

<p>1 Thursday, 2 August 2018</p> <p>2 (9.30 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone, and welcome</p> <p>4 to today's hearing.</p> <p>5 We are going to continue, first of all, with the</p> <p>6 evidence of Ms Darby; is that right?</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you very much, Mr Chairman. If the</p> <p>8 witness could please be called back.</p> <p>9 SHARON DARBY (continued)</p> <p>10 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (continued)</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, Ms Darby.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: Good morning.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you all right to carry on?</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>16 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>18 Ms Darby, thank you very much for coming back to us</p> <p>19 this morning. We are very grateful.</p> <p>20 Could I ask you to go to your witness statement,</p> <p>21 please, and go to page 5 within it, and go to the second</p> <p>22 paragraph, which starts "At certain levels of an</p> <p>23 incident", and then five lines down you can see, you</p> <p>24 say:</p> <p>25 "Eventually I think there were about three or four</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 Q. -- as radio operator?</p> <p>2 A. I don't think I did. It is possible that someone might</p> <p>3 have come over with a bit of paper, but from what</p> <p>4 I remember, I was going on the service requests.</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 If you or, more likely, I think, as you say,</p> <p>7 Jason Oliff received pieces of paper from the CROs, does</p> <p>8 that mean that what was on the piece of paper didn't get</p> <p>9 recorded as a service request?</p> <p>10 A. That's correct.</p> <p>11 Q. I see.</p> <p>12 A. Unless the control officer made a note on the log,</p> <p>13 but --</p> <p>14 Q. All right.</p> <p>15 A. But that time, we were getting so many calls, it was so</p> <p>16 busy, I think that was the quickest way, was to write it</p> <p>17 down on a piece of paper.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 Now, I would like to just try to get to this by way</p> <p>20 of an example, if I can -- and it is only an example.</p> <p>21 A. Okay.</p> <p>22 Q. Just to try to get the system in our heads.</p> <p>23 Can I ask you to look at a radio message at</p> <p>24 01.57.34, which is LFB00002719. This is for flat 205 on</p> <p>25 the 23rd floor, timed at, as you can see at the top,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 in the Control Room with us. When we had gone to forty</p> <p>2 pumps they took over the communication with the Command</p> <p>3 Unit on the ground and passed on the FSGs directly to</p> <p>4 them. I think they used mobile phones to do this. This</p> <p>5 was then declared a major incident."</p> <p>6 We looked at this last night, 40 pumps and the</p> <p>7 declaration of a major incident.</p> <p>8 I just want to go back and look at what was</p> <p>9 happening in the control room.</p> <p>10 Do you remember pieces of paper being sent by</p> <p>11 control room officers to the head table, Jason Oliff</p> <p>12 particularly --</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. -- with FSG on them?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you remember whether that process of sending pieces</p> <p>17 of paper started before pumps were made 40, which was</p> <p>18 just after 2.00 am?</p> <p>19 A. I was still sending -- I don't remember when the papers</p> <p>20 started. I was still sending messages across at make</p> <p>21 pumps 40 myself. So whether it overlapped or not,</p> <p>22 I don't know, but I don't know the time.</p> <p>23 Q. All right.</p> <p>24 Did you receive pieces of paper --</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 01.57.34, to CU8:</p> <p>2 "MALE SPEAKER: Go ahead, over.</p> <p>3 "FEMALE SPEAKER: Charlie Uniform 8, the caller in</p> <p>4 Flat 205 on the 23rd floor reports that the fire is</p> <p>5 coming right up to their flat, over."</p> <p>6 As you see, that is timed at 01.57.34.</p> <p>7 If we look at the short incident log, which is in</p> <p>8 the master documents bundle at tab 23, and go to</p> <p>9 page 20, we can't see at that time mark, or around that</p> <p>10 time mark -- 01.57 -- any reference to that message.</p> <p>11 One needs also, I think, to look at page 21 as well.</p> <p>12 A. Okay. Then it is possible that paper might have been</p> <p>13 passed to me. As I say, I don't really -- trying to</p> <p>14 remember, but it is possible that a control officer has</p> <p>15 given me that information.</p> <p>16 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>17 Just to be clearer, or to complete the picture,</p> <p>18 there is a service request for flat 205 which is on the</p> <p>19 incident log at an earlier time, and that is at page 19,</p> <p>20 if I can ask the Documents Director to go back to that,</p> <p>21 01.40.47, where there is a service request created for</p> <p>22 flat 205, "PERSONS UNABLE TO LEAVE PROPERTY", but</p> <p>23 doesn't have the detail in your radio message.</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. That was created by Heather[sic] Fox, I think.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. And then completed by you at 01.45.10.</p> <p>3 So is that an example of where Vision sends a radio</p> <p>4 message to you?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. So Heather uses Vision to send you a radio message and</p> <p>7 then you complete it by sending that message on.</p> <p>8 A. (The witness nods).</p> <p>9 Q. Right. So looking at those two time marks, with</p> <p>10 different information, both for flat 205, the later one,</p> <p>11 as I have shown you, being on a radio message to CU8,</p> <p>12 but not being in the short incident log, does that help</p> <p>13 you tell us that in fact you were also getting messages</p> <p>14 by pieces of paper?</p> <p>15 A. I must have been. Well, yes, if it is not on a service</p> <p>16 question, then yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Yes, very good.</p> <p>18 Now, going back to your statement, you say, as</p> <p>19 I have shown you, that messages were passed directly to</p> <p>20 the senior officers who came in. They were</p> <p>21 communicating directly with the incident ground.</p> <p>22 Do you remember how they were communicating with the</p> <p>23 incident ground?</p> <p>24 A. Mobile phone.</p> <p>25 Q. Now, that was Jason Oliff, was it?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>2 Q. Now, at this point that you are referring to, do you</p> <p>3 remember who set the whiteboard system up?</p> <p>4 A. I don't know whose idea it was, who set it up, but</p> <p>5 I believe Jason Oliff was the one writing on it.</p> <p>6 Q. Right. And do you know why it was set up?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, because the radio was busy, and the volume of calls</p> <p>8 was astronomical, and I think we just felt it was</p> <p>9 a quicker way of passing the information -- the</p> <p>10 importance was to get people's location and passing that</p> <p>11 across. Maybe it was just quicker, because the radio</p> <p>12 was so busy with other stuff.</p> <p>13 Q. Were you given any information about the setting-up of</p> <p>14 this system?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. So what you are telling us is what you observed on the</p> <p>17 night, as it happened?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. How did that affect your role at the time in terms of</p> <p>20 passing FSG messages to the incident ground?</p> <p>21 A. Well, I was still passing -- I think we probably</p> <p>22 overlapped, I probably was still passing some, but</p> <p>23 obviously with the radio -- it freed up the radio</p> <p>24 a little bit, because there was obviously the</p> <p>25 operational side, the resources that they were</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 A. Yes, and Adrian Fenton as well.</p> <p>2 Q. And Adrian Fenton as well?</p> <p>3 A. I think so, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Who came in later, I think?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 Now, we know from Jason Oliff's evidence and his</p> <p>8 phone records that he started to pass information to the</p> <p>9 incident ground at about 02.06, or at least during</p> <p>10 a call that starts, according to his mobile records, at</p> <p>11 02.06.</p> <p>12 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>13 Q. Now, I am happy to show you his mobile records if you</p> <p>14 want to, but take it from me that that is what they say.</p> <p>15 A. Okay.</p> <p>16 Q. And that is what he said in his evidence to us.</p> <p>17 Now, you say in your statement, at the same</p> <p>18 paragraph:</p> <p>19 "At this point all of the names and addresses had</p> <p>20 started going on a white board and they relayed this to</p> <p>21 the ground crews via their phones."</p> <p>22 I am struggling to locate it on the page. It is</p> <p>23 three-quarters of the way down the page, or just beyond</p> <p>24 halfway down that second paragraph. Do you see? It has</p> <p>25 been highlighted for you there.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 requesting, so instead of it all being fire survival</p> <p>2 guidance, the radio was able to cope with the other</p> <p>3 stuff a bit more.</p> <p>4 Q. Was there an overlap?</p> <p>5 A. Of?</p> <p>6 Q. Of radio messages and mobile messages coming from the</p> <p>7 control room to the incident ground?</p> <p>8 A. An overlap of the paper?</p> <p>9 Q. Well, let me put it differently.</p> <p>10 First of all, did anybody tell you to stop passing</p> <p>11 FSG messages to the incident ground?</p> <p>12 A. No, if they were sending me messages, I would pass them.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you in fact stop sending radio messages as soon as</p> <p>16 the mobile message system started?</p> <p>17 A. I don't think so.</p> <p>18 Q. No.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I mean, from what you are telling</p> <p>20 us, I think it was really the officer who took the call</p> <p>21 who would decide whether to create a service request</p> <p>22 which you would then respond to.</p> <p>23 A. Exactly.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Or to put it on a piece of paper,</p> <p>25 which wouldn't come to you, or to do both.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 A. Exactly.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>3 We can, I think, pursue that last point that you</p> <p>4 have just made to the chairman by looking at the short</p> <p>5 incident log. If we can go back to that, please, and go</p> <p>6 to page 21.</p> <p>7 You can see that at the top of page 21 it starts</p> <p>8 with a time mark of 01.56.39, with a service request,</p> <p>9 RT4 to CU8, and then it continues on down the page, and</p> <p>10 just scan your eye, if you would, down the page to see</p> <p>11 various service requests on past 02.00 am, and</p> <p>12 particularly past 02.06 am, with continued radio service</p> <p>13 requests relating to FSG information.</p> <p>14 Do you see? So at the foot of the page you can see</p> <p>15 02.10, service request, RT4 to CU8, further call</p> <p>16 relating to flat 82 on floor 11.</p> <p>17 Did you create that service request? It says SAD</p> <p>18 next to your name there, or next to --</p> <p>19 A. Sorry, which one says created? No, that says completed.</p> <p>20 So I passed that over to Charlie Uniform --</p> <p>21 Q. Yes, I am sorry, created. PD is created, I am so sorry,</p> <p>22 you are quite right.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. And SAD is completed.</p> <p>25 A. So I passed that over.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 log that Charlie Uniform 7 came up and said, "Can you</p> <p>2 now pass all of the FSG calls, fire survival calls", but</p> <p>3 Heidi wouldn't necessarily have known that, she was just</p> <p>4 putting it to Charlie Uniform 8. But it still came to</p> <p>5 the incident, I knew where to pass it. So even though</p> <p>6 I have completed it, I have sent it to Charlie Uniform 7</p> <p>7 as requested.</p> <p>8 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>9 So when we see service requests completed, RT4 to</p> <p>10 CU8, after the time mark of 02.23.33, we can take it,</p> <p>11 can we, that they were actually sent to CU7?</p> <p>12 A. I did.</p> <p>13 Q. Yes.</p> <p>14 Continuing on through page 23, you can see that</p> <p>15 there is a service request at 02.40.11, just over</p> <p>16 a third of the way down that page, service request</p> <p>17 created, HJF -- again, Heidi Fox -- RT4 to CU8, just on</p> <p>18 creation of a service request -- that is Heidi Fox</p> <p>19 there -- and that gets completed -- and this is for</p> <p>20 flat 152 -- at 02.41.27. Do you see that?</p> <p>21 Just two questions there.</p> <p>22 First of all, it looks as though Heidi Fox is</p> <p>23 completing the service request. Did there come a time</p> <p>24 when you stopped, or perhaps shared --</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 Q. Right.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. And then over the page, one can start, I think, at</p> <p>4 02.24.11:</p> <p>5 "Service Request Created: RT4 CU8 FLAT 183 21ST</p> <p>6 FLOOR ..."</p> <p>7 And you can see the details there. And that is HJF,</p> <p>8 which I think is Heather Fox.</p> <p>9 A. Heidi.</p> <p>10 Q. Heidi Fox, sorry.</p> <p>11 At 02.25.32, you can see that the service request is</p> <p>12 completed by you. So it looks as if -- is this</p> <p>13 right? -- at 02.25, so at some time after Jason Oliff</p> <p>14 had started his mobile messaging, you are still sending</p> <p>15 radio messages to the incident ground?</p> <p>16 A. Yes. I mean, yes, if I was sent the message, then I was</p> <p>17 sending it.</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 Just on that page, if you run your eye up to the</p> <p>20 time mark 02.23.33, SAD, it says:</p> <p>21 "Key</p> <p>22 "CU7 RUN ALL FSG CALLS VIA CU7."</p> <p>23 A. Okay.</p> <p>24 Q. That would have come from you?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, again, when we had it earlier, I have put on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 Q. -- completion?</p> <p>2 A. What Heidi has done is she has probably, possibly,</p> <p>3 passed it over on paper, but she has logged it, so she</p> <p>4 has written into the log on the service request the</p> <p>5 information, but to stop me having to pass it over, she</p> <p>6 has completed it, so I haven't picked it up.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 A. So what she has done is made sure there is a log of it.</p> <p>9 Q. I see.</p> <p>10 Now, I don't think that is a pattern that we see</p> <p>11 emerging from this log.</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. Why might that be?</p> <p>14 A. Well, it is quicker to write on paper.</p> <p>15 Q. Yes.</p> <p>16 A. I don't know why Heidi has done that, but what she has</p> <p>17 done is correct, because she has put it on the although</p> <p>18 log.</p> <p>19 Q. Yes, I see. Is that a rarity or was that the norm?</p> <p>20 A. No, she has just typed it into the incident and</p> <p>21 completed it herself to stop me sending it, because she</p> <p>22 has a record of it on there.</p> <p>23 Q. Is that because, on that occasion, Heidi Fox didn't send</p> <p>24 a piece of paper --</p> <p>25 A. It is possible.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

1 Q. -- to Jason Oliff, but instead put it on the Vision log?
 2 **A. No, no, she would have sent it, because I haven't passed**
 3 **it, so she might have put it on -- I see what you -- but**
 4 **she may have put it on paper as well. She hasn't passed**
 5 **it on the radio, so she might well have -- she has just**
 6 **made a record of it on the log.**
 7 Q. Yes, I see, okay.
 8 Can you then go to page 24, a quarter of the way
 9 down that page, at 03.08.36, and there is a service
 10 request created there by DR, which I think is -- I am
 11 guessing -- Debbie Real?
 12 **A. Debbie Real.**
 13 Q. And she creates a service request:
 14 "... CU8 RT4 PERSONS IN FLAT 153 ..."
 15 And that is completed at 03.10.51 by you:
 16 "... CU8 RT4 PERSONS IN FLAT 153 ..."
 17 **A. Mm-hm.**
 18 Q. Does that tell us that, as late as 03.10, you were still
 19 sending radio messages to CU8 -- or CU7, by that stage?
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. Right.
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. So if Jason Oliff starts sending his mobile messages at
 24 02.06 on and off, and it is not a continuum --
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. -- and you continued to send radio messages to CU7 until
 2 03.10, does that mean we have an overlap period of about
 3 an hour and a quarter?
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. Or an hour and 10 minutes, perhaps.
 6 **A. Yes. I think the important thing was getting the**
 7 **information. Whether it went via Jason or me, Charlie**
 8 **Uniform 7 or Charlie Uniform 8 are getting the**
 9 **information --**
 10 Q. Okay.
 11 **A. -- of where those people are.**
 12 Q. Was there a system in the control room for collating and
 13 double checking what radio messages and mobile messages
 14 were being sent in order to make sure there was no
 15 inconsistency or duplication?
 16 **A. No, because people were calling back and obviously**
 17 **speaking to different control officers. But we wouldn't**
 18 **have had time to do that.**
 19 Q. Did you tell Jason Oliff what FSG messages you were
 20 passing to the incident ground so that he could record
 21 it on his whiteboard?
 22 **A. No.**
 23 Q. So would this be right: if we are looking for a record
 24 of what FSG messages were sent from the control room to
 25 the incident ground, you have to put the whiteboard and

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1 the radio log together?
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. Okay.
 4 If you can be shown, please, LFB00002636. This is
 5 a message timed at 03.14.55, which says "Control
 6 out" and "FEMALE SPEAKER: FN out."
 7 Can you help us with that? What does that mean in
 8 radio speak?
 9 **A. All it means is -- I am still listening to the channel,**
 10 **so if they call me up, I can still hear them, it will**
 11 **still come through, but I have just pressed the button**
 12 **to say I have stopped talking so they know I have**
 13 **stopped.**
 14 Q. I see. What does FN mean?
 15 **A. Sorry, it should say really M2FN. It is channel 4.**
 16 **I have just said "FN" quickly, but it should be M2FN.**
 17 Q. Is that a mark of the fact that that was the end of your
 18 radio transmissions?
 19 **A. Not all, just for that moment.**
 20 Q. Oh, I see, right.
 21 **A. Also I was monitoring channel 2, so I had to keep**
 22 **pressing the button to come out of channel 4 so that**
 23 **I was monitoring both channels at the same time as well.**
 24 Q. Right. Okay.
 25 During the time up to 03.10 that you were sending

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1 radio messages to CU8 and then CU7, were you talking, do
 2 you think, to the same person on the command unit or
 3 different people?
 4 **A. The same person on Charlie Uniform 8 and then**
 5 **a different person on Charlie Uniform 7, but I would**
 6 **assume the same two people. I don't remember exactly,**
 7 **but that is how I would recall it.**
 8 Q. Do you know who you were speaking to?
 9 **A. No. We just use the call sign.**
 10 Q. Right.
 11 **A. We don't ask their name.**
 12 Q. Okay.
 13 Did you get any sense from your radio discussions --
 14 and they are not discussions in the conversational
 15 sense, as I understand -- of what those persons on the
 16 command units were doing with the information you were
 17 giving them?
 18 **A. Collating the information, passing it to whoever was in**
 19 **charge.**
 20 Q. Did you know that?
 21 **A. That is what they would do.**
 22 Q. Right.
 23 **A. I would assume that that is what they would do.**
 24 Q. That is an assumption of yours; you didn't find out from
 25 them what they were doing?

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4 (Pages 13 to 16)

