

<p>1 Monday, 23 July 2018</p> <p>2 (10.00 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, good morning, everyone.</p> <p>4 Welcome to today's hearing.</p> <p>5 As you will see, work has been going on in the</p> <p>6 hearing room over the weekend. You are all on stage</p> <p>7 now! I hope it does actually improve the visibility and</p> <p>8 the audibility of the proceedings.</p> <p>9 If you find any of the lighting or any other aspect</p> <p>10 a problem, will you let me or one of my team know and</p> <p>11 we'll see what we can do to get it modified.</p> <p>12 Good. Yes.</p> <p>13 MR KINNIER: Sir, good morning. With your permission, may</p> <p>14 I call Mr Stephen O'Donoghue.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>16 STEPHEN O'DONOGHUE (sworn)</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr O'Donoghue.</p> <p>18 I think you may need to be a little closer to the</p> <p>19 microphone. We'll see how it goes. They will tell us</p> <p>20 if they can't hear you properly. That will be all</p> <p>21 right, I think.</p> <p>22 Yes, Mr Kinnier.</p> <p>23 Questions by MR KINNIER</p> <p>24 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>25 Would you please confirm your name?</p> <p>Page 1</p>	<p>1 Q. Now, are you content that those documents stand as your</p> <p>2 evidence to the inquiry?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Mr O'Donoghue, because you have provided a statement and</p> <p>5 a contemporaneous note, I am not going to take you</p> <p>6 through each and every line of those documents; I just</p> <p>7 want to draw out certain topics that arise in both of</p> <p>8 them.</p> <p>9 Now, if my questions aren't clear, that's my fault.</p> <p>10 If they aren't clear, simply say so and I'll rephrase it</p> <p>11 so I give you a clear question.</p> <p>12 Now, at any stage, if you require a break, please</p> <p>13 say so.</p> <p>14 Finally, if you feel more comfortable giving</p> <p>15 evidence in shirtsleeves, that's absolutely fine and</p> <p>16 please don't hesitate to take your jacket off.</p> <p>17 A. Thank you.</p> <p>18 Q. First of all, Mr O'Donoghue, may I deal with some basic</p> <p>19 facts.</p> <p>20 How long have you been a firefighter?</p> <p>21 A. Just over 20 years.</p> <p>22 Q. And how long have you been at Red Watch at Chiswick?</p> <p>23 A. 12 years.</p> <p>24 Q. The first topic I'd like to discuss with you is training</p> <p>25 and your practical experience. If I could ask you to</p> <p>Page 3</p>
<p>1 A. My name is Steve O'Donoghue.</p> <p>2 Q. First of all, thank you very much for coming along today</p> <p>3 to give evidence; it's very much appreciated.</p> <p>4 First of all, with the procedural matters, can you</p> <p>5 confirm that you provided a witness statement to the</p> <p>6 police?</p> <p>7 A. I did.</p> <p>8 Q. And if you turn to the blue folder which is immediately</p> <p>9 in front of you, hopefully behind the first tab is</p> <p>10 a copy of that statement; is that right?</p> <p>11 A. Correct.</p> <p>12 Q. Have you read its contents recently?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Do you confirm the contents are true?</p> <p>15 A. I do.</p> <p>16 Q. If you turn over in that file to the next tab, hopefully</p> <p>17 you'll find a copy of the contemporaneous note you</p> <p>18 prepared.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. I'm grateful. Have you read that document recently as</p> <p>21 well?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you confirm the contents of that document are true as</p> <p>24 well?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, I do.</p> <p>Page 2</p>	<p>1 turn to your witness statement, page 1 of that document,</p> <p>2 the third paragraph and third line, which starts,</p> <p>3 "Ongoing training", it says:</p> <p>4 "Ongoing training as a Firefighter in the LFB</p> <p>5 consists of drills, lectures and specific training in</p> <p>6 different areas including first aid ... With regards to</p> <p>7 training for high rise flats we have a training site at</p> <p>8 GREEN DRAGON LANE which has 5 blocks and 24 stories for</p> <p>9 us to practice in."</p> <p>10 First of all, what lectures have you received in</p> <p>11 relation to high-rise fires?</p> <p>12 A. After the Lakanal House fire, we did a back to basics</p> <p>13 scheme where we went -- I think it was Hillingdon fire</p> <p>14 station that we went to. We did a practical session</p> <p>15 outside in how we should arrive, which equipment we</p> <p>16 should use to take up to the relevant -- not to the fire</p> <p>17 floor, but two floors below.</p> <p>18 After we did the practical, we had a classroom</p> <p>19 session and we were given information there to learn --</p> <p>20 because after Lakanal House, the procedures for the</p> <p>21 high-rise policy note was changed and a policy was made.</p> <p>22 Q. Can you remember now what those changes were?</p> <p>23 A. Before, we wouldn't go up with -- we'd go up to the fire</p> <p>24 floor and, if need be, we would plug in with our</p> <p>25 45-millimetre jet hose, we wouldn't do it two floors</p> <p>Page 4</p>

