A. I didn't notice any smoke into the stairwell at all.</p> <p>7 I mean, it was literally I opened it, looked at it for</p> <p>8 3/4 seconds, shut the door straight away.</p> <p>9 Q. I see.</p> <p>10 When you did that -- opened the door and then closed</p> <p>11 it again -- were you with anybody?</p> <p>12 A. I was on my own.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 Did you know whether anybody had gone into the smoke</p> <p>15 on the sixth floor?</p> <p>16 A. At that time I didn't, but afterwards I learnt Crew</p> <p>17 Manager Stern had actually gone in there before.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. Did you think you were on your own?</p> <p>19 A. At that point, yes. At that point I was on my own.</p> <p>20 Q. Let me just try and explore just a little bit. You say</p> <p>21 in the previous paragraph:</p> <p>22 "We then went up the stairwell to the 6th floor ..."</p> <p>23 That gives the impression that you go up together.</p> <p>24 How did you actually go up?</p> <p>25 A. I went up on my own, at that point, as I say. The</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 mechanism as I understand it now is that me and him 2 agreed that we were going to go up to the sixth floor. 3 As we left, I got distracted by the gentleman opening 4 his door. Crew Manager Stern didn't see that; he 5 carried on up. He went up to the sixth. When he went 6 to the sixth, he opened the door and the smoke was down 7 to just below his head level. He looked to his right 8 and could see smoke coming out of the door on the sixth 9 floor, which was slightly open. 10 He decided he was going to go and look in that flat. 11 When he opened the door fully, the lobby must have 12 flooded with smoke, and that was the point I then came 13 up, opened the door, shut it immediately. I went back 14 downstairs again and he came out after that and came 15 back downstairs. 16 Q. Now, your description just now of his experience isn't 17 something that you experienced. 18 A. From my experience, I went up there on my own, opened 19 the door up, realised it was smoke-logged, shut the door 20 and come straight back down again. 21 Q. Okay. We can ask him about what he experienced, but 22 I think what you are telling us is that he went up ahead 23 of you and you went up afterwards? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Now, you then say that you decided to go back down to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 What thoughts did you have about yourself going up 2 to the sixth floor to fight the fire on the sixth floor? 3 A. Well, at that point, I'd be looking to fight the fire on 4 the fifth floor because the jet would've already been -- 5 that's what I'd hope by then, at that point the branch 6 had come up and we'd be ready to go into the fifth 7 floor. 8 Q. Right. 9 Now, in terms of sending a message down, I'm just 10 going to put to you something that Watch Manager 11 O'Keeffe recalls. He recalls receiving a message from 12 Crew Manager Stern saying, "It's fucked, it's going, 13 it's completely smoked out on this floor". 14 Does that trigger a recollection in your mind about 15 a message being sent by Crew Manager Stern to Watch 16 Manager O'Keeffe? 17 A. I believe that message was actually later on in the 18 evening and it was a message that I gave to him 19 face-to-face. 20 Q. A message that you gave to who face-to-face? 21 A. Brien O'Keeffe. 22 Q. At what point? 23 A. When I debriefed him after coming down the 16th floor. 24 Q. Ah, okay. 25 A. I remember distinctly saying that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 the fifth floor. That's the last sentence of this same 2 paragraph. 3 Did you make that decision with Crew Manager Stern 4 together? 5 A. No, I was on my own at that point. 6 Q. When you say "Crew Manager Stern and I decided", it 7 looks as if you are describing a joint decision. 8 A. That's a mistake then, I was on my own. 9 Q. You were on your own, you shut the door and you decide 10 yourself to go back down to the fifth floor. 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. What were you going to go down to the fifth floor to do? 13 A. Well, hopefully at that point the branch would've turned 14 up and myself and Crew Manager Stern had made entry into 15 the fifth floor. We'd also then reported that the sixth 16 floor needed another jet to go up to fight whatever was 17 happening on the sixth floor. 18 Q. Now, you say "We'd also then reported that the sixth 19 floor needed another jet"; do you remember who sent that 20 message? 21 A. I don't, no. 22 Q. Do you remember a report that the sixth floor needed 23 another jet or are you assuming that? 24 A. I assume that, yeah, I don't remember that. 25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 Q. You remember saying distinctly it's completely smoked 2 out on this floor, do you? 3 A. I remember distinctly saying, "Brien, it's fucked, the 4 floor's fucked". 5 Q. Which floor were you referring to? 6 A. I was talking about the 16th floor at that point. 7 Q. So O'Keeffe remembers getting a message from Stern 8 saying, "It's fucked" in reference to the sixth floor; 9 you remember it being part of a face-to-face debrief 10 about the 16th floor? 11 A. Yes. Crew Manager Stern doesn't talk like that; 12 unfortunately I do! 13 Q. That's the sort of evidence we like to have! 14 I don't know where to go from there! 15 Right, so you get back to the fifth floor with 16 Stern, and you say you found a branch had arrived, and 17 that's the last paragraph on page 4. 18 You say: 19 "... the hose was set up and another BA crew had 20 arrived at the 5th floor and were getting ready to make 21 entry into the flat which the smoke was coming from by 22 breaking the door down." 23 Do you remember who the BA crew was? 24 A. At the time, I didn't know who the crew was. 25 Q. You didn't recognise them?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Having seen that they were going to deal with the fire</p> <p>3 in the flat on the fifth floor, what did you then plan</p> <p>4 to do next?</p> <p>5 A. I didn't have time to plan anything at that point. It</p> <p>6 just unfolded as it did. There was no planning;</p> <p>7 everything happened straight --</p> <p>8 Q. You go on to say in the last paragraph on page 4:</p> <p>9 "At this point the door of the flat to the left of</p> <p>10 the flat they were planning to make entry to opened and</p> <p>11 an adult male appeared. I went over to him and told him</p> <p>12 that he needed to leave immediately ..."</p> <p>13 Et cetera.</p> <p>14 That, I think, from what you've told us earlier, is</p> <p>15 your second encounter with this gentleman?</p> <p>16 A. So the door was actually still open and he was still in</p> <p>17 the doorway, or he was flitting back and forwards from</p> <p>18 the doorway.</p> <p>19 Q. Can I just go back to something I should've asked you</p> <p>20 about the sixth floor.</p> <p>21 I think you said that you could see the door was</p> <p>22 open.</p> <p>23 A. No, I couldn't see the doors but --</p> <p>24 Q. You couldn't. Crew Manager Stern.</p> <p>25 A. -- I later learnt that Crew Manager Stern, when he went</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 Firefighter Hippel as all other firefighters are</p> <p>2 accounted for in the building at this time."</p> <p>3 There is a camera picture, which I don't need to</p> <p>4 show you because all we can see is the helmet, but we</p> <p>5 will if we need to.</p> <p>6 Do you remember whether you did pop your head into</p> <p>7 the seventh floor?</p> <p>8 A. I'm pretty sure I didn't.</p> <p>9 Q. Pretty sure you didn't?</p> <p>10 A. Yeah.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. Perhaps I can put the photograph to you and see</p> <p>12 if you can help with it nonetheless.</p> <p>13 It's CCTV tab 3 for this witness, or INQ00000215.</p> <p>14 This won't take long, I hope.</p> <p>15 Now, there it is, I don't know whether you can</p> <p>16 assist with any distinguishing marks that might be able</p> <p>17 to identify that firefighter?</p> <p>18 A. It's hard to say. I mean, to me it looks like that</p> <p>19 person's not wearing breathing apparatus.</p> <p>20 Q. Right. Why do you say that?</p> <p>21 A. Because you can clearly see his radio, like the little</p> <p>22 green spot just below the visor, that would be his</p> <p>23 radio. And behind, to the bottom-left of the corner,</p> <p>24 you'd probably see the cylinder right in the bottom</p> <p>25 left-hand corner. So to me that looks like someone that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 up, the smoke was only down to his head height and he</p> <p>2 could see the door. When I opened the door, there was</p> <p>3 zero visibility all the way to the ground.</p> <p>4 Q. I'll take that up with him, then.</p> <p>5 You then say, in the line before the very end of</p> <p>6 page 4:</p> <p>7 "... I was then told by FF O'BEIRNE that there was</p> <p>8 someone on the 16th floor who was trapped and needed</p> <p>9 help."</p> <p>10 Now, just pausing there, do you remember going to</p> <p>11 the seventh floor at all?</p> <p>12 A. I don't think I went to the seventh floor.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 Now, let me just put something to you. Can I ask</p> <p>15 you to be shown page 38 of the ORR. The ORR is the</p> <p>16 operational response report put together by the London</p> <p>17 Fire Brigade on 24 May which deals with the first hour</p> <p>18 of the fire. It's a chronology put together from</p> <p>19 a variety of sources of information.</p> <p>20 I just want to show you page 38, if I can.</p> <p>21 Two-thirds of the way down that page with the time</p> <p>22 mark of 01.25.34, it says in italics, which shows that</p> <p>23 it's not absolutely solid evidence:</p> <p>24 "An unidentified firefighter in BA briefly enters</p> <p>25 the seventh floor lobby. This is believed to be</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 isn't wearing breathing apparatus.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 A. I mean, I've also read the Fire Brigade's chronology</p> <p>4 document and some of their chronology and timings are</p> <p>5 out of what I experienced. So ... I'm pretty -- I'm</p> <p>6 99 per cent sure I never went up to the seventh floor.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>8 So we're now at the point when you're given</p> <p>9 information by Firefighter O'Beirne, you say, that there</p> <p>10 was someone on the 16th floor who was trapped and needed</p> <p>11 help?</p> <p>12 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>13 Q. Do you remember where you were when you got that</p> <p>14 information?</p> <p>15 A. It would have been just as I came back down to the fifth</p> <p>16 floor and as I was walking over to speak to the</p> <p>17 gentleman that had come out of his door.</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 Now, while you were on the fifth floor, you've told</p> <p>20 us about the other BA crew about to make entry into the</p> <p>21 flat.</p> <p>22 Were there any other firefighters on the fifth</p> <p>23 floor, in the lobby, at this point?</p> <p>24 A. Not that I remember.</p> <p>25 Q. What about Firefighter Badillo?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 A. I cannot say, yeah.</p> <p>2 Q. What about Firefighter O'Beirne?</p> <p>3 A. To be honest with you, again, I cannot say.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay.</p> <p>5 What were the conditions like on the fifth floor at</p> <p>6 that point?</p> <p>7 A. They were still fine, yeah.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. Could you see into the flat where the fire was on</p> <p>9 the fifth floor?</p> <p>10 A. No, the door was still shut.</p> <p>11 Q. Still shut.</p> <p>12 Now, you say you were told by Firefighter O'Beirne</p> <p>13 in your statement that there was someone on the sixth</p> <p>14 floor who was trapped.</p> <p>15 Who were you with when you received that</p> <p>16 information?</p> <p>17 A. Again, I can't -- for 100 per cent sure, and it might</p> <p>18 not have been Justin O'Beirne that told me, it might</p> <p>19 have been the knowledge that I had was that someone else</p> <p>20 said, "Justin O'Beirne says that" -- so it might have</p> <p>21 been Jamal Stern that told me, it might have been</p> <p>22 another firefighter. I don't remember seeing anyone --</p> <p>23 because at that point I was focused on the gentleman</p> <p>24 that had just come out and I was walking towards him,</p> <p>25 and I just remember having that information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 the 16th floor that can't get out.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. Any more than that?</p> <p>3 A. That was it.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you remember being told anything about the trapped</p> <p>5 person being bedridden or bed-bound?</p> <p>6 A. No, we weren't.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 Now, when Watch Manager O'Keeffe came to give</p> <p>9 evidence he said -- and it's Day 18, pages 124 to 127,</p> <p>10 and I give you the gist of it -- that he briefed Crew</p> <p>11 Manager Stern to go to the 16th floor as he had been</p> <p>12 told that there was a resident who needed rescuing</p> <p>13 there.</p> <p>14 Do you remember any kind of briefing coming from the</p> <p>15 bridgehead to go to the 16th floor?</p> <p>16 A. I didn't personally, but I know that when I went to</p> <p>17 speak to the gentleman that had come out of his door,</p> <p>18 Crew Manager Stern was on his radio, so he was having</p> <p>19 some contact at that point.</p> <p>20 Q. So when you came out of the door --</p> <p>21 A. No, as we came down back to the fifth floor and I was</p> <p>22 going over to the gentleman that had come out of the</p> <p>23 door to the left of the fire flat on the fifth floor,</p> <p>24 that was when I was told there was someone on the 16th</p> <p>25 floor that can't get out, and at that point Jamal Stern</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 Q. Now, Justin O'Beirne has given evidence about where he</p> <p>2 was when he learnt about somebody trapped on the 16th</p> <p>3 floor and he says he was around about the ninth floor.</p> <p>4 Just for our own purposes, that's Day 15 at page 19</p> <p>5 in the transcript.</p> <p>6 That's his recollection.</p> <p>7 What would you say about that?</p> <p>8 A. That's more than possible. It may have been that he'd</p> <p>9 radioed down and someone else has intercepted that</p> <p>10 message. Maybe Jamal Stern intercepted that and then</p> <p>11 that's been relayed to me, so that's more than possible,</p> <p>12 yes.</p> <p>13 Q. So you don't actually remember who told you?</p> <p>14 A. No, I don't. I put in my statement that I thought it</p> <p>15 was Justin O'Beirne because later on, as we were going</p> <p>16 up to the 16th, I remember him being with us at</p> <p>17 a certain point, so maybe I just extrapolated from that</p> <p>18 that it was him that had told us, but I don't definitely</p> <p>19 know who told us that information.</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 Now, you use the words in your statement that</p> <p>22 someone on the 16th floor was "trapped and needed help".</p> <p>23 Do you remember the words used to communicate to you</p> <p>24 how someone was trapped on the 16th floor?</p> <p>25 A. My recollection is that I was told there's someone on</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 got on his radio.</p> <p>2 Q. I see, okay. Do you know who he spoke to?</p> <p>3 A. I don't know. I'm assuming he was either -- he was</p> <p>4 talking to the bridgehead to tell them the information</p> <p>5 that we had.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 So as you came down to the fifth from the sixth --</p> <p>8 so this is your second visit to the fifth but this time</p> <p>9 coming from above -- do you remember being with</p> <p>10 Jamal Stern?</p> <p>11 A. Once we got back into the lobby of the fifth, yeah, he</p> <p>12 was there. He came down after me. So, yeah, at some</p> <p>13 point he comes back and joins me on the fifth floor as</p> <p>14 well.</p> <p>15 Q. At that point, do you remember him being on the radio?</p> <p>16 A. I remember him making a call on the radio, yeah.</p> <p>17 Q. While you were in the lobby on the fifth floor, second</p> <p>18 time?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, before we went up to the sixth -- before we went up</p> <p>20 to the 16th.</p> <p>21 Q. Before you went to the 16th?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember the decision to go to the 16th, did that</p> <p>24 take place after him having this radio conversation?</p> <p>25 A. I can't, no. It may have been before. It may well be</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 that he radioed down to the bridgehead and</p> <p>2 Brien O'Keeffe did say, "Go up to the 16th", or it may</p> <p>3 have been that we said, "We've got this report, we're</p> <p>4 going up to the 16th". I didn't have that conversation,</p> <p>5 but it was had.</p> <p>6 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>7 Do you remember being told at that point which flat</p> <p>8 to go to?</p> <p>9 A. No, we weren't.</p> <p>10 Q. Do you remember being told at any stage which flat to go</p> <p>11 to?</p> <p>12 A. No, we weren't.</p> <p>13 Q. Did it surprise you that you were being sent to do</p> <p>14 a rescue on the 16th floor without knowing which flat to</p> <p>15 go to?</p> <p>16 A. At that point, I wouldn't have -- it didn't enter my</p> <p>17 mind that it was a rescue. We were going up 12 floors</p> <p>18 above the fire flat. It's not unusual to get calls and</p> <p>19 reports of people that can't get out that are starting</p> <p>20 to panic, elderly people, disabled people, and it's not</p> <p>21 unusual to go up, reassure them, make sure they're safe</p> <p>22 and come back down again. So at that point I -- we --</p> <p>23 personally wasn't looking at rescuing anybody.</p> <p>24 Q. You say it wasn't a rescue, but you were told that</p> <p>25 someone was trapped. If they were trapped, why wasn't</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 reassuring and to check that they are okay.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 Again, just to pin this to your contemporaneous</p> <p>4 note, if I can just ask you to be shown your</p> <p>5 contemporaneous notes on the first page.</p> <p>6 Halfway down, you say:</p> <p>7 "At this point we were informed that someone was on</p> <p>8 the 16th floor unable to leave."</p> <p>9 So that's how you remember it, is it?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Now, Crew Manager Stern is going to come later today</p> <p>13 to give some evidence, but his recollection appears to</p> <p>14 be different. We'll explore this with him, but can</p> <p>15 I just put his recollection to you.</p> <p>16 He says that he and Justin O'Beirne met a gentleman</p> <p>17 called Sam on the stairs when leaving the fifth floor --</p> <p>18 I think he says the sixth floor -- and is told that</p> <p>19 Sam's father was bedridden and trapped on the 16th floor</p> <p>20 and needed help to get him out. That's his recollection</p> <p>21 as per his statement.</p> <p>22 Can you comment on that?</p> <p>23 A. I didn't get that information, no.</p> <p>24 Q. Right. You didn't get that information?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 it a rescue?</p> <p>2 A. I believe we were told -- I know I put "trapped" in my</p> <p>3 statement, because later on it obviously became</p> <p>4 a rescue, but at that point, I believe we were told</p> <p>5 there's somebody that can't get out, and that's not</p> <p>6 an unusual occurrence in a large building.</p> <p>7 Q. But, still, leaving aside the word "trapped", if they</p> <p>8 can't get out, why wouldn't they be in need of rescue?</p> <p>9 A. Because we have a stay-put policy that if they're safe,</p> <p>10 12 floors above a fire flat, we wouldn't even think</p> <p>11 about bringing them out of their flat. We'll go up and</p> <p>12 reassure them, make sure that they are safe and leave</p> <p>13 them there.</p> <p>14 Q. I see.</p> <p>15 So let me just try and understand.</p> <p>16 So to your way of thinking, the fact that somebody</p> <p>17 couldn't get out didn't necessarily mean that you had to</p> <p>18 bring them out?</p> <p>19 A. No, not at all.</p> <p>20 Q. The alternative is, I think, as you've just told us, to</p> <p>21 go into the flat, check they're okay and they've still</p> <p>22 got breathable air?</p> <p>23 A. That happens at most fires in large buildings. People</p> <p>24 will be concerned, smell smoke, hear the sirens, see the</p> <p>25 blue lights and they'll get concerned, and they need</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you have a recollection about whether -- from what</p> <p>2 you saw and heard -- Jamal Stern got that information?</p> <p>3 A. Sorry, say that again.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you have a recollection from what you observed about</p> <p>5 whether Jamal Stern got that information?</p> <p>6 A. I don't know. You'd have to ask him that.</p> <p>7 Q. His recollection is that you, he, Justin O'Beirne and</p> <p>8 Sam all went up from the fifth or sixth, I think as he</p> <p>9 has it, floor, to the 16th. Is that how you remember</p> <p>10 it?</p> <p>11 A. I remember vaguely seeing Justin as we were going up the</p> <p>12 stairs, but that was about it.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 As you said earlier, it was possible that you might</p> <p>15 have met him on the way up.</p> <p>16 A. I vaguely remember seeing him as we were going up, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you remember seeing him in company with anybody</p> <p>18 else --</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. -- when you did meet him on the way up?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. When you say "No, I don't remember", do you remember</p> <p>23 when you met him he was alone or was he with somebody?</p> <p>24 A. I didn't actually meet him. He was going up in the same</p> <p>25 direction as us and I caught a couple of glimpses of him</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 going up in the same direction as us. I didn't see</p> <p>2 anyone going up -- I didn't see any members of the</p> <p>3 public going up at all that night.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 At the top of page 5 of your statement, at the end</p> <p>6 of the first paragraph there, you say:</p> <p>7 "I believe CM STERN then informed BA control that we</p> <p>8 were going up to the 16th floor."</p> <p>9 Is that the same radio conversation between Crew</p> <p>10 Manager Stern and the bridgehead that you described</p> <p>11 earlier?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. You say "informed BA control". It looks like</p> <p>14 when you did your statement you were pretty clear that</p> <p>15 whoever it was Crew Manager Stern was speaking to, it</p> <p>16 was the bridgehead?</p> <p>17 A. That would be my assumption, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Is that assumption because that would be the channel to</p> <p>19 which his radio was tuned?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, because at that time he would be on channel 6 and</p> <p>21 the only other people that would be on channel 6 would</p> <p>22 be the bridgehead and the two BA crews that were in to</p> <p>23 the fire.</p> <p>24 Q. Would it be customary or possible for Crew Manager</p> <p>25 Stern, wearing BA, to be able to communicate direct with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 without any firefighting equipment?</p> <p>2 A. Firstly, at that point, we didn't have any that was</p> <p>3 there; and, secondly, my anticipation that we weren't</p> <p>4 going up to do rescues or to break any doors down, we</p> <p>5 were going up 12 flights above the fire to assist and</p> <p>6 keep someone calm and reassure them.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you have any thoughts at that time, having left the</p> <p>8 fifth floor to go to the 16th and having seen conditions</p> <p>9 on the sixth floor, as you describe them, about why the</p> <p>10 conditions were so bad on the 16th floor, a full ten</p> <p>11 floors up?</p> <p>12 A. I didn't know at that point what the conditions were.</p> <p>13 I only knew that -- my anticipation would be that there</p> <p>14 would be no smoke above the sixth floor.</p> <p>15 Q. Right. So when you had the information about the 16th</p> <p>16 floor, am I right in thinking that all you had was that</p> <p>17 somebody needed assistance because they couldn't get out</p> <p>18 as opposed to being told about the conditions there?</p> <p>19 A. The only thing I was told was that there was someone on</p> <p>20 the 16th floor that cannot leave. That's it. No more</p> <p>21 information than that.</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 Did you have any thoughts about why they needed</p> <p>24 assistance ten floors above the fire you'd seen in</p> <p>25 circumstances where there was a stay-put policy in place</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 Mike Dowden?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. You then say, in the second paragraph on page 5:</p> <p>4 "I started to make my way to the 16th floor together</p> <p>5 with CM STERN and FF O'BEIRNE."</p> <p>6 On the basis of what we've been discussing earlier</p> <p>7 this morning, how confident are you that you actually</p> <p>8 made that journey with Firefighter O'Beirne?</p> <p>9 A. Whether or not it was the whole journey or whether I'd</p> <p>10 seen him as we were going up and from that, that's what</p> <p>11 I've put in my statement, I've extrapolated that he was</p> <p>12 there all the time with us -- I remember him being there</p> <p>13 part of that journey.</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 A. Whether he was there at the start, and I'm pretty sure</p> <p>16 he wasn't there at the end. I don't know whether he was</p> <p>17 there at the start. We may have gone past him at</p> <p>18 a higher floor and then I've extrapolated that he was</p> <p>19 there all along. I can't honestly remember that.</p> <p>20 Q. Did you have any firefighting equipment with you to go</p> <p>21 to the 16th floor?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Given what you'd seen yourself on the fifth and sixth</p> <p>24 floors particularly, and given the reports about smoke</p> <p>25 on the 16th floor, why did you go up to the 16th floor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 for the building?</p> <p>2 A. As I said to you earlier, it's not an uncommon thing</p> <p>3 that people smell smoke, see flashing lights, hear</p> <p>4 sirens, get a phone call and they start to panic and</p> <p>5 they need reassurance. So it's a common occurrence in</p> <p>6 virtually every fire in a large building, you have to go</p> <p>7 and reassure people that are sometimes quite a way away</p> <p>8 from where the seat of the fire is.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you have any thoughts to the effect that the fire</p> <p>10 had spread or smoke has spread as fire as the 16th</p> <p>11 floor?</p> <p>12 A. None whatsoever.</p> <p>13 Q. None whatsoever?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Now, on the way up the stairs, you say on page 5 of your</p> <p>16 statement in the second paragraph you were passed by</p> <p>17 members of the public evacuating downstairs.</p> <p>18 Did you ask yourself why there were people</p> <p>19 evacuating at that stage?</p> <p>20 A. No, again, it's not an uncommon occurrence. People, as</p> <p>21 for the reasons I've just said, they see these things,</p> <p>22 smell these things and they make the decision themselves</p> <p>23 that they're going to get out of the building. It</p> <p>24 happens at every large fire.</p> <p>25 Q. You say you saw about 20 people coming down. At roughly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 what point on your journey from the fifth to the 16th 2 floor did you encounter them? 3 A. I couldn't say, yeah, I couldn't make that -- probably 4 within two or three floors we were going past people. 5 Q. Were they all in a group or were they coming down -- 6 A. No, they were dribs and drabs, individuals, groups, 7 yeah. 8 Q. You say you told them to move quickly down the stairs. 9 This is the fifth line down from the top of the first 10 paragraph on page 5. 11 Were you encouraging them to evacuate? 12 A. No, it's just people in those situations are very 13 panicky, so I tend to try and talk to the people that 14 look like they're distressed, older people that are more 15 likely to trip over if they're rushing. It's just 16 a matter of trying to calm them down. They've already 17 made a decision they're going to go, I'm not going to 18 tell them otherwise, just to try and calm them down and 19 keep them moving. 20 Q. Did you ask any of them which floors or flats they'd 21 come from? 22 A. No. No. 23 Q. Did any of them show any signs of smoke inhalation? 24 A. None that I saw. 25 Q. Were none of them spluttering or coughing?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 CM STERN but I think FF O'BEIRNE was ahead ..." 2 Et cetera, you then say: 3 "The visibility was good all the way up, and the 4 lights were on but we did have issues with knowing which 5 floor we were on because the labelling in the stairwell 6 was awful. Sometimes the floor number was just written 7 on the wall in biro, other times it was a tiny little 8 sign you had to look for. I was counting as we went but 9 it would often go 3 or 4 floors with no indication of 10 which floor you were on. We tried to count the floors 11 until we got up to the 16th, I don't remember if there 12 was a sign for the 16th or not." 13 I've read all that to you because I want to ask you: 14 was that numbering system that you have just described 15 usual in your experience? 16 A. It's not unusual to be in a block of flats where you 17 struggle to find what floor you're on. 18 Q. Right. Did the form of numbering, biro or a tiny little 19 sign, hold you up at all? 20 A. We did stop a couple of times, or I stopped a couple of 21 times, poked my head into lobbies to see if there was 22 numbers within the lobbies. So, yeah, but not a lot. 23 Q. Did it, do you remember, affect operations generally? 24 A. Not for me personally, no. 25 Q. What about -- okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 A. No, not at all. 2 Q. Did the fact that you saw so many people coming down the 3 stairs make you have any thoughts about what might be 4 going on in the higher floors where they'd come from? 5 A. No. Again, at that point, it was not an unreasonable 6 number of people to be passing on the stairs on a fire 7 that was three floors, by that point. Or as I believed 8 was three floors. 9 Q. Now, you say in the same paragraph, three lines up from 10 the end, that you saw someone wearing a pair of boxer 11 shorts and swimming goggles. You say: 12 "I remember thinking that was smart, that he had the 13 sense to put those on to get through the smoke." 14 Did the fact that one of the residents had chosen to 15 put swimming goggles on to get through the smoke prompt 16 any thoughts in your mind about how far the smoke had 17 spread to? 18 A. I think, as I say in my statement after that, that 19 incident might have been later in the evening. I say it 20 a couple of lines down on the statement. I think that 21 was actually later on when I was aware of how bad the 22 fire was getting. 23 Q. Right. 24 Now, in the third paragraph on page 5 which starts: 25 "We carried on up the stairwell, I remember seeing</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 Did you look into any of the floors on your way up? 2 A. I don't remember, but it's possible that I might have 3 poked my head in, as I say, to see if there was a number 4 in the lift lobby. 5 Q. Right. 6 So you're going up. We heard about where you might 7 have met Firefighter O'Beirne. What about Crew Manager 8 Stern? Was he with you all the way up from the fifth to 9 the 16th? 10 A. I don't really remember seeing him as we were going up. 11 Q. Stern? 12 A. He may have been behind me, he may have been in front of 13 me. As I say, I was stopping now and again, talking to 14 members of the public, so I don't remember. He would've 15 been with me but I don't remember seeing him per se. 16 Q. So you say, "He would've been with me"; was he in close 17 proximity to you as you went up? 18 A. We would've been within a floor of each other. 19 Q. Were you ahead of him or behind him? 20 A. I can't tell you that. 21 Q. You then say that you got to the 16th floor, and this is 22 in the last paragraph on page 5 of your statement. 23 "... the door to the lobby was open and the same 24 black smoke I had encountered on the 6th floor was 25 coming out."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 What did that tell you, seeing that smoke, about the 2 fire spread or smoke spread now? 3 A. Nothing for definite, just told me that there was the 4 same smoke that was on the sixth floor. 5 Q. True, but did it surprise you to see so much smoke on 6 the 16th floor, ten floors above -- 7 A. It did surprise me, yes. 8 Q. It having surprised you, did you have any thoughts about 9 what might be happening to the building? 10 A. Obviously different thoughts go through your mind, but 11 not particularly did I think about it at that point, no. 12 Q. Did you think about the speed with which the fire or 13 smoke was moving up the building? 14 A. It would've been possible, as I say, for it to -- for 15 smoke to travel up a lift shaft, up the bin shafts. 16 Highly unlikely for the amount of smoke that was in 17 there, so I knew there was something going wrong badly. 18 Q. Right. 19 Now, you say that the lobby door was being held open 20 by a man, and you go on to say you subsequently learnt 21 he's called Sam. Then you identify him. 22 How clear are you in your recollection that the 23 first time you saw this man you identify as Sam was at 24 the point at which you arrive at the 16th floor and go 25 into the lobby there?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 Q. Okay: 2 "... who said there was someone in there." 3 Is that what it says? 4 A. Yes, "who said there's someone in there". 5 Q. Right. 6 Now, you made these notes immediately after the 7 incident. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Does that capture your recollection accurately? 10 A. Pretty much. When I got up to the 16th floor, I may 11 well have been the first up there, because I don't 12 remember Jamal being up there. So when I got up to 13 there, there was a teenager, maybe 15, 17, crouched in 14 the doorway, propping the door open. There was smoke 15 coming out. I don't remember now him telling me that 16 there was someone in there, but he may well have told me 17 there was someone in there. 18 Q. Right. 19 A. If I've put it in my contemporaneous notes then he 20 probably did tell me there was someone in there. 21 Q. When you got to the 16th floor, do you remember where 22 Firefighter O'Beirne was? 23 A. I don't remember seeing him up on the 16th floor at all. 24 Q. When you got to the 16th floor and saw this man, do you 25 remember where Crew Manager Stern was?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 A. Sorry, say that again. 2 Q. How sure are you in your recollection that the first 3 time you see Sam was when you arrive at the 16th floor 4 and go into the lobby there? 5 A. I believe I've since learnt that the teenager that was 6 there probably wasn't the gentleman that I know as Sam. 7 After the incident, I met up with another gentleman that 8 we did rescue out of there and we may have got our 9 stories crossed. 10 Q. Right. 11 A. So at the point I made my police statement, I believed 12 that the gentleman that was propping the door open was 13 Sam. I'm now led to believe it probably wasn't. 14 Q. Okay. I just want to get your unvarnished recollection 15 of what you remember. 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Perhaps we can go to your contemporaneous notes, then, 18 first page. You say, three-quarters of the way down: 19 "On getting to the 16th floor we found a man ..." 20 Then there's a little mark: 21 "... a man [something] by the door into the 22 lobby ..." 23 It looks like a deletion of the word "on" and then 24 you've put your initials; is that right? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 A. I don't remember seeing him at that point, so I'm 2 assuming he was behind me. 3 Q. Right. 4 You say in your statement: 5 "He looked concerned [this the male you refer to as 6 Sam] and I assumed he was the source of concern about 7 the person trapped but we didn't have any conversation 8 with him about this." 9 You say "we" didn't have any conversation; who is 10 the "we"? 11 A. I meant "we" as in a BA crew. As I say, I wouldn't be 12 concerned by it. 13 Q. But when you saw him crouching holding the door open -- 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. -- I think you told us you weren't with Stern or 16 O'Beirne; that's right, is it? 17 A. I didn't see him. He was probably just behind me. But, 18 again, as I say, you are quite insular, you only see 19 stuff straight in front of you and you concentrate, and 20 also to hear people, when you exhale out the breathing 21 sets, they make a lot of noise. So after coming up 12 22 floors, you're trying to control your breathing so you 23 can talk to people, you can hear people, so it's quite 24 hard. Having conversations with members of the public 25 can be quite awkward.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 Q. Yes. Was there a reason why you didn't have</p> <p>2 a conversation with the man crouching down about the</p> <p>3 person that you had learnt couldn't leave?</p> <p>4 A. Not particularly, no. It was -- yeah, we were just</p> <p>5 working quickly and -- yeah.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you ask him what flat you needed to go to?</p> <p>7 A. No, we didn't.</p> <p>8 Q. Was there a reason why you didn't?</p> <p>9 A. Not particularly, just probably in the haste of the</p> <p>10 moment.</p> <p>11 Q. Having seen that the conditions in the 16th-floor lobby</p> <p>12 were smoke-logged, as you've described, how were you</p> <p>13 going to be able to find the flat where the person</p> <p>14 needed help without knowing which flat to go to?</p> <p>15 A. We would've searched it, but with hindsight, obviously</p> <p>16 we should've had more communication with him.</p> <p>17 Q. Seeing the conditions and seeing the man, I just want to</p> <p>18 get a feel for why you didn't ask him which flat you</p> <p>19 needed to go in the interests of speed?</p> <p>20 A. Just the heat of the moment, really.</p> <p>21 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>22 You say that you told Sam to close the door and go</p> <p>23 downstairs because you were worried that he would become</p> <p>24 incapacitated because of the smoke. That's the top of</p> <p>25 page 6 of your statement.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Give me your best estimate.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: My best shot, another 45 minutes to an hour</p> <p>3 maximum. An hour maximum.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Oh, I think we all need a break</p> <p>5 before midday and it'd probably be best to take it --</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: 45 minutes maximum.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Even so, Mr Millett, I think</p> <p>8 everyone would probably welcome a break before 11.50,</p> <p>9 so, yes, we'll take it now.</p> <p>10 Well, you've heard what Mr Millett said, he has</p> <p>11 a few more questions for you, so we'll stop and have</p> <p>12 a break until 11.20, and then we'll carry on then. All</p> <p>13 right?</p> <p>14 So if you would like to go with the usher, please.</p> <p>15 Oh, and please don't talk to anyone about your</p> <p>16 evidence over the break.</p> <p>17 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, 11.20, please.</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: Very good.</p> <p>20 (11.05 am)</p> <p>21 (A short break)</p> <p>22 (11.20 am)</p> <p>23 (The witness returned)</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Hippel?</p> <p>25 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. What about Firefighter O'Beirne, who was not wearing BA?</p> <p>3 Did you have a similar concern about him?</p> <p>4 A. Well, the concern would've been in general to maintain</p> <p>5 the integrity of the whole of the stairwell.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you remember what happened to the man you refer to as</p> <p>7 Sam?</p> <p>8 A. I assumed he went down the stairs. He went in that</p> <p>9 direction. And -- yeah.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you see him go down?</p> <p>11 A. I saw him start to go down the first flight of stairs,</p> <p>12 yes.</p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: Right. Okay.</p> <p>14 Mr Chairman, now may be an appropriate moment for</p> <p>15 a break. I know it's 11.04, but I am --</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, we've been running an hour and</p> <p>17 a half, haven't we?</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: I'm very happy to go on and finish if I can.</p> <p>19 THE WITNESS: I'm happy to go on. Yeah, I'm more than happy</p> <p>20 to go on.</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: I don't think it's a matter quite for the</p> <p>22 witness, but --</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you go on until you finish, how</p> <p>24 long is that likely to be?</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: I'm not entirely sure.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Happy to carry on now?</p> <p>2 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you very much.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: Mr Hippel, thank you for coming back to us.</p> <p>5 Can I just ask you one or two questions about your</p> <p>6 journey up from the fifth to the 16th floor?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. In your statement at page 5, the first main paragraph</p> <p>9 there, you describe encountering a group of</p> <p>10 approximately 20 people in dribs and drabs, you said</p> <p>11 earlier, and you spoke to them as they passed.</p> <p>12 In your conversations with them, do you remember</p> <p>13 whether they gave you any information about smoke spread</p> <p>14 or even fire spread to their flats or floors?</p> <p>15 A. No, they didn't.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 Now, Firefighter O'Beirne described hearing a woman</p> <p>18 screaming at some floor, he remembers, between the</p> <p>19 eighth and the 12th floor and sending her down. That</p> <p>20 was his recollection.</p> <p>21 Did you hear or see something similar?</p> <p>22 A. I didn't hear or see anything that concerned me on my</p> <p>23 journey up at all until I got to the 16th floor.</p> <p>24 Q. On your way up, the conditions I think you have</p> <p>25 described as clear?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Is there a reason why -- maybe there is -- you didn't</p> <p>3 turn off your BA set to conserve air?</p> <p>4 A. Because that's what we're taught to do. If you start</p> <p>5 turning your sets off, it raises alarms downstairs on</p> <p>6 the BA boards and -- yeah.</p> <p>7 Q. Now, in your statement, you say on the fifth page, and</p> <p>8 then over to the sixth page, how you encountered the</p> <p>9 gentleman standing there or sitting there.</p> <p>10 And at the top of page 6, you say:</p> <p>11 "I didn't speak to him any further than that and CM</p> <p>12 STERN and I then decided to search the floor for the</p> <p>13 person we had been told was trapped there."</p> <p>14 That decision you made with Crew Manager Stern,</p> <p>15 where did you make that decision?</p> <p>16 A. Outside the door of the lobby.</p> <p>17 Q. So he joined you, did he?</p> <p>18 A. Yeah, we were there at some point, yes. Yeah.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you remember whether the man you had seen crouching</p> <p>20 down holding the door open was still there when Crew</p> <p>21 Manager Stern joined you or had he gone?</p> <p>22 A. I can't remember, no.</p> <p>23 Q. Now, the decision to "search the floor for the person we</p> <p>24 had been told was trapped there" is what you say in your</p> <p>25 statement. At that stage, did you discuss the fact that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 A. I don't know if he did, no. You'd have to ask him.</p> <p>2 Q. How were you going to go about finding the flat in that</p> <p>3 thick smoke?</p> <p>4 A. It was going to be hard, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Would it not have assisted you to know which flat number</p> <p>6 to go to?</p> <p>7 A. Of course it would, yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Which is why I asked the question: why didn't you then</p> <p>9 try to find out through the radio?</p> <p>10 A. Because -- well, at that point, the radios weren't</p> <p>11 working.</p> <p>12 Q. Ah, okay. I mean, you didn't have your fire ground</p> <p>13 radio on and you had no BARIE, but what about Crew</p> <p>14 Manager Stern?</p> <p>15 A. He had the BARIE and it wasn't working by that point.</p> <p>16 Q. How do you know that?</p> <p>17 A. I assume from him telling me after the fact.</p> <p>18 Q. I see. Did you see him trying to make a radio</p> <p>19 contact --</p> <p>20 A. I don't remember seeing him. Not at that point.</p> <p>21 Q. Now, you then say on page 6 of your statement:</p> <p>22 "CM STERN took the lead and went into the 16th floor</p> <p>23 lobby ahead of me. He decided he was going to go in on</p> <p>24 his belly so I followed his lead. We didn't have any</p> <p>25 fire-fighting media ..."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 somebody was trapped?</p> <p>2 A. No, it would've been immediate, "Let's go and search</p> <p>3 this".</p> <p>4 Q. So when you say in your statement "the person we had</p> <p>5 been told was trapped there", the description of them as</p> <p>6 "trapped", is that your recollection of something you'd</p> <p>7 been told or is that your hypothesis?</p> <p>8 A. I put "trapped" there now after the fact. At the time</p> <p>9 we went up, I believed it was someone that couldn't get</p> <p>10 out. When we get up there and there's a load of smoke</p> <p>11 there, then we maybe -- then my perception of it changes</p> <p>12 to there might be someone trapped here.</p> <p>13 Q. Right. So now your thought process is --</p> <p>14 A. As soon as we see the smoke, our thought processes</p> <p>15 changed from going to reassure someone to now we might</p> <p>16 be needed to rescue somebody.</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 At that stage, going back to a point I asked you</p> <p>19 about earlier, would it not be essential for you to know</p> <p>20 what flat you had to go to?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, it probably would've done.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you take any steps to find out?</p> <p>23 A. Not at that point, no.</p> <p>24 Q. What about Crew Manager Stern, do you remember whether</p> <p>25 he took any steps to find out?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 Now, do you mean by that you had no water,</p> <p>2 effectively?</p> <p>3 A. Yeah.</p> <p>4 Q. Right. So no hose, no branch?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Would that be normal procedure?</p> <p>7 A. It's not normal procedure but -- yeah, we do it.</p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 Would it be normal procedure to enter a smoke-logged</p> <p>10 lobby to effect what had now become a rescue without any</p> <p>11 firefighting media?</p> <p>12 A. Not by policy, but we do it.</p> <p>13 Q. Right. You say "we do it"; you do it because you have</p> <p>14 to?</p> <p>15 A. Well, you don't have to; it's choice, so ... It's</p> <p>16 risky.</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 At that stage, you had seen the smoke and you</p> <p>19 realised that whoever needed reassurance now I think had</p> <p>20 gone from that to being trapped. As you say, the</p> <p>21 thought process changed.</p> <p>22 Did you have any discussion with anybody at the</p> <p>23 moment you entered the 16th-floor lobby about whether</p> <p>24 the person you were going to now rescue was bed-bound or</p> <p>25 bedridden in any way?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 A. I mean, to clarify that, it's still possible that they</p> <p>4 wouldn't necessarily need rescuing. If they were behind</p> <p>5 the door and safely behind a door in a flat that wasn't</p> <p>6 affected by the smoke, the chances are we would've left</p> <p>7 them there as long as they were still safe. So it</p> <p>8 wasn't necessarily a case of rescuing them out of the</p> <p>9 flat. Or out of a flat.</p> <p>10 Q. Now, Crew Manager Stern recalls that before you entered</p> <p>11 the lobby he, Stern, asked the man who he was with where</p> <p>12 the flat was and got the answer, "To the right of the</p> <p>13 door". Do you remember something like that,</p> <p>14 a discussion like that?</p> <p>15 A. No, I didn't hear that conversation.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 Now, on page 11 of your statement, if I can just</p> <p>18 jump ahead, you say in the second half of the third</p> <p>19 paragraph on that page:</p> <p>20 "Unfortunately, the man we had actually come up to</p> <p>21 find was the father of the young man, Sam, I had met in</p> <p>22 the doorway of the 16th floor lobby briefly."</p> <p>23 Now, just pausing there, did you know that at the</p> <p>24 time or was that something you found out later?</p> <p>25 A. That was something I found out later. And I believe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 and trapped but not that they were in a flat and were</p> <p>2 bedbound."</p> <p>3 So, to be clear, first of all, are you saying there</p> <p>4 that at the time you entered the 16th floor, you did not</p> <p>5 know that the person you had to assist was in a flat?</p> <p>6 A. I didn't at any point know that there was someone in the</p> <p>7 flat, and I at no point knew about a person being</p> <p>8 bed-bound.</p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 You say that that was all "we" knew. Are you</p> <p>11 speaking there in your statement for the knowledge of</p> <p>12 Crew Manager Stern as well as yourself?</p> <p>13 A. I would've assumed that, but you'd have to ask him that</p> <p>14 yourself.</p> <p>15 Q. I see.</p> <p>16 If you'd known that you were looking for a man in</p> <p>17 a flat who was bed-bound and not just trapped by the</p> <p>18 fire somewhere on the floor, what would you have done,</p> <p>19 do you think?</p> <p>20 A. Could you repeat that?</p> <p>21 Q. Yes.</p> <p>22 If you'd known at the time that you were looking for</p> <p>23 a man who was bed-bound and in a flat, what would you</p> <p>24 have done?</p> <p>25 A. Well, assuming, again, if we had the key, if it was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 now, further on, that that is incorrect as well, that</p> <p>2 the young teenage guy that was in the doorway wasn't in</p> <p>3 fact Sam.</p> <p>4 Q. Did you ever find out who it was?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. I mean, you've described what he looked like. Can you</p> <p>7 describe his hair?</p> <p>8 A. Dark.</p> <p>9 Q. What sort of hair style? I'm sorry to ask that</p> <p>10 question, but it may help.</p> <p>11 A. It was possibly side-parted, but that's a fleeting</p> <p>12 memory.</p> <p>13 Q. You then go on to say:</p> <p>14 "Mr DAFFARN told me that Sam lived in a flat near</p> <p>15 his on the 16th floor with his father Joe who was</p> <p>16 bedbound and that Sam had come down to ask for help</p> <p>17 getting his Dad out."</p> <p>18 That information that you got from Mr Daffarn</p> <p>19 I think I'm right in saying is much after the fire.</p> <p>20 A. Yes, that was in a meeting we had in November time,</p> <p>21 I believe, between the fire and me having this police</p> <p>22 statement taken.</p> <p>23 Q. Then you say:</p> <p>24 "The full information didn't get through to CM STERN</p> <p>25 and myself as we just knew someone was on the 16th floor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 locked, the chances are, at that point, with the</p> <p>2 knowledge that I had of what was going on with the fire,</p> <p>3 as long as he was safe and free of smoke, the flat was</p> <p>4 free of smoke, I would've probably left him there rather</p> <p>5 than bringing them out through a smoke-filled lobby and</p> <p>6 extricating him down 16 floors. My judgement at that</p> <p>7 point would've been it was safe to leave him there.</p> <p>8 Q. But at the time, you didn't know what the air conditions</p> <p>9 were like in the relevant flat.</p> <p>10 A. No, I would've had to have gained entry to that flat.</p> <p>11 Q. And I think you've told us you didn't know even which</p> <p>12 flat it was?</p> <p>13 A. No, and we would've had to have the keys. We wouldn't</p> <p>14 have been able to break the door down, because if we</p> <p>15 broke the door down, the smoke from the lobby would've</p> <p>16 definitely entered the flat and then we'd be searching</p> <p>17 for him in a smoke-filled flat.</p> <p>18 Q. Now, in the first main paragraph on page 6 of your</p> <p>19 statement, you say in the second line:</p> <p>20 "... the visibility was zero, even when I put my</p> <p>21 hand right up to my face mask I couldn't see it the</p> <p>22 visibility was so poor."</p> <p>23 What about temperature in the lobby, do you</p> <p>24 remember?</p> <p>25 A. In the lobby, the temperature was fine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 Q. Did you see any fire?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. What colour was the smoke?</p> <p>4 A. Black.</p> <p>5 Q. And did you see a neutral plane?</p> <p>6 A. No, as far as I was aware it was down to the floor.</p> <p>7 Q. You then go on to say, just a little bit later on in</p> <p>8 that paragraph, three lines up from the end:</p> <p>9 "CM STERN was ahead of me and I would estimate we</p> <p>10 had gone only a few metres into the lobby before he</p> <p>11 shouted to me that he had found someone."</p> <p>12 So is that right that you hadn't gone into any flat</p> <p>13 at that stage?</p> <p>14 A. No, we'd literally gone 2 metres into the lobby from the</p> <p>15 stairwell.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 You then go on to say:</p> <p>18 "CM STERN then pulled the person out of the lobby</p> <p>19 with my assistance when they got back level with me ..."</p> <p>20 How far from the lobby door were you at the stage</p> <p>21 when you encountered the person?</p> <p>22 A. Me, personally, I was probably about 2 metres in, Jamal</p> <p>23 was probably 3 metres in, something like that, so he was</p> <p>24 just in front of me, within touching distance.</p> <p>25 Q. Were you standing or crawling?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 travelling up to the 16th.</p> <p>2 Q. Now, Crew Manager Stern's recollection, in gist, is that</p> <p>3 the person you've described as Sam was still there when</p> <p>4 Edward Daffarn came out of the 16th-floor lobby into the</p> <p>5 stairs?</p> <p>6 A. It's possible. If he was, I didn't see him.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. So you don't remember seeing that?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 Just to put the slightly fuller picture to you, Sam,</p> <p>11 that is the son of the gentleman who was trapped, has</p> <p>12 given an inquiry statement and says that he waited with</p> <p>13 a firefighter on the 11th-floor stairs and Edward</p> <p>14 Daffarn passed them before the firefighters who had gone</p> <p>15 to the 16th floor came down.</p> <p>16 Can you help with whether that's correct or not?</p> <p>17 A. That may well be, yes, correct. I've no reason to doubt</p> <p>18 that.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 Now, when Edward Daffarn came out, did you speak to</p> <p>21 him?</p> <p>22 A. I can't remember. If it was, it was just, "Are you</p> <p>23 okay? Can you get down the stairs?" Nothing more than</p> <p>24 that.</p> <p>25 Q. Now, in the third paragraph on page 6, which is where we</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 A. We were crawling.</p> <p>2 Q. You were both crawling?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. So when Jamal Stern encountered the person, was that</p> <p>5 person standing or lying down?</p> <p>6 A. You'd have to ask him that, I don't know.</p> <p>7 Q. You go on to say that you were very close to the lobby</p> <p>8 door. Do you remember how close?</p> <p>9 A. Me, personally? Yes, I was probably 1 to 2 metres in.</p> <p>10 Q. Was the lobby door closed or was it still open?</p> <p>11 A. I've got a feeling the lobby door was still probably</p> <p>12 held open by my feet as I was lying down.</p> <p>13 Q. Now, you then say in the third paragraph on page 6:</p> <p>14 "When we were back in the, relatively, smoke free</p> <p>15 stairwell I saw a male who I now know as Edward DAFFARN.</p> <p>16 He was coughing but conscious and able to walk so after</p> <p>17 a moment we guided him to the stairs and told him to</p> <p>18 leave. He was able to do so without any assistance from</p> <p>19 us."</p> <p>20 Now, do you know where the man you originally</p> <p>21 thought was Sam was at that point?</p> <p>22 A. I don't remember seeing anyone at the 16th floor at that</p> <p>23 point, no.</p> <p>24 Q. What about Justin O'Beirne?</p> <p>25 A. No, I don't believe I saw Justin O'Beirne after we were</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 are, just a little bit further on, in the fourth line</p> <p>2 you say:</p> <p>3 "We decided to finish searching the 16th floor but I</p> <p>4 believed that it was likely that Edward was the male we</p> <p>5 had been asked to go and assist who had been reported as</p> <p>6 trapped on the 16th floor."</p> <p>7 Now, given that he was conscious and was walking,</p> <p>8 why did you assume that he was in fact the person who</p> <p>9 had been trapped on that floor?</p> <p>10 A. It was an assumption that I made because we'd had to</p> <p>11 pull him out. I didn't know whether he'd been on the</p> <p>12 floor when we got in there or -- so I'd assumed we'd</p> <p>13 pulled him out.</p> <p>14 Q. So was your assumption at that stage that the mission to</p> <p>15 rescue the trapped person on the 16th floor had been</p> <p>16 accomplished?</p> <p>17 A. Well, it wasn't accomplished because that was never our</p> <p>18 initial intention to go up to the 16th floor. Our</p> <p>19 initial intention to go up to the 16th floor was to</p> <p>20 reassure someone that wasn't able to leave. It only</p> <p>21 became a rescue mission once we got to the 16th floor</p> <p>22 and then our priorities changed as we saw the conditions</p> <p>23 in front of us.</p> <p>24 Q. After, as you've said before and just now, the</p> <p>25 conditions changed and you knew you needed to make</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 a rescue, when you saw Edward Daffarn conscious and</p> <p>2 walking going down the stairs, did you then think to</p> <p>3 yourself -- let me ask it this way.</p> <p>4 What thoughts did you have in your own mind about</p> <p>5 whether your mission to rescue had been carried out?</p> <p>6 A. I believed that the person, Mr Daffarn, that we pulled</p> <p>7 out was the person that we'd come up to -- that couldn't</p> <p>8 escape, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 Did you discuss that fact or your thought about that</p> <p>11 fact with Crew Manager Stern?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you or Crew Manager Stern at that stage make any</p> <p>14 communication with the bridgehead to tell them that you</p> <p>15 had found someone on the 16th floor who was now coming</p> <p>16 down?</p> <p>17 A. No, not at that time.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you, having decided to continue to search the 16th</p> <p>19 floor, then ask for additional resources such as other</p> <p>20 BA wearers or firefighting equipment?</p> <p>21 A. No, because, again, these decisions were made within</p> <p>22 10/15 seconds of coming out, and the priority then for</p> <p>23 us was if there was someone else in there, they weren't</p> <p>24 going to live longer than a minute or so in that smoke.</p> <p>25 So the time it would take to contact someone was time</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 A. Not at all. I mean, I could hazard a guess that it</p> <p>2 might have come up through the lift shaft, through the</p> <p>3 bin shafts, but at that time I didn't try to analyse it.</p> <p>4 Q. If you go to page 7 of your statement, you say about</p> <p>5 a quarter of the way down that page:</p> <p>6 "At this point I was concerned, I could think of no</p> <p>7 reason that there could be fire on the 4th, 5th, 6th and</p> <p>8 16th floor except possibly for an arsonist which made</p> <p>9 the situation considerably more serious than I had</p> <p>10 previously believed it to be which was a fire in one</p> <p>11 flat, which may have jumped a few floors but was still</p> <p>12 mostly contained."</p> <p>13 You say "I was concerned"; did you have any thoughts</p> <p>14 about whether the fire was spreading further up the</p> <p>15 building?</p> <p>16 A. Obviously that was a possibility. There were other</p> <p>17 possibilities that it could've been. Like I just said,</p> <p>18 there could be an arsonist. The origination of the fire</p> <p>19 could've been on the 16th floor and something dropped</p> <p>20 out the 16th floor and caught the fourth floor alight.</p> <p>21 So there are other possibilities, and fire travel as</p> <p>22 well. These were possibilities, but they were all very</p> <p>23 unlikely possibilities.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you have any thoughts at that moment about whether</p> <p>25 there was a need for full or phased evacuation of the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 that we needed to get in and do a sweep around that</p> <p>2 lobby.</p> <p>3 Q. If you at the time had thought that you had successfully</p> <p>4 located the person that you had gone up to originally</p> <p>5 reassure, and then, when you got there, to rescue, what</p> <p>6 was the purpose of going back into the 16th-floor lobby?</p> <p>7 A. Because although I'd assumed that that was the person,</p> <p>8 you can never assume anything and you've got to make</p> <p>9 sure in case there is someone else in there.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 Did you think that you needed to alert other</p> <p>12 residents or rescue other residents on that floor?</p> <p>13 A. Well, again, it would be part of that to make sure that</p> <p>14 everyone -- try to make sure that people were okay on</p> <p>15 that floor.</p> <p>16 Q. When you say "were okay", what do you mean?</p> <p>17 A. Well, as I said earlier, that if they were in a flat</p> <p>18 that wasn't being affected by smoke, it was probably</p> <p>19 safer for them to stay in that flat rather than get</p> <p>20 brought out through very dangerous smoke and then taken</p> <p>21 down 16 floors.</p> <p>22 Q. Having seen the smoke in the 16th floor lobby and</p> <p>23 experienced it for yourself, floor to ceiling, did you</p> <p>24 have any thoughts about where that smoke was coming</p> <p>25 from?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 whole building?</p> <p>2 A. Not myself at that time, no.</p> <p>3 Q. Not yourself?</p> <p>4 A. I was too busy doing what I was doing.</p> <p>5 Q. Do you know whether anybody else did?</p> <p>6 A. I wouldn't know that.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you have any thoughts to yourself, even, about</p> <p>8 whether continuing to tell people to stay-put in their</p> <p>9 flats was a safe thing to do?</p> <p>10 A. Not at that point; I was busy with what was in front of</p> <p>11 me.</p> <p>12 Q. When you say that you believed that the fire was mostly</p> <p>13 contained, previously believed that it was still mostly</p> <p>14 contained, did you now think that the fire was not</p> <p>15 contained?</p> <p>16 A. What do you mean by mostly contained?</p> <p>17 Q. Well, in your statement you say, at the point I've</p> <p>18 highlighted, that the fact that:</p> <p>19 "... there could be fire on the 4th, 5th, 6th and</p> <p>20 16th floor ... made the situation considerably more</p> <p>21 serious than I had previously believed it to be which</p> <p>22 was a fire in one flat, which may have jumped a few</p> <p>23 floors but was still mostly contained."</p> <p>24 My question is: did you now think that the fire was</p> <p>25 not still mostly contained?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 A. As I said, there were possibilities. There were ways 2 that smoke could've travelled without fire travel. So 3 smoke could've come up from the sixth up via the lift 4 shaft, in which case the fire hadn't travelled; it had 5 been the smoke that had travelled. So at that point, 6 I wasn't sure that fire had travelled.</p> <p>7 Q. Now, in the middle of page 7, in the middle of the page 8 but five lines up from the end of that big first 9 paragraph, you say:</p> <p>10 "We decided to finish searching the 16th floor but 11 by now I was definitely aware that this was a very 12 unusual incident. We completed the right hand wall 13 search stopping each time we got to a door and hitting 14 and kicking it and shouting out. We received no reply 15 at any door and none of the other doors were open so 16 after waiting approximately 20 seconds at each door we 17 moved on. A short while later we were back at the lobby 18 doors and went back out into the stairwell to check our 19 air gauges."</p> <p>20 When you say "none of the other doors were open", is 21 that a reference back to the first door you came to, 22 which was open?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. If you go back to the bottom of page 6 of your 25 statement, this is where you say:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 Q. Right. You say there was no door closer on it?</p> <p>2 A. Well, the flat door was open, so it wasn't pulled to, so 3 it was on the latch or whatever. It was open.</p> <p>4 Q. Right. And just to complete this point, did you see it 5 propped open or was it just standing naturally open?</p> <p>6 A. I couldn't see it because we were in zero visibility 7 smoke. It's all done by touch, so I felt it with my 8 hand. So whether it was half open and then, as I've hit 9 it with my hand, it's opened fully, I don't know, but 10 the door was open.</p> <p>11 Q. You say in the middle of page 7, as I've just shown you, 12 that you hit and kicked each door as you got to it and 13 shouted out.</p> <p>14 Did anybody answer?</p> <p>15 A. No, not that I heard.</p> <p>16 Q. How much noise do you think you were actually making?</p> <p>17 A. I was kicking in with my steel toe cap boots, so it's 18 loud.</p> <p>19 Q. Now, there were in fact occupants in flat 133 on that 20 floor and fortunately they did escape some time later in 21 the night. In fact, we have them at 3.47 escaping.</p> <p>22 Is there any reason you can think of why they might 23 not have heard you?</p> <p>24 A. I can't say whether they were asleep or they just didn't 25 hear me, I don't know.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 "We recommenced a right hand wall search. The first 2 door we came to was open."</p> <p>3 Do you remember which door to which flat that was in 4 relation to the lifts, for example?</p> <p>5 A. It was the door to the flat directly above the fire flat 6 on the fourth floor.</p> <p>7 Q. So that would be flat 136, would it?</p> <p>8 A. I don't know what the numbers were.</p> <p>9 Q. You say that door was open; do you know why it was open?</p> <p>10 A. I don't know why it was open, no.</p> <p>11 Q. How far open was it?</p> <p>12 A. I can't remember if it was just -- whether it was fully 13 open or partially open. I just remember as I got to it, 14 it was open, that the door was not locked.</p> <p>15 Q. Obviously not locked, but was it propped open or 16 standing open?</p> <p>17 A. There was a gap open. I can't -- there was definitely 18 a gap there. Whether it was fully open or half open, 19 I can't remember. It wasn't pulled to, so there was 20 a small gap. It was pretty much open.</p> <p>21 Q. Right. Did you have any thoughts about what that meant 22 in terms of whether the door closer was working properly 23 or not?</p> <p>24 A. Well, yeah, it was open, yeah, so there was no door 25 closer on it, yeah.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 Q. When you shouted out, what were you shouting, do you 2 remember?</p> <p>3 A. "Hello, is anyone in there?" I mean, when you speak 4 through a BA mask, it's very muffled, so it would've 5 been more the kicking of the door and then you would 6 hope someone would either come to the door and speak to 7 you from the other side or quickly open the door and you 8 can slip in and speak to them. That would be the 9 method.</p> <p>10 Q. When you were hitting the door, I mean, was it a polite 11 knock or --</p> <p>12 A. No, I was kicking it, so you should -- it may not wake 13 you up, but if you're awake, you should hear that.</p> <p>14 Q. In the next paragraph on page 7, you say, having 15 described that you were low on air and had to go back 16 down 16 floors:</p> <p>17 "... we believed we had successfully helped the male 18 who was 'trapped' on the 16th floor we decided to go 19 back to the bridgehead."</p> <p>20 That belief you seem to indicate was one shared with 21 Crew Manager Stern. Was that your belief or was that 22 both of your beliefs, do you know?</p> <p>23 A. I can only account for my own belief, so, yeah, that was 24 my belief.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you have any discussion with Crew Manager Stern</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 about the success of helping the male who was trapped?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you or he try to tell the bridgehead that you had</p> <p>4 rescued the trapped male?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Who was that?</p> <p>7 A. We both did. I switched on my radio, he tried on his</p> <p>8 BARIE set, he tried on his handheld and I tried on my</p> <p>9 handheld. After we'd completed that search, our major</p> <p>10 concern now was getting that information down to the</p> <p>11 bridgehead.</p> <p>12 Q. You say you tried; did you succeed?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. How many times did you try?</p> <p>15 A. A couple, two or three.</p> <p>16 Q. So you on your handheld?</p> <p>17 A. I was on my handheld. I switched that on at that point</p> <p>18 and then I was trying to talk through the BA set and</p> <p>19 Jamal was using his BARIE and his handheld.</p> <p>20 Q. Is there a reason why you'd kept it off and then you</p> <p>21 only switched it on at that stage?</p> <p>22 A. Because at that point I wanted to try and make contact</p> <p>23 with the bridgehead to convey my concern.</p> <p>24 Q. At that point, when you were trying to make contact with</p> <p>25 the bridgehead, do you know where the man you refer to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 to go to those, on the second page, you say at the top,</p> <p>2 after the reference to withdrawing from the flat, this</p> <p>3 is halfway down that page:</p> <p>4 "At that point we were getting low on air so started</p> <p>5 our way down, pointing people [something] in the right</p> <p>6 direction ..."</p> <p>7 Can you help me what that was?</p> <p>8 A. "Leaving".</p> <p>9 Q. "... pointing people leaving in the right direction and</p> <p>10 keeping them calm."</p> <p>11 Could you just explain that? According to that</p> <p>12 note, you were discussing matters with people on the way</p> <p>13 down. Was that what you were doing?</p> <p>14 A. I don't remember that now. I may have confused that in</p> <p>15 my notes there with when we were going up. I remember</p> <p>16 doing it going up, but I don't remember seeing anyone</p> <p>17 coming down.</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 So looking back on it, is the record you made within</p> <p>20 hours of the event not accurate but your recollection</p> <p>21 now more accurate?</p> <p>22 A. Probably they are more accurate than they are now, but,</p> <p>23 again, those notes were made 12, 15 hours after -- into</p> <p>24 a fire, so I was extremely tired then as well, so</p> <p>25 I couldn't tell you which is the more likely.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 as Sam was?</p> <p>2 A. No. I believe there was no one up there by the time we</p> <p>3 came up.</p> <p>4 Q. What about Firefighter O'Beirne?</p> <p>5 A. I don't believe there was but -- no.</p> <p>6 Q. What were the conditions back out in the stairwell when</p> <p>7 you left the 16th floor?</p> <p>8 A. Still pretty -- still clear.</p> <p>9 Q. And then you say in the fifth line down from the top of</p> <p>10 that paragraph:</p> <p>11 "We decided to hurry back down the stairs to get the</p> <p>12 message back to the bridgehead as quickly as possible.</p> <p>13 I don't remember seeing anyone else on the way down but</p> <p>14 the visibility was still good, the lights were still on</p> <p>15 and there was still relatively little smoke in the</p> <p>16 stairwell."</p> <p>17 Did you encounter anybody else on the way down?</p> <p>18 A. I don't remember seeing anybody on the way down, no.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you remember seeing Firefighter O'Beirne, for</p> <p>20 example?</p> <p>21 A. I don't remember seeing anybody on the way down.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you hear anybody on the way down?</p> <p>23 A. No, I don't -- no.</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 In your contemporaneous notes, if I can just ask you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>2 You say in your statement, coming back to it, in the</p> <p>3 sixth line down from the start of that paragraph:</p> <p>4 "We decided to hurry back down the stairs ..."</p> <p>5 If you were hurrying, do you remember whether in</p> <p>6 your hurry you did speak to anybody, or whether because</p> <p>7 you were hurrying you didn't?</p> <p>8 A. As I say, it wouldn't have necessarily been because we</p> <p>9 were hurrying, but I don't remember. I remember we were</p> <p>10 trying to get down as quickly as possible to pass our</p> <p>11 information on.</p> <p>12 Q. Were your air whistles going?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 Now, as you got down to the bridgehead, as you say</p> <p>16 at the top of page 8, you went up to Watch Manager</p> <p>17 O'Keeffe. If we just look at that. You say:</p> <p>18 "When I got down to the bridgehead which was still</p> <p>19 on the mezzanine floor in the atrium I shut down my BA,</p> <p>20 took back my tally and went up to WM O'KEEFFE. I was</p> <p>21 exhausted at this point as I have been working extremely</p> <p>22 hard for the 20 minutes or so that I have been in the</p> <p>23 tower and I was breathing heavily and extremely hot.</p> <p>24 I stood and told WM O'KEEFFE face to face what I had</p> <p>25 seen, that there was thick black smoke on the 6th and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 16th floors, that there was heat on the 16th floor 12 2 floors up from the fire flat and that in my opinion we 3 had a very serious incident on our hands." 4 Now, you don't say there in your statement that you 5 told him anything about your meeting with the man you 6 thought was Sam. 7 A. I wouldn't have told him about the meeting with Sam; 8 I would've told him about rescuing one person out of the 9 smoke. 10 Q. Well, can I ask you about that. 11 Do you remember telling Watch Manager O'Keeffe about 12 the rescue on the 16th floor? 13 A. I would've -- I don't specifically remember any of the 14 debrief, but I would've told him that -- yeah, 15 I would've told him exactly what we'd done, where we'd 16 been, including the sixth, what we'd done on the 16th, 17 what we'd seen on the 16th, what we'd searched on the 18 16th and rescuing one person. 19 Q. Do you remember telling him that you had rescued the man 20 who was trapped on the 16th floor? 21 A. No, I would've just told him we'd rescued one person. 22 I wouldn't have told him we'd rescued the man on the 23 16th. I would've told him we had rescued one person at 24 the 16th. 25 Q. Did you tell Watch Manager O'Keeffe that the mission to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 residents when you were coming down? 2 A. No. 3 Q. Did you tell Watch Manager O'Keeffe that there were 4 residents you encountered on your way up? 5 A. No, but assuming they would have all gone past -- they 6 would've had to have gone past the bridgehead to get out 7 of the building. They'd have had to have squeezed past 8 him, in fact, to get out of the building. 9 Q. Right. 10 When you got down to the bridgehead, can you 11 describe to us how the bridgehead was operating? 12 A. I can't remember, to be honest with you. It was chaotic 13 at that point, so, yeah, I was focused on telling Watch 14 Manager O'Keeffe my debrief and little else really. 15 Q. Do you remember who was on the bridgehead apart from 16 Watch Manager O'Keeffe? 17 A. I don't, no. 18 Q. Do you remember any impression of how many firefighters 19 there were there at that point? 20 A. I couldn't tell you. I mean, again, I think me and 21 Jamal Stern were both getting close to heat stress as 22 well, so it was -- we were tired and -- 23 Q. Okay. Well, forgive the next question or two. 24 Do you have any recollection of seeing any recording 25 of fire survival guidance information at the bridgehead?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 rescue, as it had become, a trapped male on the 16th 2 floor was successful? 3 A. No, because, again, it would just be a debrief of what 4 I'd done or what we had done. The actual -- again, 5 I was only making an assumption that we had rescued 6 the -- so I wouldn't pass my assumption on. That was 7 just an assumption that I had made myself. There was no 8 fact in that assumption, so ... 9 Q. Do you remember whether Crew Manager Stern gave Watch 10 Manager O'Keeffe a debrief as well? 11 A. I don't remember that, no. 12 Q. You don't remember him doing it? 13 A. No, I remember shutting my set down and going to Watch 14 Manager O'Keeffe face-to-face. Whether he gave 15 a similar debrief or not, I don't know. 16 Q. You don't know. So you don't know one way or the other? 17 A. No. 18 Q. Okay. 19 Do you know whether Watch Manager O'Keeffe 20 redeployed a group or pair of BA wearers back to the 21 16th floor -- 22 A. No. 23 Q. -- after your debrief? 24 A. No, I don't know. 25 Q. Did you tell Watch Manager O'Keeffe that you encountered</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 A. No, none at all. 2 Q. Do you remember seeing anyone writing on the wall? 3 A. No. 4 Q. Okay. 5 We have your telemetry data showing your end of wear 6 time as 01.38.35. That would be when you actually took 7 the mask off. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Does that sound about right to you? 10 A. Yes, yes, could be. 11 Q. Okay. 12 (Pause) 13 Are you familiar with the symptoms of metabolic heat 14 stress? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Have you experienced those symptoms before? 17 A. I have, yes. 18 Q. From your experience of those symptoms, do you remember 19 whether you had or thought you had those symptoms at the 20 moment you were debriefing to Watch Manager O'Keeffe? 21 A. I think we were close to it. I know my limits, as 22 I say, I've had it before and I know my limits, when to 23 slow down, and we were getting close to it. But we 24 weren't -- I wasn't feeling the effects of heat stress, 25 but I knew we were close to it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 MR MILLETT: Mr Hippel, thank you very much. I have no 2 further questions for you. 3 I just want to say thank you very much for coming to 4 the inquiry and helping us with our investigations. 5 You've been extremely helpful. Thank you. 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I add my thanks to that, Mr Hippel. 7 It's really helpful to us to hear about your personal 8 experiences within the tower. It helps us to piece the 9 picture together, so we're very grateful to you for 10 coming. 11 THE WITNESS: Cheers. 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Before you leave, can I just check, 13 Mr Millett, you don't need a little time to check there 14 aren't any further questions? 15 MR MILLETT: No. 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No. Good, well, in that case, thank 17 you very much. You're free to go. 18 THE WITNESS: Thanks for having me. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you, you can go with the 20 usher. 21 (The witness was released) 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, then, Mr Millett. 23 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman. Our next witness is Crew 24 Manager Stern. 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 In those circumstances, would you be prepared to 2 affirm? 3 THE WITNESS: Yes. 4 MR MILLETT: Very good. So I think the affirmation could be 5 put to him instead. 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You are right to explain. If you 7 are content to affirm, that would be perfectly all 8 right. 9 THE WITNESS: Yes. 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. 11 (The witness affirmed) 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Stern, thank you very much. Sit 13 down and make yourself comfortable. 14 Yes, Mr Millett. 15 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY 16 MR MILLETT: Mr Stern, first of all, could you please give 17 the inquiry your full name? 18 A. Jamal Stern. 19 Q. Can I say, by way of preliminary, thank you very much to 20 you for coming to the inquiry and assisting us with our 21 investigations. It's extremely helpful and we're very 22 grateful to you. 23 I say this to all witnesses: my questions are 24 intended to be short and simple. Sometimes they aren't. 25 If they're not or if you don't understand a question or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 MR MILLETT: And if he can be called as soon as possible, 2 that would be excellent, if we can move seamlessly into 3 that. I'm in your hands as to whether we need a break 4 or not. 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We don't need a break unless there's 6 going to be a little delay in getting him down to the 7 room. 8 MR MILLETT: I think 5 minutes might help, actually, if we 9 can then change the -- 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Let's start him at 12.05. 11 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much. 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: 12.05, please. 13 (12.00 pm) 14 (A short break) 15 (12.05 pm) 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think Mr Stern is now ready, so 17 we'll carry on, shall we? 18 MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you, Mr Chairman. So I now call 19 Crew Manager Jamal Stern. 20 JAMAL STERN (called) 21 MR MILLETT: Mr Stern, before you are sworn -- I am so 22 sorry, Mrs Usher, can I just make this point. 23 Before you are sworn, can I apologise to you that we 24 have provided a Qur'an without a cover on it, and I did 25 not realise that and I'm sorry about that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 you want it repeated, please just say and I'll repeat 2 the question or I'll put it in a different way. 3 If you need a break at any time, just indicate and 4 we can take a break. Okay? 5 A. Okay. 6 Q. Can I ask you, first, to take your statement, which will 7 be in the little blue file in front of you and also on 8 the screen on the desk to your right which you're 9 looking at. It's MET00012483, and I think you've got 10 a number of exhibits to that statement as well. 11 The statement is dated 14 February 2018. 12 Have you read it recently? 13 A. Yes, I have. 14 Q. Can you confirm that its contents are true? 15 A. Yes, they are, yes. 16 Q. Have you discussed your statement or the evidence that 17 you would be giving to the inquiry with anybody before 18 coming here today? 19 A. No, I have not. 20 Q. Can I just ask you to move the microphone just a little 21 bit closer to your -- 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You can also bend it down. 23 MR MILLETT: So that we can hear you. 24 Now, can I just start with some questions about your 25 position in the LFB.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 You joined the LFB in 2005?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, correct.</p> <p>3 Q. I think you've been an active firefighter since then?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, I have, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. You came to Kensington fire station when you were</p> <p>6 promoted to crew manager?</p> <p>7 A. That's correct.</p> <p>8 Q. Was that in 2017?</p> <p>9 A. I believe it was in 2016.</p> <p>10 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>11 And prior to that you were at Soho?</p> <p>12 A. I was, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. As at the night of 14 June 2017, the night of the</p> <p>14 Grenfell Tower fire, you were a crew manager?</p> <p>15 A. I was, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. That remains your rank, does it?</p> <p>17 A. No. As of May of this year, I've been promoted to the</p> <p>18 role of watch manager.</p> <p>19 Q. Oh, right. Congratulations.</p> <p>20 A. Thank you.</p> <p>21 Q. Watch manager where?</p> <p>22 A. At Fulham.</p> <p>23 Q. At Fulham?</p> <p>24 A. Fulham fire station.</p> <p>25 Q. Which watch is that?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 Court make you think differently about how a fire in</p> <p>2 a high-rise building might behave?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 At page 29 of your statement -- I'm sorry to jump</p> <p>6 around, it's the nature of the statement -- if you look</p> <p>7 at the third paragraph on that page, you say:</p> <p>8 "With the failure of compartmentation in a high rise</p> <p>9 block of flats, when the fire does spread we have the</p> <p>10 resources to stop it, like the Shepard Bush fire earlier</p> <p>11 in the year ..."</p> <p>12 Then you go on to say:</p> <p>13 "... it might spread to the next floor maybe catch a</p> <p>14 curtain alight, put that out eventually, go to the next</p> <p>15 floor, if it does go up 2 or 3 more floors you will</p> <p>16 eventually get crews up there quick enough to put it out</p> <p>17 and it will stop ..."</p> <p>18 So would it -- to describe your evidence -- be fair</p> <p>19 to say that with a fire like Shepherds Court,</p> <p>20 essentially the crews chase the fire until they get</p> <p>21 above it and put it out?</p> <p>22 A. Essentially, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay.</p> <p>24 Did you know what the cause of upwards fire spread</p> <p>25 was at Shepherds Court?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 A. Red Watch.</p> <p>2 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>3 Now, on page 5 of your statement, you say that you</p> <p>4 attended the Shepherds Court fire.</p> <p>5 Well, I think I may have jumped the gun a bit.</p> <p>6 Let me just ask you. In the third line of that page</p> <p>7 you say:</p> <p>8 "... we've have been to high rise fires through my</p> <p>9 career many times, a recent one was at Shepherds Bush</p> <p>10 where it travelled a few floors, so I was there and we</p> <p>11 stopped that pretty quick ..."</p> <p>12 Is that the Shepherds Court fire?</p> <p>13 A. That's it, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. What was your role at that incident?</p> <p>15 A. Crew manager.</p> <p>16 Q. At what stage in the incident did you arrive?</p> <p>17 A. On that specific incident, I was standing by at</p> <p>18 Paddington fire station. So, from memory, I believe we</p> <p>19 got mobilised at make pumps six, so it would've been</p> <p>20 during the slight progression of the incident that</p> <p>21 I would've attended.</p> <p>22 Q. Which station were you attached to at that time?</p> <p>23 A. I was at Paddington.</p> <p>24 Q. You were at Paddington, right.</p> <p>25 Did your experience of what happened at Shepherds</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 A. No. I can only assume it went through open windows or</p> <p>2 the windows failed and eventually broke into those</p> <p>3 compartments. Those compartments did their job. The</p> <p>4 fire didn't spread as quickly as it did at Grenfell, so</p> <p>5 crews were able to get in with a line of hose and put</p> <p>6 that fire out as it spread per floor.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you ever learn that combustible materials on the</p> <p>8 facade of the building might have contributed to the</p> <p>9 fire spread at Shepherds Court?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Have you ever been trained on the fire spread through</p> <p>12 combustible materials on a facade?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. Does your training cover what's been called the stay-put</p> <p>15 policy?</p> <p>16 A. I'm aware of the stay-put guidance given, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. What do you understand it to mean?</p> <p>18 A. Stay-put guidance is given via control. So if a caller</p> <p>19 phones up and states they are trapped by nature of fire,</p> <p>20 the control officer will give them advice, depending</p> <p>21 upon the situation, to stay put where they are and we'll</p> <p>22 come and rescue them.</p> <p>23 Q. If you look at the bottom of page 14 of your statement,</p> <p>24 you explain there what the stay-put policy is.</p> <p>25 Just exploring your last answer and the statement</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 together, you say in the last paragraph on page 14 in 2 the second sentence: 3 "Someone rings up and they're trapped by smoke or 4 flame or fire, they're tasked to stay put in a safe 5 place for us to come and rescue them." 6 So when you say "they're trapped" could you just 7 explain what you mean there? 8 A. Well, "trapped" is quite a vague word. If they feel 9 unfit to run through smoke or they feel a fear of fire 10 or there could be the effects of fire or smoke, the 11 control officer will give them that advice, to stay 12 where they are. 13 Q. Right. 14 If a person is trapped, do you understand that it 15 means that they have no choice but to stay put? 16 A. Yes, that term "trapped", yes, I do understand that. In 17 that statement, I've used it quite vaguely there. 18 Q. Right. 19 Now, coming to your arrival at Grenfell Tower on the 20 night. 21 We have you and Firefighter Hippel, who was here 22 this morning, arriving at Grenfell Tower at 01.08.33. 23 That was your status 3 time. 24 Do you remember roughly whether that's right or not? 25 A. Yeah, I'm assuming that would be right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 walkway -- the mezzanine level, I looked up and I could 2 see some fire coming out a window. 3 Q. That's the mezzanine level of the building? 4 A. No, no, before I entered the building, looking up, I did 5 see fire. 6 Q. Okay. Where did you see the fire? 7 A. Coming out a window on the east side of the building. 8 Q. Right. 9 Could you describe the fire? 10 A. It just looked like a small fire. 11 Q. Were the flames coming out of the window at that stage? 12 A. It seemed to be so, yeah. 13 Q. Do you think that the window was still intact at that 14 stage or -- 15 A. I couldn't tell whether the window was open or not 16 there, I'm sorry. 17 Q. At that stage, could you see any burning items falling 18 off the building? 19 A. No. 20 Q. Now, you describe approaching the entrance to the tower. 21 This is page 4 of your statement, about three-quarters 22 of the way down. 23 Do you remember who you were with at that stage? 24 A. Firefighter Hippel. 25 Q. Anybody else?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 Q. Okay. 2 You say in your statement that you parked at a spot 3 that you show on exhibit JAS/2. Can we just have a look 4 at that just to get that absolutely clear. JAS/2 is 5 MET00016890. 6 There it is, and you have marked G331, I think that 7 is -- 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. -- there. So you parked on the right-hand side of 10 Grenfell Road, just before the left-hand bend leading to 11 the covered walkway? 12 A. I believe so, but also I think our vehicle was moved at 13 some stage during that night. But that's where 14 I remember us getting off at. 15 Q. Right. 16 Did you have any sight of the fire from there? 17 A. No. 18 Q. Did you know which floor and flat the fire was on? 19 A. I believe on the tip sheet that we received was a fire 20 on the fourth floor. 21 Q. When you dismounted the appliance, did you then walk 22 towards the building? 23 A. I did, yes. 24 Q. Did you get any view of the fire from there? 25 A. Yes. I believe after we walk under that little</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 A. Not that I can remember, no. 2 Q. Do you remember what the rest of your crew was doing? 3 A. I'm not too sure. 4 Q. In the last paragraph of that page, you say: 5 "As I approached the entrance, I went in under like 6 a mezzanine where the estate linked to Lancaster West 7 Estate, approached the entrance, looked up and saw light 8 grey smoke coming out from what looked like vents from 9 the building and as I looked to the right, I could see 10 fire coming out what was reported on the 4th floor." 11 Now, I just want to explore these vents with you, if 12 I can. 13 Which side of the building were these vents on, from 14 your recollection? 15 A. Above the entrance into Grenfell Tower. 16 Q. I'm going to ask you to look at a picture. Could the 17 witness please be shown BLA00004531. 18 Now, this, I should tell you, is a photograph taken 19 by one of the inquiry's experts, Dr Barbara Lane, and 20 she took it on her visit during November 2017, so this 21 is after the fire. 22 Looking at the photograph, you have the green 23 covering of the main entrance to the tower on the south 24 side. 25 Do you see from that picture anything which could</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 prompt a recollection as to the vents you've described?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, if those were the only vents on the front, then</p> <p>3 those would've been the vents that I saw.</p> <p>4 Q. Right. And those are the only vents you saw, are they?</p> <p>5 A. Yeah.</p> <p>6 Q. In relation to the door, do you think those were the</p> <p>7 vents you saw the smoke coming out of?</p> <p>8 A. My memory, I seem to think they're a bit lower than</p> <p>9 that, but if those are the only vents on the front of</p> <p>10 that entrance to the building, then those are the vents</p> <p>11 that I saw.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay.</p> <p>13 There may be a better picture to look at. Let's</p> <p>14 look at 356, if we can, which is a photograph taken by</p> <p>15 Studio E Architects during the refurbishment.</p> <p>16 We have a slightly more distant photograph of the</p> <p>17 south face of the tower, with the entrance there with</p> <p>18 the green and red, and then above that, flanked by two</p> <p>19 pieces of -- I'm not sure what -- board of some kind,</p> <p>20 you have a large white extractor.</p> <p>21 Does that help you recall the location of the vents</p> <p>22 you saw?</p> <p>23 A. Yes. It seems to be the only vents on the front of that</p> <p>24 building.</p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 of mechanical noise or vents, air fan of some sort,</p> <p>2 coming out that building.</p> <p>3 Q. If you go to the bottom of page 4, we can explore that</p> <p>4 a bit more. You say, five lines up from the bottom of</p> <p>5 the page:</p> <p>6 "... you could hear the vents working, it was like a</p> <p>7 fanning noise, quite loud, you could hear them, you</p> <p>8 could see a bit of grey smoke coming out, nothing thick,</p> <p>9 nothing black just a bit of smoke ..."</p> <p>10 Just in terms of hearing the fanning noise quite</p> <p>11 loud, you're clear, are you, in your recollection that</p> <p>12 you could hear the fanning?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, from my recollection.</p> <p>14 Q. And that was even above the noise of the pumps?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. This is a strange question, but can you describe the</p> <p>17 noise for us?</p> <p>18 A. Like the air conditioning sound or the sound of that fan</p> <p>19 there (Indicates), something similar to that.</p> <p>20 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>21 Could you hear a motor running?</p> <p>22 A. I can't remember, sorry.</p> <p>23 Q. Did the fact that you could hear the fanning in the way</p> <p>24 you've described it and see the smoke coming out give</p> <p>25 you any cause for concern?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 Now, in your statement you say at page 5 in the</p> <p>2 second paragraph:</p> <p>3 "The vents are elevated but not on ground floor, as</p> <p>4 you enter the front of Grenfell Tower, there's like a</p> <p>5 big glass entrance so they are elevated there may be</p> <p>6 about 3 meters[sic] up roughly, give or take, they</p> <p>7 aren't on the floor ..."</p> <p>8 Looking at that, and having now looked at the</p> <p>9 photograph, can we be clear that the photograph is in</p> <p>10 accordance with your recollection or --</p> <p>11 A. Yes. Obviously a little bit higher than 3 metres, but</p> <p>12 yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Now, in terms of the smoke, can you describe the smoke</p> <p>14 coming out?</p> <p>15 A. Just it's light grey smoke coming out the vents.</p> <p>16 Q. Was it coming out under force or was it drifting out?</p> <p>17 A. Not that I can recall.</p> <p>18 Q. Was it going in a particular direction, do you remember?</p> <p>19 A. It was just coming out and either dissipating in the air</p> <p>20 or travelling back up the building, I can't quite</p> <p>21 remember, but I just visually remember smoke coming out</p> <p>22 of those vents.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 Did you hear a noise above the noise of the pumps?</p> <p>25 A. Yeah. From my memory, yeah, I believe I heard some kind</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 A. No, I assumed that the building had some kind of fire</p> <p>2 engineering system that was helping the building.</p> <p>3 Q. On page 5 of your statement, you say in the first</p> <p>4 paragraph, two lines up from the end:</p> <p>5 "... the only thing that was a bit out of the</p> <p>6 ordinary was the smoke coming out of the vents but at</p> <p>7 that time hindsight, it didn't really, I didn't pick up</p> <p>8 on it."</p> <p>9 Why do you say that the smoke coming out of the</p> <p>10 vents was a bit out of the ordinary?</p> <p>11 A. Simply because I now know what happened. That's looking</p> <p>12 back -- that's with hindsight of what happened that</p> <p>13 evening.</p> <p>14 Q. I see. Okay.</p> <p>15 Just in terms of the smoke, do you remember whether</p> <p>16 the smoke had a plume or a particular shape to it or --</p> <p>17 A. Coming out the vents?</p> <p>18 Q. Yes.</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 You're outside the entrance to the tower. Do you</p> <p>22 remember who else was outside the entrance when you got</p> <p>23 there?</p> <p>24 A. I don't know, I can't remember.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you see Mike Dowden?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Did you speak to anybody before going into the tower?</p> <p>3 A. Not that I can recall.</p> <p>4 Q. Who was giving you instructions at that time?</p> <p>5 A. Walking into the tower?</p> <p>6 Q. Yes, at that moment.</p> <p>7 A. No one. Watch Manager O'Keeffe would have gone to the</p> <p>8 IC and, naturally, us being BA wearers, we would have</p> <p>9 made our way to the bridgehead.</p> <p>10 Q. What were the conditions like in the lobby when you went</p> <p>11 in, do you remember?</p> <p>12 A. Clear.</p> <p>13 Q. Clear.</p> <p>14 Do you remember coming into the lobby with any other</p> <p>15 firefighters?</p> <p>16 A. Firefighter Hippel.</p> <p>17 Q. Firefighter Hippel. Anybody else?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. What about O'Hanlon and Barton from Hammersmith?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 Now, I think you then say that you took the stairs</p> <p>23 to the second floor.</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you try the lift?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 A. Firefighter De St Aubin was in charge of the entry</p> <p>2 control board and that's all I can -- at that time I can</p> <p>3 remember.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you remember seeing any BA wearers when you got to</p> <p>5 the bridgehead?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. On your journey from the lobby to the bridgehead, were</p> <p>8 you always with Richard Hippel?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Now, in your witness statement on page 6 in the third</p> <p>11 and fourth paragraphs, you say -- I'll summarise it --</p> <p>12 that you asked Crew Manager Secrett to commit you and</p> <p>13 Richard Hippel to act as backup to the crews who had</p> <p>14 gone into the fourth floor.</p> <p>15 Am I summarising your evidence correctly?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, you are, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you know how many crews had gone into the fourth</p> <p>18 floor?</p> <p>19 A. There was two sets of two crews.</p> <p>20 Q. Right. Do you know who they were at that stage?</p> <p>21 A. No, I remember hearing -- no, not at that stage, no, not</p> <p>22 at that moment.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember whether Crew Manager Secrett gave you</p> <p>24 any particular instructions at that stage?</p> <p>25 A. He wanted us to stay there as an emergency crew.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Is there any reason why you didn't try the lift?</p> <p>3 A. The bridgehead was on the second floor. There was</p> <p>4 a door that was ajar going up the stairs towards the</p> <p>5 mezzanine level of the balcony, so it would just be</p> <p>6 easier to take the stairs.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 Do you remember what the conditions were like on the</p> <p>9 way up?</p> <p>10 A. Clear.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you pass anybody?</p> <p>12 A. Not that I can recall.</p> <p>13 Q. You don't remember residents coming down?</p> <p>14 A. No, not at that time, no.</p> <p>15 Q. Now, you say in your statement -- page 6, first</p> <p>16 paragraph -- that when you got up to the bridgehead, you</p> <p>17 were met by Crew Manager Secrett, who was in charge. Do</p> <p>18 you see that?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Now, he in his witness statement refers to you and</p> <p>21 Richard Hippel looking spooked and concerned. Were you?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 Do you remember seeing any other firefighters when</p> <p>25 you got to the bridgehead?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 Q. As an emergency crew?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you know why that was?</p> <p>4 A. It is procedure. I guess he wanted us there in case</p> <p>5 anything went wrong with the first two crews. It's good</p> <p>6 standard practice.</p> <p>7 Q. You say you wanted to go in and act as a backup to the</p> <p>8 crews already there. Can you explain what specific role</p> <p>9 you wanted to perform?</p> <p>10 A. Well, it's a high-rise building, there was a fire on the</p> <p>11 fourth floor, go and help, assist with the two crews</p> <p>12 going in. I know that, you know, dragging hose into</p> <p>13 a flat can be quite hard work, so we can assist with</p> <p>14 that. Also, to pre-empt any smoke travel, if there's</p> <p>15 anything amiss on the fourth floor, we will be ready to</p> <p>16 deal with that or progress to the fifth floor. In my</p> <p>17 experience, smoke does travel upwards, as it would, and</p> <p>18 it could affect the flat above.</p> <p>19 So it was just pre-empting that, really, and the</p> <p>20 resources were there and I thought for us donning BA and</p> <p>21 going to help out would be better suited rather than</p> <p>22 stand by as an emergency crew, but that's just my</p> <p>23 opinion.</p> <p>24 Q. Right, okay. But you knew that there was a second crew</p> <p>25 already backing up the first crew?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. So you effectively wanted to be there as a third crew?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. You told us, you remember, in your statement --</p> <p>5 paragraph 3 on page 6 -- that there was a message over</p> <p>6 the radio from Mike Dowden outside requesting permission</p> <p>7 to aim a covering jet into the window where the fire</p> <p>8 was.</p> <p>9 Do you remember that?</p> <p>10 A. I do remember that, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Which radio are you referring to? Whose radio?</p> <p>12 A. Handheld radio. I had my handheld radio on on</p> <p>13 channel 1.</p> <p>14 Q. Do you remember what the traffic was like on your</p> <p>15 handheld radio at that time?</p> <p>16 A. It was just Mike Dowden talking towards the bridgehead,</p> <p>17 Chris Secrett. There wasn't much traffic.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you have the ability at that stage to talk to</p> <p>19 Mike Dowden directly on your fire ground radio?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you speak to Mike Dowden directly on your fire</p> <p>22 ground radio?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you speak to him at any stage?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 vents, things are getting worse?</p> <p>2 A. Not necessarily.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you remember anybody saying, either Chris Secrett or</p> <p>4 Mike Dowden, that the fire had vented?</p> <p>5 A. Just over the radio.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 So if it wasn't necessarily a bad thing that it had</p> <p>8 vented, why do you assume that the fire must have got</p> <p>9 worse?</p> <p>10 A. Because he wants to put a jet through the window.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 A. It's not -- you wouldn't put a jet into a fire</p> <p>13 compartment with BA crews in that fire compartment, so</p> <p>14 the fact that Watch Manager Dowden was requesting to do</p> <p>15 that, he obviously wanted to put that fire out and it</p> <p>16 was spreading.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you hear any discussion between Chris Secrett and</p> <p>18 Mike Dowden about putting the jet above or below the</p> <p>19 window?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 Did you hear any other messages over the radio at</p> <p>23 that time?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. Now, if you go to page 7 of your statement, you say,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 Q. Did you try to speak to him later?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. We'll come back to that.</p> <p>4 In your statement, just below halfway down page 6,</p> <p>5 in the third paragraph on that page, after the reference</p> <p>6 to aiming the jet into the fire flat on the fourth</p> <p>7 floor, you say:</p> <p>8 "... I'm assuming that the fire must have got</p> <p>9 worst[sic] as I could hear them saying that the fire</p> <p>10 vented over the radio."</p> <p>11 So, first of all, are you describing there</p> <p>12 a conversation between Mike Dowden and Chris Secrett</p> <p>13 that you'd heard on the radio?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 When you say "I'm assuming that the fire must have</p> <p>17 got wors[e]", was that your thought at the time or is</p> <p>18 that a thought you had when you did your statement?</p> <p>19 A. That was my thought at the time. There would be no</p> <p>20 other reason why you would put a jet through the window</p> <p>21 unless it was venting or getting worse.</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 A. Especially if there was BA crews inside as well, so</p> <p>24 there is obviously a reason why he wanted to do that.</p> <p>25 Q. Does that mean to your way of thinking, when a fire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 about eight lines down from the top in the first</p> <p>2 paragraph there, that watch Manager O'Keeffe arrived and</p> <p>3 became OIC of the bridgehead.</p> <p>4 How soon after you'd arrived at the bridgehead do</p> <p>5 you think that was?</p> <p>6 A. A couple of minutes, maybe.</p> <p>7 Q. Oh, right, that soon?</p> <p>8 A. Yeah.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay. And did he take over the bridgehead, do you</p> <p>10 remember?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, he did, yeah.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember whether there was a handover from</p> <p>13 Chris Secrett to Watch Manager O'Keeffe?</p> <p>14 A. I don't remember, sorry.</p> <p>15 Q. You say that in the next sentence:</p> <p>16 "I asked WM O'KEEFFE to commit me and FF HIPPEL to</p> <p>17 the 4th floor as no communications returned from the</p> <p>18 initial BA crews ..."</p> <p>19 You say no communications returned from the initial</p> <p>20 BA crews; how did you know that there was no</p> <p>21 communication from the initial BA crews?</p> <p>22 A. Crew Manager Secrett was trying to get in contact with</p> <p>23 the initial BA crews to get their location in regards to</p> <p>24 Mike Dowden's request to put a jet through the window.</p> <p>25 He couldn't get any confirmation back from them. I was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