<p>1 A. That is their job.</p> <p>2 Q. Yes, okay.</p> <p>3 Can I then just ask you about a document which you</p> <p>4 won't have seen before, but I will explain it to you.</p> <p>5 It is LFB00003113.</p> <p>6 Now, these are manuscript notes made by Andy Hearn,</p> <p>7 who chaired a control room debriefing on 24 July 2017 to</p> <p>8 review control room activity in the light of the</p> <p>9 incident. You can see who was there at that meeting, if</p> <p>10 we can just, I think, go back to that.</p> <p>11 You, I think, weren't present.</p> <p>12 A. I wasn't present, no.</p> <p>13 Q. If you go, please, to page 4 of that note, you will see</p> <p>14 that halfway down the page, it says:</p> <p>15 "SM Oliff arrives - offers help.</p> <p>16 "- opens up line with CU.</p> <p>17 "- all FSGs pass this way.</p> <p>18 "- mobile phone - personal mobile. * No other way."</p> <p>19 In the light of what you have been telling us this</p> <p>20 morning about this hour or so of overlap between mobile</p> <p>21 messages and radio messages going to the incident ground</p> <p>22 we have seen, is it right that there was no other way</p> <p>23 after Station Manager Oliff arrived that FSG messages</p> <p>24 were passed to the incident ground?</p> <p>25 A. It is quite obvious from the log that I was passing</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 else might have been, but I don't remember.</p> <p>2 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>3 A. Because I was kind of, you know, concentrating on what</p> <p>4 I was supposed to be doing.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay.</p> <p>6 A. I wasn't really, you know -- that was going on in my</p> <p>7 background.</p> <p>8 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>9 Can I then ask you this: did you see any other</p> <p>10 whiteboards apart from these two?</p> <p>11 A. No, I don't think so.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. Let me just, if I can, finally run this to</p> <p>13 ground.</p> <p>14 Can I ask you to please be shown MET00018229.</p> <p>15 (Pause)</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We have a problem, Mr Millett.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Right, okay, that will shorten things.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Is that going to be --</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: No, it is not a problem at all.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: Standing back from the activity, were you</p> <p>22 aware, or are you aware, of any efforts being made by</p> <p>23 anybody in the control room to identify or record or</p> <p>24 transfer to the incident ground any emerging themes that</p> <p>25 were coming out of the FSG calls?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 them, and I know I passed them, so it is incorrect;</p> <p>2 there was an overlap.</p> <p>3 Q. Yes.</p> <p>4 Can I show you the whiteboards which Mr Oliff set up</p> <p>5 and which he wrote on.</p> <p>6 These are -- if I can just give you the</p> <p>7 references -- MET00018229.</p> <p>8 Perhaps I could start with an easier document,</p> <p>9 Mr Documents Director. Scrub that request.</p> <p>10 Can I show you first of all, Ms Darby -- I am sorry,</p> <p>11 this is slightly more tricky. If you start with</p> <p>12 MET00016912 and, at the same time, MET00016906, and just</p> <p>13 have those two on the screen at the same time, if we</p> <p>14 can, please.</p> <p>15 Now, these are two whiteboards which Mr Oliff told</p> <p>16 us he was working off on the night, and Mr Fenton did</p> <p>17 the same.</p> <p>18 Do they look familiar to you?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, they were in the control room.</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you see people writing on these boards?</p> <p>23 A. Well, yes, but I can't remember the detail of that.</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 A. Obviously Jason Oliff was writing on there. Someone</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 A. Not really. Because I wasn't taking any, I wasn't</p> <p>2 really having that role. I was just concentrating on</p> <p>3 the radio and the messages coming to me. So no, not</p> <p>4 really.</p> <p>5 Q. Were you aware of any plan being implemented within the</p> <p>6 control room to deal with the very high number of calls</p> <p>7 that were coming in, apart from the whiteboard system</p> <p>8 that we have seen?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. Do you remember whether any thought was given to</p> <p>11 bringing in further staff, further control room</p> <p>12 officers, to man the phones?</p> <p>13 A. I don't know.</p> <p>14 Q. Were you aware of any plans to direct calls to -- I call</p> <p>15 them "buddy control rooms", spill-over control rooms?</p> <p>16 A. That might have happened automatically because of the --</p> <p>17 we do have a buddy control room that would take excess</p> <p>18 calls, so that may well have happened.</p> <p>19 Q. Yes.</p> <p>20 A. Well, it did happen, but -- yes.</p> <p>21 As regards to staff, I know a couple of members of</p> <p>22 staff from other watches did come in, obviously a lot</p> <p>23 later in the incident, but there was two, I think, that</p> <p>24 did come in.</p> <p>25 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 Just following up on what you just said about when</p> <p>2 you were on the radio, did there come a time when you</p> <p>3 stopped sending FSG radio messages?</p> <p>4 A. There would have eventually, yes. I think it was around</p> <p>5 03.00, just after 03.00 or something.</p> <p>6 Q. Yes, that is what we get from the short incident log.</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. That is consistent --</p> <p>9 A. Yes, and after that, I wouldn't have passed any more on.</p> <p>10 Q. We have a radio message sent at 07.51.24, which is</p> <p>11 LFB00003072, you can see that time mark from the top,</p> <p>12 and that says.</p> <p>13 "FEMALE SPEAKER: Charlie Uniform 7, Charlie Uniform</p> <p>14 7 from M2FN, over."</p> <p>15 A. Okay.</p> <p>16 Q. Were you still on the radio in the control room talking</p> <p>17 to CU7 at 07.51 am?</p> <p>18 A. No, I think I had gone off duty by then.</p> <p>19 Q. Did anybody tell you to stop sending FSG messages by</p> <p>20 radio when you say you did stop at around about 03.10?</p> <p>21 A. I don't remember. It is possible, but I don't remember.</p> <p>22 If I had got a service request, I would, you know -- if</p> <p>23 it was sent to me, I would pass it over.</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 A. I don't recall it -- someone just suddenly saying,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 change in advice to the incident ground at all?</p> <p>2 A. I can't remember. I don't recall.</p> <p>3 Q. Did she ask you to record it on Vision?</p> <p>4 A. If she had, I would have done. So --</p> <p>5 Q. Yes.</p> <p>6 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>7 Q. Having observed Jo Smith going round telling everybody</p> <p>8 that the advice had changed, was there a reason why you</p> <p>9 didn't record it on the Vision System?</p> <p>10 A. No. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Is it something that you would normally have recorded on</p> <p>12 the Vision system?</p> <p>13 A. Not necessarily me. Someone might have done. But at</p> <p>14 that point, you can imagine what the room was like, and</p> <p>15 then having to tell people now, "You have actually to</p> <p>16 get out". So I don't remember.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay.</p> <p>18 Do you know whether any consideration was given to</p> <p>19 calling back callers who had been told previously to</p> <p>20 stay put, and now telling them that the advice has</p> <p>21 changed and they should now do everything they can to</p> <p>22 leave?</p> <p>23 A. So to ring -- I mean, I can tell you -- if you want me</p> <p>24 to just recall on that night, then no.</p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 "Don't send any more". I don't recall.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember if anybody told you to stop sending</p> <p>3 messages by radio?</p> <p>4 A. No, I don't recall that.</p> <p>5 Q. Could I ask you to go back to your statement, please,</p> <p>6 and go to page 6.</p> <p>7 Now, in your statement, in the first paragraph of</p> <p>8 page 6, about halfway down, you say:</p> <p>9 "I was aware that later in the night Joanne SMITH,</p> <p>10 the Senior Operations Manager, had gone around telling</p> <p>11 everyone that the policy had changed and that they were</p> <p>12 to tell residents to get out by whatever means they</p> <p>13 could and as safely as possible."</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. "I cannot remember what time this was, nor who actually</p> <p>16 made the decision but I know from that moment the CROs</p> <p>17 told whichever caller the updated change."</p> <p>18 Did you see for yourself or hear Jo Smith going</p> <p>19 round telling everybody of the change in the advice?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Now, we know that it was changed in the control room</p> <p>22 between 02.30 and 02.50, as the outer limits of the</p> <p>23 time. We have been told that by Adrian Fenton, and</p> <p>24 other witnesses.</p> <p>25 My question is: did Jo Smith ask you to relay that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 A. It wouldn't be easy to find all of the numbers to call</p> <p>2 those people back, and there was still a big queue of</p> <p>3 999 calls waiting.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 When you say a big queue of 999 calls waiting, how</p> <p>6 do control room operators see the queue?</p> <p>7 A. On the emergency call button that is coming in for</p> <p>8 an emergency call, it will have the number of calls on</p> <p>9 there. I don't remember taking note of them, but there</p> <p>10 was emergency calls waiting.</p> <p>11 Q. Where you were sitting as a radio operator, obviously</p> <p>12 you said you had the Vision system open in front of you.</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Would you also be able to see for yourself a list of</p> <p>15 queued calls?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, it is all on the ICS system, the ICS telephone</p> <p>17 system, which has the radio and the telephone system all</p> <p>18 on it.</p> <p>19 Q. And so at that moment -- and I know it is hard to</p> <p>20 remember exactly -- when Jo Smith was telling the CROs</p> <p>21 that the advice had changed, do you remember roughly how</p> <p>22 long this list of numbers was?</p> <p>23 A. I am sorry, I can't.</p> <p>24 Q. I mean, was it a handful, or was it --</p> <p>25 A. No, more than that. It was a lot, but I can't remember.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 Q. Did you recognise any repeat numbers that kept coming up 2 at any time?</p> <p>3 A. No, you don't see the phone number coming in, you see 4 just the amount.</p> <p>5 Q. What does it actually say on the screen that records the 6 ICS system?</p> <p>7 A. It is just a red button with -- actually you do see -- 8 I am trying to imagine it.</p> <p>9 So you would see maybe the top number. After that 10 you wouldn't see the numbers. The phone number, sorry.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 A. You wouldn't see all of the phone numbers that are in 13 that queue, all you would see is the amount of calls 14 waiting.</p> <p>15 Q. I see. So I am just trying to get a visual picture in 16 my own mind about this. It is difficult. We will get 17 there.</p> <p>18 So you see the first number, the one that has got to 19 the front of the queue?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. And you see that number, do you?</p> <p>22 A. I think -- God, I do it every day, and I should know.</p> <p>23 Q. I know the feeling.</p> <p>24 A. Yes, you do see the first one.</p> <p>25 Q. Yes, okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 Q. Now, given that you weren't taking calls, you may not be 2 able to help me very much with this, but let me see if 3 I can explore it.</p> <p>4 Can I ask you to be shown LFB00003625.</p> <p>5 Now, you won't know what this document is, but it is 6 the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service log for 7 14 June 2017. If we have a scroll down to page 4 at the 8 time mark of 01.58, I think one has to go to the bottom 9 of the page, you can see at 01.58, "General", it says: 10 "G102 DO Dille NILO PAGED TO INFORM." 11 And then it runs into the next line which is: 12 "HAVE TRIED RINGING LFB DIRECT BUT THERE IS NO 13 ANSWER.</p> <p>14 "WE ARE AWARE THAT THEY HAVE A MAJOR HIGH RISE FIRE 15 AS BT GLASGOW ASKED IF WE COULD TAKE SOME OF THE 16 OVERFLOW CALLS. AS THERE WERE TOO MANY FOR THEIR FALL 17 BACK SERVICE BT STATED IF THIS BECAME A PROBLEM FOR 18 ECFRS [Essex] THEN TO RING THEM BACK ON THE SECURE 19 NUMBER AND THEY WOULD STOP THE CALLS."</p> <p>20 Do you know, or did you know, that Essex was trying 21 to get through to London with overflow calls that had 22 been sent there way by BT Glasgow, or BT at all?</p> <p>23 A. I wasn't aware at the time, but I know that Essex did 24 take a lot of calls for us and they might have spoken 25 to -- they might have tried to get through to one of the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 A. And then after that, it is just the amount of calls.</p> <p>2 Q. I see. Does that come up as a number, saying ten or 3 four or --</p> <p>4 A. For the amount of calls, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. For the amount of calls waiting?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. I see. So you have a number that is waiting to be taken 8 that has come to the front of the queue, and then after 9 that it is the number of calls that are waiting?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. But not the actual telephone numbers of the calls lined 12 up in the queue?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. I follow. That is very clear, thank you.</p> <p>15 Did you know for yourself that in fact there were 16 callbacks done during the night to some numbers?</p> <p>17 A. No, I am not aware.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you hear about or become aware of any calls that had 19 come to the London control room at Stratford through 20 other control rooms where they had called back?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, I mean I'd passed some of them over the radio, 22 hadn't I? But I wasn't taking the calls, so I wasn't 23 really --</p> <p>24 Q. No, okay.</p> <p>25 A. No, I am not aware.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 control officers, but obviously they would have got in 2 the queue.</p> <p>3 Q. Yes.</p> <p>4 A. Or they might -- whether they spoke to an officer of the 5 watch and passed them over, I am not sure.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 There is a reference there to the LFB direct line; 8 do you know what that is?</p> <p>9 A. We have a number that we ring direct to get through to 10 Essex, and they probably have the same for us. On our 11 ICS system, there is a button for Essex, and I expect -- 12 but that will just go to the control operator.</p> <p>13 Q. Right. Is it a designated line?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you hear it ringing?</p> <p>16 A. It would get in the queue, that is the thing, it 17 wouldn't come up as a priority over the queue, if it is 18 that number.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 Have you any idea why there was no answer from that 21 direct line?</p> <p>22 A. Only that it was in the queue.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 A. And we were taking other calls. I mean, we were really, 25 really busy taking --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 Q. Who was manning that direct line, do you know?</p> <p>2 A. No, it wasn't -- what I am trying to say is if it is the</p> <p>3 line I am thinking of, it just goes in with all of the</p> <p>4 other emergency calls.</p> <p>5 Q. Oh, I see, okay.</p> <p>6 Now, if you can be taken on in the document, which</p> <p>7 means I think going up to the time mark of 02.03, it is</p> <p>8 a similar question, I just want to pick it up.</p> <p>9 We get some more information there and then I think</p> <p>10 a little bit further up the page, just to give it some</p> <p>11 context, it says, under the time mark of 02.04:</p> <p>12 "G102 DO DILLEY INFORMED AND SITUATION EXPLAINED.</p> <p>13 "HE WILL TRY AND MAKE CONTACT.</p> <p>14 "HE SUGGESTS THAT IF WE GET FURTHER CALLS FROM</p> <p>15 RESIDENTS POLICY UNTIL WE CAN CLARIFY WHAT ADVICE SHOULD</p> <p>16 BE GIVEN.</p> <p>17 "HE ALSO ASKED THAT WE CONTINUE TO TRY TO CONTACT</p> <p>18 LFB REGARDING CALLER ON 22ND FLOOR.</p> <p>19 "NO ANSWER FROM LFB VIA DIRECT LINE."</p> <p>20 First of all, do you happen to know who DO Dilley</p> <p>21 is?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Again, at that time -- and this is an interesting time,</p> <p>24 because it is just before Jason Oliff's first mobile</p> <p>25 call to CU8 -- do you remember Essex Fire and Rescue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 gone to the -- I haven't got a very good understanding.</p> <p>2 He takes a national role. So if there is a major</p> <p>3 incident, he would probably have been informed of that.</p> <p>4 Q. I follow. I see. Okay.</p> <p>5 Well, we saw the major incident, of course, was</p> <p>6 declared at 02.06.38, but there is a reference to NILO</p> <p>7 earlier than that, so there may be a time mismatch.</p> <p>8 But do you know who the NILO in the Stratford</p> <p>9 control room would have been?</p> <p>10 A. I don't -- we haven't got a NILO in Stratford.</p> <p>11 Q. You don't have a NILO?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. How does it work?</p> <p>14 A. Not in Stratford. There might be someone we could page,</p> <p>15 but I am not --</p> <p>16 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>17 When a major incident is declared --</p> <p>18 A. The National Resource Centre is based -- Yorkshire, I</p> <p>19 think, it is Yorkshire.</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. When a major incident is declared, does that, to your</p> <p>23 understanding, trigger or stand up NILOs in regional</p> <p>24 fire rescue services?</p> <p>25 A. Well, I think, as I explained yesterday, a major</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 trying to get hold of the London control room?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay.</p> <p>4 Then at 02.08, just finally on this document, just</p> <p>5 a little bit further up it says:</p> <p>6 "G102 DO DILLEY WILL TRY AND CONTACT LFB VIA HIS</p> <p>7 NILO LINE."</p> <p>8 And I should have told you NILO is national</p> <p>9 inter-agency liaison officer. Do you know that?</p> <p>10 A. I have heard of that.</p> <p>11 Q. It says:</p> <p>12 "HE HAS TAKEN ADDRESS DETAILS OF THE CALLER AT THE</p> <p>13 LOCATION WHO HAS ASKED FOR ADVICE."</p> <p>14 Did you know at any stage during the night that</p> <p>15 Essex Fire and Rescue Service were giving advice to</p> <p>16 Grenfell residents?</p> <p>17 A. I don't know. I probably heard it after the night --</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 A. -- to be honest with you, but maybe not at the time.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 A. I don't know. I just don't know. I can't answer.</p> <p>22 Q. We have just seen the expression NILO, national</p> <p>23 inter-agency liaison officer. Can you explain what the</p> <p>24 role of that person is?</p> <p>25 A. Well, because it became a major incident, it might have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 incident, the supervisors would be dealing more with the</p> <p>2 actions and the notification of who to inform, so I am</p> <p>3 not too familiar with that.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 Then if we go up the document a bit further to the</p> <p>6 time mark of 02.14 -- and again, Ms Darby, you may not</p> <p>7 be able to help with this, so I won't take very long</p> <p>8 over this -- a third of the way down the page it says:</p> <p>9 "General. ON THE GRENFELL TOWER REGENERATION THERE</p> <p>10 IS A EMERGENCY FIRE ARRANGEMENT PARAGRAPH.</p> <p>11 "THEIR POLICY STATES TO STAY PUT UNLESS OTHERWISE</p> <p>12 ADVISED, GRENFELL WAS DESIGNED TO RIGOROUS FIRE SAFETY</p> <p>13 STANDARDS.</p> <p>14 "EACH FRONT DOOR FOR EACH FLAT CAN WITHSTAND A FIRE</p> <p>15 FOR UP TO 30 MINUTES."</p> <p>16 Was this information that you got, or you were aware</p> <p>17 of, in the Stratford control room?</p> <p>18 A. No. No.</p> <p>19 Q. No?</p> <p>20 A. I don't recall. I can't remember that.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you know anything about what this is a reference to?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Would it be normal in a control room for an area, a fire</p> <p>24 and rescue area, other than the area in which the fire</p> <p>25 is taking place, for that fire and rescue service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 control room to have detailed knowledge about a building</p> <p>2 like this?</p> <p>3 A. I don't know.</p> <p>4 Q. No. Okay.</p> <p>5 Have you ever heard of something called a talk</p> <p>6 group?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, yes, the a radio-type -- to do with the radio.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 If you look at the time mark of 02.16 on the same</p> <p>10 page, while we are on it, it says, 02.16:</p> <p>11 "General. DO DILLEY HAS TRIED ALL THE TALK GROUPS</p> <p>12 AND HAS NOT GOT A RESPONSE."</p> <p>13 In that context, can you help us with what a talk</p> <p>14 group is?</p> <p>15 A. It might just be another radio channel that Essex would</p> <p>16 try and speak to -- sorry, I am not really, it is just</p> <p>17 another radio channel.</p> <p>18 Q. Radio channel, okay. It is not a group, is it, of radio</p> <p>19 operators all in different areas?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, if we went on to Essex's ground, for example, to</p> <p>21 assist, we sent someone, we would tell them the talk</p> <p>22 group so they could tune into Essex's radio.</p> <p>23 Q. I see, okay. So is this simply a radio channel between</p> <p>24 fire and rescue service control rooms?</p> <p>25 A. I believe so.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p>3 Ms Darby, thank you very much. I have come to the</p> <p>4 end of my questions, and, Mr Chairman, I think it is</p> <p>5 probably now appropriate we take a short break.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: And --</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You may discover some more.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: We may.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, all right. That is a good</p> <p>11 point to have a break.</p> <p>12 It may be that there will be a few more questions,</p> <p>13 we shan't know until afterwards.</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, so we will stop now until</p> <p>16 10.35. Please don't talk to anyone, again, about your</p> <p>17 evidence while you are out of the room.</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: No.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And then when we come back we will</p> <p>20 see whether there are any more to ask you.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Would you like to go</p> <p>23 with the usher? Thank you very much.</p> <p>24 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, 10.35, then, please.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 Q. A radio channel, okay.</p> <p>2 A. Yes, it is a radio.</p> <p>3 Q. Is that part of channels 1 to 6 that we have been</p> <p>4 talking about so far?</p> <p>5 A. It might be -- not necessarily. Because we have the</p> <p>6 FLONS and that.</p> <p>7 Q. Yes.</p> <p>8 A. So it might be slightly different channels.</p> <p>9 Q. So it is not part of FLONS or the London main scheme?</p> <p>10 A. No, because FLONS is for London.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 Just one more question on this document, having seen</p> <p>13 it, at 02.21 you can see a message:</p> <p>14 "General. HAVE SPOKEN TO LFB.</p> <p>15 "THEY WANT TO KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE</p> <p>16 "FLAT NUMBER</p> <p>17 "FLOOR NUMBER</p> <p>18 "AND IF FIRE IS AFFECTING THEIR FLAT."</p> <p>19 Do you remember, looking at this now, having</p> <p>20 a conversation with Essex Fire and Rescue Authority's</p> <p>21 control room discussing those matters?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay.</p> <p>24 Do you know who might have done, or who did have</p> <p>25 that discussion?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 (10.22 am)</p> <p>2 (A short break)</p> <p>3 (10.35 am)</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, did you discover some more</p> <p>5 questions, Mr Millett?</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: I was given some more questions, but just one</p> <p>7 or two short ones, and they are short. So if we could</p> <p>8 just have the witness back, please, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>9 (The witness returned)</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Ms Darby, I am told there</p> <p>11 are a few short questions, so we will see.</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: Just very few, Ms Darby. Thank you for coming</p> <p>13 back.</p> <p>14 Can I ask, first of all, for you to be shown</p> <p>15 LFB00002493.</p> <p>16 And I want just to show you the time, first of all.</p> <p>17 This is at 01.14. No, it is not.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No, 47.</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: It is 01 --</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: 47?</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: Sorry, yes, 01.47. I am going mad. 01.47.13</p> <p>22 on 14 June and the operator says:</p> <p>23 "OPERATOR: - the message after that? Over.</p> <p>24 "CALLER: Yeah, it was on the 12th floor, er, for</p> <p>25 peoples trapped in flats 96 and 95 and the police have</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 passed over calls saying that the callers are trapped on 2 the 16th and 17th floors. Over."</p> <p>3 My question is: do you know who received the police 4 calls?</p> <p>5 A. They could be police calls from the police control room, 6 and they would come through as emergency calls, so the 7 control operators would have taken those.</p> <p>8 Q. Yes, right.</p> <p>9 A. And we did have some calls from the police helicopter, 10 and that would have been the supervisors.</p> <p>11 Q. Right, okay, that was my next question.</p> <p>12 Did anybody in the control room during the night 13 monitor the helicopter radio channel?</p> <p>14 A. They monitor the emergency service radio, which is on 15 the supervisor's desk.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 A. And the police helicopter would have, I think, spoken to 18 them on that, I believe.</p> <p>19 Q. I see. So it wouldn't be you?</p> <p>20 A. No, it is not me.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 A. It is the supervisors and then the supervisor would pass 23 the information to me --</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 A. -- to pass on to the ground.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 Do you know what he did in order to procure, gather, 2 EDBA equipment from around London?</p> <p>3 A. That would be his job. I don't know.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: You don't know. Okay.</p> <p>5 Yes, thank you very much, Ms Darby, I have no 6 further questions for you. I am very grateful indeed to 7 you for coming here and assisting us with our 8 investigations, so thank you very much.</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Thank you.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I would add my thanks to those of 12 Mr Millett. It has been very helpful to hear how the 13 control room works, at least from the perspective of the 14 radio operator, so thank you very much for coming.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: Thank you.</p> <p>17 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, we now have another witness, 20 whom Mr Kinnier is going to examine.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: Firefighter Beale. I am going to vacate the 23 lectern for a short time for him to do that.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: It may be sensible to have another very short</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 Q. Right. Thank you.</p> <p>2 Finally, just a question on resourcing.</p> <p>3 Do you know who in the control room on the night was 4 responsible for resourcing, such as getting EDBA to the 5 fire ground?</p> <p>6 A. Well, the fire ground requested resources as part of -- 7 so is that what you mean?</p> <p>8 Q. Yes.</p> <p>9 A. Yes, so the fire ground, they requested EDBA. Extra 10 EDBA.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Following on from that, then, they request that, 13 that request comes to the control room.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. And then is it right that somebody in the control 16 room --</p> <p>17 A. Arranges that.</p> <p>18 Q. -- arranges that, or procures --</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Who was it?</p> <p>21 A. I think it was supervisors that sorted that out, because 22 call-takers were tied up with call-taking. I believe 23 that Peter May -- I stand corrected, but I think it was 24 Peter May.</p> <p>25 Q. Yes, we think so too.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 break now while we --</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Just to reorganise the furniture.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Exactly.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, I will rise for 5 five minutes. Back at 10.45, please.</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: Thank you.</p> <p>7 (10.40 am)</p> <p>8 (A short break)</p> <p>9 (10.45 am)Kinnier</p> <p>10 MR KINNIER: Good morning, sir.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Kinnier.</p> <p>12 MR KINNIER: May I call Watch Manager Stuart Beale.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>14 STUART BEALE (sworn)</p> <p>15 Questions by MR KINNIER</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Beale.</p> <p>17 Now, I gather you would you like to sit down.</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: Yes, please.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do that and make yourself 20 comfortable.</p> <p>21 Right. Yes, Mr Kinnier.</p> <p>22 MR KINNIER: First of all, would you mind confirming your 23 name for the record.</p> <p>24 A. Stuart Kenneth Beale.</p> <p>25 Q. Thank you very much for coming along to give evidence</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 today. It is very much appreciated.</p> <p>2 Now, in front of you, you will see a blue folder.</p> <p>3 Hopefully behind the first tab you will find two</p> <p>4 statements. The first is dated 6 July 2017, and is</p> <p>5 seven pages long, and then, if you turn further in</p> <p>6 behind that tab, hopefully you will find your second</p> <p>7 statement, which is three pages long, and dated</p> <p>8 26 March; is that right?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>10 Q. And if you go behind the final tab, hopefully you will</p> <p>11 find your contemporaneous note; is that right?</p> <p>12 A. That's correct, sir.</p> <p>13 Q. Have you read those three documents recently?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, I have.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you confirm that the contents are true?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, they are.</p> <p>17 Q. Are you content for those documents to stand as your</p> <p>18 evidence to the inquiry?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, I am.</p> <p>20 Q. Now, as I have said to other witnesses, I am not going</p> <p>21 to go through your statements or contemporaneous notes</p> <p>22 line by line; there are just particular topics I would</p> <p>23 like to discuss with you.</p> <p>24 Now, if at any time my questions are unclear, please</p> <p>25 say so and I will rephrase them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 A. We don't have a facility within the LFB to replicate</p> <p>2 an external fire on a tower or on a high-rise of any</p> <p>3 distinct height.</p> <p>4 There are training notes to do with building</p> <p>5 construction and building products and materials that we</p> <p>6 will use by means of a PowerPoint presentation at</p> <p>7 station, and then obviously there are other elements of</p> <p>8 exterior firefighting, whether that be covering jets,</p> <p>9 using aerial appliances to put water curtains on the</p> <p>10 outside of the building, which we would practically</p> <p>11 practice at a station or other venues.</p> <p>12 Q. So have you given any particular training regarding the</p> <p>13 particular risk posed by cladding on high-rise fires?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. And have you received any such training?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. Now, the first topic I would like to discuss with you</p> <p>18 relating to the incident is the handover, and if I could</p> <p>19 ask you to turn to your first witness statement, page 3.</p> <p>20 It is the sixth paragraph on that page, which is just</p> <p>21 below halfway. It starts with the words:</p> <p>22 "At the time we arrived the incident was just being</p> <p>23 handed over from a North Kensington Watch Manager to an</p> <p>24 incident commander."</p> <p>25 First of all, do you know the North Kensington watch</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 Finally, if you feel the need for a break at any</p> <p>2 time, just shout.</p> <p>3 A. Okay, thank you, sir.</p> <p>4 Q. Now, if we can deal, first of all, with basics.</p> <p>5 Is it right that you have been in the LFB now for</p> <p>6 more than 22 years?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, I transferred from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service,</p> <p>8 which I joined in 1995. I transferred into the LFB in</p> <p>9 2000.</p> <p>10 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>11 In June 2017, you held the same rank as you do</p> <p>12 today, namely watch manager; is that right?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>14 Q. And in June 2017, as you are today, you were based at</p> <p>15 Soho and allocated to the Red Watch.</p> <p>16 A. That's correct.</p> <p>17 Q. On the night in question, you were mobilised at 01.30,</p> <p>18 on the road at 01.32, and arrived at the tower about</p> <p>19 01.46; is that about right?</p> <p>20 A. It is about right, sir, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Now, first of all, may I ask you just some brief</p> <p>22 questions about training.</p> <p>23 First of all, what training have you given regarding</p> <p>24 fires involving external cladding on high-rise</p> <p>25 buildings?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 manager to be Mike Dowden?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, I do.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you know that at the time?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, I did.</p> <p>5 Q. How did you know this was a handover?</p> <p>6 A. I had been to the command unit previous to this, so it</p> <p>7 doesn't sit right with the statement, but from leaving</p> <p>8 the command unit and coming to the south-east corner of</p> <p>9 the tower, Watch Manager Dowden was in the process of</p> <p>10 talking to a station manager. Myself and approximately</p> <p>11 three other watch managers were standing next to him,</p> <p>12 listening to the information. I believe the information</p> <p>13 that he was giving him was part of a handover.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay, if I can stop you there, just taking each element</p> <p>15 of that.</p> <p>16 First of all, you went over to him with three other</p> <p>17 watch managers.</p> <p>18 A. No, no, there was watch managers congregating around him</p> <p>19 as he was talking to that group of people.</p> <p>20 Q. Can you identify those three watch managers?</p> <p>21 A. Obviously myself was there, Watch Manager Sadler from</p> <p>22 Lambeth, and at some point it may have been Watch</p> <p>23 Manager Glynn Williams that had joined us, but I don't</p> <p>24 know that for definite.</p> <p>25 Q. Do you know the identity of the station manager to whom</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 Mike Dowden was handing over?</p> <p>2 A. I think it was Station Manager Walton.</p> <p>3 Q. You say you think; is that because -- do you know him,</p> <p>4 first of all?</p> <p>5 A. I do know him, and since that incident I have been given</p> <p>6 evidence; I know now who it was.</p> <p>7 Q. Now, by the time you joined the gaggle of watch managers</p> <p>8 next to Mr Dowden and Mr Walton --</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. -- first of all, can you give us the words or the gist</p> <p>11 of the words that you overheard Mr Dowden say to</p> <p>12 Mr Walton?</p> <p>13 A. Watch Manager Dowden was in the process of telling him</p> <p>14 the situation that he had been called to originally,</p> <p>15 a fire on the 4th floor, which they believed to be</p> <p>16 a kitchen fire, and that his crews had come out of the</p> <p>17 building to find, obviously, the exterior of the</p> <p>18 building was alight, and the resources that he had and</p> <p>19 the tactics he had implemented to that point, and the</p> <p>20 resources he had ordered on and what he had in</p> <p>21 attendance.</p> <p>22 But I never physically saw the end of that handover,</p> <p>23 or him physically give the tabard to Station Manager</p> <p>24 Walton.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you hear any discussion of a summary of the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 the words that were used in the conversation that you</p> <p>2 had with Mr Dowden?</p> <p>3 A. It would be something along the lines of, "Hi, Mike,</p> <p>4 what have you got? What do you want me to do? What</p> <p>5 have you done up to now?" and just the basics. It would</p> <p>6 have been a very brief, very short conversation. It</p> <p>7 wouldn't have been very detailed.</p> <p>8 Q. What did he say to you? What orders did he give you?</p> <p>9 A. He didn't give me any orders because, at that point,</p> <p>10 a station manager turned up into our conversation and he</p> <p>11 proceeded to talk to the station manager about what had</p> <p>12 happened up to that point.</p> <p>13 Q. And did the station manager -- presumably Walton -- give</p> <p>14 you any orders as to what to do next?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. Did anyone give you a briefing as to the strategic</p> <p>17 objectives for the firefighting plan?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Did anyone give you a direction there as to what you</p> <p>20 were going to do and what to do once you got there?</p> <p>21 A. No. As they were carrying out what I believe to be</p> <p>22 a handover, I was called away by my aerial crew,</p> <p>23 Alpha 245, who were on the east section, or the east</p> <p>24 side of the building, the tower.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 conditions within the tower?</p> <p>2 A. No, I didn't.</p> <p>3 Q. Was there any discussion of the extent to which fire had</p> <p>4 penetrated from the exterior to the interior of the</p> <p>5 fire?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Was there any discussion you overheard of the system for</p> <p>8 handling FSGs?</p> <p>9 A. No, sir.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you speak to Mike Dowden?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, I did.</p> <p>12 Q. And was that after the handover had concluded, or later</p> <p>13 on in the evening?</p> <p>14 A. It was about the same time, maybe just before. It all</p> <p>15 sort of happened at the same time.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you initiate the conversation or did he initiate it?</p> <p>17 A. I think it was mutual. He had the incident command</p> <p>18 tabard on. My natural remit or my natural actions at an</p> <p>19 incident would be to head towards him. I had been on</p> <p>20 the command unit already -- they were busy doing other</p> <p>21 stuff, I just left my nominal roll board, I hadn't</p> <p>22 officially booked in properly -- and come off the</p> <p>23 command unit and met Mike Dowden on the south-east</p> <p>24 corner of the tower.</p> <p>25 Q. Can you give us the words that were used or the gist of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 Now, before we leave the topic of the handover, if</p> <p>2 I could ask you to turn to your second witness statement</p> <p>3 at page 2, and it will come up on the screen, seven</p> <p>4 lines from the bottom, you say:</p> <p>5 "When I turned up the initial incident commander was</p> <p>6 trying to carry out a handover brief ..."</p> <p>7 Just looking at that word "trying", it tends to give</p> <p>8 the impression that there were obstacles or difficulties</p> <p>9 preventing that handover discussion taking place.</p> <p>10 What would be your response to that?</p> <p>11 A. There was a lot going on. Obviously, I think we were</p> <p>12 ordered on make pumps 20. We turned up in the early</p> <p>13 part of those 20 appliances, those additional appliances</p> <p>14 to take it to 20 arriving. The exterior of the tower</p> <p>15 was alight from the 4th floor to the 23rd floor on the</p> <p>16 right-hand section of the east side, so there was a lot</p> <p>17 going on.</p> <p>18 As natural protocols could go, with an incident of</p> <p>19 that size, the watch manager would hand over to</p> <p>20 a station manager, but everybody was obviously trying to</p> <p>21 help, getting involved in what had to be done. There</p> <p>22 was still a lot going on at the early stages that needed</p> <p>23 people to take on board.</p> <p>24 Q. Before we leave the topic of the handover, did Watch</p> <p>25 Manager Sadler contribute anything to the discussion?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 A. I can't remember, sir, sorry.</p> <p>2 Q. Can you remember whether Watch Manager Glynn Williams</p> <p>3 contributed?</p> <p>4 A. I can't remember that either.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay.</p> <p>6 The next topic I would like to discuss with you is</p> <p>7 the question of sector command, and if I could ask you</p> <p>8 to turn back to your first witness statement at page 3,</p> <p>9 the final paragraph. You say there:</p> <p>10 "I saw both crews leave my location and make their</p> <p>11 way towards the main entrance to the tower located on</p> <p>12 the South side. I was then designated as OIC in charge</p> <p>13 of Sector 4 which was the East side of the Tower. I had</p> <p>14 attended the Command Unit set up which is in a mobile</p> <p>15 truck stationed on Grenfell Road."</p> <p>16 Now, if we can take a few steps back, how long after</p> <p>17 arriving at the scene did you present yourself at the</p> <p>18 command unit?</p> <p>19 A. We sort of entered towards Grenfell Road from Bomore</p> <p>20 Road, stepped off of the truck. I had already detailed</p> <p>21 my crews to take the BA with them en route. Because of</p> <p>22 the traffic we had heard en route to the fire, it was</p> <p>23 obvious they were going to need BA resources at the</p> <p>24 tower.</p> <p>25 From that point, the natural protocol is to go to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 them.</p> <p>2 Q. So you assumed sector command rather than being</p> <p>3 designated; would that be fair?</p> <p>4 A. For want of a different statement, yes, sir.</p> <p>5 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>6 Can you give us an idea, what is the role and the</p> <p>7 principal function of the officer in command of</p> <p>8 a particular sector?</p> <p>9 A. So within a larger-scale incident, as obviously Grenfell</p> <p>10 was, it is broken down into different sections, or in</p> <p>11 this case sectors, where the tower is broken down from</p> <p>12 each side into sections 1, 2, 3, 4. It gives the</p> <p>13 officer in charge much greater command of the incident,</p> <p>14 for you to be able to focus on one specific task, area</p> <p>15 or location, and to feed information back to give them</p> <p>16 a better overall command and control position.</p> <p>17 Q. Once you assumed command of that sector, did you radio</p> <p>18 either command unit or the bridgehead to say that is</p> <p>19 what you had done?</p> <p>20 A. I sent a lot of messages that night via handheld radio</p> <p>21 and also by runner. I can't remember physically doing</p> <p>22 that, sir, no.</p> <p>23 Q. In your capacity as sector commander, to whom would you</p> <p>24 report?</p> <p>25 A. The incident commander.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 a command unit or ICP or incident commander to find out</p> <p>2 what they needed you to do to assist them. As I walked</p> <p>3 towards the tower, I saw a command unit in Grenfell</p> <p>4 Road, so I proceeded to that to book in.</p> <p>5 Q. Can you remember at that stage whether it was CU7 or</p> <p>6 CU8?</p> <p>7 A. Crew Manager Meyrick was on that command unit. He was</p> <p>8 very busy at the time, either on the main scheme radio</p> <p>9 or a phone, taking what I believed to be FSG and writing</p> <p>10 stuff down. So I didn't actually physically have</p> <p>11 a conversation with him, which you usually would do.</p> <p>12 I left my nominal roll board on the desk so someone knew</p> <p>13 we were in attendance and I left that command unit and</p> <p>14 proceeded on to the fire ground.</p> <p>15 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>16 Who designated you the officer in charge of the</p> <p>17 sector 4?</p> <p>18 A. No one; it was by default, really, more than anything</p> <p>19 else. While I was having a conversation with Watch</p> <p>20 Manager Dowden, as I mentioned previously, my aerial</p> <p>21 crew, which that night was Alpha 245, had ended up on</p> <p>22 the east section of the building, situated on a grass</p> <p>23 area located outside the tower. They were calling to me</p> <p>24 saying they were having trouble getting a secure water</p> <p>25 supply, and just by natural default, I went towards</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 Q. Did you try and get a report through to Station Manager</p> <p>2 Walton or his successors at any stage to indicate that</p> <p>3 you were the sector commander?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, sir, and at one point I did have -- later on in the</p> <p>5 incident, I had a conversation with an ops commander,</p> <p>6 and it had been discussed or confirmed over the radio</p> <p>7 that I was in sector 4 and running sector 4 and they</p> <p>8 were happy to leave that as that was.</p> <p>9 There were a lot of radio messages backwards and</p> <p>10 forwards, but the radio communication at times was</p> <p>11 strained, due to the traffic that was on the handheld</p> <p>12 fire ground radios.</p> <p>13 Q. Just going back a step to when you presented to the</p> <p>14 command unit, can you describe to us what the situation</p> <p>15 was like in the command unit at that stage?</p> <p>16 A. Unusually, for an incident of that size, it was empty,</p> <p>17 other than one officer on it, which was Watch Manager</p> <p>18 Meyrick. He was at the desk at the far end of the</p> <p>19 command unit, sitting down, and I don't know whether he</p> <p>20 was on the main scheme radio or a handheld phone, but he</p> <p>21 was furiously writing information down on to a notepad.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay, thank you.</p> <p>23 Could I ask you -- apologies for jumping around.</p> <p>24 A. That is fine.</p> <p>25 Q. Could I ask you to turn to your second witness</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 statement, page 2, and it is roughly halfway down the</p> <p>2 page, where you say:</p> <p>3 "I was in charge of the East side of the building</p> <p>4 and was monitoring the North side of the tower as well."</p> <p>5 Did anybody place you in charge of monitoring the</p> <p>6 north side or was it you assumed that responsibility</p> <p>7 yourself?</p> <p>8 A. That was self-appointed by location and default.</p> <p>9 Q. And you assumed that position at the same time you</p> <p>10 assumed command of sector 4?</p> <p>11 A. Answer: yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Is being in charge of monitoring the same as being</p> <p>13 a sector commander?</p> <p>14 A. It could be seen as that, yes, you are, but ultimately,</p> <p>15 as the incident would progress and get larger, you would</p> <p>16 have a monitoring officer basically sitting on your</p> <p>17 shoulder and monitoring your actions, and as the</p> <p>18 incident would increase, that would proceed through the</p> <p>19 different ranks.</p> <p>20 Q. In relation to your role as sector commander, did you</p> <p>21 have a monitoring officer with you at any stage?</p> <p>22 A. Unusually, at this incident, no, not for a very long</p> <p>23 time.</p> <p>24 Q. And in respect of the north side of the tower, would you</p> <p>25 have had a monitoring officer bespoke to that side?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 incident commander generically, and I did that every</p> <p>2 time I thought there was something that had changed or</p> <p>3 was relevant for me to update them on how that fire was</p> <p>4 progressing or manoeuvring across the building.</p> <p>5 Q. To give a practical example, what change would trigger</p> <p>6 a call to the command unit, just to give people</p> <p>7 a flavour of the threshold?</p> <p>8 A. For example, we are obviously trying to send messages</p> <p>9 via handheld radio, which became very difficult at</p> <p>10 certain periods of time. I think in that evening I sent</p> <p>11 possibly three handwritten messages by firefighter</p> <p>12 notepad and sent a runner. One of those was to say that</p> <p>13 I had noticed on the north side that the fire had then</p> <p>14 dropped down to the 4th floor. I had concerns, because</p> <p>15 I had been told, or I was aware, that the bridgehead was</p> <p>16 on the 4th floor, and I wanted to get that information</p> <p>17 back to the bridgehead via the incident commander,</p> <p>18 command unit or via the lobby sector, to let them know</p> <p>19 that the smoke may have increased on that floor.</p> <p>20 Q. Would you try and communicate directly with the</p> <p>21 bridgehead, using that particular example, whether by</p> <p>22 radio or by runner?</p> <p>23 A. No, that is not a usual fire ground procedure.</p> <p>24 Q. And why is that?</p> <p>25 A. Because the incident commander ultimately needs to know</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 A. No, no.</p> <p>2 Q. What arrangements were put in place or did you have in</p> <p>3 place to allow you to command sector 4, the east side,</p> <p>4 to monitor what was going on on the north side? How did</p> <p>5 you do the two jobs, I suppose I am asking?</p> <p>6 A. Right, so from the east side of the building, from the</p> <p>7 grass area that was on the east side of the Grenfell</p> <p>8 Tower, I only had to take between 20 to 30 paces to see</p> <p>9 the north and the south side of the tower, so from that</p> <p>10 position I could see three sides. I had no contact with</p> <p>11 the west side at all.</p> <p>12 The east side was my main focus, but obviously as</p> <p>13 the fire developed and the fire movement went around the</p> <p>14 building, it gave me a good view of the north and of the</p> <p>15 south side as well.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 Going back to your second witness statement, page 2,</p> <p>18 the same paragraph we were looking at, the second</p> <p>19 sentence:</p> <p>20 "When possible I was relaying information back to</p> <p>21 the Command Unit and the Bridgehead with regards to the</p> <p>22 burn rate of the fire."</p> <p>23 First of all, how frequently were you able to send</p> <p>24 information back to the command unit?</p> <p>25 A. I sent information back to the command unit or the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 all of the information. Now, an incident that size,</p> <p>2 they put people in place, whether it is ops command or</p> <p>3 other officers, to be able to keep their spans of</p> <p>4 control down to a level that they can deal with the</p> <p>5 information. That one message about the fire on the</p> <p>6 north side, when it did drop down to the 4th floor,</p> <p>7 I think the firefighter or the crew manager that</p> <p>8 I designated to do that task -- I sent them to the</p> <p>9 command unit but also said, "You need to make sure</p> <p>10 100 per cent that this information goes to the</p> <p>11 bridgehead".</p> <p>12 Q. When you used the radio to try to communicate, for</p> <p>13 example, with the command unit, were you able to get</p> <p>14 through more often than not?</p> <p>15 A. I would say no. Not more often than not. It was hit</p> <p>16 and miss.</p> <p>17 Q. Would the fallback situation in those circumstances be</p> <p>18 the runner?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Did you receive any requests from the command unit for</p> <p>21 information regarding burn rate, fire spread, at any</p> <p>22 time?</p> <p>23 A. Not that I can remember, sir, no.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you receive any request from the bridgehead, for</p> <p>25 example, for any information regarding burn rate and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 fire spread?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Could I ask you to stay in your second witness</p> <p>4 statement, second page, the second paragraph from the</p> <p>5 bottom, and it is the final sentence which reads thus:</p> <p>6 "There was extensive external fire spread and an</p> <p>7 unusual burn pattern."</p> <p>8 Could you explain to us what you considered to be</p> <p>9 unusual about the burn pattern?</p> <p>10 A. Okay. So from initially turning up at Grenfell Tower,</p> <p>11 like I said before, the east side of the tower --</p> <p>12 I described it as it was in three sections horizontally,</p> <p>13 section 1, 2 and 3 from left to right as I looked at it,</p> <p>14 as I faced it, and the third section from level 4 to the</p> <p>15 23rd floor was alight, and it then progressed to the</p> <p>16 second section and was burning downwards.</p> <p>17 Now, obviously, fire can burn downwards. It is more</p> <p>18 unusual than common. And I ended up basically</p> <p>19 monitoring or observing a diagonal line from the top</p> <p>20 right-hand corner on the east side of Grenfell Tower,</p> <p>21 which was burning down towards the south-east corner.</p> <p>22 Q. Given your assessment that the fire was behaving in</p> <p>23 an unusual manner, how did that inform your plan for</p> <p>24 fighting the fire on the east side?</p> <p>25 A. Really it was unusual, I had not seen it before, burn</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 location.</p> <p>2 Paul, could I ask you to turn up MET00016854.</p> <p>3 Mr Beale, it may be more helpful looking at the</p> <p>4 screen above you.</p> <p>5 Are you able to pinpoint for us where the ALP from</p> <p>6 Soho was parked?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, well, rather conveniently, where the red arrow is</p> <p>8 on the east side of the tower, that is the exact</p> <p>9 location of the ALP.</p> <p>10 Q. Can you describe for us the other sort of topographical</p> <p>11 features on the east side of the tower?</p> <p>12 A. So the crew I think that night was Temporary Crew</p> <p>13 Manager Frost, and Firefighter King, who was the driver,</p> <p>14 had been directed that was the only way they could get</p> <p>15 access. There was no access to the north, south or west</p> <p>16 side of the tower. Paddington's TL was already in the</p> <p>17 east south corner, directly next to the tower, so it was</p> <p>18 the only location left to put a large appliance.</p> <p>19 They shouldn't have had it there in the first place</p> <p>20 because it is on grass. The aerial ladder platform</p> <p>21 weighs 23 tonnes. It is outside of policy to put it off</p> <p>22 of hardstanding. We made the decision that it was quite</p> <p>23 warm, the ground was quite hard, and it was a risk we</p> <p>24 were prepared to take to set it up.</p> <p>25 The grass verge from where it was sitting sloped</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 like that. We didn't know how water would react on to</p> <p>2 the exterior of the building. We could see that the</p> <p>3 exterior cladding was involved. It was alight and</p> <p>4 burning, almost like a molten line diagonally across the</p> <p>5 building which was slowly making its way down to the</p> <p>6 bottom left-hand corner.</p> <p>7 Q. We may come on to it later, but there was evidence given</p> <p>8 by Firefighter Brown -- the reference is 23 June 2018,</p> <p>9 page 34, line 3 -- and when he was directing water from</p> <p>10 flat 16 onto the cladding, he described the water as</p> <p>11 bouncing off.</p> <p>12 Is that a phenomenon you experienced from your</p> <p>13 sector on the east side?</p> <p>14 A. No, the only thing you could compare it to is, like,</p> <p>15 a warehouse with sandwich panels that obviously has</p> <p>16 a flammable material stuck in between two metal panels,</p> <p>17 and if you put water directly onto that, obviously it is</p> <p>18 designed to repel water. So where the exterior of the</p> <p>19 building had broken down or decomposed enough, the water</p> <p>20 would penetrate either behind the exterior facade and</p> <p>21 the gap between that and the exterior of the building.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay.</p> <p>23 The next topic I would like to discuss with you is</p> <p>24 the aerial ladder platform and water supply.</p> <p>25 First of all, the first topic, really, to discuss is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 down towards the east side of the tower, and there was</p> <p>2 a row of trees between us and the tower. Maybe three or</p> <p>3 four trees.</p> <p>4 Q. Now, given those topographical features, to what extent</p> <p>5 could the ALP be used to rescue residents from the</p> <p>6 tower?</p> <p>7 A. We were restricted massively from how far away from the</p> <p>8 tower we could get. With the perfect pitch, if you</p> <p>9 could get right underneath the tower, you could get the</p> <p>10 cage on the ALP to the 9th and, at a push, maybe the</p> <p>11 10th floor. From where we were located, we couldn't</p> <p>12 reach the tower with the cage.</p> <p>13 Q. You described in the witness statement the nature and</p> <p>14 intensity of the debris falling down. Are you able to</p> <p>15 amplify for us and describe for us the debris that was</p> <p>16 falling down from the tower?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, I put in place a sort of safe system of work,</p> <p>18 because I was worried about the safety of the crews</p> <p>19 operating the aerial. Obviously I have a firefighter in</p> <p>20 a cage, which is in a very, you know, dangerous</p> <p>21 situation and a driver at the base of it. We sort of</p> <p>22 designed a system amongst ourselves for safety, speaking</p> <p>23 and talking to each other.</p> <p>24 There was six-by-four-feet metal sheets falling off</p> <p>25 the building regularly, which would then plane and we</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 couldn't predict where they were going to land. All of</p> <p>2 us were covered at certain points throughout the</p> <p>3 incident with molten plastic strands. The trees, for</p> <p>4 want of a better statement, looked like they had been</p> <p>5 decorated with tinsel at the end of the incident. We</p> <p>6 were covered in molten aluminium as well at different</p> <p>7 points that had dripped off the tower, and there was</p> <p>8 other debris, insulation and other plastic debris that</p> <p>9 had fallen off the side of the building.</p> <p>10 Q. Turning to a different question now, and that is the</p> <p>11 question of pre-determined attendance.</p> <p>12 Is it correct that, until recently, the attendance</p> <p>13 of an aerial appliance was a pre-determined attendance</p> <p>14 requirement for all high-rise buildings?</p> <p>15 A. Sorry, sir, could you repeat the question?</p> <p>16 Q. Yes, of course.</p> <p>17 Is it correct that, until recently, attendance of</p> <p>18 an aerial was a pre-determined attendance at all</p> <p>19 high-rise towers?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, the PDAs have changed recently for high-rise</p> <p>21 buildings. They used to be on them many years ago, but</p> <p>22 they were taken off.</p> <p>23 Q. Can you remember when they were taken off?</p> <p>24 A. Would you have to refer to the LFEPA, when they did</p> <p>25 that, sorry.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 the ALP to work.</p> <p>2 Q. Did they give you a summary, however expressed, of the</p> <p>3 efforts they had made to locate a water supply before</p> <p>4 your arrival?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, they had. They said they had been there -- we had</p> <p>6 concerns and I had concerns that there was already,</p> <p>7 obviously, a pumping appliance connected to Paddington's</p> <p>8 aerial appliance and there was water going into the</p> <p>9 building by means of a dry riser. In those</p> <p>10 circumstances, you are very aware that if you are then</p> <p>11 going to set up an aerial appliance, you don't want to</p> <p>12 starve that water supply because firefighters within the</p> <p>13 building need firefighting media.</p> <p>14 Q. Moving from that, if you look on to the penultimate</p> <p>15 paragraph on page 4, you say you sent off two MDs to</p> <p>16 find a water supply and you said:</p> <p>17 "The two MDs returned with A241 which just happened</p> <p>18 to be my appliance and they set to work getting a water</p> <p>19 supply set up from a nearby hydrant."</p> <p>20 Can you remember, after you dispatched them, how</p> <p>21 long it took for them to come back with Alpha 241?</p> <p>22 A. Maybe five minutes.</p> <p>23 Q. Paul, might I ask you to turn up BLAR000000012_0011, and</p> <p>24 there we have figure 17.7 from Dr Lane's report.</p> <p>25 Mr Beale, I doubt you have seen this before.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 Q. Do you recall why?</p> <p>2 A. I wouldn't like to say. A cost-cutting exercise,</p> <p>3 I expect.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay.</p> <p>5 Now, can I turn to the next topic, which is your</p> <p>6 initial observation of the ALP, and, apologies, could</p> <p>7 I ask you to turn back to your first witness statement,</p> <p>8 page 4, the second paragraph on that page. You say:</p> <p>9 "On our arrival I had seen that my ALP (245) was</p> <p>10 situated on the East side of the building but quickly</p> <p>11 identified that it had no dedicated pump or secure water</p> <p>12 supply."</p> <p>13 You say "quickly identified".</p> <p>14 First, did you identify the absence of a dedicated</p> <p>15 pump or secure water supply before you attended the CU,</p> <p>16 or after you had been to the CU?</p> <p>17 A. After the CU, after I had spoken to Watch Manager Dowden</p> <p>18 and the crew from Alpha 245. They were basically</p> <p>19 shouting at me to come over and give them a hand.</p> <p>20 Q. What were they saying as they were shouting to you?</p> <p>21 A. I probably couldn't repeat most of it in this room.</p> <p>22 Q. If you give us the gist.</p> <p>23 A. It was blatantly obvious that they needed water supply,</p> <p>24 which they didn't have. They had no secure water</p> <p>25 source, and they needed help in setting up and getting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 A. No, sir.</p> <p>2 Q. You will see, marked in blue are the locations of the</p> <p>3 hydrants.</p> <p>4 Can you identify the location of the hydrant you</p> <p>5 used to supply Alpha 241, or rather the two MDs had</p> <p>6 identified?</p> <p>7 A. From that diagram, I believe the hydrant we used is the</p> <p>8 blue square, above the 85 metres, next to Kensington</p> <p>9 Leisure Centre.</p> <p>10 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>11 Could I now turn to the ALP itself. Paul, could</p> <p>12 I ask you to turn up LFB00001914_0094, and if you could</p> <p>13 amplify the top box, is this a photograph of the same</p> <p>14 model as Alpha 245?</p> <p>15 A. I believe so, sir, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. You mentioned earlier on in an earlier answer that the</p> <p>17 maximum reach of this model is 10 floors; is that right,</p> <p>18 have I summarised it right?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, if you could get the aerial into such a position,</p> <p>20 what we call a clean pitch, that you could be directly</p> <p>21 underneath the area you were trying to get to, nine</p> <p>22 floors is achievable, ten at a push.</p> <p>23 Q. Assuming optimal pressure, how high could the jet reach</p> <p>24 from the cage if you were at the 10th floor?</p> <p>25 A. So optimum pressure, that vehicle requires 2,240 litres</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 a minute of water. That has to be supplied by</p> <p>2 a dedicated pump at 11.5 bars. Statistically, it states</p> <p>3 that from -- it is an open-ended monitor in the cage.</p> <p>4 It has a reach, in an optimum situation, of 75 metres.</p> <p>5 Q. The cage itself, how many people can it accommodate?</p> <p>6 A. Four.</p> <p>7 Q. Could it accommodate, for example, a wheelchair-bound</p> <p>8 casualty as well?</p> <p>9 A. Depends how big the wheelchair is, I suppose,</p> <p>10 ultimately. But we would be more concerned about</p> <p>11 getting the person out of their wheelchair and into the</p> <p>12 cage and down safely.</p> <p>13 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>14 Could I now ask you a few questions about the ALP</p> <p>15 and its use and getting it into position.</p> <p>16 You mentioned earlier on about the need for it to be</p> <p>17 on a hardstanding --</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. -- and to avoid grass.</p> <p>20 Assuming you find a hard place, stabilising jacks</p> <p>21 need to be used; is that right?</p> <p>22 A. That's correct.</p> <p>23 Q. And then the ladder with the caged platform needs to be</p> <p>24 used as well?</p> <p>25 A. Correct.</p> <p>Page 65</p>	<p>1 A. It would be very difficult to do that, but, ultimately,</p> <p>2 like I said, with putting the appliance on hardstanding,</p> <p>3 you do a dynamic risk assessment to see what the benefit</p> <p>4 would be, if it outweighed the risk.</p> <p>5 Q. What factors did you have in mind when you carried out</p> <p>6 your dynamic risk assessment?</p> <p>7 A. Well, the safety of my crews is my ultimate paramount --</p> <p>8 obviously, there was residents in the building that</p> <p>9 needed rescuing, and we obviously had an external</p> <p>10 exterior of the building that was on fire that I wanted</p> <p>11 to get some water onto, to try to assist, or make the</p> <p>12 conditions better.</p> <p>13 Q. Just trying to get an understanding of what normal</p> <p>14 practice is, but would you agree that aerial appliances</p> <p>15 wouldn't normally be used for external firefighting in</p> <p>16 high-rise residential buildings until it had been</p> <p>17 confirmed that there was no longer any life risk in the</p> <p>18 building?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, you have to be very careful, and even on the night</p> <p>20 of Grenfell -- if you set an aerial appliance up and had</p> <p>21 optimum pressure and the perfect scenario, and managed</p> <p>22 to put 2,240 litres of water a minute onto that building</p> <p>23 and the exterior compartments of those buildings had</p> <p>24 fractured or decomposed, you would then change the</p> <p>25 conditions inside the building detrimentally, whether it</p> <p>Page 67</p>
<p>1 Q. I recognise everything turns on particular</p> <p>2 circumstances, but, as a general rule of thumb, how long</p> <p>3 does it take to get the ALP in position, jacks, and then</p> <p>4 the ladder raised?</p> <p>5 A. Only a few minutes. It doesn't take long at all. Under</p> <p>6 five to be set up.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you know how long that process took at Grenfell</p> <p>8 Tower, or had it taken place before you arrived?</p> <p>9 A. It took a little bit longer because we had a discussion</p> <p>10 about the hardstanding. We tried to put in place --</p> <p>11 obviously I wasn't ideally happy that it was on grass</p> <p>12 and wasn't on tarmac or concrete, and I had spoken to</p> <p>13 the driver and the firefighters to see if they were</p> <p>14 prepared to even try and extend it and put it up,</p> <p>15 because obviously, ultimately, they are at risk.</p> <p>16 We put a safe system of work in and monitored the</p> <p>17 jacks, and said we would divert any water run-off away</p> <p>18 from the grass to prevent it getting soft, and just</p> <p>19 monitored it consistently.</p> <p>20 Q. Is it right that before an aerial appliance is used as</p> <p>21 a water tower, a risk assessment should be carried out?</p> <p>22 A. That's correct.</p> <p>23 Q. Can you explain, how do you carry out that risk</p> <p>24 assessment in the situation which confronted you at</p> <p>25 Grenfell?</p> <p>Page 66</p>	<p>1 to be to firefighters or any residents in there</p> <p>2 unrescued.</p> <p>3 Q. Is it possible that the use of either jets or sprays</p> <p>4 from aerial appliances can make conditions worse, it</p> <p>5 seems to follow on from what you were saying, by</p> <p>6 preventing hot gases venting, et cetera?</p> <p>7 A. 100 per cent. In a situation like that, initially it</p> <p>8 would be used as a covering jet. So the aerial</p> <p>9 operators would utilise the machine to make what is</p> <p>10 called a water curtain. So, basically, the water</p> <p>11 cascades down the front of the building exterior. You</p> <p>12 would be trying to avoid at all costs to put the jet</p> <p>13 straight into a window, say, at one of those flats,</p> <p>14 because ultimately you are going to push the fire into</p> <p>15 the building, into the property, and then ingress into</p> <p>16 the communal areas.</p> <p>17 Q. Did all those factors inform the instructions you gave</p> <p>18 to your crew when they were operating the ALP?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, it did.</p> <p>20 Q. Just understanding how that works in a practical</p> <p>21 situation. Say you were aiming the jet or the spray at</p> <p>22 a particular floor; would you co-ordinate with the</p> <p>23 command unit or the bridgehead to determine whether,</p> <p>24 first of all, there were any residents to their</p> <p>25 knowledge within the flats that you were aiming at, or</p> <p>Page 68</p>