<p>1 below, and that was the major change for our safety, 2 that we would plug in two floors below and have enough 3 hose to extend to the fire floor and the fire flat. 4 Q. Have you had other lectures -- 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. -- dealing with such phenomena as the coanda effect, 7 for example? 8 A. That was the first time I'd heard of that, where the 9 wind up the side of high-rise building can move around 10 like this (Indicates) and take the fire a lot faster up 11 the side of the building. If there's open windows with 12 net curtains and other materials that are combustible 13 it -- and it could not only go straight up, but sideways 14 as well. 15 Q. When was the first time you'd heard of the coanda 16 effect? 17 A. Then. 18 Q. Then? 19 A. Then, yes. 20 Q. Had you had any lectures that deal with breach of 21 compartmentation and how best to deal with it if there 22 has been a breach? 23 A. As best as I can understand, you would dynamically risk 24 assess -- if the fire had moved to another compartment, 25 you would dynamically risk assess it and put in place</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 Now, what training did you receive as to how 2 different chemicals and other substances performed when 3 on fire? 4 A. At basic training at Southwark College, the first three 5 months, they would use stuff like Bunsen burners to show 6 the different flame effects and the different heat and 7 how pure the fuel was. 8 But also, going back to school, science lectures, 9 when they burnt magnesium, that burnt white hot and 10 sparkled. That kind of history sort of played a part in 11 what I've written there 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I remember that too. 13 MR KINNIER: Had you received any training on the particular 14 risks posed by exterior cladding, for example? 15 A. No, sir. 16 Q. Had you received any training on the materials that 17 could be contained within exterior cladding and how they 18 reacted to fire? 19 A. I don't believe so. 20 Q. Given your assessment on arriving at the tower that 21 chemicals or some other substances were involved, what 22 effect did that view have on, first of all, your 23 assessment of whether the fire at the tower could be 24 extinguished or contained? 25 A. I was very worried. I was very worried that it couldn't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 a plan to deal with that separate fire. 2 Q. It may be people listening in -- how would you best 3 define a dynamic risk assessment for people who are 4 unfamiliar with the term? 5 A. Taking in all the resources that you have, do you have 6 enough manpower, is there enough trucks there, and can 7 you safely move to tackle the next fire? 8 Q. Would your consideration of breach of compartmentation 9 deal with such issues as when and how to effect 10 a partial or total evacuation from a building? 11 A. No. 12 Q. You've mentioned a number of lectures over a number of 13 topics that you've been provided with; who tends to give 14 those lectures to you? 15 A. Usually it's done on -- at Chiswick, Chiswick Red Watch, 16 we do our lectures on our night shifts. Chris Churchill 17 is our crew manager and he provides the lectures, takes 18 the lead. 19 Q. Now, could I ask you to turn to page 3 in your witness 20 statement. It's the first substantive paragraph on that 21 page and the fourth to fifth lines, which starts with 22 the word "However". It says: 23 "... however the flames appeared to be white. This 24 made me think it was quite a hot fire with either 25 chemicals or other substances burning."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 be contained. 2 Q. And -- 3 A. When I seen the ferocity and the size of it when I first 4 turned up and the side of the building. 5 Q. Was that view one you passed on to others -- 6 A. That was my own personal view and opinion. 7 Q. When you attended, did other people express similar 8 concerns along the lines you've just set out? 9 A. Yes, with, shall we say, different language. 10 Q. Yes. More robust -- 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. -- end of the Anglo-Saxon range. 