<p>1 listening, I was within hearing distance, and nothing</p> <p>2 came back, so that's how I knew that there was no</p> <p>3 communications coming back.</p> <p>4 Q. Did that surprise you?</p> <p>5 A. No, not really.</p> <p>6 Q. Why is that?</p> <p>7 A. Our BARIE sets are not great. They could've been</p> <p>8 working hard, they could've been task-orientated, they</p> <p>9 maybe didn't hear the message. They're in a fire</p> <p>10 compartment, so I'm assuming their priority is to put</p> <p>11 the fire out.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay.</p> <p>13 Is it, in your experience at the time, quite common</p> <p>14 for there to be unreliable communication between the</p> <p>15 bridgehead and BA wearers?</p> <p>16 A. It depends where they are, how far they are from the</p> <p>17 bridgehead.</p> <p>18 Q. Two floors.</p> <p>19 A. It happens.</p> <p>20 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>21 Now, you say in your statement that you asked Watch</p> <p>22 Manager O'Keeffe to commit you and Firefighter Hippel as</p> <p>23 no communications returned from the initial BA crews.</p> <p>24 Is that right? Is the reason you asked him to</p> <p>25 commit you because there had been no comeback from the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 committed.</p> <p>2 Q. So was your thinking at the time that on what you knew</p> <p>3 even at that stage, there was a risk that the fire might</p> <p>4 spread up above the fourth floor?</p> <p>5 A. If the fire has vented, then yes, yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Right. So even at that stage, you thought there was at</p> <p>7 least a risk that compartmentation around the</p> <p>8 fourth-floor flat had failed?</p> <p>9 A. My understanding, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you share that thought with anybody?</p> <p>11 A. I must have spoke to Watch Manager O'Keeffe.</p> <p>12 Q. Right. Do you remember doing that?</p> <p>13 A. I don't remember the exact conversation.</p> <p>14 Q. Now, Watch Manager O'Keeffe came here to give evidence</p> <p>15 some days ago on 6 July. He said that he committed you</p> <p>16 and Richard Hippel initially as hose management, so</p> <p>17 between the third and fourth floors. Do you remember</p> <p>18 that?</p> <p>19 A. I don't remember that. I remember being committed;</p> <p>20 I don't remember the exact brief he gave, to be honest.</p> <p>21 Q. If you had thought that the fire had vented and that</p> <p>22 there was a risk that the compartmentation on the fourth</p> <p>23 floor had failed, does that help with your recollection</p> <p>24 as to the brief that Watch Manager O'Keeffe gave you?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 initial BA crews?</p> <p>2 A. Possibly at that time, yes, that's from my memory.</p> <p>3 There could be more than one reason why we should be</p> <p>4 committed, but possibly at that time, that's what</p> <p>5 I remember.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 Do you know why you asked Watch Manager O'Keeffe to</p> <p>8 commit you in circumstances where Chris Secrett had</p> <p>9 decided he wasn't going to commit you but wanted to keep</p> <p>10 you in reserve as an emergency crew?</p> <p>11 A. Watch Manager O'Keeffe is a very experienced watch</p> <p>12 manager. He would understand the reasons why I was --</p> <p>13 no disrespect to Crew Manager Secrett, but Watch Manager</p> <p>14 O'Keeffe has quite a lot of experience, so if</p> <p>15 I explained my reasons to him, I asked him and he</p> <p>16 agreed, then he would understand where I was coming</p> <p>17 from.</p> <p>18 Q. Just for our benefit, what were the reasons why you</p> <p>19 thought it was right that you should be committed?</p> <p>20 A. Again, at that time now I heard that there was a vented</p> <p>21 fire and they wanted to put a jet through the window, so</p> <p>22 I can only assume, until I got there, that that fire was</p> <p>23 going to go up to the fifth floor. They may need some</p> <p>24 help, the two crews that went into the fire flat, so</p> <p>25 there was more than one reason why we should be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 Q. When he did commit you, what's your recollection as to</p> <p>2 what your task was to be?</p> <p>3 A. Go up to the fourth floor, assess if they needed</p> <p>4 assistance, and then eventually go up to the fifth</p> <p>5 floor.</p> <p>6 Q. Now, we have the telemetry data, which I don't need to</p> <p>7 show you unless you want to see it, but we have you and</p> <p>8 Richard Hippel tallying out at about 01.17, so 9 minutes</p> <p>9 or so after the crew had arrived status 3 at the</p> <p>10 incident ground. Is that about right?</p> <p>11 A. That must be, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. That tallies with your recollection, does it?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Did you go under air as soon as you left the bridgehead?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. What equipment did you take with you?</p> <p>17 A. I believe I had a thermal imaging camera with me.</p> <p>18 Q. So no firefighting equipment?</p> <p>19 A. I don't recall having it, but I had firefighting</p> <p>20 equipment on the fifth floor, so I can't remember</p> <p>21 whether I picked that up or I had it with me at the</p> <p>22 time. I can't recall.</p> <p>23 Q. Right. Then on page 7, in the second paragraph, you</p> <p>24 say:</p> <p>25 "We made our way up the stairs to the 4th floor ..."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 You go on to describe that in some detail.</p> <p>2 When you got to the fourth-floor lobby, what were</p> <p>3 the conditions like there?</p> <p>4 A. There was some smoke visible.</p> <p>5 Q. Do you remember seeing where the smoke was coming from?</p> <p>6 A. From the fire flat on the fourth floor.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you remember where the first two BA crews were at</p> <p>8 that stage?</p> <p>9 A. They were in the fire flat.</p> <p>10 Q. Was the door open or closed?</p> <p>11 A. It was ajar, yeah. It was open because of the hoses.</p> <p>12 Q. Can you describe the smoke in the lobby at that stage?</p> <p>13 A. It was black smoke at ceiling level.</p> <p>14 Q. At ceiling level?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you remember whether the smoke was being vented out</p> <p>17 mechanically at all?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you remember seeing smoke vents --</p> <p>20 A. No, I don't.</p> <p>21 Q. -- on the fourth floor in the lobby?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember hearing any mechanical venting noise?</p> <p>24 A. No, at that time I had my BA set on so it was quite hard</p> <p>25 to hear.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 Q. Now, do you know where you were standing when you heard</p> <p>2 the information about smoke on the fifth floor?</p> <p>3 A. I was either on the fourth-floor lobby or on the</p> <p>4 staircase, within that area.</p> <p>5 Q. Now, in your notes that you made immediately after the</p> <p>6 incident -- let me just show you that. This is your</p> <p>7 contemporaneous notes. These are MET00005493 and</p> <p>8 they're up on the screen.</p> <p>9 On the first page, you say, a third of the way down:</p> <p>10 "We got information that fire or smoke had now</p> <p>11 reached the 5th and 6th floor. We were instructed to go</p> <p>12 to the 5th and 6th and help escort any residents out."</p> <p>13 Just in terms of "instructed to go to the 5th and</p> <p>14 6th floor", on that evidence, do you remember who</p> <p>15 instructed you to go to the fifth and sixth floor?</p> <p>16 A. No. When I wrote that statement, I was extremely</p> <p>17 exhausted after a long night's work, so I may have a bit</p> <p>18 of information not quite right, to be honest. I just</p> <p>19 remember being informed there's smoke on the fifth</p> <p>20 floor.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. And you can't remember who by, as you said?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. You go on to say, "and help escort any residents out".</p> <p>24 Again, do you remember getting an instruction to do that</p> <p>25 or was that just an assumption?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 Q. Okay.</p> <p>2 Now, at the bottom of page 7, you say:</p> <p>3 "... 30 seconds of us being in that lobby, 4th floor</p> <p>4 lobby before someone at the top came to tell us about</p> <p>5 the smoke on the 5th floor."</p> <p>6 Can I just ask you, you say in your statement you</p> <p>7 can't remember who told you this. Was it a firefighter</p> <p>8 or a resident, do you think?</p> <p>9 A. In regards to?</p> <p>10 Q. Who told you that there was smoke on the fifth floor?</p> <p>11 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>12 Q. When you say "someone at the top", what does "at the</p> <p>13 top" mean?</p> <p>14 A. I think that's a typo from the police officer who wrote</p> <p>15 the statement. I'm not too sure.</p> <p>16 Q. So this isn't someone coming down from high in the</p> <p>17 building?</p> <p>18 A. No, it would've been, I'm assuming, someone from the</p> <p>19 fifth floor.</p> <p>20 Q. You're assuming that; you don't remember who it was?</p> <p>21 A. I can't remember. I really can't remember.</p> <p>22 Q. You can't remember whether it was a firefighter or</p> <p>23 a resident who told you that?</p> <p>24 A. I can't remember whether it was face-to-face or over the</p> <p>25 radio, I just remember the information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 A. No, I don't know. No one instructed us to do anything</p> <p>2 with any residents, it was just smoke on the fifth</p> <p>3 floor.</p> <p>4 Q. Now, Watch Manager O'Keeffe has given evidence, and for</p> <p>5 our transcript it's 6 July, Day 18 at pages 35 to 38.</p> <p>6 I am not going to show that to you, Mr Stern. But he</p> <p>7 has given evidence that after you and Firefighter Hippel</p> <p>8 had been committed to hose management on the third and</p> <p>9 fourth floor, you came down to the bridgehead and told</p> <p>10 him about the reports of fire on the fifth floor.</p> <p>11 Do you remember doing that?</p> <p>12 A. That definitely didn't happen.</p> <p>13 Q. Excuse me?</p> <p>14 A. That definitely didn't happen. I didn't go -- not until</p> <p>15 I left the building, I didn't go back down to the</p> <p>16 bridgehead.</p> <p>17 Q. You're clear about that?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, I'm 100 per cent sure.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay, because he says he then asked you to go up and</p> <p>20 tell him more about what was going on.</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, I don't recall that happening.</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 When you got information that there was smoke on the</p> <p>24 fifth floor, did you communicate with the bridgehead</p> <p>25 that that was what you'd been told?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 A. What I did was I went to assess it first, so I went up 2 to the fifth floor. After I checked how bad it was or 3 if there was any smoke in that lobby, after my findings, 4 I would've radioed that down to the bridgehead. 5 Q. Okay. Well, let's look at that in a little bit more 6 detail. 7 You say on page 8 at the top of the page, six lines 8 down from the top: 9 "... I got notified about smoke on the 5th floor. 10 I can't remember how I received this notification, if it 11 was Justin, firefighter O'BEIRNE or a resident ..." 12 Then you say, three lines up from the bottom of that 13 paragraph: 14 "... we then informed the ECO through radio and we 15 went upstairs that is myself and firefighter HIPPEL." 16 It looks from that that your recollection when you 17 did the statement was that before you went up, you did 18 actually succeed in communicating with the bridgehead. 19 A. I may have done, yes. 20 Q. Okay, but looking at it in your statement, you're pretty 21 clear about it and you say you did, you informed -- 22 A. Whatever way that happened, I definitely communicated 23 with the bridgehead. 24 Q. Okay. Would that have been on your BARIE? 25 A. It would've been -- yes, it would've been on the BARIE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 Q. Okay. Did that tell you anything about how serious the 2 conditions were within that flat on that floor, the 3 fifth floor? 4 A. It told me there was a lot of smoke, possibly a fire 5 within that compartment and within that flat. 6 Q. Right. 7 You then go on to say: 8 "... I looked through the letter box and looked into 9 the flat, on a scale of 6 or 7, probably a bit more than 10 that, I couldn't see the end of the corridor so it was 11 pretty smoked logged, the smoke coloration[sic] started 12 to get darker on the 5th floor not as dark as on the 13 6th ..." 14 Just in terms of the flat, you looked through the 15 letter box, you say. 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. And you couldn't see to the end of the corridor. Is 18 that right? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Did that concern you? 21 A. It would have -- well, yes there's a possibility that 22 there was now a fire in that flat. 23 Q. Did you knock on the door? 24 A. The door -- well, we checked the door. The door was 25 locked shut.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 to the entry control officer. 2 Q. Right. 3 Out of the two of you, you and Richard Hippel, who 4 was the person in charge of communicating with the 5 bridgehead? 6 A. Yes, it was me, yeah. 7 Q. Then you go on to say in the next paragraph on page 8: 8 "On the 5th floor, the lobby was clear ..." 9 What about the conditions on the stairs up to the 10 fifth floor, do you remember what they were like? 11 A. Clear. 12 Q. Then you say in the second line in that paragraph: 13 "... slight smoke coming from the door we made our 14 way straight to the door in relation to above the fire 15 flat on the 4th floor ..." 16 So that would be flat 26, if the flat below was 16. 17 A. If that's the number, yes. 18 Q. Can you describe the smoke that was coming out? 19 A. It was thick black smoke just slowly coming out the 20 door. 21 Q. Black smoke? 22 A. Yeah -- well, yeah it was staining the door. 23 Q. Was it? Okay. Richard Hippel said this morning that it 24 was towards the white end of the spectrum. 25 A. I remember just the stains across the lips of the door.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 Q. The door was locked shut. Did you shout or knock or 2 bang on the door to alert the possible residents in it? 3 A. I don't remember banging on the door, I just remember 4 trying to open the door and it was locked shut, and then 5 my next port of call was to set up to go in and put that 6 fire out and search the flat. 7 Q. Right. Okay. 8 Then you go on to say, just after halfway down the 9 same paragraph: 10 "... while we radioed down for someone to the ECO to 11 organize that for us ..." 12 That's the breaking-in gear. 13 Who radioed down to the bridgehead? 14 A. I did. 15 Q. You did? 16 A. (Nodded assent). 17 Q. Did you get hold of them? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Who did you speak to? 20 A. Firefighter De St Aubin, who was the ECO officer. 21 Q. Okay. 22 A. This was on my BARIE set. 23 Q. So channel 6? 24 A. Channel 6. 25 Q. So as far as you were concerned at that stage, your</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 BARIE set was giving you efficient communication with --</p> <p>2 A. It was working at that time, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay.</p> <p>4 What did you say to Alex De St Aubin?</p> <p>5 A. Possible fire in that fifth floor flat and we needed --</p> <p>6 I remember having a hose, so I needed some equipment</p> <p>7 brought up so we can make entry.</p> <p>8 Q. You say you remember having a hose; I thought you said</p> <p>9 earlier that you'd gone up without any --</p> <p>10 A. This is when my memory starts to play with me.</p> <p>11 I remember on that -- we lined out -- we threw out some</p> <p>12 hose, ready to go into the flat, but we didn't have</p> <p>13 a branch or breaking-in equipment, so I radioed down to</p> <p>14 get the equipment I needed to make entry to that flat.</p> <p>15 So I either picked up that hose from the bridgehead</p> <p>16 or between the bridgehead and the fifth floor or I had</p> <p>17 it with me. Sorry, I can't remember.</p> <p>18 Q. Why would you have a hose but no branch?</p> <p>19 A. Again, I don't know. Maybe we brought it, put it down,</p> <p>20 I'm not too sure. Either way that's -- I picked up --</p> <p>21 I had a TIC and I had a hose with me and that's what we</p> <p>22 began to do on the fifth floor.</p> <p>23 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>24 Did you think at the time about trying to get the</p> <p>25 residents of the flat out given what you'd seen inside</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 A. At various points between the bridgehead and that fifth</p> <p>2 floor.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 Then you say at the top of page 9, while you were</p> <p>5 waiting with Richard Hippel for the equipment, you say:</p> <p>6 "... someone again I can't remember who said that</p> <p>7 there was a large smoke reported on the 6th floor ..."</p> <p>8 So you were on the fifth floor with Richard Hippel,</p> <p>9 you were waiting for equipment, having radioed down. Do</p> <p>10 you remember who -- you say you can't remember -- was it</p> <p>11 a firefighter who told you there was smoke on the sixth</p> <p>12 floor?</p> <p>13 A. Again, I can't remember.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 We have had evidence from Firefighter O'Beirne that</p> <p>16 he was going up the building checking the floors. Do</p> <p>17 you have a recollection of him telling you that there</p> <p>18 was smoke on the sixth floor?</p> <p>19 A. It's a good possibility, but I can't remember. It's not</p> <p>20 a guaranteed fact.</p> <p>21 Q. No.</p> <p>22 You then say, four lines down from the top of</p> <p>23 page 9:</p> <p>24 "... I informed ECO again and made our way up to the</p> <p>25 6th to have a look ..."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 the flat?</p> <p>2 A. We couldn't get entry to it. So I'm assuming checking</p> <p>3 that front door, we would've made some noise on the</p> <p>4 front door trying to gain entry to it, so I couldn't do</p> <p>5 nothing with the door.</p> <p>6 Q. What about the residents in the other flats on the</p> <p>7 floor?</p> <p>8 A. The other flats -- at that time, the lobby was still</p> <p>9 clear, so I wouldn't have thought that the fire would've</p> <p>10 spread to those other flats. I just thought it's</p> <p>11 directly above the fire flat on the fourth floor and it</p> <p>12 was just affecting that flat.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay.</p> <p>14 Do you remember whether there were any other</p> <p>15 firefighters on that floor at that time?</p> <p>16 A. I remember seeing Firefighter O'Beirne and</p> <p>17 Firefighter Badillo during those times.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 Let me pick this up at the bottom of page 7, you</p> <p>20 say:</p> <p>21 "Firefighter BADILLO and Firefighter O'BEIRNE ...</p> <p>22 were in the stairwell at the time I believe were helping</p> <p>23 with equipment to be brought up but they were not in</p> <p>24 BA."</p> <p>25 Whereabouts in the stairwell did you encounter them?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 Again, how did you make that communication?</p> <p>2 A. Through my BARIE.</p> <p>3 Q. Successfully?</p> <p>4 A. Successfully.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. No difficulties?</p> <p>6 A. At that stage, no.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 Then you describe the stairwell between the fifth</p> <p>9 and the sixth.</p> <p>10 At that stage, who else was with you on your journey</p> <p>11 to the sixth floor?</p> <p>12 A. I believe Firefighter Hippel, or I assumed</p> <p>13 Firefighter Hippel was with me.</p> <p>14 Q. Anybody else?</p> <p>15 A. Not that I can recall.</p> <p>16 Q. Right. Then you go into, you say, the sixth-floor</p> <p>17 lobby, this is three lines up from the end of the second</p> <p>18 paragraph on page 9:</p> <p>19 "The 6th floor lobby was quite heavy smoke logged.</p> <p>20 It was low, it was enough for me to make a safe approach</p> <p>21 to the flat, the smoke layer was probably just above</p> <p>22 [redacted] 5'7" so I could see it was quite thick</p> <p>23 smoke."</p> <p>24 Did that concern you?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 Q. And did you communicate your concerns with anybody?</p> <p>2 A. To the ECO, to the bridgehead.</p> <p>3 Q. Again, who was that, Alex De St Aubin?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, it would've gone through Alex De St Aubin.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay.</p> <p>6 Can you remember what the message was you gave him?</p> <p>7 A. Again, smoke and possible fire on the sixth floor, and</p> <p>8 I needed a crew with firefighting media and breaking-in</p> <p>9 gear to be brought up to the sixth floor.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 Just going back a little, just before you leave to</p> <p>12 go to the sixth floor -- I'm sorry to do this -- go back</p> <p>13 to page 8 of your statement. At the end of the second</p> <p>14 main paragraph on that page, you say:</p> <p>15 "When it comes to time frames I can't, we then went</p> <p>16 back into the staircase, I don't know why, just waiting</p> <p>17 in the staircase, the door to the lobby was opened as</p> <p>18 think there was someone standing in-between the lobby</p> <p>19 and the staircase area ..."</p> <p>20 Just trying to fight our way through that a little.</p> <p>21 What are you recalling there?</p> <p>22 A. I believe after I radioed down the conditions of the</p> <p>23 sixth floor, I went back down to the fifth floor,</p> <p>24 awaiting crews or anyone to bring up some equipment for</p> <p>25 us to deal with the incident.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 lobby wasn't smoke-logged, just been on the fifth floor,</p> <p>2 the lobby wasn't smoke-logged, and then the sixth floor</p> <p>3 the lobby was smoke-logged, so it just didn't make any</p> <p>4 sense. So I assumed that maybe the fire had jumped the</p> <p>5 fifth floor and caused more damage to the sixth floor</p> <p>6 flat, which initially got a little bit more smoke in</p> <p>7 that lobby area.</p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 Did you have any thoughts about whether</p> <p>10 compartmentation was holding or whether it had been</p> <p>11 breached?</p> <p>12 A. I didn't have any thoughts at that time; I just wanted</p> <p>13 to get crews up there to deal with what we had.</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 Did you have any thoughts about whether you needed</p> <p>16 to be telling residents on the sixth floor that you'd</p> <p>17 just arrived on to leave the building?</p> <p>18 A. My initial thoughts was just to get firefighters with</p> <p>19 equipment up to those flats.</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 Now, on page 9 of your statement in the second</p> <p>22 paragraph, you say in the middle of that paragraph that</p> <p>23 you opened the door of a flat immediately above the fire</p> <p>24 flat on the fourth floor. You say:</p> <p>25 "I checked the door, it was closed but unlocked, so</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 Q. I see. So that's the second visit to the fifth floor,</p> <p>2 after you've been to the sixth?</p> <p>3 A. It must have been, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. We'll come back to that.</p> <p>5 So then going back to page 9, we get to the sixth</p> <p>6 floor, and you say it was quite heavily smoke-logged,</p> <p>7 which we've just seen.</p> <p>8 In the third paragraph -- well, let me ask you</p> <p>9 without reference to your statement.</p> <p>10 You say you think the fire might have jumped; is</p> <p>11 that right?</p> <p>12 A. I'm assuming the fire would have spread, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Yes. Sorry, I'm just trying to do this without having</p> <p>14 found the spot in your statement, but I have it: page 9,</p> <p>15 first sentence of the second paragraph:</p> <p>16 "My initial thoughts were maybe the fire had jumped,</p> <p>17 maybe there was a window opened, and it had actually</p> <p>18 breached into the 6th floor flat ..."</p> <p>19 Did you think about how the fire could have jumped?</p> <p>20 A. Again, probably through an open window.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you have any thoughts at the time about the</p> <p>22 possibility of external fire spread?</p> <p>23 A. Well, it would have to spread externally up through</p> <p>24 an open window. The reason why I had that initial</p> <p>25 thought is we've just been on the fourth floor, the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 I opened it and had a quick peak ..."</p> <p>2 A. That was the sixth floor.</p> <p>3 Q. Yes, exactly.</p> <p>4 "... it was heavily smoke logged ..."</p> <p>5 Did you call out inside the flat to see if anybody</p> <p>6 was inside?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Do you remember whether you told anybody on that floor</p> <p>9 to run?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. No. Was the smoke-logging in that flat heavier than the</p> <p>12 flat that you'd looked into on the fifth floor?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Could you describe it?</p> <p>15 A. It was thick black smoke, floor to ceiling.</p> <p>16 Q. What about heat? Did you experience any heat?</p> <p>17 A. I don't remember -- I didn't go into the flat.</p> <p>18 I literally opened it a couple of inches to assess the</p> <p>19 flat and closed the door again.</p> <p>20 Q. Could you see or even take an educated guess as to the</p> <p>21 source of the smoke inside the flat?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Now, you say a couple of lines down:</p> <p>24 "... I shut the door and made my way back into the</p> <p>25 stairway, I closed the lobby door behind me again and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 radioed down to ECO to tell them, at this point they</p> <p>2 were receiving these messages, I was able to communicate</p> <p>3 with them and got an acknowledgement from Alex</p> <p>4 Firefighter St AUBIN ..."</p> <p>5 Just on that, what did you say to him, do you know?</p> <p>6 A. There was a fire, or smoke and possible fire, on the</p> <p>7 sixth floor and needed BA crews with firefighting media</p> <p>8 and breaking -- well, I didn't need breaking --</p> <p>9 firefighting media up to the floor.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you express any concern to Alex De St Aubin?</p> <p>11 A. I said it as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>12 Q. All right.</p> <p>13 Now, forgive me for this, but Watch Manager O'Keeffe</p> <p>14 recalls receiving a message, he says from you, over the</p> <p>15 radio, saying "It's fucked, it's going, it's completely</p> <p>16 smoked out on this floor".</p> <p>17 Do you think that you did send him a message like</p> <p>18 that?</p> <p>19 A. No, I wouldn't have sent a message like that, no. It</p> <p>20 wasn't me.</p> <p>21 Q. No.</p> <p>22 You then say in the same paragraph, on page 9, four</p> <p>23 lines up from the end:</p> <p>24 "... Firefighter HIPPEL went back down to the</p> <p>25 5th ..."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 the clock so 2.05. If I say 2.03 it's always --</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Well, that's true.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So we are going to say 2.05.</p> <p>4 We are going to have a break now, Mr Stern, until</p> <p>5 2.05, so you get a chance to get some lunch.</p> <p>6 Can you please not talk to anyone about your</p> <p>7 evidence or anything to do with it over the break and</p> <p>8 we'll be back at 2.05. All right?</p> <p>9 Thank you very much.</p> <p>10 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, 2.05, then, please. Thank</p> <p>12 you.</p> <p>13 (1.03 pm)</p> <p>14 (The short adjournment)</p> <p>15 (2.05 pm)</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Well, Mr Stern is just</p> <p>17 coming back, I think.</p> <p>18 (The witness returned)</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Stern?</p> <p>20 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Happy to continue?</p> <p>22 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>24 Mr Millett, yes.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: Mr Stern, thank you very much for coming back.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 Do you remember that or are you assuming that?</p> <p>2 A. I'm assuming because that's when I saw him next, when</p> <p>3 I came out the lobby and went back down to the fifth.</p> <p>4 Q. When you came out of the lobby, did you see anybody?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. When you came back out, what were the conditions like in</p> <p>7 the stairwell at that point?</p> <p>8 A. Still clear.</p> <p>9 Q. So no change?</p> <p>10 A. In the stairwell, no change.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: That takes us back down to the fifth floor.</p> <p>12 Mr Chairman, it's just past 1 o'clock. That's for</p> <p>13 me personally a convenient moment.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I was letting it run on to see if</p> <p>15 you had got to a convenient point, and I am glad to say</p> <p>16 you have.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Yes, I am in your hands.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No, no, I think it would be sensible</p> <p>19 to break there.</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: May I ask that we resume after one hour? We do</p> <p>21 have a witness after --</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I know we do.</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: -- Watch Manager Stern.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It tends to be convenient to time</p> <p>25 ourselves by reference to something fairly concrete on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 We had a discussion at the beginning of your</p> <p>2 evidence about the smoke coming out of the smoke vents</p> <p>3 that you very helpfully showed us were situated above</p> <p>4 the main entrance to the building when you arrived.</p> <p>5 Can I just ask you one very short question building</p> <p>6 on that a little bit. If you go to your statement,</p> <p>7 page 5, you'll see in the second paragraph there, five</p> <p>8 lines down from the start, that you say:</p> <p>9 "... there was definitely vents on the entrance</p> <p>10 pumping out light grey smoke at the time ..."</p> <p>11 I just want to just get your understanding or your</p> <p>12 recollection of what was happening when you used the</p> <p>13 word "pumping".</p> <p>14 When you use the word "pumping", do you remember</p> <p>15 that the smoke was actually being pushed out or whether</p> <p>16 it was doing something else?</p> <p>17 A. I probably used "pumping" as the best way to try and</p> <p>18 explain it from sitting in our -- trying to visualise</p> <p>19 and remember, it was just smoke coming out of the vents.</p> <p>20 I probably used the word "pumping" just to try my best</p> <p>21 to try to explain as best I could what I saw or what</p> <p>22 I witnessed.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Just help me. I can visualise smoke</p> <p>24 seeping out of the vents and running up almost on the</p> <p>25 building, on the front of the building. I can also</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 visualise smoke being puffed out away from the building 2 to some extent. 3 Now, can you recall either of those? 4 A. To add to that -- yes, so I would say it was being 5 pushed out, away from the building. 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So there was a degree of force 7 behind it -- 8 A. Yes, I would say -- 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- but not very much; would that be 10 fair? 11 A. Yes, that would be fair. 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Does that help? 13 MR MILLETT: It does, yes, thank you very much. Thank you. 14 Now, before the lunch break, we were talking about 15 you on the sixth floor, and you came down to the fifth 16 floor and I think we got to you back down to the fifth 17 floor in terms of your journey in the building on the 18 night. 19 Can I just pick that up. When you got down to the 20 fifth floor, I think you say that there was another crew 21 there with a branch and the breaking-in equipment. 22 That's page 9 at the bottom of the page. Bottom of 23 I suppose it's the third paragraph on page 9, do you 24 see? It says when you came back down to the fifth, 25 a crew had come up now with a branch and breaking-in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 A. No. From memory, I can't remember whether it was us or 2 that crew that were charging up the hose. I do remember 3 there was a crew there. I gave them my thermal imaging 4 camera and I let them carry on. 5 Q. So they went in and you didn't? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. At the top of page 10 of your statement, just following 8 it through, you say that it wasn't a long conversation. 9 And you describe it: 10 "Can I have your thermal imaging camera 'we're 11 going in' 'have you got everything?' 'Yeah, ok.'" 12 That's about the sum of it, is it? 13 A. Yeah, summarising it. 14 Q. At that stage, did you see a man coming out of the flat 15 next to the flat into which that fire crew was going? 16 A. No, I don't remember that. 17 Q. Firefighter Hippel said in his statement, and indeed 18 this morning, that he encountered that gentleman and 19 told him to leave the building. Do you remember that? 20 A. I must have not been there at that time. 21 Q. Okay. 22 Do you remember at that stage seeing any other 23 residents on the fifth floor? 24 A. Not that I can recall. 25 Q. Did you actually see that crew make entry into the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 equipment to enter the fifth-floor flat. 2 Do you remember who they were, that crew? 3 A. No. 4 Q. Did you speak to them? 5 A. Briefly, yes. 6 Q. What was the discussion, do you remember? 7 A. They had a branch. I believe they were just about to 8 set into the riser or it had been set in. I gave them 9 my thermal imaging camera. They were just about to make 10 entry into that fifth-floor flat, so I let them carry on 11 so I could go up to the sixth floor to set up on the 12 sixth floor. 13 Q. Okay. 14 Did you tell them what you had seen on the sixth 15 floor? 16 A. No. 17 Q. You say in the next paragraph: 18 "So when I came back down to the 5th there was a 19 crew there with a branch and breaking in equipment, we 20 were just charging the jet and we were about to go 21 in ..." 22 To be clear, do you mean you and Firefighter Hippel? 23 A. Yes, I would've been partnered -- yes, it was 24 Firefighter Hippel. 25 Q. Not the other crew you'd just spoken to?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 fifth-floor flat? 2 A. No, we exited -- or I exited the lobby before they'd 3 reached that door. 4 Q. Now, you then say, in the first main paragraph on 5 page 10: 6 "I went back out into the foyer and into the 7 stairwell ..." 8 What's the foyer there? 9 A. Again, that must be a typo from the police officer who 10 wrote the statement. I went back into the stairwell. 11 Q. So you left the fifth-floor lobby through the door into 12 the stairwell? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Okay. 15 You say: 16 "... I turned around and a young man who I now know 17 his name was Sam and Firefighter Justin O'BEIRNE was 18 with us ..." 19 Just pausing there. That's the stairwell outside 20 the fifth-floor flat, is it? 21 A. From what I remember, yes. 22 Q. How clearly do you remember those two gentlemen being 23 there? 24 A. I remember seeing them; I can't quite remember if it was 25 exactly outside the fifth-floor flat.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 156</p>