<p>1 firefighters?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, my initial plan with what I had in front of me was</p> <p>3 to put a water curtain on the building. I could see the</p> <p>4 exterior was alight. The cladding was alight and there</p> <p>5 was obviously this molten line working its way down the</p> <p>6 building. That was my first aim.</p> <p>7 Before I really put any water into an individual</p> <p>8 flat on a floor, it would have had to go through the</p> <p>9 incident commander, command unit and confirm with the</p> <p>10 bridgehead that we didn't have any firefighters in that</p> <p>11 particular area.</p> <p>12 Q. How is that confirmation secured, via radio, via the</p> <p>13 runner or both?</p> <p>14 A. Ideally handheld radio. That night, it was a very busy</p> <p>15 incident and it would have been a mixture of handheld</p> <p>16 radio and it would have had to be runners.</p> <p>17 Q. You say it would have been; my question is: was it</p> <p>18 secured by --</p> <p>19 A. We didn't have the water supply we needed, so it never</p> <p>20 reached that stage of having to speak to the incident</p> <p>21 commander to confirm whether he wanted to us do</p> <p>22 aggressive firefighting into any floor of that building.</p> <p>23 Q. So we will come on to it later, but when you improvised</p> <p>24 using the hose reel, would you have informed the</p> <p>25 incident commander of that improvisation and the start</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 And you go on in the next paragraph to say this:</p> <p>2 "I did not know exactly why the pressure was that</p> <p>3 low but it could have been for a number of reasons and</p> <p>4 there was nothing I could do at that time about the</p> <p>5 mains water pressure."</p> <p>6 Now, you refer there to a number of reasons. Could</p> <p>7 you set out for us what those reasons were or could have</p> <p>8 been?</p> <p>9 A. Okay, it is quite common for us to experience low water</p> <p>10 pressure in certain areas of London when we are</p> <p>11 firefighting. Obviously, at that situation, where we</p> <p>12 were, there was a pumping appliance already supplying</p> <p>13 a dry riser into Grenfell and there was an aerial</p> <p>14 appliance from Paddington, Alpha 213, already in</p> <p>15 operation. I didn't know -- I can't tell from looking</p> <p>16 at the surface whether the main that we plugged into was</p> <p>17 their main as well, and ideally you utilise the water</p> <p>18 authority then -- they turn up basically with handheld</p> <p>19 tablets and they can tell us if there is a better main</p> <p>20 or a better water source near to us that we can utilise</p> <p>21 instead of the one we plugged into, which will always be</p> <p>22 the nearest one to the location you are at.</p> <p>23 Q. When you were confronted with a problem such as low</p> <p>24 water pressure, what are the usual work-arounds you will</p> <p>25 try to get greater pressure to fight the fire more</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 of operation of that device?</p> <p>2 A. Ideally, yes, but on that night, no, I didn't do that.</p> <p>3 Q. Just to ask the inevitable question: why did you decide</p> <p>4 not to update the incident commander on that occasion?</p> <p>5 A. With the issues I had on that sector, I tried probably</p> <p>6 five or six things to get a secure -- I had a secure</p> <p>7 water supply, but to actually get water onto the</p> <p>8 building effectively. I was literally ticking things</p> <p>9 off and going through different ideas, utilising</p> <p>10 different pieces of equipment that we have on the run to</p> <p>11 then be able to report back to the incident commander to</p> <p>12 say we have an effective firefighting source on the east</p> <p>13 side.</p> <p>14 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>15 I now want to discuss with you the question of water</p> <p>16 pressure, and if I could ask you to turn back to your</p> <p>17 first witness statement, page 5, and the second</p> <p>18 paragraph on that page, it says this:</p> <p>19 "Once in position it soon became apparent that the</p> <p>20 ALP did not have the required water pressure needed. It</p> <p>21 should use 2500 litres per minute but the monitors</p> <p>22 showed that we only had an output of 383 litres per</p> <p>23 minute. We were not close enough for that level to even</p> <p>24 reach the building so we needed to think of an</p> <p>25 alternative plan."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 effectively?</p> <p>2 A. Initially, I wasn't overly concerned. I mean,</p> <p>3 383 litres of water, for that appliance, isn't great.</p> <p>4 I did supply a jet from it, which was something. It is</p> <p>5 quite common for the water authority to, in areas, lower</p> <p>6 the water pressure in certain places. I think they do</p> <p>7 this for their waste water management projects, to try</p> <p>8 and conserve leakage. When the water authority would</p> <p>9 then turn up, they usually then have the ability to then</p> <p>10 increase the water pressure for us.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Do you know when Thames Water was first contacted by</p> <p>13 the LFB on the night?</p> <p>14 A. I am not sure, sir, you would have to check the incident</p> <p>15 log for that.</p> <p>16 Q. When were you first aware of the presence of Thames</p> <p>17 Water at the scene?</p> <p>18 A. I think I put in my statement it was about 4.00 or</p> <p>19 5.00 am, but I am not 100 per cent certain on that time.</p> <p>20 It seemed like a long time. I asked for other resources</p> <p>21 through a water officer, I asked whether a hose layer</p> <p>22 unit had been ordered or whether we had a high-volume</p> <p>23 pump en route to the area. But obviously when Thames</p> <p>24 Water did turn up, they gave me not particularly great</p> <p>25 news, so ...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>

1 Q. We will come on to that a few stages ahead.
 2 But when you were confronted with this problem of
 3 water pressure, did you seek advice from any other
 4 officer as to possible solutions to the problem?
 5 **A. There was no other officer in our area. I sent messages**
 6 **via handheld radio back to the command unit to say**
 7 **obviously we were setting up Alpha 245 on the east**
 8 **sector for external firefighting and I was having**
 9 **trouble with water supplies. I did this a few times on**
 10 **the radio. I wasn't happy with the response that I got**
 11 **via radio, and, again, sent a message via a runner.**
 12 Q. Now, to whom were the radio messages directed?
 13 **A. It would have been generic command unit or incident**
 14 **commander.**
 15 Q. And what responses did you get that you weren't content
 16 with?
 17 **A. Initially, I didn't get a response, and I think the**
 18 **second message I got a response to say that the water**
 19 **officer, LFB water officer, was on site and was going to**
 20 **come over to the area and have a discussion with me**
 21 **about what we were going to do.**
 22 Q. And did the water officer come over and have
 23 a discussion as to possible solutions?
 24 **A. I can't remember that, sir, sorry.**
 25 Q. Did you try and update the bridgehead as to the problems

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1 you were having with water pressure --
 2 **A. No.**
 3 Q. -- or is that not an issue you had raised with the
 4 bridgehead?
 5 **A. It wouldn't be my remit to contact the bridgehead about**
 6 **that.**
 7 Q. Given the difficulties you encountered with this
 8 hydrant, did you take any steps to locate an alternative
 9 hydrant?
 10 **A. Yes, we did. So further up past Kensington Leisure**
 11 **Centre, I think the road is called Verity Close, which**
 12 **is the way that the appliance was taken in over the**
 13 **block paving, the lads had found a further hydrant**
 14 **further up the road. It was quite a long way up the**
 15 **road. They had run -- I don't know -- 10, 12 lengths of**
 16 **hose in from that hydrant. When they test the hydrant,**
 17 **they obviously take the plate off the floor, connect**
 18 **a standpipe to it and ship it, or turn it on, as we**
 19 **would call it, and they obviously see the water come**
 20 **out. So they were happy that the hydrant had a good**
 21 **pressure.**
 22 **But we never got to connect that hydrant to our**
 23 **pumping appliance.**
 24 Q. Why was that?
 25 **A. That overlaid the time the water authority had arrived,**

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1 **the three gentlemen, I think, with the handheld tablets.**
 2 **I spoke to them on the wall outside Kensington Leisure**
 3 **Centre. They said there was nothing they could do to**
 4 **improve the water pressure at that time. What I had,**
 5 **383 litres a minute coming out of the ground, was the**
 6 **best I was going to get, and they were more concerned**
 7 **that within the next hour or two hours' time, the water**
 8 **pressure was going to drop due to the fact people would**
 9 **be utilising water in their surrounding premises.**
 10 Q. Okay.
 11 Paul, I was wondering, can we go back, if possible,
 12 BLAR000000012_0011, and if we could magnify figure 17.7.
 13 The alternative hydrant you referred to there, can
 14 you see it identified on that plan?
 15 **A. No, sir.**
 16 Q. Thank you.
 17 Going back to the search for an alternative hydrant,
 18 would you have expected the MDT to give you locations of
 19 alternative supplemental hydrants?
 20 **A. Yes, our usual protocol would be to go onto the MDT,**
 21 **onto the map. It is usually the driver's job, they will**
 22 **identify the nearest location of the hydrants on the**
 23 **map. That night, the MDT was blank.**
 24 Q. Thinking that through, how practicable would it have
 25 been to search for someone from the North Kensington

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1 station to ask them whether they had any local knowledge
 2 of the location of any alternative hydrants?
 3 **A. It may have been a golden opportunity, but it is not one**
 4 **that we had.**
 5 Q. One question that has arisen is: when you have asked the
 6 water undertaker, here Thames Water, to reduce the
 7 pressure, can you give us an idea of how long it takes
 8 for the water undertaker to reduce the pressure --
 9 **A. Sorry, did you say reduce?**
 10 Q. Increase pressure, sorry.
 11 **A. It never seems to take that long. I couldn't give you**
 12 **an exact time.**
 13 Q. Okay.
 14 Now, given the water pressure issue, you referred in
 15 your statement to the need for an alternative plan.
 16 What plan did you formulate? Is it the
 17 improvisation in which you used the hose reel?
 18 **A. Yes, so obviously we have different jets, different**
 19 **branches. As we said, the ideal would have been to have**
 20 **the monitor on the cage of the ALP working, but that is**
 21 **like an open-ended monitor. You can't dial it down or**
 22 **reduce the flow rate through it, it is set open. You**
 23 **can reduce the width of the cone to a jet or widely out**
 24 **to a cone, but you can't reduce the flow rates, that is**
 25 **like the maximum amount.**

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19 (Pages 73 to 76)

<p>1 So I tried different things, a ground monitor, 2 different branches, and it was more luck than anything 3 else, that Alpha 241 had been brought round by the two 4 guys that had gone off to get them. It's a brand new 5 Mercedes with this new high-pressure hose reel that we 6 had on. It uses less water but still gave us 7 a substantial jet. It is very similar to Rosenbauer 101 8 on on 230-litre setting on a 45-millimetre hose.</p> <p>9 Q. How effective was that arrangement once you got it set 10 up?</p> <p>11 A. Once we got it set up and it was strapped to the cage, 12 it was a little bit Heath Robinson, but we were 13 desperate to do something to make some sort of stop on 14 the fire encroaching any further down the building. The 15 areas we worked it onto the facade on the outside, it 16 seemed to stop it. In particular, one area we had 17 a gentleman trapped on – I don't know, between the 11th 18 and 13th floor, and we managed to stop the fire spread 19 about a metre away from his window.</p> <p>20 Q. And that was on the east side?</p> <p>21 A. On the east side.</p> <p>22 Q. Can you remember how long you used that arrangement for 23 in fighting the fire?</p> <p>24 A. Five hours.</p> <p>25 Q. Now, turning to a new topic, again linked to the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. One point that has arisen is: are you aware that the 3 comms system with the cage had also failed due to 4 a faulty transmitter?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Can you amplify what the particular problem was and when 7 it started?</p> <p>8 A. I don't know what the specific mechanical problem was 9 with it, but the operator of the cage is obviously in 10 the cage at whatever height, up to 32 metres. They have 11 a speaker set up on their dashboard which then -- 12 a secondary operator sits in a big chair at the bottom 13 of the ALP. Ultimately, they are in charge of the 14 safety of the crew above, and if the crew in the cage 15 becomes overwhelmed, or something happens, they can take 16 over at the bottom and override everything.</p> <p>17 It became quite apparent quite soon, because Crew 18 Manager Frost was in the cage and was getting pelted 19 with debris, the same as Firefighter King who was on the 20 ALP at the base, and it didn't look like he was taking 21 any action to move himself away from the danger. We had 22 a quick chat via the fire ground radio and managed to 23 get a message through to him, and he said he was having 24 trouble controlling it, at which time I told him to move 25 it down and away from the tower.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 operation of the ALP, and it is the slow movement you 2 referred to in your witness statement.</p> <p>3 If I could ask you to turn back to page 5 of your 4 first witness statement, and it is the fifth paragraph, 5 which starts with the words:</p> <p>6 "I then became aware of problem with the ALP itself. 7 C/M Frost was still in the cage and very close to the 8 burning debris still falling down. Normally the ALP has 9 2 speeds and they would use the fast speed to manoeuvre 10 away from danger. For some reason only the slow speed 11 was working which meant that it took ages for them to 12 move out of danger and back down."</p> <p>13 To the best of your knowledge, is this a problem you 14 had encountered previously with this ALP?</p> <p>15 A. Not specifically with that ALP, I can't remember a time. 16 We usually have a turntable ladder at Soho. The ALP was 17 a spare because our one was off for service. 18 Historically, there has been an issue with them. They 19 do break down. You would have to speak to fleet about 20 why that happens or how often that happens, but they 21 lock out, they go into slow mode.</p> <p>22 I don't know if it is to do with the construction of 23 them, being two different manufacturers strapped 24 together, or what, but it has historically happened.</p> <p>25 Q. Were you able to solve this problem on the night?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 Q. Did he suffer any injury?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. What effect did the problem regarding the slow movement 4 of the ALP have on the effectiveness of the firefighting 5 operation?</p> <p>6 A. Well, it pushed me towards having an unmanned cage, or 7 no personnel in the cage, because there wasn't the 8 facility for them to be able to manoeuvre that cage out 9 of the way should they have wished to.</p> <p>10 Q. Again, same question in relation to the faulty comms 11 system: what effect did that have on the effectiveness 12 of the firefighting operation?</p> <p>13 A. Not a lot, really, because we reverted to hand signals 14 and shouting at each other, basically.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 Can I move to a new topic, and that is designation 17 as safety officer for the east side of the tower.</p> <p>18 If I could ask you to turn in your first witness 19 statement to page 6, nearly halfway down the page, you 20 say:</p> <p>21 "The Ops commander designated me as safety officer 22 for the East Side."</p> <p>23 First of all, can you remember who the ops commander 24 was at that stage?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 Q. Can you remember what rank he was?</p> <p>2 A. I don't know.</p> <p>3 Q. Given you were the sector commander, what additional</p> <p>4 duties would designation as safety officer bring?</p> <p>5 A. Ultimately, you are in charge of safety of that sector.</p> <p>6 They had concerns at that time that the building may</p> <p>7 fail on the periphery, and they wanted to put in some</p> <p>8 sort of span of control over that. It is not usual for</p> <p>9 a sector commander to be the safety officer as well, but</p> <p>10 that is what happened on that evening.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 I suppose, put more bluntly, what was the point in</p> <p>13 designating you as safety officer at that stage? Was it</p> <p>14 simply to put in arrangements should the building fail?</p> <p>15 A. When it was designated to me, personally I didn't see</p> <p>16 what the point was, because we had been there for such</p> <p>17 a long time, but there are certain spans of control that</p> <p>18 the incident commander would have put in, and it</p> <p>19 probably would have been highlighted on the command unit</p> <p>20 that there was no safety officer in that area and they</p> <p>21 needed to designate someone to that role.</p> <p>22 Q. Would the safety officer have any functions in relation</p> <p>23 to management/handling/responding to FSGs?</p> <p>24 A. Say that again?</p> <p>25 Q. Sorry, would the safety officer have any role in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 Q. When you used the radio, were you using channel 3 or any</p> <p>2 other channel to communicate?</p> <p>3 A. On the fire ground, I used my handheld radio on</p> <p>4 channel 1. At some point -- it was in the latter parts</p> <p>5 of that incident, and it may have been at the time the</p> <p>6 ops commander came over to give me the additional role</p> <p>7 as a safety officer -- I believe we may have changed to</p> <p>8 another channel, but I can't --</p> <p>9 Q. Would you have supplemented those communications with</p> <p>10 a runner carrying a handwritten message at all?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, the gentleman that we believe was trapped between</p> <p>12 the 11th and 13th floors, we had sent messages via the</p> <p>13 handheld radio for that, or I had, and we had obviously</p> <p>14 watched for numerous hours the fire spread across the</p> <p>15 face of the building, and we had still managed to</p> <p>16 protect this one small area. So I wrote the details</p> <p>17 down of this gentleman and sent that to the command</p> <p>18 unit.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 I mentioned earlier we would come back to the topic</p> <p>21 of Thames Water attendance. Looking still at page 6 of</p> <p>22 your first witness statement, halfway down the page, you</p> <p>23 say:</p> <p>24 "It must have been about 4-5 am when Thames water</p> <p>25 turned up and they had with them all sorts of kit to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 handling, management or responding to FSGs?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. In your witness statement, you describe seeing people</p> <p>4 within the tower calling out for help.</p> <p>5 Were you able to pass on information regarding their</p> <p>6 location to the command unit or the bridgehead?</p> <p>7 A. When, obviously, we first took over that east side,</p> <p>8 there was numerous windows where we could see people in,</p> <p>9 on different levels, from the top all of the way down.</p> <p>10 A lot of them were signalling, either by torch, or by</p> <p>11 turning their lights on and off. You could see some of</p> <p>12 them on the lower levels were on mobile phones. Sorry,</p> <p>13 I forgot the question and went off on a tangent.</p> <p>14 Q. Were you able to pass on information regarding the</p> <p>15 location of the people you could see signalling to you?</p> <p>16 A. No, from the outside, it was very difficult. Looking at</p> <p>17 the outside of the building, to locate a floor was hard,</p> <p>18 because obviously it didn't start from the ground floor,</p> <p>19 there was a gap. You can count from the top down, but</p> <p>20 you have to know exactly how many floors there are, and</p> <p>21 then from the outside, exterior, it is very difficult to</p> <p>22 have an exact flat location inside.</p> <p>23 We sent a message to say we have people on multiple</p> <p>24 floors that we could see, and we were told that they had</p> <p>25 multiple FSGs in place and were aware.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 test the pressure. I was hoping that they would be able</p> <p>2 to increase the pressure somehow but in fact they were</p> <p>3 concerned that it would only reduce further once</p> <p>4 residents in nearby towers / house started using their</p> <p>5 water supplies."</p> <p>6 Did you speak directly with a representative of</p> <p>7 Thames Water?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, I did.</p> <p>9 Q. The first time you met a Thames Water representative,</p> <p>10 what did you say to them?</p> <p>11 A. I told him the experiences that I was having with the</p> <p>12 water, told him that I was having at that time -- on the</p> <p>13 back of the brand new Mercedes, they have flow data</p> <p>14 information, which was, you know, very helpful that</p> <p>15 evening. I told him that I had 383 litres of water</p> <p>16 coming out of the hydrant and that obviously I needed</p> <p>17 2,450 for the ALP, and was there anything that he could</p> <p>18 do, or was there a separate main further away that we</p> <p>19 could utilise.</p> <p>20 Q. You say he had various bits of equipment with him; did</p> <p>21 you see him carrying out any tests?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Station Manager Cook, were you aware, first of all, that</p> <p>24 he was the officer in charge of the water sector?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 Q. Did you have any discussions at any time with Station 2 Manager Cook regarding water pressure? 3 A. I had a conversation with the water officer once, maybe 4 twice, throughout the evening, but I couldn't tell you 5 that it was Station Manager Cook. 6 Q. Turning on to use of other equipment, at one stage in 7 the evening, a lightweight portable pump was deployed. 8 Were you aware of its deployment? 9 A. I was aware of its deployment and it went in to the 10 tower. 11 Q. Were you able to form a view as to the effectiveness of 12 it? 13 A. No, not from where I was standing, sir. 14 Q. Would it have been useful to have had a lightweight 15 portable pump to fight the fire on the exterior? 16 A. I would be in no different position. So the 383 litres 17 of water a minute going into an LPP, it was going to 18 give me exactly the same as putting 383 litres into 19 a fire appliance. The fire appliance, if anything, has 20 more control over it. 21 MR KINNIER: Now, Mr Beale, thank you very much, those are 22 the questions that I have for you now. 23 Sir, it might be appropriate to have a short break 24 to see whether there are any further matters that need 25 to be covered.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 (11.55 am) 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Kinnier. 3 MR KINNIER: Just a few questions, but limited ones. 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, thank you. 5 (The witness returned) 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you, Mr Beale. I am told 7 a few more questions. 8 THE WITNESS: No worries, sir. 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Kinnier. 10 MR KINNIER: Mr Beale, thank you for your patience. 11 First of all, if I could ask you to turn to page 3 12 of your first witness statement, and this really 13 concerns your observations on the extent of the fire 14 when you arrived at the fire scene. 15 You set out in broad terms -- it is the middle 16 paragraph on that page -- what you encountered, and you 17 say, roughly halfway down the page itself: 18 "From the point that I first saw the fire it was 19 between the 4th - 25th floor on the 3rd Section these 20 1st and 2nd sections were untouched." 21 Now, when you say the 25th floor, by that do you 22 mean the very top of the tower? 23 A. Yes, at the time we turned up at Grenfell Tower, 24 I didn't know the number of floors. That is a misprint 25 from me.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, given the time, it might be 2 appropriate to have a slightly longer break than you 3 would otherwise have. 4 MR KINNIER: I am grateful. Thank you, sir. 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: But you can use it to see if there 6 are any other questions that you might want to ask. 7 MR KINNIER: Thank you. 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Beale, we are going to have 9 a break now. We have a break during the mid-morning. 10 Can we afford to take 15 minutes? 11 MR KINNIER: Yes, sir. 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right. So we will stop now, and we 13 will resume at 11.55. 14 I am going to ask you, please, not to talk about 15 your evidence to anyone while you are out of the room, 16 all right? 17 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. If you would like to go 19 with the usher, she will look after you. 20 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 21 (The witness withdrew) 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 11.55. 23 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir. 24 (11.40 am) 25 (A short break)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 Q. By that you mean the very top? 2 A. From the 4th floor to the top floor, on the third 3 section, the right-hand section of the east face. 4 Q. And you say there, further down: 5 "I would also add that between floors 4-8 the fire 6 appeared to have engulfed the inside of the flats as 7 well as the outside." 8 And so you are absolutely clear that there had been 9 internal penetration of the fire on those floors at that 10 stage? 11 A. 100 per cent, yes. 12 Q. When you say engulfed, previous witnesses have used 13 a percentage to describe the extent of fire engaged 14 within a flat. 15 Using a percentage, how would you describe engulfed? 16 It may be an obvious question, but it may be useful to 17 help flesh out. 18 A. It is very difficult for me to give you an accurate 19 percentage of the whole premise or the whole individual 20 flat because I couldn't see in all of the rooms, but the 21 right-hand set of the windows in that third section, 22 that room, whatever the room was behind that window, was 23 100 per cent engulfed in flames. 24 Q. Again, this may be an obvious question: to what extent 25 was it clear to you that the exterior -- the extent of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

1 the exterior flame was fully engaged by this stage?