<p>1 Q. Okay.</p> <p>2 Now, Richard Hippel says in his statement and orally</p> <p>3 that he doesn't remember there being anybody else there</p> <p>4 when you and he went out from the fifth-floor lobby to</p> <p>5 go to the 16th floor.</p> <p>6 A. I may be incorrect, but I definitely did come across</p> <p>7 Firefighter O'Beirne and a resident somewhere on that</p> <p>8 stairwell.</p> <p>9 Q. Now, at the moment you left the fifth floor, your</p> <p>10 intention was to go where?</p> <p>11 A. At that point I believe -- well, my intention was to go</p> <p>12 back up to the sixth floor to begin firefighting</p> <p>13 operations on the sixth floor. But information then</p> <p>14 came down that there was someone trapped or someone</p> <p>15 needed rescuing or help on the 16th floor.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 Now, do you remember whether Firefighter O'Beirne</p> <p>18 was there in the stairwell outside the fifth floor when</p> <p>19 you left it to go up to the sixth floor?</p> <p>20 A. I remember him being in the stairwell; I can't quite</p> <p>21 remember what floor.</p> <p>22 Q. His recollection is that he was on the stairwell around</p> <p>23 the 10th or 11th floor when he met the man you refer to</p> <p>24 as Sam and somebody else. That was his recollection.</p> <p>25 Can you help us with what you remember about that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 remember properly.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 In your contemporaneous notes -- if we can just look</p> <p>4 at those, because this might help you just confirm what</p> <p>5 you just said -- you say on page 2, near the top:</p> <p>6 "So we closed the door and I informed ECO of my</p> <p>7 findings. We [something] the 6th floor lobby ..."</p> <p>8 Can you help me with what you wrote there?</p> <p>9 A. I think it says "exited".</p> <p>10 Q. Right:</p> <p>11 "... exited the 6th floor lobby to be informed of</p> <p>12 a person trapped on the 16th floor, I can't remember who</p> <p>13 told me this, we proceeded to the 16th floor."</p> <p>14 Now, those were contemporaneous notes but you were</p> <p>15 tired when you wrote them, I understand that.</p> <p>16 Looking at those notes, first of all, do you</p> <p>17 remember whether it was the fifth floor that you were</p> <p>18 leaving when you discovered you had to go to the 16th</p> <p>19 floor or the sixth floor?</p> <p>20 A. I can't, sorry.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 When you got the information to go to the 16th</p> <p>23 floor, you say in your notes you can't remember who told</p> <p>24 you this, but looking back on it, do you still not</p> <p>25 remember?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 meeting?</p> <p>2 A. I can't. I just remember seeing Justin O'Beirne with</p> <p>3 another resident. I can't quite remember exactly what</p> <p>4 floor I was on or when I came across them, but I did see</p> <p>5 them on the stairwell.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 Just to be clear, the man who has been identified as</p> <p>8 Sam says that when he got to the 11th floor -- he was on</p> <p>9 the way down -- he met a fireman who was alone. Can you</p> <p>10 help with that?</p> <p>11 A. No, sorry.</p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 Can you remember at what point, after having left</p> <p>14 the fifth floor, you discovered that there was someone</p> <p>15 on the 16th floor who needed assistance?</p> <p>16 A. Say that again.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you remember at what point, having left the fifth</p> <p>18 floor, that there was someone on the 16th floor who</p> <p>19 needed your assistance?</p> <p>20 A. Within a minute or so. It wasn't a great deal of time.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. Do you remember who it was who told you that</p> <p>22 there was someone on the 16th floor who needed help?</p> <p>23 A. I don't remember how I got that information. My memory</p> <p>24 seems to overlap in regards to the resident and</p> <p>25 Justin O'Beirne or a radio traffic. I can't quite</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 A. Yeah, to this day I still can't put -- for that one.</p> <p>2 Q. So when you come to your statement at page 10 where you</p> <p>3 say:</p> <p>4 "I went back out into the foyer and into the</p> <p>5 stairwell, I turned around and a young man who I now</p> <p>6 know his name was Sam and Firefighter Justin O'BEIRNE</p> <p>7 was with us ..."</p> <p>8 Looking back on it, is that right?</p> <p>9 A. I have a vivid memory of being told that, and, again,</p> <p>10 I can't remember from who. I think that's been mixed up</p> <p>11 with maybe what Justin has told me after the incident,</p> <p>12 I'm not sure. The information that I received is as</p> <p>13 I said there.</p> <p>14 Q. Yes. Okay.</p> <p>15 On your route up to the 16th floor from the fifth</p> <p>16 floor, did you stop in at the sixth floor, do you</p> <p>17 remember?</p> <p>18 A. I can't, no, sorry.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. When you went up to the 16th floor, were you with</p> <p>20 anybody?</p> <p>21 A. Firefighter Hippel.</p> <p>22 Q. All the time?</p> <p>23 A. We was going up together. Whether I was in front or</p> <p>24 behind, I can't -- I just know he was coming up with me.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 160</p>