2 **A. Could you repeat that question, please?**

3 Q. Yes, it is not a very good question, that is why.

4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Unusual candour.

5 MR KINNIER: I am not saying anything!

6 Was it visually obvious that the exterior was

7 alight, is the question that I have been asked?

8 **A. It was visually obvious that the internal flats were**

9 **alight on those sections, and it was visually obvious**

10 **that the exterior surface, whatever that may have been**

11 **at that time, was alight.**

12 Q. And you didn't know at that stage whether that was

13 cladding or not?

14 **A. I didn't know what it was, but the exterior was alight**

15 **and the byproduct of that was molten aluminium and**

16 **plastic.**

17 Q. You went on to refer in your statement to molten

18 aluminium and plastic pouring down, causing the other

19 flats to catch light.

20 Could you describe for us briefly that process, what

21 you saw?

22 **A. I am not 100 per cent sure I am comfortable with the**

23 **word "pouring" now.**

24 Q. You use whatever you think is accurate.

25 **A. You could visually see from that diagonal line that, as**

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1 **a section of paneling caught light, there was a surface**

2 **flame -- a molten line across the surface that was**

3 **alight, and from that, the byproduct was aluminium and**

4 **molten plastic. You could visually see it come down the**

5 **surface of the outside facade, or drip down in between**

6 **the gap, and then it would set light to the bit that was**

7 **below it.**

8 MR KINNIER: Mr Beale, those are all of the questions I have

9 for you.

10 Finally, it leaves me to say thank you very much for

11 attending today. It has been very helpful.

12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I would like to add my thanks to

13 those of Mr Kinnier. It is very helpful for us to hear

14 first-hand evidence about what you saw, and also about

15 the water and so on. It was very helpful, and thank you

16 very much for coming along.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You are free to go. If you would

19 like to go with the usher, she will look after you.

20 (The witness was released)

21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Kinnier.

22 Another witness?

23 MR KINNIER: Another witness, and another counsel, I am

24 afraid. Mr Millett will be examining Mr Batcheldor.

25 May I invite you to rise very briefly to arrange for

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1 the change of personnel.

2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.

3 MR KINNIER: Thank you.

4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I will rise for five minutes, thank

5 you.

6 (12.00 pm)

7 (A short break)

8 (12.05 pm)

9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.

10 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, we now have our next witness, who

11 is Crew Manager Christopher Batcheldor. If he could

12 please be brought in.

13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.

14 CHRISTOPHER BATCHELDOR (sworn)

15 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY

16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Batcheldor.

17 Sit down and make yourself comfortable.

18 Yes, Mr Millett.

19 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman.

20 Mr Batcheldor, can I start by asking you, please, to

21 give the inquiry your full name?

22 **A. Yes, Christopher Batcheldor.**

23 Q. Can I begin by thanking you very much for coming to this

24 inquiry and assisting us with our investigations. We

25 very much appreciate it.

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1 I will ask you a number of questions. If you don't

2 understand them, or you want me to repeat them or put

3 the question in a different way, I am very happy to do

4 so, just say.

5 **A. Thank you.**

6 Q. If you need breaks at any time, just say, or signal, and

7 we can take a break.

8 **A. Thank you.**

9 Q. Can I start, then, by asking you to look at your

10 statement that you have provided, dated 29 July 2017,

11 and you will find that in the first tabard of the blue

12 file in front of you.

13 We also tend to look at statements and any other

14 documents through the monitor, which is on the screen at

15 the back of the room or on the desk in front of you

16 there.

17 **A. Okay.**

18 Q. This statement is MET00007511. You have also done some

19 contemporaneous notes, which are MET00005388.

20 As far as the statement is concerned, looking back

21 at that, have you read that recently?

22 **A. Yes, I have.**

23 Q. Can you confirm that the contents of it are true?

24 **A. Yes, they are.**

25 Q. Have you read your contemporaneous notes recently?

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23 (Pages 89 to 92)

<p>1 A. Yes, I have.</p> <p>2 Q. Can you confirm that you haven't discussed the evidence</p> <p>3 in those documents or the evidence that you are going to</p> <p>4 give to the inquiry with anybody before coming here</p> <p>5 today?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Are you content that those documents, in addition to</p> <p>8 what you are going to tell us, stand as your evidence to</p> <p>9 the inquiry?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Now, can I just start, then, with a little bit of</p> <p>13 a discussion about your career so far.</p> <p>14 You have been with the LFB, I think, for just over</p> <p>15 16 years?</p> <p>16 A. 17 years, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. 17 now, thank you. Can you tell us exactly when you</p> <p>18 joined?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, I joined in May 2001.</p> <p>20 Q. Your current rank is crew manager; is that right?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Was that the rank you held on the night of the fire?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, it was.</p> <p>24 Q. 14 June 2017. You were, I think, at that date, based at</p> <p>25 Fulham?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, in respect of mainly if a fire comes out of</p> <p>2 a window from the compartment where the fire is.</p> <p>3 Q. Yes.</p> <p>4 A. If it breaks out of a window, again, normally it is</p> <p>5 not -- normally, standardly, it is not the biggest of --</p> <p>6 depending on the height that the fire breaks out, it is</p> <p>7 something we look to control through outside, through</p> <p>8 covering jets.</p> <p>9 Q. Have you any experience of the exterior of high-rise</p> <p>10 buildings igniting?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Have you had any training on the exterior of buildings</p> <p>13 igniting?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Have you had any training on cladding fires in</p> <p>16 particular?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. Have you had any training on fire survival guidance?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, we have. That is covered in the high-rise policy.</p> <p>20 Q. Right. Beyond that?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay.</p> <p>23 Did you ever do any training on the lessons learnt</p> <p>24 from a fire in south London in 2009 called Lakanal</p> <p>25 House?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 A. Yes, I was.</p> <p>2 Q. That is, I think, a one-appliance station, isn't it?</p> <p>3 A. That's right.</p> <p>4 Q. How long had you been at Fulham on the night of the</p> <p>5 fire?</p> <p>6 A. Since training school.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 A. I got posted to Fulham straight after training, so since</p> <p>9 2001.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you ever receive any training in relation to fires</p> <p>11 in high-rise buildings?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, we have, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Can you just explain in very broad terms what the most</p> <p>14 recent training you had was on high-rise buildings, most</p> <p>15 recent being most recent to the fire in June 2017?</p> <p>16 A. It would have been covered through the high-rise policy</p> <p>17 via a PowerPoint, and that would have been delivered by</p> <p>18 the watch manager to the watch, and we would have gone</p> <p>19 over high-rise procedure, high-rise policy.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you have personal experience of high-rise</p> <p>21 firefighting yourself?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, I have attended a couple of high-rise fires.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 In your training, did you get trained on what to</p> <p>25 look for when compartmentation breaks down?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, there was a case study presentation, again via</p> <p>2 PowerPoint.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 A. I cannot remember the last time I covered that, though.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay.</p> <p>6 How long do you think that was before the Grenfell</p> <p>7 Tower fire in June 2017?</p> <p>8 A. It wouldn't have been that year. So, yes, longer than</p> <p>9 a year.</p> <p>10 Q. Can I turn then to the events of the night.</p> <p>11 If you go to your statement at the top of page 2,</p> <p>12 you say:</p> <p>13 "We were initially deployed to a smell of burning on</p> <p>14 Kensington's ground. While we were on route to that</p> <p>15 call we could hear messages coming out over the radio</p> <p>16 from the first officers in attendance at Grenfell."</p> <p>17 Can I just be clear, the smell of burning was</p> <p>18 a separate and different incident, was it?</p> <p>19 A. Separate incident, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. On that night, you were I think on Fulham's pump ladder.</p> <p>21 A. That's correct.</p> <p>22 Q. Is that G351?</p> <p>23 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Were you riding with Watch Manager Glynn Williams?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, I was.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 Q. And with him Firefighters Neil Saunders --</p> <p>2 A. Correct.</p> <p>3 Q. -- Abdul Malik --</p> <p>4 A. Correct.</p> <p>5 Q. -- and I think also Dave Hill?</p> <p>6 A. And Dave Hill, yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 While you were en route, did you hear a persons</p> <p>9 reported message?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, after we got the call to -- after we got -- yeah.</p> <p>11 I can't remember exactly when that point was, whether we</p> <p>12 heard it over the main scheme radio while we were still</p> <p>13 in attendance at this separate incident.</p> <p>14 Q. Yes.</p> <p>15 A. I think that is when we first heard persons reported.</p> <p>16 Q. So was the order of events that you actually heard about</p> <p>17 the fire at Grenfell Tower before you were mobilised to</p> <p>18 it?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Now, it is a matter of record from the short incident</p> <p>21 log we have that you were mobilised at about 01.30, were</p> <p>22 en route, so status 2, at 01.33, and at the scene at</p> <p>23 01.45 or so, give or take some seconds.</p> <p>24 Does that accord with your recollection?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, it does.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 to the incident ground?</p> <p>2 A. Not at that point.</p> <p>3 Q. Did the hearing of those calls make you think about the</p> <p>4 possibility of evacuating the tower?</p> <p>5 A. Not at that point.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 Now, staying on page 2 of your statement and looking</p> <p>8 at the next paragraph, you say:</p> <p>9 "As we were travelling there I caught a glimpse of</p> <p>10 Grenfell Tower from the road. It was like something out</p> <p>11 of a movie, even early on in the incident. One side of</p> <p>12 the building was alight. The fire already looked like</p> <p>13 it was going from the bottom to the top and was starting</p> <p>14 to tree out a little bit."</p> <p>15 Just pausing there, when you say it was going from</p> <p>16 the bottom to the top, could you actually see the flames</p> <p>17 at the top of the building?</p> <p>18 A. No, we couldn't -- well, yes, there was a -- it looked</p> <p>19 like it was travelling up the building, working its way</p> <p>20 across and up, so it was going almost diagonally.</p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 A. We could see it going from -- the flame, obviously,</p> <p>23 licking up. And then it was starting to -- when I say</p> <p>24 "tree out", it was starting to come out, looking like it</p> <p>25 was coming out across that side.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 Q. Okay.</p> <p>2 Now, you say in your statement that while you were</p> <p>3 en route, you were listening -- this is the second</p> <p>4 paragraph in your statement. You say:</p> <p>5 "... we received a call instructing us to attend</p> <p>6 Grenfell Tower. As we were travelling there we were</p> <p>7 listening to further calls coming through on the radio.</p> <p>8 We were aware that 'Fire Survival Guidance' were being</p> <p>9 received. We knew that people were trapped in the</p> <p>10 building. This made us sit up a bit as it meant people</p> <p>11 would need rescuing."</p> <p>12 Did you hear any specific FSG information being</p> <p>13 passed from control to the incident ground?</p> <p>14 A. No, I didn't.</p> <p>15 Q. No.</p> <p>16 A. I was sat on the back of Golf 351 that evening, where</p> <p>17 the crew manager is normally sat. When we got the order</p> <p>18 in to attend Grenfell, I was discussing with my</p> <p>19 colleague about the equipment that we would take with us</p> <p>20 on arrival. So although I heard sections that were</p> <p>21 coming over the radio, I was kind of discussing</p> <p>22 equipment we would be taking.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you get any impression from the radio traffic that</p> <p>24 you could hear about FSG calls about the volume and</p> <p>25 frequency of these calls being sent by the control room</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 Q. I see, so horizontal spread?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. How far away were you when you saw the tower in such</p> <p>4 detail as you describe here?</p> <p>5 A. The first time, I can't say. I can't. Close enough,</p> <p>6 you know, to see what I saw and the way it was on that</p> <p>7 east side.</p> <p>8 Q. Right, so it was the east face you saw first?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, it was.</p> <p>10 Q. Right. But you are not able to say how far away you</p> <p>11 were?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. How long before arriving do you think that was, that you</p> <p>14 first saw the tower?</p> <p>15 A. A couple of minutes.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you have any thoughts at that time about how the</p> <p>17 fire might have spread like that?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Did it make you think about evacuation, or what advice</p> <p>20 should be given to the residents inside?</p> <p>21 A. Again, not at that time, no.</p> <p>22 Q. Did there come a time later when you had those thoughts</p> <p>23 about evacuation or advice about what the residents</p> <p>24 should be told to do?</p> <p>25 A. No, during the course of the night, no. No.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 Q. Now, we know that you arrived at 01.45 am or so and 2 parked and made your way to the tower. 3 Do you know roughly where you parked the appliance? 4 A. I remember we parked -- if I had a map of the area, 5 I could show you, but yes, it was opposite, I think, 6 a Methodist church. 7 Q. Right. 8 A. The streets were very busy with cars, so we knew we 9 couldn't get right directly below the tower. 10 Q. Yes. 11 A. And, of course, bearing in mind other machines, aerials, 12 et cetera, would need to come on as well, so we parked 13 just away enough that we were close enough to the tower 14 but not directly below it. 15 Q. Now, looking at your statement on page 2, you say, at 16 the bottom of that page, four lines up from the bottom: 17 "Outside we saw a group of approximately 15 to 20 18 firefighters. Some were wearing BA sets (Breathing 19 Apparatus) which enables a firefighter to breath in 20 clean air in a smoky environment." 21 Do you remember whether the BA sets they were 22 wearing were standard or extended? 23 A. No, I don't. 24 Q. On that subject, can you remember the first time when 25 you did see firefighters in EDBA after you arrived?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 go into the lobby and have to wait too long for Glynn to 2 come in, we kind of went in together. 3 Q. But you didn't see Glynn receive his instructions? 4 A. No, I did not. 5 Q. Who gave you your instructions at that point? 6 A. Glynn. 7 Q. And what were those instructions? 8 A. Instructions were to make our way to the bridgehead, 9 make our way to the -- in the lobby area, and it went up 10 the stairs, there was a short queue of firefighters 11 waiting to get their instructions for their details. 12 Q. Right. You say a short queue. 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Just following that up, where was the short queue 15 standing? Do you remember -- 16 A. On the -- 17 Q. -- where they were? 18 A. It was before they went into the actual lobby where the 19 bridgehead was. So there was, like, a stairwell, 20 I think, on the 2nd floor. 21 Q. Yes. 22 A. Which was still part of the lobby, the ground-floor 23 lobby was made up from. 24 Q. Like a balcony, going across? 25 A. That's it, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 A. No, I can't, no. 2 Q. On arrival, did you speak to anybody not in your crew? 3 A. On arrival, no. We made our way straight to the front 4 of the tower as a watch. 5 Q. Did you speak to the incident commander? 6 A. No, I didn't. 7 Q. Did anybody in your crew speak to the incident 8 commander? 9 A. I don't know. 10 Q. Do you have any recollection of Watch Manager Williams 11 looking for the incident commander to speak to him? 12 A. Yes, I know that Glynn definitely spoke to someone in 13 command, because straight away he said, "I have been 14 tasked to deal with fire survival calls, you guys carry 15 on into the tower". 16 Q. Do you remember -- 17 A. No. 18 Q. -- or did you see Watch Manager Williams speaking to the 19 officer who tasked him with that? 20 A. No, I didn't. 21 Q. Where were you standing when Glynn Williams said he had 22 been tasked to do fire survival guidance? 23 A. We were making our way to the front door of the lobby. 24 Q. Was he ahead of you? 25 A. We went in together at the same sort of time. We didn't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 Q. Yes. 2 A. So there must have been ten firefighters there in pairs 3 waiting to be detailed before you made your way into the 4 bridgehead, to the entry control boards. 5 Q. At that stage, did the queue reach as far as the stairs 6 themselves or were all of the firefighters you saw on 7 the landing or balcony? 8 A. Yes, on the balcony. It wasn't trailing down the stairs 9 at that point. 10 Q. Did you see anybody up there who was organising them or 11 marshalling them in any way? 12 A. Yes, Watch Manager Paul Watson. 13 Q. Did you know him? 14 A. Yes, I did. 15 Q. And you saw him there, did you? 16 A. Yes, I did. 17 Q. Okay. 18 Can I ask you to look at a CCTV shot, which is at 19 INQ00000256. We have an adjusted time mark for this as 20 01.55.21. 21 Do you recognise yourself in that picture? 22 A. Yes, I do. I am on the right-hand side with the crew 23 manager rank markings on my helmet. 24 Q. Who else is in that picture? 25 A. Watch Manager Glynn Williams on the left-hand side with</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

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<p>1 the white helmet on, and Firefighter Neil Saunders in 2 the middle. 3 Q. And Neil Saunders is in BA as well, is he? 4 A. Yes, he is. 5 Q. I think, in fact, at that stage, so is Watch Manager 6 Williams. 7 A. Yes, he is. 8 Q. Now, this is entry into the tower at 01.55.57, adjusted 9 to 1.55.21. 10 Can you account for the ten minutes or so between 11 arrival at 01.45, and entry into the tower at 01.55, 12 10 minutes later? 13 A. Yes, that would have been getting our equipment off the 14 machine. 15 Q. Right. 16 A. We took hose, we took breaking-in gear, branches, first 17 aid kit, immediate response kit, all off the machine, 18 made sure the machine was locked up and then made our 19 way to the front of the tower. 20 Q. Right. Okay. Thank you. 21 On page 3 of your statement, if we could just go to 22 that, you say at the very top that the bridgehead was on 23 the 2nd floor. 24 Did you go straight up to the bridgehead on entering 25 the tower?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 around, got our bearings and then went straight upstairs 2 to join that queue. 3 Q. The BA wearers, were they all SDBA or were there any 4 EDBA wearers? 5 A. I can't say. 6 Q. So you say, actually, Paul Watson came up with you. 7 When Paul Watson came up with you -- 8 A. Paul Watson was already there. 9 Q. He was already there? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. When you got there, what was Paul Watson doing? 12 A. He was giving crews their details regarding where to go. 13 Q. When you say giving crews their details, was he doing 14 that by word of mouth? 15 A. Verbally, yes. 16 Q. Did you see him give the crews pieces of paper? 17 A. I didn't see what he gave or what he said to other crews 18 in front of us. 19 Q. Okay. You didn't hear any briefings -- 20 A. No. 21 Q. -- that he was giving crews in front of you? 22 A. No. When we were close to being given our orderings, 23 there was a -- it looks like a rough floor plan sketched 24 on the wall. 25 Q. On the wall to your --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 A. Yes, we did. 2 Q. And who went up there with you, do you remember? 3 A. I believe -- I know myself, Firefighter Saunders, 4 Firefighter Hill, and the other firefighter who was on 5 standby that night. 6 Q. Malik? 7 A. Yes. We went up. And I think Glynn came with us at 8 that point, and he was in conversation with Watch 9 Manager Paul Watson. 10 Q. I see. Okay. 11 Did anybody actually instruct you to go to the 12 bridgehead, or did you decide that for yourselves? 13 A. Yes, no, that was a natural thing to do. 14 Q. Did you know at that stage who the incident commander 15 was? 16 A. No, I did not. 17 Q. Right. 18 Now, in your statement on page 3 in the second line, 19 you say: 20 "There was also a queue for tasks when I got there." 21 That was a queue of BA wearers, was it? 22 A. Yes, it was. 23 Q. When you got there, was the queue the same size as when 24 you first entered, or had it grown? 25 A. Yes, we literally went into the lobby, had a look</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 A. On the wall to our right. 2 Q. To your right? 3 A. Because we were standing -- 4 Q. So the back wall of the lobby on the 2nd floor? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Yes. 7 A. And we were trying to look at that to get a rough idea 8 of what the floor layout looked like. 9 Q. Did Paul Watson help you with that? 10 A. When we got to him, he said, "Have you had a look at the 11 floor plan?" I think Paul and Glynn were together at 12 that point, and they said, "There is a plan up on the 13 wall, have a look at that, that is a floor layout". 14 Q. When he briefed you, did he do that face to face or did 15 he give you a piece of paper? 16 A. From what I remember, face to face. 17 Q. Do you know where he was getting the FSG information 18 from with which to brief you? 19 A. No, I don't, no. 20 Q. Now, in your statement in the third line you say: 21 "A firefighter at Fulham from Tooting was there so 22 we paired up." 23 Who was that? 24 A. Saunders. 25 Q. Firefighter Saunders? So when you say at Fulham from</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p>