<p>1 Do you remember on the way up meeting Firefighter 2 O'Beirne? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Do you remember roughly where? 5 A. No, sorry. 6 Q. Okay. Do you remember, when you did meet him, whether 7 he was alone or with somebody? 8 A. I thought he was with somebody. 9 Q. Okay. Can you describe that somebody? 10 A. From memory, no, I can't, I'm sorry. Unless I put it in 11 my statement, I can't remember what he looked like. 12 Q. Right. He was a male? 13 A. He was a male, yes. 14 Q. Roughly what age, can you help? 15 A. 20 and above. I think he had a hoodie on. That's all 16 I -- but I don't know whether that's mixing information 17 from something I saw later, I'm not sure, but -- 18 Q. Right, okay. 19 Do you remember meeting two people? 20 A. I can't remember two, no. 21 Q. Okay. 22 Now, you say in your statement that you were told -- 23 never mind by who -- and it's in capital letters: 24 "MY DAD IS BEDRIDDEN AND HE'S TRAPPED ON THE 16th 25 FLOOR AND I NEED HELP TO GET HIM OUT."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 you remember whether you asked him whether there was 2 a fire on the 16th floor? 3 A. I can't remember. I don't think I did. 4 Q. Okay. 5 Did you have a discussion with Firefighter O'Beirne 6 on the stairs, can you remember? 7 A. I would have. I can't remember what that would have 8 been of. 9 Q. Do you remember whether he did tell you anything about 10 the conditions he'd encountered in the tower? 11 A. No, because I remember being quite shocked at the 12 conditions on the 16th-floor lobby. 13 Q. Right. That's when you got there? 14 A. Yes, yes. 15 Q. Yes, okay. 16 On your way up, as I think you've described it in 17 your statement at page 10 in the third paragraph, you 18 say you remember people were now coming out from the 19 building. 20 Do you remember people coming down past you on the 21 staircase when you were going up to the 16th floor? 22 A. Yes, I do, yeah. 23 Q. Do you remember how many there were? 24 A. No, I don't, no. 25 Q. Did you talk to them?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 Do you remember who told you that? 2 A. No. 3 Q. Do you remember where you were when you were told that? 4 A. In the stairwell. 5 Q. You were in the stairwell. Okay. 6 Do you remember being briefed by anybody at the 7 bridgehead to go and assist somebody on the 16th floor? 8 A. No. 9 Q. When you were told what we've read there: 10 "MY DAD IS BEDRIDDEN AND HE'S TRAPPED ON THE 16th 11 FLOOR ..." 12 And you were told that in the stairwell, did you 13 communicate that down to the bridgehead? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Was your message received and understood? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. When you communicated it to the bridgehead, do you 18 remember what you said? 19 A. Along the lines of, "There are reports of someone 20 needing assistance on the 16th floor and we're making 21 our way up". 22 Q. Do you remember whether you used the words "bedridden"? 23 A. I can't remember. 24 Q. Right. 25 When you had this discussion with this person, do</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 A. No. 2 Q. Did you see whether or not they were suffering any signs 3 of smoke inhalation? 4 A. Not that I noticed, no. 5 Q. Did they give you any indication as to the conditions 6 higher up in the building? 7 A. No. 8 Q. Did they tell you where they'd come from? 9 A. No. 10 Q. Right. So you just passed them, did you? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. Can you give us an idea of the numbers? 13 A. No more than 10. 14 Q. Right. 15 What sort of state were they in? Were they 16 panicking or -- 17 A. No, they seemed quite calm walking down, exiting the 18 building. 19 Q. Did the fact that you'd seen 10 or so people passing you 20 on the stairs give you any indication of the conditions 21 higher up in the tower? 22 A. No. 23 Q. On your way up, what was the air in the staircase like? 24 A. Clear. 25 Q. Was it clear all the way up?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 Did you open the door to the lobbies on your way up</p> <p>4 to check the conditions in the lobbies?</p> <p>5 A. I remember I had to try and -- because it was quite hard</p> <p>6 to work out what floor we were on as there was no clear</p> <p>7 indication on the stairwell, so I would periodically</p> <p>8 check the lobbies just to see if I could see the floor</p> <p>9 number near where the lifts were.</p> <p>10 Q. Now --</p> <p>11 A. Where I did check, none of the lobbies were</p> <p>12 smoke-logged.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 You say in your evidence, and it's in your statement</p> <p>15 as well, that you would periodically check because there</p> <p>16 was no clear indication on the stairwell.</p> <p>17 Can you describe for us, was there a difficulty in</p> <p>18 identifying what floor you were on?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, I don't remember seeing any numbers on the</p> <p>20 stairwell personally.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. You say you don't remember seeing any numbers;</p> <p>22 what was it that prompted you to check in the lobbies to</p> <p>23 see what floor you were on?</p> <p>24 A. Because there was no numbers in the stairwell, so the</p> <p>25 only way to check is to hopefully see the numbers on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 coming down?</p> <p>2 A. Leaving the building.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you think they were evacuating?</p> <p>4 A. Some people are overcautious and some -- you know, we've</p> <p>5 been to incidents, many incidents, before where an alarm</p> <p>6 will sound or they hear fire engines and they want to</p> <p>7 leave and they leave, so I wouldn't stop them.</p> <p>8 Q. Did you have any thoughts about why they thought it was</p> <p>9 better to leave?</p> <p>10 A. Not at that time, no.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Then you get to the 16th floor, and you say at the</p> <p>13 bottom of page 10 that Dickie Hippel was in front of</p> <p>14 you -- I'm summarising this -- and then you got in front</p> <p>15 of him, changing positions:</p> <p>16 "... so I opened the door to the 16th first to see</p> <p>17 the smoke, I believe Justin was by himself at the time.</p> <p>18 Sam must have been behind."</p> <p>19 I want to get your mental picture, if I can, doing</p> <p>20 the best you can with your recollection.</p> <p>21 Who arrived at the 16th-floor lobby door first?</p> <p>22 A. I opened the door first. I definitely remember that.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 A. I can't remember who got there first -- I'm assuming I</p> <p>25 was there first -- I may have been wrong -- because</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 lift lobby, which I was hoping that would have the</p> <p>2 numbers on them, which they did.</p> <p>3 Q. Did that process of having to check in the lobbies for</p> <p>4 the floor numbers slow you down in any way?</p> <p>5 A. It would've. By a matter of seconds, but yes, it</p> <p>6 would've slowed us down.</p> <p>7 Q. Yes. Did it, to your recollection, impede, get in the</p> <p>8 way of, your general firefighting operations during the</p> <p>9 night?</p> <p>10 A. Checking the lobbies?</p> <p>11 Q. No, the difficulties you had with identifying which</p> <p>12 floor you were on, did that get in the way of your</p> <p>13 firefighting operations generally?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah, it made it difficult for me myself to know what</p> <p>15 floor I was on, so I only entered the building once</p> <p>16 after that BA wear, so yes, it was a difficulty, yeah.</p> <p>17 Q. In your experience, is it common or uncommon to</p> <p>18 encounter numbering systems or no numbering that you did</p> <p>19 on that night within Grenfell?</p> <p>20 A. From my experience, there should be and there's normally</p> <p>21 an indication of what floor you're on, yeah, in the</p> <p>22 stairwell.</p> <p>23 Q. Just going back to the question of these residents,</p> <p>24 again, or occupants coming back down past you.</p> <p>25 What did you think they were doing when they were</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 I opened the door first, so I can't quite remember who</p> <p>2 got to the lobby first, but I definitely opened that</p> <p>3 lobby door first.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 Do you remember when you arrived there at the 16th</p> <p>6 floor where Richard Hippel was by that point?</p> <p>7 A. I'm assuming he was there behind me. I can't remember.</p> <p>8 I just remember opening the door. And I knew Dickie,</p> <p>9 Firefighter Hippel, was there.</p> <p>10 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>11 The male you refer to as Sam, do you remember where</p> <p>12 he was when you arrived at the 16th floor?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. No.</p> <p>15 Do you remember where Justin O'Beirne was when you</p> <p>16 arrived at the 16th floor?</p> <p>17 A. He would've been behind us somewhere on the staircase.</p> <p>18 Q. So you say he was alone, you believe he was by himself,</p> <p>19 so what does that mean?</p> <p>20 A. He either left the resident that he was with at some</p> <p>21 stage ...</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 Sorry, I just had a message to ask you this</p> <p>24 question, just to clarify it. Four lines up from the</p> <p>25 bottom of that page it says, "Justin De St Aubin". Who</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 is that?</p> <p>2 A. Again, I think that's a typo. It should be</p> <p>3 Justin O'Beirne.</p> <p>4 Q. Now, Richard Hippel mentions the fact that on the way</p> <p>5 up, he encountered Firefighter O'Beirne but not Sam.</p> <p>6 Do you know, recalling your arrival on the 16th</p> <p>7 floor, at what point you'd encountered Sam?</p> <p>8 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay.</p> <p>10 Now, on arrival, Richard Hippel says that the lobby</p> <p>11 door was open and black smoke was coming out. He</p> <p>12 remembers that the lobby door was being held open by</p> <p>13 a man. Never mind about whether it's Sam or not, he</p> <p>14 remembers a man holding the lobby door open when he</p> <p>15 arrived.</p> <p>16 Did you see him arrive at the 16th floor?</p> <p>17 A. I can't remember. I don't remember seeing anyone</p> <p>18 holding that lobby door open.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 Just to complete that picture, the man who is</p> <p>21 Sam Daniels says that he and Firefighter O'Beirne didn't</p> <p>22 go up to the 16th floor; they waited on a lower floor</p> <p>23 and you and Richard Hippel came back down to them later.</p> <p>24 A. Okay.</p> <p>25 Q. Can you comment on that?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 whether this gentleman, Sam, was with you at all.</p> <p>2 Do you remember, first of all, whether you did</p> <p>3 confirm that it was the 16th floor with anybody?</p> <p>4 A. I remember confirming it with someone, but since that</p> <p>5 incident, I have spoken to other firefighters and</p> <p>6 Justin, so I don't know whether I'm mixing my memory up</p> <p>7 from what he's said or done. So I don't know if it was</p> <p>8 the resident in question. I remember trying to confirm</p> <p>9 it with someone.</p> <p>10 I thought there was someone there. I may have been</p> <p>11 mistaken. I don't know if it's my memory playing tricks</p> <p>12 on me. But I did try or spoke to someone to confirm</p> <p>13 if -- it might even have been Firefighter Hippel,</p> <p>14 I don't know.</p> <p>15 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>16 Because when you say "we confirmed it with Sam" in</p> <p>17 your statement in unqualified terms, I think what you're</p> <p>18 now saying is you can't actually remember?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 Having seen the smoke floor to ceiling, I think you</p> <p>22 say, did that prompt any thoughts in your mind about</p> <p>23 fire spread, about what had happened with the fire?</p> <p>24 A. It shocked me. We're 12 floors above the fire floor,</p> <p>25 with the lobby being smoke-logged at that density, at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 A. I remember seeing Firefighter O'Beirne quite soon after</p> <p>2 we exited the 16th-floor lobby. I can't tell you</p> <p>3 whether that was right outside or a number of floors</p> <p>4 down.</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 Now, in the third paragraph on page 10 of your</p> <p>7 statement, a little bit higher up from where we were,</p> <p>8 you say, about halfway down that paragraph:</p> <p>9 "... when I opened the door, that lobby was like 10,</p> <p>10 smoke logged floor to ceiling, so I shut the door ..."</p> <p>11 What do you mean by "like 10"?</p> <p>12 A. So --</p> <p>13 Q. Like floor 10 or --?</p> <p>14 A. The police officer that was interviewing me wanted</p> <p>15 a range of smoke-logging between zero being clear,</p> <p>16 10 being the worst possible. So it was a 10; it was</p> <p>17 smoke-logged floor to ceiling, thick black smoke.</p> <p>18 Q. I see what you mean.</p> <p>19 You say:</p> <p>20 "... I shut the door and I didn't know if it was the</p> <p>21 16th but we counted hoping it was correct ..."</p> <p>22 Then you say:</p> <p>23 "... but we confirmed it with Sam who had followed</p> <p>24 us up ..."</p> <p>25 Now, you're unclear in your recollection now about</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 that speed, I couldn't rationalise it. It made no sense</p> <p>2 to me. You would expect those kind of conditions to</p> <p>3 be -- the thick black smoke to kind of present something</p> <p>4 we call backdraft conditions, where the compartment is</p> <p>5 oxygen deprived so the smoke gets really thick. And it</p> <p>6 should be really hot; it wasn't hot, it was just</p> <p>7 extremely thick smoke. So, yes, it did concern me.</p> <p>8 Q. Did you have any thoughts about compartmentation, about</p> <p>9 whether it was holding in Grenfell Tower at that point?</p> <p>10 A. Well, I couldn't explain what happened. You shouldn't</p> <p>11 really get that kind of smoke in a lobby area like that.</p> <p>12 You would expect, you know, some kind of</p> <p>13 compartmentation within the flats to keep that smoke</p> <p>14 where it is. So I just couldn't explain it.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 Did you have a discussion with Richard Hippel about</p> <p>17 what you were seeing in front of you?</p> <p>18 A. We didn't have time. I still thought there was someone</p> <p>19 unaccounted for that clearly now needed help. There was</p> <p>20 no time to sit and talk about it; we had to do something</p> <p>21 about what we had.</p> <p>22 Q. You say you were shocked; did you radio down to the</p> <p>23 bridgehead to tell them what was going on?</p> <p>24 A. On my way up, I tried to make contact with the</p> <p>25 bridgehead a number of times with my BARIE set and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p>