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<p>1 Tooting, could you explain that?</p> <p>2 A. He was based at Fulham that evening. He was on standby.</p> <p>3 His main station is Tooting.</p> <p>4 Q. Yes.</p> <p>5 A. And the same for Firefighter Malik as well.</p> <p>6 Q. I see, okay.</p> <p>7 You then go on to say:</p> <p>8 "Glynn was told that he would be working from the</p> <p>9 Bridge Head, so he removed his set and started working</p> <p>10 there."</p> <p>11 Do you remember where he went?</p> <p>12 A. No, I am not sure when he removed his set. It was</p> <p>13 around that time, when we got into the lobby, we came</p> <p>14 into to the lobby, we made our way straight upstairs to</p> <p>15 join the queue.</p> <p>16 Q. Yes.</p> <p>17 A. Glynn went and spoke directly to Paul Watson, and he was</p> <p>18 there when we went through the door to the entry control</p> <p>19 officer.</p> <p>20 Q. Did he come with you?</p> <p>21 A. No, he was still at that door.</p> <p>22 Q. Was that the last time you saw Glynn Williams that</p> <p>23 evening?</p> <p>24 A. It wasn't the last time I saw him that evening, I saw</p> <p>25 him when I came back down. But, yes, that was the last</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 could see that there was a list of flats on the wall</p> <p>2 based on the addresses from which we had fire survival</p> <p>3 calls."</p> <p>4 Just to be clear, the queue, is that the queue which</p> <p>5 ends with Paul Watson giving instructions?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, it is.</p> <p>7 Q. So that is not a queue at the bridgehead; it is a queue</p> <p>8 still on the balcony?</p> <p>9 A. Still on the balcony.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay.</p> <p>11 Where, do you remember, was the list of flats that</p> <p>12 you are referring to there?</p> <p>13 A. From the top of my head, I can't recall exactly.</p> <p>14 I can't ...</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 Was it drawn on the same wall as the wall which had</p> <p>17 the map on it, the layout, or a different wall?</p> <p>18 A. Again, I would be guessing if I said yes, it was</p> <p>19 definitely on the same wall as the map layout, which</p> <p>20 I can't do.</p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 A. Sorry.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember how long the list was?</p> <p>24 A. No, I don't.</p> <p>25 Q. Do you remember whether the flat and floor number that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 time I saw him before I went up first.</p> <p>2 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>3 So just to be clear about this, Glynn Williams</p> <p>4 didn't come to the entry control officer when it was on</p> <p>5 the 2nd floor as far as you saw?</p> <p>6 A. I can't say if he did or didn't. I can't remember him</p> <p>7 coming in with us, no.</p> <p>8 Q. No. Okay.</p> <p>9 Do you know what he then did after that, after you</p> <p>10 were committed and you left?</p> <p>11 A. No, just when I came back out again and I saw him on the</p> <p>12 ground floor, I believe. Yes, that is the last time</p> <p>13 I saw him.</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 A. The last time when I was in the building.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 As you went through, you said a minute ago Watch</p> <p>18 Manager Watson had briefed you face to face.</p> <p>19 Did he give you a flat and floor number to go to?</p> <p>20 A. He gave us a flat and floor number, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. But no pieces of paper, as far as you recall?</p> <p>22 A. I don't recall. I don't recall.</p> <p>23 Q. Now, you say in the fourth line of your statement on</p> <p>24 page 3:</p> <p>25 "When Neil and I got to the front of the queue we</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 you were given by Paul Watson was written on the wall?</p> <p>2 A. No, I don't.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you study the list at all?</p> <p>4 A. I didn't study the list, no. I was looking at the floor</p> <p>5 plan. I was trying to look at the floor plan and get</p> <p>6 a bearing of where we would be going into when we went</p> <p>7 in through that door.</p> <p>8 Q. Did you know who had done the drawing of the --</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. -- numbers on the wall?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay.</p> <p>13 When you got then through to the bridgehead -- the</p> <p>14 bridgehead was in the lobby on the 2nd floor. We have</p> <p>15 had some evidence about that.</p> <p>16 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. When you got there, who was running the bridgehead, do</p> <p>18 you remember?</p> <p>19 A. I can't remember who was running the bridgehead. I went</p> <p>20 directly to the entry control officer.</p> <p>21 Q. Who was that?</p> <p>22 A. Watch Manager Louisa De Silvo.</p> <p>23 Q. Yes, Louisa De Silvo.</p> <p>24 Now, did you see a forward information board there</p> <p>25 at the bridgehead?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 A. No, I did not.</p> <p>2 Q. Did you see any fire survival guidance information</p> <p>3 written down anywhere at the bridgehead?</p> <p>4 A. No, I did not.</p> <p>5 Q. You didn't see anything on the wall at the bridgehead?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Let me try a picture and just see if it triggers</p> <p>8 a recollection.</p> <p>9 Can I ask you, please, to be shown MET00013074.</p> <p>10 This, we have been told, was written on the wall by</p> <p>11 the lifts in the lift lobby on the 2nd floor. Does this</p> <p>12 look familiar to you?</p> <p>13 A. I didn't notice it when I went and booked in.</p> <p>14 Q. Right. You didn't notice it?</p> <p>15 A. When I reported to the entry control officer and then</p> <p>16 went straight up these stairs, no.</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 Do these names mean anything to you? Floor 9, 65,</p> <p>19 Soho crew 4, Stanley, Saunders, Nelson, Yoman?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, they are firefighters names that I recognise.</p> <p>21 Q. Right. Is that Saunders the the same Saunders, do you</p> <p>22 think?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Not Neil Saunders?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 A. But I don't remember specifics about it.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>3 Now, you were tasked, I think, as you say in the</p> <p>4 middle of the first paragraph on page 3, with going to</p> <p>5 the 10th floor, flat 74, as a fire survival call had</p> <p>6 been received from this address. You said before that</p> <p>7 you had been told that orally by Watch Manager Watson,</p> <p>8 and you don't recall seeing an FIB.</p> <p>9 Let me just show you a picture of an FIB to see if</p> <p>10 it triggers a recollection.</p> <p>11 Can I ask you, please, to be shown -- maybe I will</p> <p>12 come back to that, if I can.</p> <p>13 When you were given your briefing by Watch Manager</p> <p>14 Watson, did it have any details in it apart from the</p> <p>15 floor number and the flat number?</p> <p>16 A. No. Not that I remember, no.</p> <p>17 Q. You weren't told anything about the conditions in the</p> <p>18 apartment?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Or the floor?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. Were you told anything about the location of the dry</p> <p>23 rising main outlets?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. Were you told how many people were in the flat that you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 Q. What about Johnson and Roots?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you know them?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. But you don't remember seeing this writing on the wall?</p> <p>6 A. No, I don't.</p> <p>7 Q. Now, you said just a few minutes ago that you had seen</p> <p>8 a drawing showing the layout of the floor.</p> <p>9 Can I just ask you to be shown MET00016948, which is</p> <p>10 actually an exhibit to Crew Manager Sephton's witness</p> <p>11 statement.</p> <p>12 Does that look familiar?</p> <p>13 A. It could be the same one I saw. It does look roughly</p> <p>14 familiar, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 Now, on the left of that, very faintly, is a list of</p> <p>17 what looks like floor numbers, and there is a little bit</p> <p>18 of information next to it. I don't know if we can read</p> <p>19 it very well.</p> <p>20 My question for you is: do you remember seeing</p> <p>21 a list of floors and some information on the wall next</p> <p>22 to the floor layout diagram?</p> <p>23 A. That may have been the markings -- the information that</p> <p>24 I mentioned in my statement.</p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 were being sent to?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you ask?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Do you remember whether the details of your briefing</p> <p>6 were written down afterwards by anybody?</p> <p>7 A. Not that I saw. I didn't see it afterwards.</p> <p>8 Q. You don't remember anybody writing your deployment on</p> <p>9 a wall anywhere?</p> <p>10 A. No. When we reported to the entry control board, that</p> <p>11 is where those details would have been recorded.</p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 You say, in your statement, that you took a hose,</p> <p>14 a branch and a thermal image camera with you. Let's</p> <p>15 just look at that.</p> <p>16 Were you instructed to take that firefighting</p> <p>17 equipment with you, or did you just do that as a matter</p> <p>18 of course?</p> <p>19 A. I can't remember whether we were instructed or whether</p> <p>20 that is just equipment that we took up that was in the</p> <p>21 bridgehead area that we thought we may need.</p> <p>22 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>23 Now, we have your tallying-out time as 02.17.12,</p> <p>24 which we have got from the telemetry data. I can show</p> <p>25 it to you if you like, but does it sound about right to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 you, by reference to the time at which you entered the</p> <p>2 tower?</p> <p>3 A. It is hard to say. It is hard to say.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 A. It felt like we were in there longer, but if that is</p> <p>6 what it says, that is what it says.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. Let me just see if I can pin these down.</p> <p>8 If I can ask you to go to the telemetry data and</p> <p>9 your tallying-out time. You are in the blue, Fulham.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Underneath Abdul Malik and above Neil Saunders, and we</p> <p>12 have your tally-out time of 02.17.12. Do you see that?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Now, on the basis that we have you entering the tower at</p> <p>15 01.55.21, as we have seen from the CCTV picture, you</p> <p>16 tallied out some 22 minutes after entering the tower.</p> <p>17 Would that sound about right to you?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, it does, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. What were you doing for much of that 20 minutes?</p> <p>20 A. We were in the queue of firefighters that were going in</p> <p>21 and waiting to be ordered, really. So discussing with</p> <p>22 my colleague, you know, what would we take with us. So</p> <p>23 we were discussing regarding there should be equipment</p> <p>24 at the bridgehead, make sure we take a hose, make sure</p> <p>25 we take a branch, see what else is there when we get</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 way to the 10th floor from the Bridge Head on the 2nd</p> <p>2 floor. There was just one set of stairs. I was struck</p> <p>3 up on how narrow the stairs were. From the 4th floor</p> <p>4 upwards it was smoky. I think I remember seeing</p> <p>5 lighting in the stairwell, but I cannot be certain.</p> <p>6 Most of the doors leading on to the stairwell were</p> <p>7 closed otherwise it would have been much more smoky."</p> <p>8 How smoky was it on the way up, after the 4th floor?</p> <p>9 Could you describe the density of the smoke?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, we could see where we were going, but the smoke, as</p> <p>11 we got past the 4th especially, it was getting smokier.</p> <p>12 As we were moving up each floor, it was getting thicker.</p> <p>13 The smoke was getting thicker with each floor, really.</p> <p>14 Q. What colour was the smoke?</p> <p>15 A. It was getting dark, so it was a grey colour. It wasn't</p> <p>16 a thick black at that point.</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 A. It was more of a grey colour.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 Once you got to the 10th floor, which was your</p> <p>21 destination, what was the smoke thickness and colour</p> <p>22 like at that point?</p> <p>23 A. It was probably the same between the 7th and 10th, and</p> <p>24 that was -- it was how I described it. We still had</p> <p>25 vision. We could still see.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 there, and waiting to be deployed.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. So, in essence, the time was spent queuing?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. How quickly were firefighters being called off the front</p> <p>5 of the queue to be sent up?</p> <p>6 A. I can't say now, really. Yeah, I can't really say now.</p> <p>7 I am not too sure.</p> <p>8 Q. Did anybody jump the queue, did you see?</p> <p>9 A. Not in front of us, no.</p> <p>10 Q. The picture of the forward information board I wanted to</p> <p>11 show you I can now give you a reference to, which is</p> <p>12 MET00018749. Mr Documents Director, if we can just look</p> <p>13 at that, please.</p> <p>14 This is a photograph taken by Station Manager</p> <p>15 Mulholland, which he took on the night.</p> <p>16 Looking at this, does this trigger a recollection of</p> <p>17 something you saw?</p> <p>18 A. Not that I saw, no.</p> <p>19 Q. You don't remember seeing a forward information board</p> <p>20 like this at the 2nd-floor bridgehead?</p> <p>21 A. No, I don't. No, I don't.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay.</p> <p>23 Now, you then go on in your statement, same</p> <p>24 paragraph -- page 3, first paragraph -- to say:</p> <p>25 "We set up our BA mask and then started to make our</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 Q. Right.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. And that was because, what, the electric lighting in the</p> <p>4 stairwell was working?</p> <p>5 A. I can't remember if the lights were on there or not, but</p> <p>6 we had our torches with us as well.</p> <p>7 Q. What about heat? Did you notice any change in</p> <p>8 temperature as you went up the building?</p> <p>9 A. Not particularly. It was getting hotter. It was</p> <p>10 getting a little bit hotter, but not like a massive</p> <p>11 change. Nothing really hit us until we opened the door.</p> <p>12 Q. Now, in the next paragraph of your statement, if we can</p> <p>13 just look at it, you start by saying:</p> <p>14 "As we were going up other firefighters with</p> <p>15 casualties were coming down shouting, 'Casualty!</p> <p>16 Casualty!' as we are trained to do. This is a signal</p> <p>17 for people to move out of the way and give them</p> <p>18 priority. The stairwell was narrow with tight turns and</p> <p>19 it was very difficult to make space as we could not get</p> <p>20 our backs flat against the wall as we had the breathing</p> <p>21 cylinders on our backs. People were desperate to get</p> <p>22 their casualties out of the building and we were</p> <p>23 desperate to get up the tower to get more residents</p> <p>24 outs[sic]. It seemed to take ages for us to get up the</p> <p>25 building as we kept having to stop and try and get out</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 of the way. All the time was trying to get my head 2 around what was happening. It was crazy." 3 Now, you describe there the scene in the stairs. 4 Specifically, do you know how many, or roughly how 5 many, firefighters you passed coming down with 6 casualties? 7 A. No, I can't say how many. It just felt like we would 8 move up a floor and then we would hear the 9 "casualty" call, have to move out of the way, try to 10 squeeze into the corner of a stairwell, to let the 11 firefighters get them casualties out as quickly as 12 possible. 13 Q. Were the casualties all being carried, or were some of 14 them walking casualties, do you think? 15 A. It was a mixture: some in an unconscious state, others 16 were being held up by firefighters. 17 Q. Right. 18 A. Everyone who I saw come out at that point were with 19 firefighters. 20 Q. Was anybody that you saw self-evacuating? 21 A. No. 22 Q. Did you stop and speak to any of the firefighters who 23 were coming down? 24 A. No. 25 Q. So you don't know where the casualties were coming down</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 floor you were on." 2 Could you see for yourself any floor numbers which 3 were written up there other than in chinagraph? 4 A. No. 5 Q. Do you know who had put the chinagraph numbers on the 6 wall? 7 A. No, I don't, no. I remember thinking how grateful and 8 how thankful I was that someone did, but I don't 9 remember, or was told, who did that. 10 Q. Did you see whether the chinagraph had been written over 11 the wall which the building owners might have put the 12 number? 13 A. No. 14 Q. Okay. 15 You say at the bottom of the third paragraph on that 16 page that you finally reached the 10th floor. You then 17 say: 18 "Myself and Neil were the only people there. The 19 lobby door was closed. We opened the lobby door to 20 assess the condition. As we cracked it open we were met 21 with a rush of thick black acrid smoke." 22 Was it you who opened the door, or was it 23 Firefighter Saunders, do you think? 24 A. It would have been done as a team, so we followed 25 a very, like, rough door procedure. Normally with door</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 from? 2 A. No. 3 Q. You go on to say in the next paragraph, if we can just 4 look at it: 5 "The stairway was a complete mess. It was littered 6 with pieces of equipment which firefighters had 7 abandoned in order to help get people out of the 8 building. There was also a lot of discarded clothing. 9 I expect this clothing was used by people to wrap around 10 their faces in order to protect themselves from the 11 smoke." 12 The discarded clothing, was that actually on the 13 stairs themselves? 14 A. Yes, it was. 15 Q. Right. Okay. And do you remember whether that caused 16 difficulty in getting up and down the staircase? 17 A. Not particularly at that point. I just remember 18 noticing a lot of debris on the stairs and the 19 stairwell. Like I explained, clothing, phone, all sorts 20 of things. 21 Q. Now, you go on to say: 22 "Firefighter[s] carry a waterproof pencil called a 23 Chinagraph which had been used to mark the floor numbers 24 on the wall from other firefighters. If it wasn't for 25 these Chinagraph markings you would not have known what</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 procedure, if you are entering a condition you don't 2 know what is on the other side, you would have water 3 with you, but as we didn't have any charged water, we 4 still used those set door procedures. 5 Q. Right. 6 A. So who actually opened that door, I can't remember 7 exactly whether it was Neil or myself. 8 Q. Right. 9 A. But we were both there to assess the conditions. 10 Q. Okay. All right. 11 Was the door to floor 10 the first door in the 12 stairwell that you had opened -- 13 A. Yes, it was. 14 Q. -- or did you open any others? 15 A. No, that was the first door we opened. 16 Q. Can I then take you back to paragraph 1 on the same 17 page, last sentence, where you say: 18 "Most of the doors leading on to the stairwell were 19 closed otherwise it would have been much more smoky." 20 On your way up, do you remember how many doors you 21 observed were already open? 22 A. No. I remember the 4th floor door was open. 23 Q. Yes. 24 A. And I think the 3rd as well. 25 Q. Was there smoke coming out of those lobbies into the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 stairwell?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Did that account for the smoke in the stairwell?</p> <p>4 A. I believed it to.</p> <p>5 Q. Did you see any other doors into the stairwell from the</p> <p>6 lobbies open on the way up?</p> <p>7 A. Not that I can remember, no.</p> <p>8 Q. So no hoses propping any other doors open?</p> <p>9 A. I don't remember they were.</p> <p>10 Q. When you opened the door to the 10th floor -- and I know</p> <p>11 you said you shut it immediately -- did the rush of</p> <p>12 smoke into the stairwell affect the amount of smoke in</p> <p>13 the stairwell? Did it make it worse?</p> <p>14 A. It did, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Much worse?</p> <p>16 A. If we had left that door open, much worse, yes. It was</p> <p>17 thick black, floor to ceiling.</p> <p>18 Q. All right.</p> <p>19 If you turn, please, to page 4, at the very top, you</p> <p>20 say:</p> <p>21 "We looked around for a rising water main, as we</p> <p>22 would normally enter a floor in the condition that we</p> <p>23 found the 10th floor in without water as it is</p> <p>24 dangerous."</p> <p>25 I think you mean you would not normally enter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 On the question of smoke, was there any part of the</p> <p>2 smoke that was clear?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. So no neutral plane?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. So smoke all of the way down to the ground?</p> <p>7 A. Literally, yes.</p> <p>8 Q. The same density all of the way down, was it?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. And what colour was that smoke?</p> <p>11 A. Black.</p> <p>12 Q. Black?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. You go on to say:</p> <p>15 "I told Neil to keep hold of my leg and not to let</p> <p>16 go. From the diagram I had seen on the Bridge Head I</p> <p>17 knew that we had to go diagonally from the stair door.</p> <p>18 We entered the lobby, crawling on our stomachs."</p> <p>19 A. Can I just say that that is a type error from the</p> <p>20 statement.</p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 A. I told Neil I would keep hold of his leg. Neil led into</p> <p>23 the lobby --</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 A. -- in a diagonal position. I kept hold of his leg when</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 a floor.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you look to start with for a rising water main in</p> <p>4 the stairwell?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, quickly. It was just a quick glance around,</p> <p>6 right -- quick look, remember, right, there is no mains</p> <p>7 in the stairwell, it must be inside the lobby.</p> <p>8 Q. Would that be something that you would normally expect</p> <p>9 to find, a dry rising mains outlet in the stairwell?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. No?</p> <p>12 A. Not particularly. It depends on how the building is</p> <p>13 designed as to where that riser main outlet would be.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. So can we take it that on arrival at the</p> <p>15 10th floor, you didn't actually know where the DRM</p> <p>16 outlet was?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. You had to look for it?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 You then enter the 10th floor and you say, as we can</p> <p>22 see on page 4 of your statement, in the fourth line,</p> <p>23 that you got down on your bellies. You say:</p> <p>24 "We got down to our bellies. It was so smoky that</p> <p>25 our torches wouldn't make any headway."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 we both went in.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>3 At this stage, are you carrying firefighting media?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Where had you put that?</p> <p>6 A. The roll of hose that we had and the branch we left just</p> <p>7 outside the door.</p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 A. Up against the wall, just outside the door to the 10th,</p> <p>10 10th-floor door.</p> <p>11 Q. Is this right: you were entering a smoke-filled lobby</p> <p>12 without firefighting media?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Would that be normal?</p> <p>15 A. No. The night wasn't normal.</p> <p>16 Q. No.</p> <p>17 Your task at that point -- is this right? -- was</p> <p>18 actually to find the dry rising main outlet?</p> <p>19 A. No, our task was to help people get out of that floor.</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 A. And number 74.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay.</p> <p>23 At what point did you realise that you weren't going</p> <p>24 to be using the firefighting media that you had brought</p> <p>25 up with you?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