<p>1 switching to my handheld radio with no joy.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 When you went into the 16th-floor lobby, you say at</p> <p>4 the top of page 11, six lines down you say:</p> <p>5 "... definitely we need to make a rescue here</p> <p>6 because that smokes pretty bad. He was probably early</p> <p>7 20s, late teens, I couldn't tell, his face was quite</p> <p>8 covered."</p> <p>9 And you go on to describe the man you say was there.</p> <p>10 Again, how confident are you, having discussed your</p> <p>11 recollections with me this afternoon, about whether this</p> <p>12 man that you were seeing was actually on that floor?</p> <p>13 A. Not confident. I remember seeing them at some point on</p> <p>14 the stairwell. I can't quite place it, whereabouts.</p> <p>15 Q. Then in the next paragraph, you say:</p> <p>16 "Before we entered the lobby on the 16th floor,</p> <p>17 I asked him where the flat was, he said 'TO THE RIGHT OF</p> <p>18 THE DOOR.'"</p> <p>19 Again, how well do you recall that conversation?</p> <p>20 A. I remember speaking to someone to try and get</p> <p>21 information of where we need to go, what flat we need to</p> <p>22 go to. I don't -- I really can't remember if I was</p> <p>23 given a flat number. I just remember being pointed in</p> <p>24 the direction to the right of the lobby. I remember</p> <p>25 hearing that or someone telling me that's where we need</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 your recollection?</p> <p>2 A. No, it doesn't. It confuses me even more.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 Seeing the smoke and thinking you need to make</p> <p>5 a rescue, did you have any thoughts about whether other</p> <p>6 people on the floor -- or indeed all people on that</p> <p>7 floor -- should be told to evacuate?</p> <p>8 A. To be honest, I was quite task-focused on rescuing Sam's</p> <p>9 dad at that time from the information we were given, so</p> <p>10 that's what I wanted to do.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 A. And until I can get to the flat and maybe re-assess the</p> <p>13 flat, re-assess the situation, that was what I was</p> <p>14 aiming to do.</p> <p>15 Q. Now, you enter the lobby and you say in your statement</p> <p>16 on page 11 in the third paragraph, fourth line down:</p> <p>17 "... when I first went in I went as low as possible</p> <p>18 I was literally on my belly, I fully went into the foyer</p> <p>19 when I felt a body that was kneeling over, so I stood</p> <p>20 up, he was quite, he was light so I put my hand right</p> <p>21 round him and picked him up."</p> <p>22 At that stage, was Richard Hippel in front of you or</p> <p>23 behind you?</p> <p>24 A. Behind me.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 to go, to the right of the lobby door, and that's what</p> <p>2 I took.</p> <p>3 Q. Right. Do you remember who pointed you in that</p> <p>4 direction?</p> <p>5 A. I thought it was the resident, but I may be wrong. I'm</p> <p>6 obviously wrong, but someone told me that's where</p> <p>7 I needed to go.</p> <p>8 Q. Do you know where Firefighter O'Beirne was at this</p> <p>9 stage?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. He wasn't with you, was he?</p> <p>12 A. I don't remember seeing -- well, it's hard because</p> <p>13 I remember seeing him coming out and I don't know if my</p> <p>14 memory's getting confused between going in and coming</p> <p>15 out or -- I just -- that information was passed on to me</p> <p>16 at some point.</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 Now, I should just put this to you: Sam Daniels, who</p> <p>19 is the son of the person who needed rescuing on that</p> <p>20 floor, says that he gave the floor and flat number to</p> <p>21 the firefighter with whom he was waiting on the 11th</p> <p>22 floor in the stairwell -- that's what he remembers --</p> <p>23 and not to the firefighters who actually went into the</p> <p>24 16th floor. That's his recollection.</p> <p>25 Me having told you that, does that help you with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 At that stage, I think you had no water with you,</p> <p>2 did you?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, we had no water.</p> <p>4 Q. Did you think it was safe to enter the lobby, given what</p> <p>5 you could see, without water?</p> <p>6 A. It wasn't safe, but we have to attempt to make a rescue,</p> <p>7 it was what we're there to do.</p> <p>8 Q. Now, the body that you say was kneeling over, you</p> <p>9 I think go on to say you brought him out and he was</p> <p>10 actually conscious, his eyes were wide open and he was</p> <p>11 in a state of shock.</p> <p>12 Did you carry him out or did you stand him up?</p> <p>13 A. I stood him up and I stepped back and Dickie guided him</p> <p>14 out or Dickie guided me out -- sorry, Firefighter Hippel</p> <p>15 guided me out. I didn't need to carry the casualty; he</p> <p>16 stood up and walked.</p> <p>17 Q. Now, you say:</p> <p>18 "That's how we found out that it was Edward DAFFARN</p> <p>19 from flat 134 that we rescued in the foyer from when he</p> <p>20 tried to get out from his flat."</p> <p>21 A. Yes, it's out of context.</p> <p>22 So a number of months later, we came in contact with</p> <p>23 Mr Daffarn, who told us the story and the timeline fit</p> <p>24 that we was the ones that rescued him on the 16th-floor</p> <p>25 lobby.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 Q. Okay. So at the time you got this gentleman off that 2 floor, did you know who he was?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. Did you know what flat he had come from?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you ask him anything?</p> <p>7 A. I didn't have a chance to. I believe he -- either me or 8 Firefighter Hippel asked if he's okay and before I knew 9 it, he was going down the stairs.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 Did you understand or did you have any thoughts 12 about whether this gentleman, Mr Daffarn as he turned 13 out to be, was the person that you had been sent up to 14 assist?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. When you came back out into the stairwell with 17 Mr Daffarn, because you say you took him out, you say 18 actually -- well, let's go to your statement. It's 19 page 11 in the second-last paragraph on that page. You 20 say:</p> <p>21 "The lobby door got shut behind us and we're all in 22 the stairwell, we quickly ask 'ARE YOU ALRIGHT?' he said 23 'YEH', 'CAN YOU MAKE YOUR WAY OUT?' He said 'YEAH' and 24 he was gone, he just ran down, just bolting down the 25 stairs."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 A. I knew the radio comms weren't working at that stage so 2 I just didn't bother trying again. I did try again in 3 the lobby, later on, but at that stage I don't think 4 I did.</p> <p>5 Q. So you go back into the 16th-floor lobby, as you say in 6 your statement.</p> <p>7 Before you do that, you say at the bottom of 8 page 11:</p> <p>9 "Sam was still in the stairwell, we didn't have much 10 time to really do anything else."</p> <p>11 Again, in the light of the evidence you've given 12 today, how good is your recollection about Sam being in 13 the stairwell?</p> <p>14 A. Again, I don't know whether I've taken that from 15 speaking to colleagues that were with him.</p> <p>16 Q. Now, on page 12 of your statement, at the top, you say:</p> <p>17 "... Firefighter HIPPEL was now at the door, Dicky 18 went first following the right hand wall ..."</p> <p>19 It goes on for a bit. This is I think your 20 description of you re-entering the 16th floor; is that 21 right?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay. Why did you go back into the 16th floor?</p> <p>24 A. I still wanted to make a rescue.</p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 First of all, who is the "we"?</p> <p>2 A. Me and Firefighter Hippel.</p> <p>3 Q. Right. Anybody else?</p> <p>4 A. Not that I can remember.</p> <p>5 Q. At that stage, did you ask him about which flat he had 6 come from?</p> <p>7 A. I didn't have a chance, he just ran down the stairs.</p> <p>8 Q. At that point, did you think that that gentleman was the 9 person that you were sent up to assist?</p> <p>10 A. No, because I was told that the person we are trying to 11 rescue was bedridden, so I assumed, since he was 12 standing, that it was not him.</p> <p>13 Q. You said earlier you don't remember who told you that 14 the person you were going to rescue was bedridden?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay, so you thought -- is this right? Tell me if this 17 is wrong, I don't want to put words in your mouth -- 18 you'd made a rescue but it wasn't the bedridden person 19 you'd come up to rescue?</p> <p>20 A. That was my assumption.</p> <p>21 Q. At that stage, you're out in the stairwell with 22 Richard Hippel. Did you try and radio down again to the 23 bridgehead?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. Why is that?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 Did you have a discussion with Richard Hippel about 2 still having to make a rescue?</p> <p>3 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 Did you know which flat you had to go to to make the 6 rescue?</p> <p>7 A. I don't think I did, no.</p> <p>8 Q. So how were you going to do it?</p> <p>9 A. Search everywhere we could.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 You say, eight lines down or so from the top of 12 page 12:</p> <p>13 "I tried as well we couldn't work out where it was 14 and it was taking too long, it was heavily smoked logged 15 we checked the door it was unlocked ..."</p> <p>16 Which door is that, do you remember?</p> <p>17 A. The first flat we came to. So we followed the 18 right-hand wall, which took us past the bin chute, back 19 round to the first floor. I tried to check the door to 20 get a point of reference, clearly couldn't see the door 21 because it was extremely smoke-logged, so I tried to 22 feel for the numbers or we tried to feel for the 23 numbers. I couldn't find any numbers on the door at 24 that time, from what I remember.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay. Just assist us if you can, please, by reference</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 180</p>

<p>1 to one of your exhibits. JAS/3, which is MET00016893,</p> <p>2 where I think you've marked a pro forma plan of the</p> <p>3 building.</p> <p>4 Would you just show us where on this plan the flat</p> <p>5 was that you checked by reference to when you say "we</p> <p>6 opened the door to that flat"?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, I think I've got those numbers the wrong way round,</p> <p>8 but we entered where I've wrote 134.</p> <p>9 Q. I see. Okay. So you've come in from the stairs, follow</p> <p>10 the right-hand wall around, past the bin chute, and what</p> <p>11 you've marked as flat 134, which I think is 136 --</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. -- is the one you tried the door of, did you?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 The description that you give us on page 12, and</p> <p>17 indeed 13, is all of your search of flat 136?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 Can you tell us how far you went into the flat?</p> <p>21 A. A few metres. The conditions changed from the lobby</p> <p>22 being very smoke-logged with no heat to, when we entered</p> <p>23 the flat, very smoke-logged with extreme heat, so the</p> <p>24 conditions changed very quickly.</p> <p>25 Q. In the second paragraph on page 12, you compare the heat</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 from?</p> <p>2 A. It literally felt all around us. I couldn't have</p> <p>3 a direction of heat. It was just everywhere. As soon</p> <p>4 as we went in that flat, it was very hot.</p> <p>5 Q. You went a few metres into the flat; did you go into any</p> <p>6 of the rooms?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. How long would you say in terms of seconds or minutes</p> <p>9 were you in the flat for?</p> <p>10 A. Few minutes, a couple of minutes.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 At the top of page 13 of the statement you say in</p> <p>13 the first main paragraph, in the last sentence:</p> <p>14 "So when I tried to rationalise how much smoke in</p> <p>15 the lobby area I couldn't, so it had to be coming from</p> <p>16 somewhere."</p> <p>17 Were you in the flat at the time when you had these</p> <p>18 mental processes?</p> <p>19 A. So when I started trying to piece together what was</p> <p>20 happening is when we exited the flat, I closed the door</p> <p>21 behind us and Firefighter Hippel then began to go down</p> <p>22 the -- carry on on the wall to go and knock on the</p> <p>23 doors. So while he was doing that, I stayed at the</p> <p>24 front door of flat 136 that we went into and that gave</p> <p>25 me a few moments to try and work out what was going on.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 to an oven.</p> <p>2 A. Yes, because it was all around us. It wasn't at the</p> <p>3 ceiling, as low as I went, it was hot.</p> <p>4 Q. You were feeling that through your PPE, were you?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 You say there was overpressure in the flat.</p> <p>8 A. Yes, I assume that simply because the door -- Dickie</p> <p>9 went in -- Firefighter Hippel went in the flat first, so</p> <p>10 as I cleared behind him, I remember the door closing</p> <p>11 behind me, so with that heat, I thought it was a bit of</p> <p>12 pressure pushing that door shut. It could've been</p> <p>13 a self-closing door, I don't know, but I remember the</p> <p>14 door closing and having me to open the door when we</p> <p>15 exited the flat.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 Then you decided that you had to leave the flat</p> <p>18 because I think you say it wasn't safe.</p> <p>19 A. Yes, at that stage the conditions were now getting too</p> <p>20 dangerous for us to be in there with no firefighting</p> <p>21 media.</p> <p>22 Q. Had you seen any flames in the flat at that point?</p> <p>23 A. No, you could feel the heat but I couldn't see any</p> <p>24 flames.</p> <p>25 Q. Could you form any view about where the heat was coming</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 I then tried to contact the bridgehead again through</p> <p>2 both radios with no joy.</p> <p>3 I couldn't work out why there was so much smoke in</p> <p>4 the foyer with no heat. Again, the conditions didn't</p> <p>5 match up. I expected the conditions -- the conditions</p> <p>6 I got in the flat made sense, maybe there was a fire in</p> <p>7 there, a lot of smoke, a lot of heat, but it just didn't</p> <p>8 add up in the foyer.</p> <p>9 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>10 You just described Richard Hippel knocking on doors.</p> <p>11 Do you remember which doors he knocked on?</p> <p>12 A. So from where I was standing outside door 136, he</p> <p>13 carried on down that right-hand wall, so I'm assuming he</p> <p>14 would've gone to flat 135 and 134.</p> <p>15 Q. Because the smoke was thick on that floor, could you see</p> <p>16 him at all?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. Could you hear him?</p> <p>19 A. I could hear him, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. What was he doing?</p> <p>21 A. Kicking doors, or he was banging the doors, either</p> <p>22 kicking them or hitting them extremely hard.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay. Was he shouting?</p> <p>24 A. I can't remember -- I could hear his voice. I don't</p> <p>25 know if he was shouting at me to make sure I could still</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 184</p>