<p>1 A. When we crawled into the lobby, in our head we had two 2 objectives, which was to feel around for any casualty 3 that we could feel, or try to find an outlet if we 4 could. 5 Q. Right. 6 A. But initially, if someone has tried to get out of their 7 flat and been met by those conditions, we were feeling 8 around on the floor for them. 9 Q. Right. 10 So when you say: 11 "From the diagram I had seen on the Bridge Head 12 I knew that we had to go diagonally from the stair 13 door." 14 Is that because you thought that was the direction 15 of flat 74? 16 A. We didn't know where flat 74 was, and from what 17 I remember, looking at the diagram, I remember it being 18 in a U-shape. So our plan was, what we said to each 19 other outside the door was, crawl in in a diagonal 20 position, and then try and perform a sweep. 21 Q. I see, okay. I was going to ask you why were you going 22 in a particular direction, but it is because you were 23 doing a sweep, that is why? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Okay. You then say:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 Did you notice, when you had been shown this by 2 Watch Manager Watson, that in the top left-hand corner, 3 on the left-hand side of the U, there is something that 4 says "dry riser". 5 A. No. 6 Q. You hadn't clocked that? 7 A. No. 8 Q. Okay. Did anybody point it out to you? 9 A. No. 10 Q. All right. 11 Then if you go back to your statement, page 4, first 12 paragraph, I would just like to show you something seven 13 lines up from the bottom. You say: 14 "My shoulders, everything was hot. I was really 15 surprised how hot it was on the 10th floor before we had 16 entered it. I had seen residents being evacuated from 17 higher up the building and they were still conscious. 18 This would not have been possible if they had come from 19 the 10th floor ..." 20 Did that prompt any thoughts in your head about what 21 this fire was doing at that point? 22 A. Yes, I remember thinking either someone has escaped from 23 that floor and somehow their flat door has been wedged 24 open and maybe that is what has caused that heat and 25 smoke in the lobby, the fire coming through, through</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 "We shut the door behind us to stop the smoke 2 entering the stairwell. I didn't get more than twelve 3 to fifteen feet when Neil said, 'I am burning!' It was 4 very hot. We couldn't find the water outlet and we 5 couldn't see anything." 6 Were you looking for the water outlet? 7 A. Again, that is one of the things we were doing. 8 Q. So you were doing both at the same time, your double 9 objective? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. I see. And having not found the water outlet, not found 12 any flat door, you then retreat? 13 A. Yes. We were shouting, you know, we were trying to call 14 out, to see if we could hear, hear a door banging, hear 15 anything that would resemble someone we could help, and, 16 yes, the first sweep that we did was to the left when we 17 entered in. 18 Q. Right. 19 A. Then we came back to the door, and then we went in the 20 other direction -- 21 Q. Right. 22 A. -- and did the same. 23 Q. Okay. 24 Can I just take you back, then, to the diagram that 25 you had seen on the wall, which is MET00016948.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 that room, and that is what was really, you know, on our 2 head. We couldn't see what we were doing. We had 3 absolutely zero visibility. We didn't know if we were 4 crawling into a fire or not. 5 Q. When you say that you saw residents being evacuated from 6 higher up the building, is that a reference to what you 7 had said earlier in your statement about seeing 8 casualties coming down with firefighters? 9 A. Yes, it is, yes. 10 Q. When you were coming up to the 10th floor, how did you 11 know that they were coming from higher up in the 12 building? 13 A. That was pure me guessing that they were coming from 14 higher up. 15 Q. Right, I see, okay. 16 A. That was not a factual -- as if I had stopped and 17 discussed it with them. 18 Q. So it is a point of comparison you are making, is it? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Okay, I see. 21 Now, then you say -- and I am summarising your 22 statement here -- you left the 10th-floor lobby and went 23 back out into the stairwell. 24 How long had you been in the lobby for, do you 25 think?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 A. It is hard to say. We did a sweep in one direction, 2 came back to the door, turned, done the other direction. 3 It could have been a matter of minutes. 4 Q. Right. 5 A. Three, four minutes. It is hard for me to say exactly. 6 Q. Would it have been possible to either crawl or walk 7 quickly round the lobby and knock on doors and shout at 8 people and alert them? 9 A. No. 10 Q. Why is that? 11 A. The heat was pushing us back. 12 Q. The heat? 13 A. The heat. It was really hot on that floor. 14 Q. And you could feel that through your PPE, could you? 15 A. Yes, we could, yes. 16 Q. When you came back out into the stairwell, were the 17 conditions the same as when you had left the stairwell, 18 or were they different? 19 A. They had got a little bit worse from where we had the 20 door open to go in and then come back out again. 21 Q. Right. Worse being, what, smokier? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Was it hotter? 24 A. It felt very hot to us because we had just come out of 25 that lobby area.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 A. It was a confirmation that they had heard my call to 2 them via my BARIE set, and I was to proceed with what 3 I had to say. 4 Q. I see. So go ahead and speak? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Okay. And what did you say? 7 A. I explained as quickly as I could the conditions -- 8 Q. Right. 9 A. -- that we were met with on that 10th floor, and that we 10 couldn't gain access to flat number 74. 11 Q. Did you get a response to that? 12 A. No, I didn't, no. 13 Q. How long do you think you were trying to get hold of the 14 entry control officer before you got a go ahead message? 15 A. I remember trying a couple of times. 16 Q. Right. Okay. 17 Do you know whether the message that you despatched 18 to entry control actually got through or not? 19 A. No, I don't, no. 20 Q. Can you explain, or do you know why the communications 21 were so difficult? 22 A. No. It was a mixture of volume of traffic -- 23 Q. Right. 24 A. It could have been a mixture of volume of traffic, the 25 signal.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 Q. Right. 2 You then go on to say in the third line up from the 3 first paragraph on page 4 of your statement: 4 "I then radioed to control. I eventually received a 5 go ahead message and explained that we could not reach 6 flat 74 as we required something to cool the gasses, we 7 really needed water. I did not hear anything back from 8 control. This was no surprise as there were 2 or 3 9 control boards so communications would have been 10 chaotic." 11 First of all, you say you radioed control; does that 12 mean the bridgehead? 13 A. Yes, it does. 14 Q. Entry control? 15 A. Entry control, yes. 16 Q. Right. And what channel did you use to do that? 17 A. Channel 4. 18 Q. Channel 4? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Right. So not channel 6? 21 A. Channel -- no, it could have been channel 6, actually. 22 Q. All right, okay. 23 And you then say: 24 "I eventually received a go ahead message ..." 25 What is a go ahead message?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 Q. Did you have problems with the signal? 2 A. Yes, we have had problems with signal in high-rise and 3 basements before. 4 Q. Did you tell the entry control officer that you had sent 5 the message to that you couldn't locate the dry riser? 6 A. No, just that, as far as I remember. Just the 7 conditions that we were met with. 8 Q. Right. 9 A. And that we couldn't gain access to the flat 74 FSG. 10 MR MILLETT: Right, Mr Chairman, that is a convenient 11 moment, and it may be convenient to the witness and to 12 you. 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It is a good point to have a break, 14 then, isn't it? 15 MR MILLETT: Thank you. 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Batcheldor, we are going to have 17 a break now so that everyone can get a bit of lunch. 18 THE WITNESS: Okay. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Please don't talk to anyone about 20 your evidence or anything to do with it over the break, 21 and we will resume at 2 o'clock, please. 22 THE WITNESS: Okay. 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, so if you would like to 24 go with the usher, she will look after you. 25 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. 2 o'clock, 2 then, please. Thank you. 3 (1.01 pm) 4 (The short adjournment) 5 (2.00 pm) 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett, I think 7 Mr Batcheldor is on his way. 8 MR MILLETT: Very good. 9 (The witness returned) 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, Mr Batcheldor, all ready to 11 carry on? 12 THE WITNESS: Yes, I am. 13 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. 14 Mr Batcheldor, thank you very much for coming back 15 to us. 16 Can I ask you to take up your statement where we 17 left off, which is on the fourth page, and in the middle 18 of the page, in the second paragraph, you say: 19 "We then decided to make our way up to the next 20 floor." 21 Did anybody instruct you to do that, or was that off 22 your own bat? 23 A. That was off our own back. 24 Q. Why did you decide to go up to the next floor? 25 A. To see if we could gain access on the 11th and see if we</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 up." 2 And you go on to say that his buddy was Madge and 3 she helped another BA down with a casualty. 4 Is it out of procedure to separate from your buddy? 5 A. No, that is not procedure at all, no. 6 Q. It is out of procedure? 7 A. Yes, it is. 8 Q. You say Madge had helped another BA crew down with 9 a casualty. How did you know that? 10 A. Dave had told us. 11 Q. Right. 12 A. Firefighter Hill, when I asked, "Where is Madge, where 13 is your buddy?" he explained that Madge had assisted 14 another crew and he had gone down with that other crew, 15 so -- 16 Q. Was that conversation while you were standing in the 17 stairwell outside of the 10th-floor lobby door? 18 A. Yes, it was, yes. 19 Q. And do you know who Madge is? 20 A. He was a standby, I think from Richmond. He was 21 standing by at Fulham that night. So he was part of our 22 crew that evening. So he was who Dave buddied up with. 23 Q. Madge is a he, is he? 24 A. Yes, he is. 25 Q. What is his full name, do you know?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 could help somebody else there. 2 Q. Did you know of anybody needing help on the 11th at that 3 stage? 4 A. Not that we knew of. 5 Q. Did you tell the bridgehead that that is where you were 6 going? 7 A. No, again, through comms -- I was getting nothing back 8 at all from comms. 9 Q. Did you try to tell the bridgehead? 10 A. I tried to contact them again and, no, there was 11 nothing. 12 Q. Would it be normal for the bridgehead not to know where 13 you were in a tower block -- 14 A. It wouldn't be normal, no. 15 Q. And did you go up with the hoses and branch that you 16 left outside or did you leave those where you had left 17 them? 18 A. We didn't actually get up to the 11th. We didn't 19 actually get up to the 11th. We were halfway on the 20 stairs. We didn't have the hose or the branch with us. 21 Q. Were you intending to go up with the hose and branch? 22 A. No, they were still on the floor outside the door on the 23 10th. 24 Q. Right, and then you say in the next sentence: 25 "I saw firefighter Dave HILL from my watch coming</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 A. I think it is Firefighter Malik. 2 Q. Firefighter Malik? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Right. If you continue, you say: 5 "Therefore Neil, Dave and I made a team of three." 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. And then you go on to say: 8 "We made our way up to the 11th Floor, but we hadn't 9 even got up the stairs before we heard another fire 10 fighter screaming for help." 11 And you say: 12 "I recognised him as coming from Soho and I could 13 see that he was tired. He had a woman who was 14 unconscious and I later found out that he had brought 15 her down from the 18th or 19th Floor and she had 16 suddenly become unconscious and had become a dead 17 weight." 18 Did that discussion happen at the time or is this 19 something that you found out later? 20 A. This is something I found out later. 21 Q. Now, the firefighter you recognised as coming from Soho, 22 did you know who that was? 23 A. I recognised him at the time, yes. 24 Q. Do you know his name? 25 A. I can't, no.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 Q. We may have him down as being Firefighter Adam Johnson. 2 Does that ring a bell, or help you? 3 A. It could be. 4 Q. Did that firefighter have a BA buddy with him? 5 A. No, he was on his own. 6 Q. Was his whistle going, do you remember? 7 A. I don't remember. 8 Q. Do you know where Firefighter Hill went? 9 A. Firefighter Hill said he was going to proceed up. 10 Q. Right. 11 A. He is going to carry on going up the tower. When the 12 firefighter with the casualty came -- when we came 13 across the firefighter with the casualty who needed 14 assistance, Dave said, "I am going to carry on going up 15 to the next floor to see if I can assist someone there". 16 Q. Okay. And did he? 17 A. As far as I know. 18 Q. Right. 19 A. He didn't follow us down, so I assume he did. 20 Q. Now, just going on to the top of page 5, after you 21 describe in your statement assisting with that casualty, 22 you say: 23 "The fire fighter from Soho took her legs. By this 24 time it was proper smoky." 25 When you say it was "proper smoky", was it thicker</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 help to identify someone. However, by this time we had 2 gone too far to reach the phone and we couldn't stop as 3 we had to get the unconscious woman out." 4 Did you tell anybody later that there was 5 an abandoned mobile -- 6 A. No. 7 Q. -- at that location? 8 A. It just rang out in my head as I was going past it. 9 I don't even know if I shouted it out in a physical 10 sense. 11 Q. Right. 12 A. Or I shouted it in my own head, "Get the phone, get the 13 phone, that is someone's property, that is someone's 14 belonging", just to get it. But, yes. 15 Q. You say you went down, and then you describe the descent 16 in the next paragraph. 17 In general terms, can you describe for us the 18 conditions on the stairs as you descended? 19 A. Yes, it is similar to what I found when I was making our 20 way up. Firefighters were trying to get up the stairs 21 on various tasks and they were trying to make way for 22 us. Equipment was on the floor, which was causing us to 23 stumble. Plus the thought of trying to get this 24 casualty out into fresh air as quick as we can to give 25 them, you know, a chance to recover -- you know, we were</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 smoke now in the stairwell than you had experienced when 2 you first came into the stairwell from the 10th-floor 3 lobby? 4 A. Yes, it was. Yes, it was. We still had visibility. It 5 wasn't, obviously, as thick as we had come across in the 6 10th-floor lobby area, so we still had some visibility, 7 but the smoke had got a little bit darker and thicker. 8 Q. Where were you exactly at that point? Were you still on 9 the 10th floor? 10 A. We were in between the 10th and 11th stairwell. 11 Q. Did you have any idea of where the smoke, which was now 12 getting thicker, as you say, was coming from? 13 A. No. 14 Q. And what colour was it? 15 A. It had got darker from when we first got up to the 10th 16 floor. So, yes, it progressed on from, like 17 I explained, a lighter grey to a darker grey smoke. But 18 like I said, we still had a bit of visibility. It 19 wasn't complete blanket. 20 Q. In the next paragraph in your statement on page 5 you 21 say: 22 "As the three of us were taking the woman down I saw 23 a mobile phone in amongst a pile of clothes. I shouted 24 out to grab the phone - I knew it was somebody's 25 property and it would have their photos on and it may</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 trying to move as fast as we could, get past other 2 firefighters, get past equipment, clothing, just to get 3 them out the building. 4 Q. Looking at the air condition, the condition of the air, 5 the breathability of the air as you descended, did it 6 change at all? 7 A. I don't recall it changing. It was smoky, especially 8 around the 4th/5th, and it didn't really get clearer 9 until, sort of, we were reaching the bridgehead. 10 Q. On the way down, did you notice whether any of the lobby 11 doors were open? 12 A. I didn't notice, no. 13 Q. Okay. You didn't look in to any of the lobbies, did 14 you? 15 A. No, I did not, no. 16 Q. Now, page 5, the third paragraph, you say: 17 "The stairwell felt very chaotic, but we managed to 18 get the woman out, passed the Bridgehead to the ground 19 floor." 20 Did you know where the bridgehead was at that point? 21 A. At that point in time, no. We didn't even stop to 22 discuss or talk to anyone at the bridgehead. We just 23 made our way straight down to the ground floor, into the 24 lobby area, and to the front entrance in desperation to 25 get that casualty into some fresh air.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 Q. When you went down, did you go past where the bridgehead 2 had been on the 2nd floor, do you remember?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, we would have done. That was the only stairwell to 4 get out.</p> <p>5 Q. Yes.</p> <p>6 A. So we would have gone past it. At that point in time, 7 I didn't notice whether the bridgehead had moved or not.</p> <p>8 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>9 You say that you passed the bridgehead to the ground 10 floor, and then you go on a little bit later, two 11 paragraphs on from that, to say that you exited the 12 building.</p> <p>13 Do we take from that that you bypassed the 14 bridgehead with the casualty when accessing the outside 15 of the building?</p> <p>16 A. That's correct, yes. We didn't actually exit the 17 building. We made our way to the lobby, to the front 18 door in the lobby, ground-floor lobby --</p> <p>19 Q. Yes.</p> <p>20 A. -- where we passed the unconscious casualty to a couple 21 of firefighters that didn't have any BA on. They said 22 "We will take the casualty to paramedics".</p> <p>23 Q. I see. It is just in the next paragraph, you say:</p> <p>24 "Outside the block there were fire fighters, some 25 with BA and some without. We passed the woman to a fire</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 deployment to flat 74 would have been successful?</p> <p>2 A. Depends whether they picked up my message that I had 3 sent earlier on via the BARIE set or not.</p> <p>4 Q. Yes.</p> <p>5 So you then say on page 5, in the sixth paragraph, 6 which is the next one down:</p> <p>7 "By this point I was running low on air, so I took 8 my mask off. I then returned to the Bridgehead to 9 report what I had done and what I hadn't done. The 10 Bridgehead had now moved from the second floor to the 11 third floor. Neil and I collected our BA tallies to 12 register that we were out of the fire. I informed them 13 that we were unable to enter the 10th Floor."</p> <p>14 Now, does that mean that you were still under air 15 when you had come down and handed the casualty to the 16 firefighter at the main door?</p> <p>17 A. That's correct, yes. We were still under air until we 18 passed the casualty to the firefighter to remove to LAS.</p> <p>19 Q. Why was that? Why were you still under air?</p> <p>20 A. Because we had taken that casualty from in between the 21 10th and 11th floor under air, and we carried her all 22 the way down. We didn't stop to take our sets off, stop 23 to have any communications; we just got her straight 24 down to the front of that building for help.</p> <p>25 Q. You say, as I have just read to you, that you returned</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 fighter without BA for him to take her to the 2 paramedics."</p> <p>3 A. Yes, we were inside the doorway, and they were just 4 outside the doorway, literally waiting for us to pass 5 her over to them.</p> <p>6 Q. When you got down to the ground floor, did you notice 7 then where the bridgehead was, or whether it was on the 8 ground floor by that stage?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. In the process of taking the unconscious casualty to the 11 front door of the building and handing her to the next 12 firefighter, does that mean that you hadn't gone past 13 the bridgehead and tallied back in?</p> <p>14 A. No. We had obviously gone past the bridgehead, because 15 I hadn't noticed it, so I had gone past it at some 16 point, but I had had no communication with the 17 bridgehead as of yet. I hadn't reported what we had 18 done or not done.</p> <p>19 Q. No.</p> <p>20 A. Hadn't collected my tally back. The priority at that 21 point is just to get that lady to help.</p> <p>22 Q. Yes. So at that point, nobody at the bridgehead would 23 know where you were; is that right?</p> <p>24 A. That's correct.</p> <p>25 Q. Nobody at the bridgehead would know whether the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 to the bridgehead to report.</p> <p>2 Did you look for the bridgehead or did somebody tell 3 you that it was now on the 3rd floor?</p> <p>4 A. I can't remember. I can't remember that.</p> <p>5 Q. Now, we have your end of wear time as about 02.33 am.</p> <p>6 Does that sound about right to you, given that your 7 tally-out time -- in other words, the time you left the 8 bridgehead -- was about 02.17?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. When you got to the bridgehead on the 3rd floor, who was 13 running it, do you remember?</p> <p>14 A. No, I don't, no.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you remember whether it was still the officers who 16 had been operating the entry control when you deployed?</p> <p>17 A. I genuinely cannot remember who I reported to. I would 18 have gone direct to the entry control board.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 A. I would have gone direct to them. And, again, that part 21 of the memory has gone straight from my head. We were 22 halfway through debriefing -- I was halfway through 23 explaining conditions on the 10th, that we hadn't been 24 able to get to flat 74, and then I was halfway through 25 that, collected my tally, and that is when a firefighter</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 came stumbling down the stairs with a 12-year-old girl 2 in his hands and she, like, fell on top of us, so 3 straight away the focus was redirected again. 4 Q. You say that you reported to the bridgehead, as we see 5 in the next sentence, you say: 6 "Neil and I collected our BA tallies to register 7 that we were out of the fire. I informed them that we 8 were unable to enter the 10th Floor." 9 Do you remember who you were debriefing to? 10 A. No, I don't. 11 Q. And you don't remember whether it was the same entry 12 control officer or bridgehead commander as was on the 13 2nd floor? 14 A. No, I do not. 15 Q. Did you say anything to the bridgehead about the female 16 casualty that you had assisted down the stairs? 17 A. No. At that point, by that time, I think I had managed 18 literally just to get out that we couldn't gain access 19 to that FSG call. I think I had just literally got that 20 out, about conditions on the 10th and that we couldn't 21 get there. Before I could get another word out, that is 22 when we were involved in another situation. 23 Q. So do you know whether or not the bridgehead then 24 redeployed a crew to flat 74? 25 A. That I don't know.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 point was to get her outside -- 2 Q. Right. 3 A. -- to receive treatment. 4 Q. You say, same paragraph, that there was debris falling 5 from the building so you put your helmet on the little 6 girl. 7 Just so that we are clear, did you take her out of 8 the main entrance on the south side or another entrance? 9 A. No, I believe it was the main entrance/exit, south side. 10 Q. Right. And how long, roughly, after the end of wear 11 time do you think you took her out of the building? 12 A. It was almost immediately. 13 Q. Right. 14 A. I shut down my set in the ground-floor lobby after we 15 passed the adult casualty that we brought down to 16 waiting firefighters, so I shut my set down. Then 17 I went straight back up to the bridgehead to collect my 18 tally and report what had happened, and it was at that 19 point, like I explained, halfway through the debriefing, 20 that this girl came down the stairs with a firefighter, 21 and then I took her immediately straight out. 22 Q. So you shut your set down before you went back to the 23 bridgehead to collect your tally? 24 A. Yes, that's correct. 25 Q. I see. Is that normal?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 Q. In the short time, it sounds like, you were at the 2 bridgehead, did you see any fire survival guidance 3 information being recorded there? 4 A. No. 5 Q. Now, you then say, as you just told us -- and this is in 6 the last paragraph on page 5 of your statement: 7 "As I was explaining the situation a fire fighter 8 came down with a young girl and fell on top of us. 9 I said I would get her out, so I took her to ground 10 level. I was no longer with Neil." 11 And you go on to describe some details there. 12 My question is this: did you ask her which flat she 13 had come from? 14 A. No, she was in a -- she was conscious. 15 Q. Yes. 16 A. But she was in a very traumatic state. 17 Q. Right. 18 A. She was crying heavily, and she just kept calling out 19 for her mum and her dad. 20 Q. Did you pass any information to the bridgehead about the 21 little girl? 22 A. No. 23 Q. Was there an opportunity to do that? 24 A. No. Again, the firefighter that brought her down -- 25 I took the casualty and, again, my priority from that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, it is. 2 Q. You took her out of the main entrance, as you said. Was 3 there any system in place at that stage to protect 4 casualties coming out of the building from the falling 5 debris? 6 A. No, not at that stage, no. 7 Q. And I think you say you took her to a paramedic area by 8 the leisure centre; is that right? 9 A. Yes. When I first come in the building, I hadn't seen 10 any paramedics, so I didn't know where this treatment 11 area was. 12 Q. No. 13 A. So as I come out of the building, I remember shouting to 14 someone, "Where are the paramedics?" And all I heard 15 back was, "They are over the back", and they kind of 16 pointed in a general direction. I didn't have a clue 17 where that was. I wasn't overly familiar with that 18 area, ground, so I just went in that direction of where 19 they pointed. So it probably took me a good 20 five minutes, maybe a little bit longer, five to ten 21 minutes, to actually find the paramedic station. 22 Q. Right. 23 A. Luckily, the girl, like I said, was conscious, the young 24 girl was conscious, and just breathing heavily, 25 traumatised and upset. She had, like, soot around her</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 mouth and eyes, and I was trying to wash that away with</p> <p>2 a bottle of water that I picked up off the floor --</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 A. -- while trying to find where the paramedics were.</p> <p>5 Q. You go on to say that you found the family and you were</p> <p>6 able to reunite them?</p> <p>7 A. She was crying out, "I have left my mum, my dad", and</p> <p>8 I think it was her brother. I think she said brother,</p> <p>9 I can't 100 per cent, but -- "I have left them in there,</p> <p>10 I have left them in there, I have left them behind".</p> <p>11 When we eventually come to the paramedics area, they</p> <p>12 were crying on a large piece of tarpaulin, and she</p> <p>13 literally just pointed at them and they just jumped up</p> <p>14 and came and grabbed her off me. Beautiful.</p> <p>15 Q. Just take a moment. Are you okay?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. We can take a break.</p> <p>18 A. That's fine.</p> <p>19 Q. I am now going to turn to a different subject, which is</p> <p>20 a telephone conversation you had with a female in the</p> <p>21 tower.</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Are you okay to continue with that?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, yes, I am.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p>Page 153</p>	<p>1 my tally back out of the BA board --</p> <p>2 Q. Yes.</p> <p>3 A. -- then I am guessing, like I said, it took me roughly</p> <p>4 five to ten minutes to take the young girl to the</p> <p>5 paramedics station, the paramedic area. From there,</p> <p>6 I walked -- because I still had my set on, I walked</p> <p>7 straight down to the south-east corner, so maybe</p> <p>8 five minutes, tops. So maybe another 20 minutes or so</p> <p>9 after my shutdown time.</p> <p>10 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>11 Now, I do need to put this to you. We have a 999</p> <p>12 call from a female in flat 113 with a baby timed at</p> <p>13 03.17 who was told to leave. That is a conversation we</p> <p>14 have with that time on it.</p> <p>15 A. Okay.</p> <p>16 Q. Does that help you, knowing what the call you had with</p> <p>17 her involved, put the time on your conversation with</p> <p>18 her, or the starting point of your call with her, more</p> <p>19 accurately?</p> <p>20 A. Not massively. But that could -- it sounds like that</p> <p>21 would be around the start time.</p> <p>22 Q. Now, in your statement in the fifth paragraph on page 6</p> <p>23 you say:</p> <p>24 "I took the phone from Francis ..."</p> <p>25 Because that was the man's name?</p> <p>Page 155</p>
<p>1 I ought to just give a warning to those present that</p> <p>2 I am going to be discussing something that people may</p> <p>3 find a little distressing, or very distressing. So if</p> <p>4 anybody does not want to hear the evidence about the</p> <p>5 discussion between this witness and Zainab Deen, perhaps</p> <p>6 they should leave now.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Can I just say to Mr Batcheldor, if</p> <p>8 at any point you feel it would be helpful to you to have</p> <p>9 a break, please just indicate.</p> <p>10 A. Thank you, sir, I will.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: Now, if we look at your statement on page 6, in</p> <p>12 the fourth main paragraph, which is where it starts, you</p> <p>13 say you made your way back to the front of the building</p> <p>14 to see what needed doing next. You go on to describe</p> <p>15 how you saw somebody on the phone.</p> <p>16 The first question I have is: do you remember</p> <p>17 exactly where he was, the man with the telephone?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, he was probably standing about 10/15-foot away from</p> <p>19 the front entrance, of the main front doors of the</p> <p>20 tower. I was at the south-east corner, a bit further</p> <p>21 away, just redoing my set.</p> <p>22 Q. Right. Are you able to help us with the time at which</p> <p>23 you first saw him, working forward, I suppose, from your</p> <p>24 end of wear time of 02.33.</p> <p>25 A. Okay, so if we are working 02.33, from when I received</p> <p>Page 154</p>	<p>1 A. Correct, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. "... And spoke to the woman. She said 'My name is</p> <p>3 Zenay. I am with my son. I am on the fourteenth</p> <p>4 floor - Flat 115.' I said 'Stay on the phone to me.'"</p> <p>5 Just pausing there, do you remember any watch</p> <p>6 managers being -- you refer to Watch Manager Tom</p> <p>7 Furnell, but other than him, do you remember any other</p> <p>8 watch manager being nearby?</p> <p>9 A. No, I don't, no.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay.</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember somebody called Watch Manager Coltress</p> <p>13 from Shoreditch?</p> <p>14 A. I don't, no.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 A. It was a real heavy, dynamic scene of operations. There</p> <p>17 were other firefighters running around, there were other</p> <p>18 watch managers running around. So as in specifics, did</p> <p>19 I see this particular person, I can't 100 per cent say.</p> <p>20 Q. How confident are you that you heard her say 115?</p> <p>21 A. Again, now -- that is what I remembered the following</p> <p>22 morning, after a long night.</p> <p>23 Q. Yes. Okay.</p> <p>24 Watch Manager Coltress has given us a statement, and</p> <p>25 he has said that he checked with the bridgehead that</p> <p>Page 156</p>

<p>1 they were aware that Zainab was in flat 113, in fact, 2 and not 115.</p> <p>3 A. The number that I gave the watch manager outside, when 4 I first took the call, within 30 seconds of taking that 5 call, I reported it immediately to the nearest watch 6 manager I saw, who I believe to be Tom Furnell. 7 I believe he was dealing with FSG calls outside of the 8 building on. I think he was using a large bin, a large 9 refuse bin, that had sheets of paper all over the top of 10 it. I went straight to that person there and explained 11 to them, "I have got a lady and her two-year-old son in 12 flat" -- whether that was 113 or 115, whatever she told 13 me at that time, I relayed that immediately.</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 A. So whether 10 or so hours, 12 hours later, I have 16 written down -- I have remembered it as 113 or 115, but 17 the flat number that she gave me, I gave that directly 18 to that watch manager, so it would have been correct at 19 that time.</p> <p>20 Q. Right. I am going to come back to that in just 21 a moment. I am sorry to explore this in a bit of 22 detail. But to be clear, did she say that she was in 23 flat 115 or that she lived at flat 115?</p> <p>24 A. No, she didn't specifically say "I live here", she just 25 said to me -- I said to her immediately, "Where are you?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 reported down, we have them already reported".</p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember what he looked at in order to confirm he 3 had got the flat recorded?</p> <p>4 A. No, he looked over the bin where he had his sheets of 5 paper spread out. What system he had in place, or how 6 he had it organised, I am not 100 per cent sure of, but 7 he looked at what he had in front of him and then said 8 to me, "Yes, we have got that reported, we have got that 9 already".</p> <p>10 Q. Just to follow that up, you say he had sheets of paper 11 spread out. Did you recognise those sheets of paper as 12 a particular form?</p> <p>13 A. No, I do not.</p> <p>14 Q. Were they control information forms, do you think?</p> <p>15 A. I couldn't tell what they were.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you know where he was getting his information from?</p> <p>17 A. No, I don't, no.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you see who he was giving his information to?</p> <p>19 A. No. He had a few firefighters around him. What would 20 normally happen is they would be used as runners.</p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 A. Especially on a night like that where radio comms may 23 not be the best form of communication. I take it he was 24 using them as runners. Again, I can't 100 per cent 25 confirm that.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 What floor are you on? What flat are you in?"</p> <p>2 Q. Okay. And you say in your statement, just going back to 3 it: 4 "Watch manager Tom FENELL was dealing with Fire 5 Survival calls from a position outside the building so I 6 asked his advice." 7 You say "Fenell"; in fact, we have a Watch Manager 8 Thomas Furnell?</p> <p>9 A. That is who it is, yeah. This has been written out 10 incorrectly.</p> <p>11 Q. That is okay.</p> <p>12 A. This is not my wording. Asked his advice is not my 13 wording either. I reported that call to him, basically.</p> <p>14 Q. Now, you have described just a minute ago what he was 15 doing outside of the building; working on a large bin 16 with sheets of paper all over the top of it, you have 17 said to us. 18 Did you know what he was actually doing? Did you 19 see what he was doing?</p> <p>20 A. I remember asking him, I remember saying to him, "Are 21 you doing the FSG calls?"</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 A. And he said yes. And I reported that directly, I said, 24 "Have you got this floor, this flat?" And he had a look 25 and he said to me immediately, "We have got that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 Q. Did he have any other watch managers with him, helping 2 him, or participating in that exercise?</p> <p>3 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay.</p> <p>5 Do you remember if the flat which Watch Manager 6 Furnell said he had for Zainab was 113 or 115?</p> <p>7 A. No, I don't recall.</p> <p>8 Q. You don't recall.</p> <p>9 A. I just remember giving him the information that Zainab 10 had given me immediately, and him immediately confirming 11 "We have got that recorded already, we know about that 12 call".</p> <p>13 Q. When he said he had it recorded or he knew about that 14 call, what did you understand by that?</p> <p>15 A. What I took from that was that someone in that flat, 16 Zainab, or if anyone else was in there, had made a call, 17 a 999 call, and that the information given was then 18 given to the fire ground and that was recorded as an FSG 19 call. So I took it as though we knew there were people 20 in that flat who we needed to go and help and missions 21 were being carried out to do that.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you gain any understanding from what he said to you 23 that firefighters had already been deployed to that 24 flat?</p> <p>25 A. No, I didn't, no.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p>