<p>1 hear him or shouting at who effort's in the flat but 2 I could hear him. 3 Q. Did you yourself go round knocking on any of the doors? 4 A. No, I stayed outside door 136 until he came back. 5 Q. Right. Okay. 6 You say, I think, that you knocked on other doors. 7 That's the second main paragraph on page 13, and this 8 may be not you, but third line down, you say: 9 "I have since learnt that the 2 doors we banged on 10 ... was flat 135 ... and flat 134 ..." 11 You say "we banged on", do you mean you or him? 12 A. I'm referring to us as a team, as one, but it would've 13 been Firefighter Hippel. 14 Q. Okay. 15 In the third paragraph on that page, you say you had 16 a few minutes left of air: 17 "I definitely was thinking at that point to go up, 18 but even if we went up and all the lobbies were smoke 19 logged we didn't have enough air to do anything with it, 20 the only safe option was to go back down and inform 21 Brian[sic] O'KEEFFE and the ECO at the Bridge Head of 22 what we had done and hopefully get crews up to the 16th 23 and above." 24 Given the smoke-logging in the lobby, how would you 25 have assisted a resident who did happen to come out of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 Now, you then, on page 14, third paragraph say: 2 "I didn't see Sam and he was not in the staircase. 3 I remember hoping he wasn't in the staircase because 4 I couldn't find his dad. I'm assuming that Justin 5 O'BEIRNE had taken him down." 6 Now, is that a thought you had at the time? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. That is. 9 If it was a thought you had at the time -- can you 10 just help me -- how did you know that it was his father 11 who had needed assistance? 12 A. Again, my memory plays tricks on me. So I remember 13 being told that information that someone needed rescuing 14 on the 16th floor. I assumed it was the person that was 15 with Firefighter O'Beirne, so I put two and two 16 together. 17 It's the first time in my career I've tried to make 18 a rescue and failed, so it was quite hard to go back 19 down and tell him that we couldn't rescue his dad. 20 Q. Okay. 21 Did you discuss with Richard Hippel your thought 22 that the rescue had failed? 23 A. I don't believe I did. I was trying to get through to 24 the bridgehead, because that's quite vital information. 25 So I was on my radio pretty much all the way back down</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 any of the flats on the 16th floor in response to 2 Richard Hippel's knocking? 3 A. To the best of our abilities. We would just have to get 4 them out as quick as possible. Carry them out. If it 5 was safe to leave them in their property, we would've 6 done that. I would have to judge it on -- reassess it 7 on the situation if it arose. 8 Q. Right. 9 In the third paragraph, as we see, on page 13, you 10 describe getting back into the stairwell. 11 And you say, as I've just shown you: 12 "I definitely was thinking at that point to go 13 up ..." 14 What do you mean by that? 15 A. Well, because I couldn't rationalise what was happening 16 on the 16th floor, I would assume that something else 17 would've been happening above that. So if I had the 18 resources, I would've gone up to the higher floors. 19 Q. Right. You were low on air and you had no water. 20 A. Yeah, I had no provisions to do that. 21 Q. So when you said, "I was thinking to go up", do you mean 22 that other firefighters should go up? 23 A. Yes, well, I would've if I could. If I had enough air, 24 I would've gone up. 25 Q. I follow, okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 to the ground trying to get back to the bridgehead, 2 trying to get hold of them -- well, I didn't until 3 I actually got down to the bridgehead. 4 Q. Did you see Sam? 5 A. I don't remember. 6 Q. At all, exiting the 16th floor, between then and getting 7 to the bridgehead? 8 A. I really don't remember. 9 Q. Right. 10 In the third paragraph on page 14, just below the 11 one I've just shown you, you say: 12 "I don't remember much smoke being in the stairwell, 13 I do remember people coming down the stairs from the 14 floors above ..." 15 And you describe them. 16 Do you remember whether they were suffering the 17 effects of smoke? 18 A. I can't remember, no. 19 Q. Right. You say in the second line of that paragraph: 20 "... I remember walking down the stairs and more 21 people were coming up, some elderly people, some young 22 people, so we were just reassuring them and walking down 23 with them ..." 24 When you say "coming up", is that right? 25 A. Again, that must have been a typo. It was going down,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 188</p>

<p>1 going down the stairs.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay. How many people do you remember coming down at</p> <p>3 that stage once you'd left the 16th?</p> <p>4 A. A handful. I don't know, 5 to 10.</p> <p>5 Q. Were they calm or were they in a state?</p> <p>6 A. They seemed pretty calm because no one was running. So,</p> <p>7 for instance, how Mr Daffarn left that lobby, it was</p> <p>8 someone in shock. The rest of them weren't acting like</p> <p>9 that, they were just walking down the stairs.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay.</p> <p>11 Now, again, at what kind of pace did you go down?</p> <p>12 Did you run down or did you walk down leisurely?</p> <p>13 A. We was walking down pretty promptly, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Again, I just put to you something: Sam in his evidence,</p> <p>15 his witness statement -- we will obviously have to</p> <p>16 explore his recollection with him in the same way -- his</p> <p>17 recollection seems to be that you and Richard Hippel ran</p> <p>18 down. Would that be right?</p> <p>19 A. If I ran, I can't -- I remember trying -- I wanted to</p> <p>20 get to the bridgehead as quick as possible to relay that</p> <p>21 information.</p> <p>22 Q. Yes.</p> <p>23 A. So if I ran, I ran, but I can't remember.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 Did you encounter any other firefighters coming up</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 189</p>	<p>1 a gear. He was starting to put some command structure</p> <p>2 in. He needed people doing things. There was a lot --</p> <p>3 at that time now, my radio, I could hear radio traffic</p> <p>4 over my handheld radio, so there was things happening</p> <p>5 very quickly.</p> <p>6 Q. Was there a point on your descent down the tower when</p> <p>7 your handheld radio started to work?</p> <p>8 A. No, I just remember it -- when I shut down and then</p> <p>9 speaking to Watch Manager O'Keeffe, then I could start</p> <p>10 hearing radio traffic.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 Do you remember seeing anybody at the bridgehead</p> <p>13 writing information up on the wall?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you remember seeing or hearing anything about fire</p> <p>16 survival guidance being passed to the bridgehead?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. What did you hear over the radio, do you think, can you</p> <p>19 remember?</p> <p>20 A. No, just a lot of chatter. I don't remember exactly</p> <p>21 what it was.</p> <p>22 Q. Are you familiar with metabolic heat stress?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Are you familiar with the symptoms of it?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 191</p>
<p>1 as you went down?</p> <p>2 A. Not that I can remember, no.</p> <p>3 Q. Now, you get back to the bridgehead, and I think on</p> <p>4 page 15 of your statement you describe that at the top</p> <p>5 of the page. You say:</p> <p>6 "We went back to the Bridge Head at this point</p> <p>7 I noticed a little bit sense of urgency now things had</p> <p>8 been going on whilst we were on the 16th floor, I shut</p> <p>9 my set down, told Brian O'KEEFFE what we had done and</p> <p>10 what we saw, I can't remember anything he said to me, I</p> <p>11 just remember Dickie was telling him some things."</p> <p>12 Now, I've read that to you. I have a few questions</p> <p>13 about that evidence.</p> <p>14 First of all, we have your end of wear time, just to</p> <p>15 put this in a time context of 01.38.40.</p> <p>16 Would that be about right in terms of the time you'd</p> <p>17 spent under air?</p> <p>18 A. Yeah, it must be if that's what the telemetry says.</p> <p>19 Q. You say:</p> <p>20 "... I noticed a little bit sense of urgency ..."</p> <p>21 Can you just explain what that is a reference to?</p> <p>22 A. It was busy at that bridgehead.</p> <p>23 Q. What did you see?</p> <p>24 A. It was firefighters. There was Brien -- you could tell</p> <p>25 Brien's now -- Watch Manager O'Keeffe had kicked up</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 190</p>	<p>1 Q. Have you experienced it in the past, before Grenfell?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Given that experience, are you able to self-diagnose as</p> <p>4 to whether or not you might have been suffering from</p> <p>5 metabolic heat stress when arriving at the bridgehead?</p> <p>6 A. No, because I was tired, I was hot, but it didn't take</p> <p>7 me out, so I was still able to go back, take off my set</p> <p>8 and carry on working again, so ...</p> <p>9 Q. Now, you say in your statement in the second line of</p> <p>10 page 15:</p> <p>11 "... [I] told Brian O'KEEFFE what we had done and</p> <p>12 what we saw ..."</p> <p>13 Do you remember where Brien O'Keeffe was standing</p> <p>14 when you spoke to him?</p> <p>15 A. He was at the bridgehead. He was -- the moment we come</p> <p>16 down the steps onto the second-floor lobby, he was</p> <p>17 literally in front of the steps.</p> <p>18 Q. Can you remember exactly what you said to him?</p> <p>19 A. I would've informed him of my findings. I would've told</p> <p>20 him what we did.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you tell him about the extent of the smoke on the</p> <p>22 16th floor in the lobby?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, I would've, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Did he say anything to you back about it?</p> <p>25 A. I can't remember.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 192</p>

<p>1 Q. Did you say anything to him about what you'd found in 2 the flat, flat 136, on -- 3 A. The conditions, I would've, yes. 4 Q. Do you remember whether he said anything to you about 5 that? 6 A. I can't -- I think I just said what I needed to say and 7 he confirmed it. 8 Q. Did you tell him anything about whether the rescue that 9 you had been intending to make was successful or not? 10 A. I told him about the rescue of Mr Daffarn and I did tell 11 him that there was one person unaccounted for. 12 Q. Right. You remember that, do you? 13 A. Pardon? 14 Q. You remember that, do you? 15 A. Yeah, I definitely remember telling him that we was 16 unsuccessful on the rescue. 17 Q. Do you remember telling Watch Manager O'Keeffe that the 18 person unaccounted for, as you put it, was bed-bound? 19 A. I hope I did. I'm hoping I did. I definitely would've 20 told him there was a casualty there. 21 Q. Do you know what Watch Manager O'Keeffe did with that 22 information? 23 A. No. 24 Q. Do you know whether he made a new deployment of BA 25 wearers to the 16th floor?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 193</p>	<p>1 A. BA crews. 2 Q. Do you remember who they were? Could you identify their 3 members? 4 A. No. 5 Q. Do you remember who the "they" is where you say "they 6 needed help carrying her out"? 7 A. Whatever crews were on that mezzanine floor area. 8 Q. Are you able to help us with what kind of time this was? 9 A. No, sorry. 10 Q. Okay. 11 Doing the best you can, having end of wear at about 12 01.38, was it minutes or hours after that? 13 A. With this specific casualty -- I did a lot of running 14 back and forth on the bridgehead before this incident 15 happened, so when it comes to time, I have no idea. 16 Q. Right. 17 In the fourth line down you say: 18 "... I and the same officer who gave me the child, 19 picked her up ..." 20 Are you able to identify who that same officer is? 21 A. No, sorry. 22 Q. Okay. 23 You say on page 21 of your statement at the top of 24 the page that you had a shouting discussion with Watch 25 Manager Williams from G35 Fulham. He was on the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 195</p>
<p>1 A. I wouldn't know. I soon left the bridgehead. 2 Q. You also say that -- this is again top of page 15 -- 3 "I just remember Dickie was telling him some things". 4 Did you hear what Dickie Hippel -- that's 5 Richard Hippel -- was telling him? 6 A. No. 7 Q. Okay. 8 Can I just ask you one or two questions about 9 casualties. 10 Can I just take you to page 18 of your statement. 11 You say in the third main paragraph on that page: 12 "We went back up to the bridge head ..." 13 Now, just in terms of timing, this is after you'd 14 left the tower. 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. And had gone back to the bridgehead to assist with 17 casualties. 18 You say in the second line: 19 "... it was really busy, casualties were coming out 20 and there was a female casualty that was unconscious not 21 breathing in that staging area outside of the foyer 22 where the bridge head was, they needed help carrying her 23 out." 24 First of all, who was at the staging area with the 25 casualty?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 194</p>	<p>1 staircase in the foyer. 2 Do you know what he was doing when you had that 3 discussion? 4 A. He was trying to -- he wanted me to get a member of the 5 London Ambulance Service into the building. I believe 6 there was two casualties, one may be a child, and then 7 he wanted them to come and help with CPR or some kind of 8 medical service. 9 Q. Did you see him writing information on the wall? 10 A. At that specific moment, no. 11 Q. Do you remember when the bridgehead moved down to the 12 ground floor? 13 A. No, it wasn't then. At that stage, they were still on 14 the second floor. 15 Q. Still on the second floor? 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Do you remember learning that the bridgehead had moved 18 to the third floor? 19 A. Yes. I believe that was a lot later into -- I am 20 assuming that was later, after this incident. 21 Q. Do you remember when it was? 22 A. What time it moved to the ground floor? 23 Q. Yes. 24 A. No, I don't. 25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 196</p>

<p>1 After you had had your BA wear and left the tower</p> <p>2 and then come back in, do you remember seeing or hearing</p> <p>3 or learning anything about how fire survival guidance</p> <p>4 information was being passed to the bridgehead?</p> <p>5 A. No. I remember during the night seeing a watch manager</p> <p>6 setting up on a bin or a car bonnet as I was running</p> <p>7 past him through the night. But, no, I wasn't involved</p> <p>8 with FSG calls at all that evening.</p> <p>9 Q. Just going back to the 16th floor, we had a discussion</p> <p>10 a minute ago about banging on all the doors,</p> <p>11 Richard Hippel banging on all the doors. Do you</p> <p>12 remember whether he banged on all the doors or just the</p> <p>13 two that you've identified?</p> <p>14 A. I clearly remember those two that I mentioned earlier.</p> <p>15 I can't remember if he did the other doors.</p> <p>16 Q. You can't remember?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: Right. Okay.</p> <p>19 Mr Stern, thank you very much for your assistance.</p> <p>20 I have no further questions for you. I'm very grateful</p> <p>21 to you for coming to the inquiry and assisting us with</p> <p>22 our investigations. Thank you very much.</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: Thanks.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I add my thanks, Mr Stern. It's</p> <p>25 very helpful for us to hear your evidence about what was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 197</p>	<p>1 (3.05 pm)</p> <p>2 (A short break)</p> <p>3 (3.20 pm)</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, Mr Kinnier, we are going to see</p> <p>5 Mr Bettinson; is that right?</p> <p>6 MR KINNIER: Yes. May I call him.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>8 HENRY BETTINSON (affirmed)</p> <p>9 Questions by MR KINNIER</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you very much,</p> <p>11 Mr Bettinson. Sit down and make yourself comfortable.</p> <p>12 MR KINNIER: First of all, would you confirm your name for</p> <p>13 the record, please?</p> <p>14 A. My name is Harry Bettinson.</p> <p>15 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>16 First of all, many thanks for coming today to give</p> <p>17 evidence. It's very much appreciated.</p> <p>18 First of all, can you confirm you provided</p> <p>19 a statement, which hopefully you can find in the first</p> <p>20 tab in the blue folder in front of you?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. That statement is dated 27 November of last year.</p> <p>23 A. That's correct.</p> <p>24 Q. And the contents are true?</p> <p>25 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 199</p>
<p>1 going on inside the towers and the conditions at</p> <p>2 different places when you were there, so thank you very</p> <p>3 much indeed.</p> <p>4 Now, before you leave, Mr Millett, can I release</p> <p>5 this witness?</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: Yes, absolutely. Thank you very much,</p> <p>7 Mr Stern.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much for coming.</p> <p>9 You're free to go.</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: Thanks.</p> <p>11 (The witness was released)</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, we do have another witness this</p> <p>13 afternoon.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We do, but this might be</p> <p>15 a convenient time for a short break?</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: It would, thank you.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do you know roughly how long you</p> <p>18 might want to be with the next witness?</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: This is going to be Mr Kinnier's witness, and</p> <p>20 he has given me an assurance that it will not be more</p> <p>21 than an hour. I'm not sure what sort of assurance it</p> <p>22 is.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, we'll find out.</p> <p>24 I'll say 3.20, then, and we'll see how we get on.</p> <p>25 3.20, please.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 198</p>	<p>1 Q. And behind the statement, hopefully there is</p> <p>2 a contemporaneous note.</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. And the contents of that document are true as well; is</p> <p>5 that right?</p> <p>6 A. To the best of my knowledge.</p> <p>7 Q. Have you read both those documents recently?</p> <p>8 A. I have, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Are you content that those documents stand as your</p> <p>10 evidence to the inquiry?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Mr Bettinson, this afternoon I don't propose to take you</p> <p>13 through each and every line of your witness statement</p> <p>14 and note; what I want to do is just pick out particular</p> <p>15 topics to discuss with you, if that's all right.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Now, if at any stage any of my questions are unclear,</p> <p>18 that's my fault. Ask me to rephrase them and I will do</p> <p>19 so to make them clearer.</p> <p>20 Now, if we may start with the basics.</p> <p>21 First of all, you've now been a firefighter for two</p> <p>22 and a half years; is that right?</p> <p>23 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. At the time of the fire, you were based at Paddington;</p> <p>25 is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 200</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. You were allocated to Red Watch?</p> <p>3 A. That's right, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. As at 14 June last year, you had been in service for</p> <p>5 about 15 months or so?</p> <p>6 A. That's correct.</p> <p>7 Q. On the night itself, you were in Alpha 212?</p> <p>8 A. Yeah, on the back of the pump.</p> <p>9 Q. You were there together with Crew Manager Gallagher --</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. -- and Firefighters Keane, Wolfenden and Campbell; is</p> <p>12 that right?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. It's now a matter of record, but does it sound right</p> <p>15 that you were mobilised at 01.15, on the road at 01.17</p> <p>16 and at the scene at 01.26?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, that sounds pretty much accurate.</p> <p>18 Q. Now, the first topic I'd like to discuss with you is</p> <p>19 your training and practical experience, if that's all</p> <p>20 right.</p> <p>21 First of all, can we deal with your training whilst</p> <p>22 at training school.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. First of all, when were you at training school?</p> <p>25 A. I started training school in February 2016.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 201</p>	<p>1 regarding vertical and lateral fire spread?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Now, could I ask you now about the training you've</p> <p>4 received since you've been at Paddington.</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. What training have you received there in relation to</p> <p>7 high-rise firefighting?</p> <p>8 A. So we were trained -- we drill quite a lot in the yard,</p> <p>9 at least every four we drill, and then actually before</p> <p>10 the night of Grenfell, the day before, we was on duty,</p> <p>11 and we did do a high-rise drill. So it was just like</p> <p>12 a combination drill where you would be setting up</p> <p>13 ladders, pitching the TL, setting the bridgehead up and</p> <p>14 then getting everything to work so it runs smoothly, so</p> <p>15 if we do have a high-rise, we know what role everyone</p> <p>16 has and what we're doing.</p> <p>17 Q. So it's a combination of lectures and practical</p> <p>18 exercises; is that right?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Who provides that training?</p> <p>21 A. That would be done by the watch manager.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you receive any training during your time at</p> <p>23 Paddington about what to do should compartmentation in</p> <p>24 flats in high-rise buildings fail?</p> <p>25 A. Not as such, no. It's hard to do any real fire training</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 203</p>
<p>1 Q. Is it right that the training period lasts a total of</p> <p>2 11 weeks?</p> <p>3 A. Correct, yeah.</p> <p>4 Q. During that time, what training did you receive</p> <p>5 regarding high-rise firefighting?</p> <p>6 A. With regards to high-rise firefighting, you do</p> <p>7 a document on it, you learn where to set the bridgehead</p> <p>8 up, what equipment you need at the high-rise fire, what</p> <p>9 you do, what pump you was riding. But with regard to</p> <p>10 actual firefighting in a high-rise, you wouldn't receive</p> <p>11 any.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you receive any instruction or training as to what</p> <p>13 to do should compartmentation in high-rise buildings</p> <p>14 fail?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you receive any training regarding the particular</p> <p>17 risks posed by cladding and fire on high-rise buildings?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. What training did you receive regarding the coanda</p> <p>20 effect, for example?</p> <p>21 A. You do do a document on it and what the coanda effect</p> <p>22 is, where the fire can jump floors, you'd do</p> <p>23 a presentation on it, but you wouldn't actually see it</p> <p>24 live; it will be like a presentation on a computer.</p> <p>25 Q. Would that be the same in relation to instruction</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 202</p>	<p>1 because we don't have the facilities for it.</p> <p>2 Q. Did you have any particular training in relation to the</p> <p>3 risks posed by cladding on high-rise buildings?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Have you received any training whilst you've been at</p> <p>6 Paddington regarding phenomena such as the coanda</p> <p>7 effect?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. During your time either at training school or at</p> <p>10 Paddington, have you been given instruction as to how to</p> <p>11 self-diagnose metabolic heat stress?</p> <p>12 A. Yeah.</p> <p>13 Q. What are you trained to look out for?</p> <p>14 A. Just the signs of what it is, so signs and symptoms of</p> <p>15 headaches, getting angry, looking out for them and how</p> <p>16 to deal with it, so radio calling, putting your hands in</p> <p>17 buckets of water. So it's quite a big thing, especially</p> <p>18 when you're doing real fire training, because you're</p> <p>19 doing quite a few hot wears in a day, so you're quite</p> <p>20 exposed to it.</p> <p>21 Q. Could I ask you to turn to page 18 of your witness</p> <p>22 statement. In the second substantive paragraph, fourth</p> <p>23 line down, you say that on the day before, you carried</p> <p>24 out a mock-up high-rise exercise, just the day before</p> <p>25 the Grenfell Tower fire.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 204</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. What did that training involve?</p> <p>3 A. So it would just be a combination drill the governor put</p> <p>4 together, so it would be turning up with the two trucks</p> <p>5 and everyone knowing their role, so if we do have</p> <p>6 a high-rise, then we know straight away when we get</p> <p>7 there what we're doing. So we simulated the first --</p> <p>8 the crew would set up the bridgehead. The other crew</p> <p>9 would then go to the bridgehead and then take the hose</p> <p>10 up to the fire floor. And also putting up a covering</p> <p>11 jet. This time we used the ground monitor as a covering</p> <p>12 jet.</p> <p>13 Q. Did the training involve how to deal with situations,</p> <p>14 again, when compartmentation fails?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. Did the exercise involve simulating a partial or total</p> <p>17 evacuation of the residents of a high-rise building?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Could I ask you to turn to page 4 now of your statement,</p> <p>20 and apologies for jumping around.</p> <p>21 Now, at page 4, the top line, you refer to the fact</p> <p>22 that you'd attended the fire at Trellick Tower.</p> <p>23 Mr Keane mentioned yesterday that the Paddington Red</p> <p>24 Watch had gathered a number of learning points following</p> <p>25 that fire.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 205</p>	<p>1 Now, first of all, do you recognise yourself in that</p> <p>2 still?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. And if you could point using the bigger screen above</p> <p>5 you, which one are you?</p> <p>6 A. I'm standing -- I'm the first person nearest with the</p> <p>7 diamonds on my helmet.</p> <p>8 Q. Thank you. Who else is with you? Who is at the</p> <p>9 forefront of the photograph?</p> <p>10 A. That's Crew Manager Gallagher, Firefighter Campbell</p> <p>11 behind me, and I'm not sure who the firefighter --</p> <p>12 I think it might be Firefighter Tillotson, maybe,</p> <p>13 because of his helmet. Sorry, Crew Manager Tillotson.</p> <p>14 Q. Just looking at your helmet, there is a marking of</p> <p>15 a diamond shape. Does that mean you are a probationer?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, it means you're a recruit, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Could I ask you to turn to page 5 of your witness</p> <p>18 statement and the top paragraph.</p> <p>19 You say:</p> <p>20 "We entered the ground floor through the main</p> <p>21 entrance and our first thing was to check to see if</p> <p>22 anyone had taken control of the lift. The same lift that</p> <p>23 members of public would use. This is one of the first</p> <p>24 actions to do at a fire in a building with a lift. The</p> <p>25 fire brigade uses a drop key or similar to take control</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 207</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. For you personally, what did you learn from your</p> <p>3 experiences fighting the fire at Trellick Tower?</p> <p>4 A. That was my first ever high-rise fire, at</p> <p>5 Trellick Tower, so learning from that was actually</p> <p>6 putting practice into what you'd done. So I learned how</p> <p>7 the bridgehead gets set up actually on the job, and also</p> <p>8 the compartmentation of a building worked at</p> <p>9 Trellick Tower. There was a problem with the wet riser</p> <p>10 there, it did take us quite a bit of time to get water</p> <p>11 on it. Because of the compartment, it stayed in that</p> <p>12 flat.</p> <p>13 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>14 Now, the next topic I'd like to discuss with you is</p> <p>15 your entry into the tower.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. For these purposes, might I ask Paul to turn up CCTV</p> <p>18 tab 1, which is INQ0000221.</p> <p>19 Mr Bettinson, this is a still from CCTV camera 4 at</p> <p>20 the main entrance to the tower, and it's timed at</p> <p>21 01.30.56.</p> <p>22 Now, just for people who are looking at this online,</p> <p>23 the correct timing unfortunately is obscured in the</p> <p>24 bottom left-hand corner, and it's corrected accordingly</p> <p>25 to an agreed methodology.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 206</p>	<p>1 of the lift."</p> <p>2 Now, by this, do you mean that you're putting the</p> <p>3 lift into fire mode so that it can only be used by crews</p> <p>4 and not residents?</p> <p>5 A. That's correct.</p> <p>6 Q. If this is one of the first things you do on arrival,</p> <p>7 does that mean that you would've been expecting someone</p> <p>8 to have taken control of the lift already as people</p> <p>9 preceded you?</p> <p>10 A. If the lift was working, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Now, I think you say Crew Manager Gallagher called the</p> <p>12 lift. Did he call it using the button or did he put</p> <p>13 a drop key into the panel?</p> <p>14 A. I think, from my memory, he called it using the button.</p> <p>15 Q. Mr Bettinson, if I can now consider with you your</p> <p>16 progress up the tower and start off at the beginning at</p> <p>17 the bridgehead.</p> <p>18 If you keep page 5 of your witness statement open,</p> <p>19 looking at the first substantive paragraph from the</p> <p>20 first sentence, you said, "We went up to the</p> <p>21 Bridgehead". Presumably you used the stairs to get</p> <p>22 there.</p> <p>23 A. Yeah.</p> <p>24 Q. Can you describe what the conditions were like in the</p> <p>25 stairs at that time: visibility, presence of smoke,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 208</p>