<p>1 Q. When you say you asked Watch Manager Furnell for advice, 2 what advice were you looking for?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, that is worded incorrectly. I never said that in 4 my statement. That is worded incorrectly. I know it is 5 in my statement, but that is not what I said in the 6 recording. I was reporting the situation to him.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 A. It was literally -- it was that quick, that dynamic. It 9 was literally, "Tom, I have got this lady on the phone 10 on this floor, in this flat, she's with her two-year-old 11 son", and he had a look and said, "Yes, we have got that 12 written down already, Chris", and that was my dealings 13 with him at that particular time.</p> <p>14 Q. Did Watch Manager Furnell tell you anything else?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. At that point, just standing back from the specifics of 17 this conversation, that moment, did you know how far 18 firefighters were getting up into the building?</p> <p>19 A. At that point, no.</p> <p>20 Q. When you were speaking to Watch Manager Furnell, was the 21 lady still on the telephone?</p> <p>22 A. I was on the phone to her all of the time, yes. I told 23 her not to put the phone down, yes, stay on the phone.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 At this stage -- and, again, we can't be specific</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 and she is just following the stay-put advice.</p> <p>2 Q. Stay-put advice wouldn't be given normally, would it, to 3 somebody who was trapped and had no choice?</p> <p>4 A. It would still be given, because you have to -- when 5 people are stuck in a situation where they are literally 6 petrified for their life, they would sometimes not make 7 the best decision. So even though they can see, maybe, 8 the atmosphere outside that door, being told to stay put 9 would be a reassurance to them. Sometimes people would 10 panic and maybe want to make a run for it, to try and 11 get out --</p> <p>12 Q. I see.</p> <p>13 A. -- even though that may not be the best thing to do at 14 that particular time. So even though it may seem 15 obvious to people who don't understand, wait and stay 16 put when they can't get out, you still have to reassure 17 them by telling them that.</p> <p>18 Q. Right, I follow. So stay put, to a trapped person, is 19 given by way of reassurance --</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. -- rather than by way of advice you take seriously, or 22 literally?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. I follow.</p> <p>25 Now, looking at your statement, on page 6, in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 about timing -- did you know what the advice being given 2 to residents generally inside the building was?</p> <p>3 A. She said to me -- as soon as I spoke Watch Manager Tom 4 Furnell, I stepped away from his scene, and she said to 5 me, "We can't get out, we have been told to stay in the 6 flat. We can't get out."</p> <p>7 Q. "We can't get out, we have been told to stay in"?</p> <p>8 A. Yes. So I took it that the stay-put policy was still in 9 place.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you get the impression from what she said to you 11 that she was trapped in the flat?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, I did.</p> <p>13 Q. But she also said, did she, that she was told to stay in 14 the flat?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Both?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, both.</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 A. I had just come down from there. I had already been in 20 the building. I saw what the conditions were like in 21 the lobby that I was sent to.</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 A. I had no other belief that it wasn't like that on any of 24 the other floors. So if she is telling me she can't get 25 out, I was taking it that she is trapped in that flat,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 last paragraph you advise her, halfway down, to go to 2 the least smoky room, shut the door and put clothing 3 round the bottom of the door, and to lie on the floor 4 and put clothing round her little boy's face.</p> <p>5 Did you consider advising her, or helping her to 6 assess whether it was safe to leave?</p> <p>7 A. No. I took her word that --</p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 A. -- she couldn't get out of her flat. So now my aim was 10 to try and keep her as safe -- her and her son as safe 11 as possible until what I believed we would get in and 12 help her out.</p> <p>13 Q. Did she tell you what the conditions were like in the 14 flat?</p> <p>15 A. I remember her saying it is light smoky at that time.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. You say "at that time"; that is at the start of 17 the conversation with her?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Did she speak of fire in the flat?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Now, I want just to ask you about some timing questions. 22 At the bottom of the page, page 6, you describe 23 there what you say to her and she says to you. Then you 24 say at the top of page 7: 25 "I was on the phone saying this to her for 30-35</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 minutes - I was gagging to hear the door getting kicked 2 in. I was just waiting to hear someone shout 3 'Casualty!' to signal that they had been found." 4 On the timing issue, 30 to 35 minutes, when, in your 5 recollection, does that time period start? Is that from 6 the start of your conversation with her? 7 A. Yes, I would say so. Yes. From then, it was just 8 a case of trying to reassure her and stay on the phone 9 to her. 10 Q. During that period of time, where were you physically? 11 A. I was around the south-east corner of the tower with 12 Francis Deen. One minute I was sat on the floor, the 13 next minute I was pacing, but all of the time, 14 Francis -- he was around the vicinity as well. I was 15 trying to keep my eye on him at the same time, because 16 he was obviously very upset and animated, and I was 17 worried he was going to try and make a run for the 18 tower, so I was trying to make sure that I had my eye on 19 him as well at the same time. 20 Q. During this period of time, the 30 to 35-minute period 21 you speak of, did you have any further discussion with, 22 contact with, Watch Manager Furnell? 23 A. No. 24 Q. Did you have any discussion with anybody else who was 25 dealing with FSGs?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 I thought -- just -- she needs to hear someone's voice, 2 Francis's voice, and I just said to Francis -- because 3 he wasn't next to me, he didn't hear what I was 4 listening to, so he didn't know what was going on. But 5 I said to him, "Tell her you love her, tell her you love 6 her, Francis, to carry on fighting, and you are waiting 7 for her", and I held the phone to his head, and he did, 8 he said that to her, and before she could say anything 9 to him, I pulled the phone back, and I explained to her, 10 "See, there's people waiting for you, there are people 11 down here waiting for you that love you, don't give up 12 on us now. Carry on the fight." 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Shall we have a break? I think you 14 could do with a break. 15 A. I am okay, if you want to carry on. This doesn't go 16 anywhere. This -- 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It is a very difficult thing for you 18 to talk about, I quite understand that. Have you nearly 19 got to the end of this particular section of your 20 questions. 21 MR MILLETT: We are quite close to the end. 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Shall we just finish this subject, 23 and then we will have a break. 24 A. Carry on, please. 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 A. No. 2 Q. The bridgehead? 3 A. No. 4 Q. Did you look for any updates as to the progress 5 firefighters were making to get to that flat? 6 A. Not until, I believe, her son passed away. 7 Q. That is, I think, something you cover in the next 8 paragraph of the statement; is that right? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. In the second line you refer to 30 to 35 minutes. Is 11 that the same 30 to 35 minutes that you refer to in the 12 first paragraph on that page? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Then you say you passed the phone back to Francis, and 15 there was a conversation that you describe there, and 16 then he passed the phone back to you again; is that 17 right? 18 A. Yes. During the initial 30, 35 minutes, Jeremiah -- 19 I could hear them both coughing and crying, and it was 20 about that 35-minute mark that Zainab told me her son is 21 dead. "He is dead, and I don't want to be here anymore, 22 I want to be with him". It was at that point, you know, 23 that I had to try and tell her not to be like -- you 24 know, "You ain't giving up on me now, don't talk like 25 that, you carry on fighting". And it was then that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: Can you estimate, even roughly, how long 2 Francis was on the phone to Zainab when you gave the 3 phone -- 4 A. Seconds. 5 Q. Seconds, right. 6 A. Just enough time to say what I told him to say, and then 7 I took it straight back. 8 Q. Right. You then say in the next paragraph: 9 "When I took the phone back I could hear her 10 coughing. I could hear other sounds like banging in the 11 background and I kept thinking that the fire fighters 12 had reached her." 13 Did you have any idea of what those sounds in the 14 background were? 15 A. No. 16 Q. Could you hear anybody else in the background, in the 17 flat, with Zainab? 18 A. No. 19 Q. Now, you then go on to say in the next sentence: 20 "I spent another 35-40 minutes on the phone to her 21 in total." 22 Is that another 35 to 40 minutes in addition to the 23 initial 35 to 40 minutes we have talked about already? 24 A. Yes. It was at that point, after I took the phone back 25 from Francis, that is when I went to Watch Manager</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 Furnell again.</p> <p>2 Q. Yes.</p> <p>3 A. Just to ask him, "Where are we?" you know, I was going,</p> <p>4 "Where are we, are we nearly there? Are we nearly at</p> <p>5 her yet?"</p> <p>6 Q. You cover that in the third line of the third paragraph</p> <p>7 on page 7 of your statement.</p> <p>8 When you say "Where are we?", what were you asking</p> <p>9 him?</p> <p>10 A. I was asking -- (1) I wanted to know -- I wanted</p> <p>11 assurance that someone has been deployed to her, and if</p> <p>12 we had any feedback of where they were, how they were</p> <p>13 getting on.</p> <p>14 Q. What did he say to you?</p> <p>15 A. He just looked at me and shook his head and said "I am</p> <p>16 really sorry, Chris, we ain't getting past the 12th at</p> <p>17 the moment".</p> <p>18 Q. Right. Is that the first time you heard that?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, it was, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Was that the first update you had had from Watch Manager</p> <p>21 Furnell since you had been on the phone to Zainab?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, it was, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. I think you remained on the line to Zainab after Watch</p> <p>24 Manager Furnell had told you this. Do you remember how</p> <p>25 much longer?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 was quiet. She'd stopped coughing. I stayed on the</p> <p>2 line in case she could still hear me. It wasn't until</p> <p>3 about 10 minutes that I got confirmation, I think, that</p> <p>4 she had passed away, from what I could hear. And the</p> <p>5 phone then went silent again completely.</p> <p>6 A few minutes after that, I put the phone --</p> <p>7 I disconnected the line, told Francis that I think the</p> <p>8 battery must have gone on Zainab's phone. We must have</p> <p>9 become disconnected.</p> <p>10 Again, I couldn't tell him what I was listening to.</p> <p>11 He didn't need to know that, right there and then,</p> <p>12 I didn't feel. Rightly or wrongly.</p> <p>13 And then he was just asking, "Where are you, have</p> <p>14 you got her, have you got her?" and I felt like I needed</p> <p>15 to get him away from the building, really, because we</p> <p>16 were both standing there watching the effects of the</p> <p>17 fire on the building.</p> <p>18 So I took him up to the leisure centre, where I knew</p> <p>19 the police were, and explained to an officer who he was</p> <p>20 and that he was waiting for somebody to come out the</p> <p>21 building, a family member to come out of the building,</p> <p>22 and gave him his phone back. And, yes, then the officer</p> <p>23 escorted him to either inside the leisure centre or</p> <p>24 somewhere else where they were waiting for news on their</p> <p>25 family.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 A. It would have been at least another 30, 35-plus minutes.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 In the last paragraph, you describe hearing Zainab,</p> <p>4 and then you describe some screaming, and then when you</p> <p>5 say:</p> <p>6 "When it stopped I knew then that was it. I hung up</p> <p>7 the phone. The whole phone call lasted about an hour</p> <p>8 and a quarter."</p> <p>9 That estimate of an hour and a quarter, do you think</p> <p>10 that is right, in the light of the --</p> <p>11 A. I would say so, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. So 35 plus 35?</p> <p>13 A. There was a point -- it was around halfway through the</p> <p>14 call, that we got disconnected.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 A. Literally for seconds, because I pressed recall straight</p> <p>17 away again, and she answered. That must have been</p> <p>18 around the halfway stage, we became disconnected,</p> <p>19 I called her up again straight away, and then I remember</p> <p>20 it being at least another 40 plus minutes after that.</p> <p>21 Q. Right. So you were able to call her back with ease?</p> <p>22 A. Immediately, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Afterwards, you I think led Francis to the paramedics</p> <p>24 area.</p> <p>25 A. Yes. For about 10 minutes of that phone call, the line</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 Before that, I got him to write down on a bit of</p> <p>2 notepaper I had Zainab and Jeremiah's name and ages,</p> <p>3 contact details, before I -- yes, gave him to the</p> <p>4 police.</p> <p>5 Q. Can I show you a piece of paper to see whether that</p> <p>6 corresponds with your recollection of what he wrote</p> <p>7 down. It is LFB00001968, please, Mr Documents Director.</p> <p>8 It is page 17 in it.</p> <p>9 This is what looks like a firefighter's notebook</p> <p>10 piece of paper?</p> <p>11 A. That is his phone number, yes, that was it.</p> <p>12 Q. That is the piece of paper, is it?</p> <p>13 A. That was it.</p> <p>14 Q. Can you see on it, it says, "115 [arrow] 113". Do you</p> <p>15 remember seeing that?</p> <p>16 A. No, that was added. He wrote their names down and their</p> <p>17 ages, his name and phone number.</p> <p>18 Q. I see. And you think "115 [arrow] 113" was added later,</p> <p>19 do you think?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. You remember seeing it but without those notations?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, sorry.</p> <p>23 Q. I understand.</p> <p>24 Did he give you that piece of paper?</p> <p>25 A. I took it -- I ripped it from my notepad.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 172</p>

1 Q. That is your notepad?

2 **A. Yes, it is.**

3 Q. I see.

4 **A. And then he wrote the details down, and after I had**

5 **given him his phone back and left him in charge with --**

6 Q. Right. Then --

7 **A. I took that bit of paper and took it to the command unit**

8 **that I believe was dealing with the FSG calls, and**

9 **I went in and explained to them who these people were,**

10 **and gave that bit of paper to them.**

11 Q. Did you see what they did with it?

12 **A. No.**

13 Q. Did you have any further contact with Watch Manager

14 Furnell?

15 **A. No.**

16 Q. Did you have any further contact with anybody on the

17 ground on the night about that particular incident?

18 **A. No. Just people asking if things were okay.**

19 Q. Can I just ask you a question, going back to the

20 conversation you had with her.

21 Did Zainab tell you whether anybody else was in the

22 flat?

23 **A. She didn't, no.**

24 Q. Apart from her son.

25 **A. No.**

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1 Q. Did she tell you whether anybody had been evacuated

2 previously from that flat?

3 **A. No, she didn't mention, no.**

4 MR MILLETT: Crew Manager Batcheldor, I am very grateful to

5 you. I have no further questions for you.

6 It may be appropriate to take a short break because

7 there may be one or two things I may have missed that

8 I want to cover, but would you bear with me?

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Batcheldor, we will have

11 a break now, in any event. It may be that there will be

12 a few further questions for you. We will have to see

13 when you come back.

14 THE WITNESS: Okay.

15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Please don't talk to anybody about

16 your evidence when you are out of the room.

17 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like to go with the usher,

19 and we will resume at 3.05. Thank you very much.

20 (The witness withdrew)

21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, 3.05, please. Thank you.

22 (2.55 pm)

23 (A short break)

24 (3.05 pm)

25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I gather you have one more question,

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1 Mr Millett.

2 MR MILLETT: I do, Mr Chairman, yes.

3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Well, Mr Batcheldor is

4 on his way back.

5 MR MILLETT: Thank you.

6 (The witness returned)

7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Batcheldor?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think there is only one more

10 question to come, but we will see anyway.

11 Yes, Mr Millett.

12 MR MILLETT: Mr Batcheldor, thank you for coming back.

13 **A. Thank you.**

14 Q. My question is this: when you were on the telephone to

15 Zainab, and having this discussion with her, did she

16 tell you at any stage that she had been moved into the

17 flat she was in from another flat?

18 **A. No, she didn't, no.**

19 MR MILLETT: No. Okay. That is my question.

20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.

21 MR MILLETT: So I just want to say now, finally, thank you

22 very much, Crew Manager Batcheldor, to you, for giving

23 what cannot have been easy evidence. I am extremely

24 grateful to you for coming here and assisting us with

25 our investigations. We do really appreciate it

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1 enormously, so thank you.

2 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And I would like to echo

4 Mr Millett's words of thanks.

5 I think it must have taken a lot of courage to come

6 here and talk about those experiences in public, and

7 I am sure a lot of other people in this room are very

8 grateful to you for having done so.

9 So thank you very much indeed.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Would you like to go

12 with the usher, then, please.

13 (The witness was released)

14 Housekeeping

15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So, Mr Millett, no more witnesses

16 for the time being.

17 MR MILLETT: No.

18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: But can I just --

19 MR MILLETT: Yes, there may be some housekeeping matters.

20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: There may be, we will see.

21 Before we get to those I think that, as the inquiry

22 is about to adjourn for the month of August, this seems

23 to me to be an appropriate time to take stock of the

24 progress of the evidence-gathering so far, and also to

25 outline the timetable for the remainder of phase 1.

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44 (Pages 173 to 176)

<p>1 As you all know, hearings began on 21 May with the</p> <p>2 commemorations held at the Millennium Hotel in South</p> <p>3 Kensington and, apart from a short break during the</p> <p>4 second week of June, have continued without</p> <p>5 interruption.</p> <p>6 Normally, we have sat to hear evidence from Monday</p> <p>7 to Thursday, between 10 o'clock and 4.15, but on many</p> <p>8 occasions, we have in fact sat on Friday, and often</p> <p>9 hearings have started at 9.30 in the morning in order to</p> <p>10 keep up the momentum.</p> <p>11 We had originally planned to complete the</p> <p>12 firefighters' evidence, including that of the senior</p> <p>13 officers of the London Fire Brigade, by the end of July,</p> <p>14 and so to be in a position to start taking evidence from</p> <p>15 the former residents of the tower and others</p> <p>16 in September.</p> <p>17 However, as you will realise, the process of taking</p> <p>18 evidence from the firefighters will now need to continue</p> <p>19 after the summer break.</p> <p>20 There are a number of reasons for that. In the</p> <p>21 first place, it is notoriously difficult to predict how</p> <p>22 long any witness will take. More significantly,</p> <p>23 however, it has turned out that many of the witnesses</p> <p>24 from whom we have heard have had much more to tell us</p> <p>25 than was apparent from their statements.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 All of these factors have played a part in setting</p> <p>2 the original timetable back by a few weeks. Hearing</p> <p>3 further firefighters' evidence in September will</p> <p>4 probably take up much, if not all, of that month. So we</p> <p>5 now expect to hear evidence from former residents of the</p> <p>6 tower during October, and the expert evidence in the</p> <p>7 first half of November.</p> <p>8 We expect to complete hearing all of the evidence</p> <p>9 relevant to phase 1 before the end of the year, and then</p> <p>10 to be in a position to deliver a report early in the new</p> <p>11 year.</p> <p>12 But I am pleased to say that progress of work on</p> <p>13 phase 2, which is continuing in parallel with phase 1,</p> <p>14 should not be significantly affected by the delay.</p> <p>15 We shall continue to provide more information about</p> <p>16 the timetable for the proceedings on the inquiry website</p> <p>17 over the coming months.</p> <p>18 In the light of the progress so far, I have come to</p> <p>19 the view that there should be a further procedural</p> <p>20 hearing at the beginning of the next session -- indeed,</p> <p>21 at 9.30 on Monday, 3 September -- before we resume</p> <p>22 taking evidence.</p> <p>23 The hearing will have to be short -- I am going to</p> <p>24 allow a maximum of an hour and a half -- so that the</p> <p>25 evidence that is already timetabled to be heard on that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 One result of that is that it has often been</p> <p>2 necessary for counsel to pursue lines of inquiry that</p> <p>3 became apparent only in the course of the witness's</p> <p>4 evidence, or from evidence given by earlier witnesses.</p> <p>5 And to pursue useful lines of inquiry is, of course, the</p> <p>6 whole purpose of the inquiry.</p> <p>7 Added to that is the fact that, from time to time,</p> <p>8 it has been necessary to take more frequent, or in some</p> <p>9 cases rather longer, breaks in the hearings to</p> <p>10 accommodate witnesses' personal positions.</p> <p>11 I should perhaps add to that that the number of</p> <p>12 firefighters who have been called and will have been</p> <p>13 called to give evidence in person has grown in response</p> <p>14 to requests from some of the core participants.</p> <p>15 It is also right to mention that, since the start of</p> <p>16 the phase 1 hearings, there has been substantial further</p> <p>17 disclosure of documents and photographs to the inquiry</p> <p>18 by the LFB and through the Metropolitan Police, and the</p> <p>19 police have disclosed further firefighters' statements</p> <p>20 and exhibits. The new materials have had to be</p> <p>21 considered by the inquiry team, and disclosed to the</p> <p>22 core participants, and then put to the witnesses where</p> <p>23 necessary. All that has increased the time taken to</p> <p>24 examine the witnesses and, in some cases, has made it</p> <p>25 necessary to call further witnesses.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 day can be completed within the day. It would be very</p> <p>2 unfortunate if we were to start losing time on the first</p> <p>3 day of the next session.</p> <p>4 The hearing will cover four particular matters:</p> <p>5 1. The nature of and the limits on the evidence to</p> <p>6 be adduced from senior LFB officers as part of phase 1.</p> <p>7 2. The programme for taking evidence from BSR</p> <p>8 witnesses and the approach to any special arrangements</p> <p>9 which may be needed for them or others if it has not</p> <p>10 been possible to reach agreement on that question by</p> <p>11 then.</p> <p>12 3. The preparation and presentation of the evidence</p> <p>13 necessary to discharge the article 2 function in</p> <p>14 relation to each of the deceased, and the programme for</p> <p>15 carrying that out.</p> <p>16 4. The approach to be taken to identifying and</p> <p>17 formulating potential recommendations arising out of the</p> <p>18 phase 1 evidence.</p> <p>19 I envisage that at that procedural hearing, counsel</p> <p>20 to the inquiry will be asked to make a brief opening</p> <p>21 statement, after which I will hear from counsel for</p> <p>22 those core participants who wish to be heard.</p> <p>23 In order to ensure that the hearing can proceed</p> <p>24 efficiently, those who wish to be heard must file</p> <p>25 a skeleton argument in electronic form with the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 180</p>

<p>1 solicitor to the inquiry not later than 4 o'clock on</p> <p>2 Tuesday, 28 August.</p> <p>3 Skeleton arguments must be limited to five pages.</p> <p>4 I know that is quite a challenge, but it seems to me</p> <p>5 important to try to do that. So skeleton arguments to</p> <p>6 be limited to five pages, and it would help me if they</p> <p>7 were drafted with one-and-a-half line spacing.</p> <p>8 Bullet-point submissions would be particularly welcome.</p> <p>9 Given the limited time available, I should expect</p> <p>10 oral submissions to be brief and succinct, and as on</p> <p>11 previous occasions, I shall expect counsel to co-operate</p> <p>12 with each other in order to avoid repetition and make</p> <p>13 the best use of the limited time available, because we</p> <p>14 must ensure that we start with the witness promptly at</p> <p>15 11 o'clock.</p> <p>16 Finally, if any of you are able to take a holiday</p> <p>17 over the next month, I hope you have a very enjoyable</p> <p>18 time.</p> <p>19 Mr Millett, anything else we need to deal with?</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, no, thank you very much, and that</p> <p>21 is the business of the day, I trust.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good. Thank you very much.</p> <p>23 MR MANSFIELD: I wonder if I might just ask your permission</p> <p>24 for a brief moment before we all --</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Mansfield, I can scarcely hear</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 interim -- that is this break -- to receive examples of</p> <p>2 what we call the obvious and manifestly obvious urgent</p> <p>3 requirements for precautions in these other tower blocks</p> <p>4 that we say could be taken tomorrow, but certainly very</p> <p>5 soon.</p> <p>6 That is the request.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.</p> <p>8 Mr Mansfield, as I have already indicated, I expect</p> <p>9 to hear submissions as to how we should go about</p> <p>10 approaching that aspect of things when we have the</p> <p>11 procedural hearing in September. But if you wish to</p> <p>12 formulate any suggestions, then we shall receive them</p> <p>13 gratefully.</p> <p>14 MR MANSFIELD: Thank you.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>16 Well, Mr Millett, is there anything else that we</p> <p>17 need to do?</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: Not as far as I know, no. So that, I think,</p> <p>19 does conclude the business of the day.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>21 Well, then, I will look forward to seeing you all --</p> <p>22 or at least those of you who are going to be back</p> <p>23 here -- at 9.30 on 3 September.</p> <p>24 As I say, if you can have a holiday, I hope you</p> <p>25 enjoy it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 you from here, and you ought to realise that you are not</p> <p>2 going to be caught on camera, standing where you are.</p> <p>3 So if you wish to address me, would you like to come up</p> <p>4 here?</p> <p>5 MR MANSFIELD: Yes, certainly.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You can pretend you are a witness</p> <p>7 for a moment.</p> <p>8 MR MANSFIELD: I am much obliged. It will only take</p> <p>9 a moment.</p> <p>10 Yes, sir, it is a request from the families that</p> <p>11 I represent, and I think others as well. In a sense, it</p> <p>12 is foreshadowing what you have just said for September.</p> <p>13 There is a widespread feeling amongst the families</p> <p>14 of a sense of urgency, and that urgency relates to the</p> <p>15 possibility of helping other communities who live in</p> <p>16 tower blocks very similar to the one that they were in,</p> <p>17 all over the United Kingdom.</p> <p>18 The urgency is this: the evidence that you have</p> <p>19 heard so far gives rise to, we would contend, some</p> <p>20 urgency. Not only that, but also some obvious -- and we</p> <p>21 say manifestly obvious -- possible recommendations that</p> <p>22 obviously could wait until the interim report's</p> <p>23 publication, or just before, but the risk there is that</p> <p>24 another nine months would go by.</p> <p>25 So we would ask, would you be prepared in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 (3.15 pm)</p> <p>2 (The hearing adjourned until 9.30 am on Monday,</p> <p>3 3 September 2018)</p> <p>4</p> <p>5 I N D E X</p> <p>6 SHARON DARBY (continued)1</p> <p>7 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY1</p> <p>8 (continued)</p> <p>9</p> <p>10 STUART BEALE (sworn)40</p> <p>11 Questions by MR KINNIER40</p> <p>12</p> <p>13 CHRISTOPHER BATCHELDOR (sworn)91</p> <p>14 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY91</p> <p>15</p> <p>16 Housekeeping176</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 184</p>

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