<p>1 temperature?</p> <p>2 A. It was clearly visible. It just felt like a normal</p> <p>3 bridgehead at a high-rise fire. It was just a bit more</p> <p>4 chaotic, but it was just like a normal high-rise fire.</p> <p>5 I still thought it was a normal high-rise fire.</p> <p>6 Q. If we can now consider the precise location of the</p> <p>7 bridgehead.</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. On page 5, second substantive paragraph in the third</p> <p>10 line, you say that the bridgehead was set up on the</p> <p>11 floor that overlooked the lobby.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. To be clear, do you mean the second floor?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah, and it was literally -- so the first staircase you</p> <p>15 use to go up into the tower, it was just to the left of</p> <p>16 that.</p> <p>17 Q. Just to help us further, can you describe exactly where</p> <p>18 the bridgehead was on the second floor? Was it within</p> <p>19 the lobby or actually on the balcony part?</p> <p>20 A. It was within the lobby, literally to the left of the</p> <p>21 staircase.</p> <p>22 Q. It may be helpful if at this stage, Paul, you could</p> <p>23 bring up the document at bundle-tab 5.</p> <p>24 (Pause)</p> <p>25 Now, using the larger screen behind you,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 209</p>	<p>1 from each floor and to do this as long as we could."</p> <p>2 Now, looking at that, what information were you</p> <p>3 given, if any, in respect of particular people in</p> <p>4 particular flats that needed rescuing?</p> <p>5 A. None at all. I was just -- from what I remember, we</p> <p>6 were just told that it's getting smoky up there, just go</p> <p>7 and see what's happening, really, and if you can get</p> <p>8 someone out, get someone out. There wasn't really</p> <p>9 much -- no one knew what was happening. The fire was</p> <p>10 jumping, the smoke was jumping, no one really had</p> <p>11 an understanding.</p> <p>12 Q. I hope I put this fairly, but in summary, you were told</p> <p>13 just to get up there and bring people down?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah.</p> <p>15 Q. Is that a fair summary?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Beyond what you saw when you first arrived at the tower,</p> <p>18 were you given any further briefing as to the extent of</p> <p>19 the external fire spread at that stage?</p> <p>20 A. No. When we first turned up, all I could see was maybe</p> <p>21 two or three floors alight and just thought that's it.</p> <p>22 Q. Were you given any briefing as to the extent of any fire</p> <p>23 within the tower before you went up?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. Finally, were you given any information as to smoke</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 211</p>
<p>1 Mr Bettinson, could you just locate precisely where the</p> <p>2 bridgehead was at the time you entered the tower?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, so where it says "steps up".</p> <p>4 Q. Yes.</p> <p>5 A. Literally to the left of that.</p> <p>6 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>7 A. Not through to the communal hall, just to the left of</p> <p>8 that steps up, like the first steps up here.</p> <p>9 Q. And where were the entry control boards?</p> <p>10 A. There, that's the -- yeah.</p> <p>11 Q. Now, turning to the next topic, to the set-up of the</p> <p>12 bridgehead itself.</p> <p>13 Who was in charge?</p> <p>14 A. I believe it was Watch Manager O'Keeffe.</p> <p>15 Q. And who was in charge of briefing the crews before they</p> <p>16 went up the tower?</p> <p>17 A. If Watch Manager O'Keeffe was in charge of the</p> <p>18 bridgehead, it would've been him.</p> <p>19 Q. I think in your statement you say there were 10 of you</p> <p>20 there; does that mean 10 of you were wearing BA?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, lined up ready to go in, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Looking at page 5 again, and looking at the substantive</p> <p>23 paragraph on that page, the seventh line, you say that</p> <p>24 you were briefed to carry out search and rescue and:</p> <p>25 "... to go up and get people out of the building</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 210</p>	<p>1 conditions within the tower?</p> <p>2 A. Just that it was getting smokier in there, that the</p> <p>3 smoke was travelling, but not actually where it was or</p> <p>4 what was happening. It was just getting smokier in the</p> <p>5 building.</p> <p>6 Q. Now, the next topic I'd like to consider with you is</p> <p>7 your progress from the bridgehead up to the sixth floor.</p> <p>8 Now, we have your BA tally-out time as 01.41.55.</p> <p>9 Does that sound about right to you?</p> <p>10 A. I've got no concept of time that night, so, yeah.</p> <p>11 Q. Can you describe what conditions were like in the</p> <p>12 stairwell as you went up between the third, fourth and</p> <p>13 fifth floors?</p> <p>14 A. From what I remember -- I think I said we started</p> <p>15 searching from the third, but I can't remember where we</p> <p>16 actually started searching, but I know it was about the</p> <p>17 sixth floor, because you could make out the number in</p> <p>18 the lobby, that's when it started getting smokier and</p> <p>19 darker, and then when we got up to the seventh, it was</p> <p>20 really smoky, and you could sort of make out objects and</p> <p>21 then --</p> <p>22 Q. I'll come on to above the sixth floor in due course,</p> <p>23 but --</p> <p>24 A. That's where it started getting smokier and harder to</p> <p>25 see.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 212</p>

<p>1 Q. Did the temperature increase by the time you'd got to 2 the sixth floor as well?</p> <p>3 A. Yeah, but I'm not sure whether that's obviously because 4 we're working harder. You're working, so it's -- but 5 the temperature was getting hotter.</p> <p>6 Q. Were you walking or running up the stairwell?</p> <p>7 A. Like jog, I'd say, like it was making progress.</p> <p>8 Q. As you went up the tower, as you were progressing 9 through each floor, were you keeping the bridgehead 10 updated as to what you were finding?</p> <p>11 A. I can't remember who had comms. I'm not sure if I had 12 it -- who had it in our crew, but I'm not sure if they 13 were or not. I can't answer that.</p> <p>14 Q. If we can just deal now with the conditions you found on 15 the sixth floor itself.</p> <p>16 It may be easier to turn to page 6 and the second 17 substantive paragraph on that page and the first 18 sentence, where you say:</p> <p>19 "On the sixth floor the smoke was worsening."</p> <p>20 What colour was the smoke that you encountered when 21 you first entered the sixth floor?</p> <p>22 A. Dark.</p> <p>23 Q. Was it black dark, grey dark?</p> <p>24 A. Yeah, it was just a dark smoke. It was black, but you 25 could make out shapes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 213</p>	<p>1 to advise the occupants?</p> <p>2 A. I don't think -- I think it was more of a -- it wasn't 3 a shout or telling them to get out, it was more of a, 4 "You need to just go now". I was on the other side of 5 the lobby.</p> <p>6 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>7 Now, some of your colleagues took the occupants of 8 the flat down.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. You and Mr Tillotson continued to go up the tower; is 11 that right?</p> <p>12 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Now, in relation to the conditions as you went up to the 14 10th floor, if we turn to page 7 of your statement and 15 the first substantive paragraph on that page at line 4, 16 you describe the conditions thus:</p> <p>17 "I was aware of it being warm and the heat 18 increasing as we had gone up the floors but nothing too 19 bad, but the heat was definitely noticeable and 20 uncomfortable from the 9th floor. It also became smokier 21 with each floor we went up."</p> <p>22 You describe the heat increasing on the way up and 23 you say it was uncomfortable --</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. -- as I quoted. Was this both in the stairwell and in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 215</p>
<p>1 Q. How thick was it?</p> <p>2 A. It was thick enough that you couldn't see, but you could 3 roughly see the outline of, like, the lift and outline 4 of the walls.</p> <p>5 Q. In the lobby itself, was the smoke evenly distributed or 6 did it congregate, for example, in the ceiling area --</p> <p>7 A. I don't know.</p> <p>8 Q. Are you able -- this may be an unfair question given the 9 passing of time -- to give any gauge as to any 10 difference in temperature between the fifth and the 11 sixth floors in the stairwells and on the floors 12 themselves?</p> <p>13 A. Not really, no.</p> <p>14 Q. Once you were at the sixth floor, you heard one of the 15 others say that he had someone in the flat to the right. 16 Did you go into that flat?</p> <p>17 A. I didn't, no.</p> <p>18 Q. Now, looking at the bottom of page 6 of your statement, 19 the second line up, it says:</p> <p>20 "We told them that they needed to get out." 21 So the occupants of that flat.</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Which one of you said that to the occupants of the flat?</p> <p>24 A. I don't know, but it wasn't me.</p> <p>25 Q. Can you remember the words or the gist of the words used</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 214</p>	<p>1 the lobbies?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. You say the smoke was black; can you describe for us the 4 density of that smoke as you went up between the seventh 5 and 10th floors?</p> <p>6 A. In the stairwell, it wasn't as bad, like you could still 7 sort of make it out, but when you opened the ninth 8 floor, you couldn't really see anything. You could 9 probably see about maybe a foot in front of you.</p> <p>10 Q. On each of the floors as you went up, starting on the 11 seventh floor --</p> <p>12 A. It got progressively worse.</p> <p>13 Q. Were you able to see, for example on the seventh floor, 14 where the smoke was coming from?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. On the eighth floor?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. On the ninth?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. So on none of the floors could you see where the smoke 21 was coming from?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Now, you got to the 10th floor.</p> <p>24 A. Yeah.</p> <p>25 Q. If I could ask you again to look at page 7 of your</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 216</p>

<p>1 statement and the second substantive paragraph, lines 2</p> <p>2 and 3. You describe smoke flooding out as Crew Manager</p> <p>3 Tillotson opened the door to the 10th-floor lobby. You</p> <p>4 say it was really dark and hot.</p> <p>5 Are you describing the smoke in particular or the</p> <p>6 conditions generally?</p> <p>7 A. The conditions in the lobby. You couldn't see in there.</p> <p>8 It just -- when you opened the door, it shot out over</p> <p>9 his head and we just both looked at each other and</p> <p>10 thought we're not going in there at the moment; we had</p> <p>11 nothing with us.</p> <p>12 Q. Mindful of your earlier answer, were you able to update</p> <p>13 the bridgehead as to the conditions --</p> <p>14 A. I don't know. I didn't have comms.</p> <p>15 Q. Now, seeing the conditions that confronted you as you</p> <p>16 sought to get into the 10th-floor lobby, what did you</p> <p>17 decide to do, what action did you take next?</p> <p>18 A. So I remembered where the dry riser was on the ninth</p> <p>19 floor, so we decided to go back down to the ninth and</p> <p>20 get some hose, plug in and start firefighting on the</p> <p>21 10th.</p> <p>22 Q. You went down to the ninth floor, and what did you find</p> <p>23 there?</p> <p>24 A. I located the dry riser and also -- so there's a little</p> <p>25 bit of, like, time that's left out of the statement</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 217</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Can you show us, first of all, where you were. Is it</p> <p>3 marked by the words "dry riser"?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. What was the distance between the dry riser and flat 65?</p> <p>6 A. Length of the flat, the length of flat 4.</p> <p>7 Q. Now, when you said you saw thick black smoke filling the</p> <p>8 lobby within about 10 to 15 seconds and it was getting</p> <p>9 hotter, apologies for asking the same question again,</p> <p>10 but on this occasion, could you see where the smoke was</p> <p>11 coming from?</p> <p>12 A. No. No.</p> <p>13 Q. Could you see anything in particular that had triggered</p> <p>14 the conditions you encountered?</p> <p>15 A. Nothing. It was just one minute it was clear and then</p> <p>16 10 seconds later you couldn't see your hand in front of</p> <p>17 your face.</p> <p>18 Q. Looking at the second substantive paragraph on page 8,</p> <p>19 you say:</p> <p>20 "Their flat [flat 65] wasn't affected by the smoke</p> <p>21 or fire at that point ..."</p> <p>22 By that, do you mean there was no smoke at all</p> <p>23 within the flat?</p> <p>24 A. There was nothing in the flat.</p> <p>25 Q. Given the conditions you'd experienced in the stairwell</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 219</p>
<p>1 where I located the dry riser. Crew Manager Gallagher</p> <p>2 was now back up and I turned to him to grab some hose,</p> <p>3 he handed me some hose, and then when I turned around</p> <p>4 again, the dry riser had gone. It had gone within</p> <p>5 a matter of seconds.</p> <p>6 Q. So it had been obscured by the smoke, is what you're</p> <p>7 saying?</p> <p>8 A. Yeah. So you could just about make it out, and then</p> <p>9 within 5 seconds of grabbing some hose and turning back</p> <p>10 round, it was gone.</p> <p>11 Q. Could I ask you to turn up to the top of page 8 of your</p> <p>12 statement, and just to give a little bit of context</p> <p>13 here, you say:</p> <p>14 "... [I] realised FF WOLFINDEN[sic] and CM GALLAGHER</p> <p>15 had found a family in Flat 65. A mother and daughter.</p> <p>16 I realised that after taking the family from the 6th</p> <p>17 floor down they must have returned back up following</p> <p>18 mine and CM TILLOTSON's footsteps checking the flats on</p> <p>19 each floor after us. We now had 2 jobs, we had a family</p> <p>20 to get out and a fire to fight on the 10th floor.</p> <p>21 Now, it may be useful at this stage, Paul, if you</p> <p>22 wouldn't mind turning up an exhibit to Mr Bettinson's</p> <p>23 statement, which is at MET00015788.</p> <p>24 Now, hopefully you'll remember this as one of the</p> <p>25 exhibits to your statement.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 218</p>	<p>1 and the lobbies --</p> <p>2 A. Mm.</p> <p>3 Q. -- were you trying to account for the disparity in</p> <p>4 conditions you encountered?</p> <p>5 A. Not really, we was just more worried about what we were</p> <p>6 going to do with the family and how we were going to get</p> <p>7 them out.</p> <p>8 Q. At one point it was decided that Tillotson, Gallagher</p> <p>9 and Ben, who I think was from the Brixton station, would</p> <p>10 go down to get spare BA sets.</p> <p>11 Were they doing that in order to bring those sets up</p> <p>12 so they could bring the mother and child down?</p> <p>13 A. That's correct, yeah.</p> <p>14 Q. Is it usual practice when confronted with situations</p> <p>15 like this, analogous to this, to use BA kits to bring</p> <p>16 people down?</p> <p>17 A. No, but it's an unusual fire, so ...</p> <p>18 Q. If I could ask you to turn to page 9 of your statement</p> <p>19 and the second paragraph and the last four lines of that</p> <p>20 paragraph, you say this:</p> <p>21 "We knew we were running out of time, the smoke was</p> <p>22 getting worse every second. I went out into the</p> <p>23 corridor a couple of times to monitor the situation and</p> <p>24 see if the others were coming yet. The whole of the</p> <p>25 corridor was compromised, totally full of thick black</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 220</p>

<p>1 hot smoke and I looked through the letter box of the 2 next door flat and saw that they whole thing looked to 3 be on fire." 4 First of all, the first element of that quotation, 5 "We knew we were running out of time, the smoke was 6 getting worse every second". Just to be clear, are you 7 describing the smoke conditions within flat 65? 8 A. No, within the lobby. 9 Q. What were the smoke conditions like in the flat itself? 10 A. Still all right. When we got in there, I shut all the 11 windows and I put a duvet in front of the door. 12 Q. I think you later described or state that you were 13 within flat 65 for at least 15 to 20 minutes. 14 A. About that, yeah. 15 Q. Did the conditions within the flat deteriorate whilst 16 you was in there? 17 A. Not whilst we was in there, no. 18 Q. Did heat increase? 19 A. No. 20 Q. Looking at the third paragraph on page 9, you say that 21 you made contact with Watch Manager Collins by radio to 22 request a ladder. The watch manager said they couldn't 23 get it anywhere near to you due to the size of the 24 debris coming down. 25 Now, would the use of the aerial ladder be</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 221</p>	<p>1 Now, the next issue I'd like to discuss with you is 2 leaving flat 65 and going down to the bridgehead. 3 Now, if I could ask you to turn to page 10 and the 4 second paragraph on that page, the first two sentences 5 in particular, which state: 6 "As soon as you left the flat you couldn't see a 7 thing, as FF we wear a torch on our chest. In the 8 stairwell the smoke was so thick and dense that this 9 torch was only giving me maybe 6 inches of visibility as 10 a maximum. There was no other lighting, it was pure 11 black and we knew we had 9 floors to get down so had to 12 go fast." 13 Now, arising out of that, were the conditions you 14 encountered on the stairwell on each of the floors as 15 you descended down the tower? 16 A. Yeah, so it never -- like, it was black, thick smoke 17 until about maybe the third or fourth floor. That was 18 it. That was what it was. It had gone the -- the whole 19 thing had gone. It was thick black smoke. 20 Q. Are you able to describe the temperature as you 21 descended from the ninth floor down to the bridgehead? 22 A. It was just hot and it felt like it was getting hotter 23 as you went down. 24 Q. Do you think that was due to the heat of the surrounding 25 circumstances or just because you were expending energy</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 223</p>
<p>1 a standard response to the circumstances in which you 2 found yourself in flat 65? 3 A. From what I still thought when I went in, it was a fire 4 over about three floors and I just -- this is my first 5 ever -- or second ever high-rise fire, so I thought it 6 was just a bit of smoke that was travelling up, so 7 I presume the TL could probably make a rescue at a push 8 at 10 floors. Being on the ninth, I thought -- and 9 Wolfy, who was with me, he's a TL operator. But we 10 didn't realise what the conditions were outside. 11 Q. Was it his idea that you should call Collins for the -- 12 A. I just thought he would come up. 13 Q. Did you experience any difficulties getting in touch 14 with the watch manager? 15 A. It was quite heavy radio traffic, but from what 16 I remember, there was someone coming back on the radio. 17 I don't know if it was Watch Manager Collins, but it was 18 a bit like, "You haven't got a chance at getting a TL 19 near there". 20 Q. Can you remember -- again, it is an unfair question 21 given the amount of time that's passed -- the distance 22 in time between you making the call and the request and 23 the response coming back? 24 A. No. 25 Q. No. Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 222</p>	<p>1 trying to get down? 2 A. A bit of both, I think, yeah. 3 Q. Do you think at that stage you were experiencing the 4 symptoms of metabolic heat stress? 5 A. I don't think so. 6 Q. Do you remember what, if any, firefighting equipment was 7 in the stairwell as you went down? 8 A. A lot of hose. A lot of hose. On the way up, there 9 wasn't as much, but when we were coming out, there was 10 a lot of hose. 11 Q. Can you remember meeting any residents as you went down? 12 A. No residents. To be honest, going down, it was just 13 hold on to the little girl and we'll get out of here. 14 There wasn't much thinking going on. 15 Q. Could I ask you to turn over a page of your statement to 16 page 11 and the first substantive paragraph on that 17 page, lines 1 and 2. You say: 18 "One more floor down and we reached the BH which had 19 moved close to the 1st staircase in the lobby area." 20 Paul, if you would mind showing the document from 21 the bundle documents, tab 5, again. 22 Mr Bettinson, if that's expanded, are you able to 23 show us on that drawing where the bridgehead was when 24 you came down? 25 A. The bridgehead and entry control boards were now in the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 224</p>

<p>1 communal hall. So it just moved to the left.</p> <p>2 Q. We have the end of your BA wear time as 02.15.42.</p> <p>3 Does that sound about right to you?</p> <p>4 A. Yeah, I -- must be.</p> <p>5 Q. Now, the penultimate topic I'd like to discuss with you</p> <p>6 is assisting casualties on the evening.</p> <p>7 On page 11, the paragraph at the bottom of the page,</p> <p>8 you said that you then assisted with running casualties</p> <p>9 being carried out on trolleys. You say the casualties</p> <p>10 were being taken over to the leisure centre.</p> <p>11 Was the leisure centre the central place at which</p> <p>12 the LAS was based?</p> <p>13 A. Not casualties. When we first come out the tower, there</p> <p>14 is a deceased casualty on a trolley, and then that's</p> <p>15 when whoever was taking it away, they was struggling to</p> <p>16 bump it up the thing, so we helped with that. That's</p> <p>17 when we first come out the tower. After that, when</p> <p>18 I went back into the tower, it was helping casualties to</p> <p>19 the left, so it would be the west side of the building,</p> <p>20 out towards the BA holding area.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you recall whether the bridgehead moved to the third</p> <p>22 floor?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Turning back to casualties, could I ask you to turn to</p> <p>25 page 13 and the top two sentences.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 225</p>	<p>1 was still missing. I went along with a FF woman from</p> <p>2 Willesden."</p> <p>3 Now, in relation to the role that you performed that</p> <p>4 night at the triage centre, do you remember who it was</p> <p>5 from command who asked you to do this function?</p> <p>6 A. No, they literally walked around the fire ground and saw</p> <p>7 I was a recruit, so they grabbed me and took me over</p> <p>8 there. And it was literally if people were coming into</p> <p>9 triage, it was just noting their name down and what flat</p> <p>10 they came from.</p> <p>11 Q. So as far as you're aware, the senior officer or more</p> <p>12 senior officer who directed you to carry out this task</p> <p>13 wasn't from the command unit?</p> <p>14 A. I think they were from the command unit, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Would it have been a gentleman called Cook?</p> <p>16 A. I don't know.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you remember what time in the evening you were asked</p> <p>18 to carry out this function?</p> <p>19 A. In the morning, it would've been, because it was getting</p> <p>20 light.</p> <p>21 Q. I think if I ask you to turn back a page to page 14, you</p> <p>22 said at the very last line at the bottom of the page,</p> <p>23 "I was aware that it had started getting light", and</p> <p>24 that your alarm had gone off at 7 am.</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 227</p>
<p>1 "After a short while of being in the BA holding area</p> <p>2 I don't know where everyone went but I was still with CM</p> <p>3 GALLAGHER and we went together back to the tower</p> <p>4 entrance to help with casualty handling. "</p> <p>5 Where did you take the casualties to on that</p> <p>6 occasion, at that time?</p> <p>7 A. So there was sort of like a chain. So when the</p> <p>8 casualties came down from inside the atrium bit, there's</p> <p>9 the glass floor. Underneath that, out to the west side,</p> <p>10 there's some side doors, and that's where the BA holding</p> <p>11 area was, and there was a chain of getting casualties</p> <p>12 from there.</p> <p>13 Q. I understand.</p> <p>14 Now, the final topic I'd like to discuss with you to</p> <p>15 today is your triage role at the pub on Bramley Road.</p> <p>16 If I could ask you to turn to page 15 and the second</p> <p>17 sentence from the top of that page, you say:</p> <p>18 "I was helping FF KEANE when someone from Command</p> <p>19 came over and stated that they needed someone to go to</p> <p>20 the Triage centre that had been set up on Bramley Road</p> <p>21 in a pub. He wanted details of the people coming into</p> <p>22 the triage centre collected and radioed over to the</p> <p>23 command unit who were working on the Fire Safety</p> <p>24 Guidance (FSG) phone calls so these details could be</p> <p>25 cross checked to know who was out of the tower and who</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 226</p>	<p>1 Q. Was this before or after you were asked to assist with</p> <p>2 the triage function?</p> <p>3 A. I think that was before.</p> <p>4 Q. You say you had to get the details of people coming into</p> <p>5 the triage centre and radio these over to the command</p> <p>6 unit so that they could be cross-checked against FSG</p> <p>7 phone calls.</p> <p>8 Do you know who you were communicating with at the</p> <p>9 command unit?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you know which people were in the command unit?</p> <p>12 A. There was a watch manager also with me at Bramley Road,</p> <p>13 and we weren't radioing over and making the</p> <p>14 communication, it was just if someone came in, you took</p> <p>15 their details and passed them on to him</p> <p>16 Q. Did you have any cause to communicate directly with the</p> <p>17 command unit itself?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you make any record of the information you were</p> <p>20 collecting and then passing on?</p> <p>21 A. I don't think anyone came through when I was there to me</p> <p>22 personally. There was a couple of us there.</p> <p>23 Q. Going back to the rescue for flat 65, how did you use</p> <p>24 the BA sets on the mother and little girl? How did you</p> <p>25 fit them?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 228</p>

<p>1 A. So Crew Manager Tillotson was low on air, so we 2 unplugged the face mask from one set and Crew Manager 3 Tillotson plugged into that set, so he had extra. I had 4 plenty of air, so the little girl had a mask on in my 5 set and I carried her. The other set was put on the 6 mother and she was taken down in BA. 7 Q. How complicated was it to fit the BA apparatus to the 8 little girl? 9 A. Very complicated, because some of these face masks -- 10 some people in the Fire Brigade need personal-issue face 11 masks because of the size and shape of the face. So for 12 a child to wear an adult's mask, it was difficult. So 13 we just put it on and held it to her face. 14 Q. Again, I should ask this, but are you able to gauge how 15 long it took you to fit the little girl's mask? 16 A. Minutes. We're trained for this stuff. We're trained 17 to do second set procedure and -- yeah. 18 Q. Now, you entered the tower at 01.30, roundabouts, and 19 reported to the bridgehead at 01.42. 20 Now, between the entrance and the bridgehead, did 21 you see a resident on crutches at all? 22 A. No. 23 Q. Thank you. 24 Mr Bettinson, I have no further questions for you. 25 I'm asked to ask you by Mr Millett: did you see</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 229</p>	<p>1 please. 2 (3.55 pm) 3 (A short break) 4 (4.00 pm) 5 (The witness returned) 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 7 Now, Mr Kinnier, do you have some more questions? 8 MR KINNIER: Two very brief questions, sir. 9 Mr Bettinson, thank you very much for your patience. 10 Just two questions for you in relation to 11 familiarisation visits. 12 Did you ever pay a familiarisation visit to 13 Grenfell Tower before the fire? 14 A. No, it's not on our ground. 15 Q. So you wouldn't have expected to make such a visit? 16 A. No. 17 MR KINNIER: Mr Bettinson, those are all the questions we 18 have for you today, and thank you very much for coming 19 along. 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Bettinson, did you tell me it's 21 only your second high-rise fire? 22 THE WITNESS: It was at the time, yeah. 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, if I may say so, I think you 24 played a very important part in the Fire Brigade's 25 response and did extraordinarily well, if I may say so.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 231</p>
<p>1 anyone writing FSG messages? 2 A. I didn't, no. 3 Q. Anywhere? 4 A. No. 5 MR KINNIER: Okay. 6 In those circumstances, Mr Bettinson, thank you very 7 much for coming to the inquiry to give evidence today. 8 Sir, with your permission, might I ask you -- 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: There's a bit of semaphoring going 10 on. It may be there are some more questions, or at 11 least one or two. 12 MR KINNIER: Well, there may be or maybe not, so might I ask 13 you to rise for 5 minutes? 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think what we'll do, Mr Bettinson, 15 is we'll have a 5-minute break while they sort out the 16 question of further questions and then we'll come back, 17 all right? 18 So 4 o'clock. Be back here and please don't talk to 19 anyone else about your evidence while you are out of the 20 room. All right? 21 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, you go with the 23 usher then. 24 (The witness withdrew) 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right. We'll resume at 4 o'clock,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 230</p>	<p>1 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And I have to thank you very much 3 for coming to give your evidence. I hope it hasn't been 4 too daunting an experience, but it certainly helped us 5 a lot. Thank you very much. 6 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much. Cheers. 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the 8 usher, she will see you out. 9 (The witness was released) 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good. 11 MR KINNIER: Sir, that concludes the business for today. 12 There will be three witnesses on Monday. A 10 am 13 start. 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 15 MR KINNIER: So that concludes our business for today, sir. 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you very much. 17 Well, that's it for today. We'll break now and 18 resume at 10 o'clock on Monday next week, when we shall 19 hear from some more firefighters, I think. 20 Anyway, good, thank you all very much. 10 o'clock 21 on Monday, then. Thank you. 22 (4.01 pm) 23 (The hearing adjourned until Monday, 23 July 2018 at 24 10.00 am) 25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 232</p>

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