13 Now, given your views that chemicals or other 14 substances may be involved, what view did you take as to 15 the need for the evacuation of residents when you 16 attended the tower? 17 A. That would not be my decision. 18 Q. Although it may not have been your decision, did you, on 19 the basis of your own experience, form a view as to when 20 and whether it would be necessary to evacuate? 21 A. As the fire went on, as the incident continued, my own 22 personal opinion was that, yes, I think in this case, 23 where we're just used to fighting one compartment fire 24 in a tower block, when I realised and seen the ferocity 25 and the speed, it did cross my mind that a tactical</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 withdrawal or a phased evacuation could be a good thing.</p> <p>2 Q. On the basis --</p> <p>3 A. Not knowing the conditions inside though.</p> <p>4 Q. How would you conduct a phased evacuation? How would</p> <p>5 you have done it?</p> <p>6 A. Well, I wouldn't personally know how to go about it.</p> <p>7 How could you possibly contact each of the people</p> <p>8 without going and knocking on doors?</p> <p>9 Q. In your career thus far, had you ever had the need to</p> <p>10 effect a partial or total evacuation of a high-rise</p> <p>11 building?</p> <p>12 A. Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>13 Q. Mr O'Donoghue, may I now ask you questions about Green</p> <p>14 Dragon Lane?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Now, will your drills for high-rise fires only take</p> <p>17 place at Green Dragon Lane or do they take place</p> <p>18 somewhere else as well?</p> <p>19 A. Well, we've done it at Acton fire station in the last</p> <p>20 year, I think, it was another back to basics with Group</p> <p>21 Manager Ben Moore in charge, again with the physical</p> <p>22 side first and questions after. But it's only been once</p> <p>23 at Green Dragon Lane did we go and do a drill, and it</p> <p>24 was at walk-through speed, but with the same Brigade</p> <p>25 attendance that will normally turn up at a fire.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 A. Not to my knowledge. It was just the practical side of</p> <p>2 the firefighting, getting the right equipment at the</p> <p>3 right time.</p> <p>4 Q. Was there a search and rescue element to the drill or</p> <p>5 not?</p> <p>6 A. I can't remember if it was on the fire floor because</p> <p>7 I believe I was downstairs in the fire lobby.</p> <p>8 Q. Now, the next topic I'd like to turn to is the topic of</p> <p>9 section 7(2)(d) visits.</p> <p>10 A. Okay.</p> <p>11 Q. Have you carried out any such visits to the Green Dragon</p> <p>12 Lane estate?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. What did they entail? What were you looking for on each</p> <p>15 occasion? Not on each occasion, but what generally were</p> <p>16 you looking for?</p> <p>17 A. I've been in the job, as I said, 20 years. When I first</p> <p>18 started doing 7(2)(d) visits, we would check times and</p> <p>19 dates of the firefighting media, extinguishers, hose</p> <p>20 reels, we would check dates on stuff like that. But now</p> <p>21 when I've done a 7(2)(d) at --</p> <p>22 Q. Green Dragon --</p> <p>23 A. -- Green Dragon Lane, it was more a familiarisation to</p> <p>24 the layout for us to understand -- if we did have</p> <p>25 a fire, we'd have a better understanding of the layout,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 Q. Am I right in thinking that Green Dragon Lane is in fact</p> <p>2 a housing estate as opposed to a dedicated training site</p> <p>3 for LFB use?</p> <p>4 A. Answer: yes.</p> <p>5 Q. You say there are five blocks and 24 storeys for you to</p> <p>6 practise in; do you mean that each block has 24 storeys?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>8 Q. In terms of escape routes, are they very similar to</p> <p>9 Grenfell Tower, ie a single stairway?</p> <p>10 A. Yes. It's larger, it's wider, and two lifts: one for</p> <p>11 odd-numbered flats, one for even-numbered flats.</p> <p>12 Q. Do any of the towers have external cladding?</p> <p>13 A. Well, they look like they were built in the 1960s or</p> <p>14 1970s and it looks like concrete outside with kind of</p> <p>15 stone pebble-dash. I wouldn't know what's behind that</p> <p>16 exterior.</p> <p>17 Q. You mentioned you had only been to Green Dragon Lane</p> <p>18 once.</p> <p>19 A. I've been there many times but only once for a drill.</p> <p>20 Q. Talking about drills, the drill you carried out then,</p> <p>21 did it assume a breach of compartmentation or not?</p> <p>22 A. No, it was just one fire in one flat.</p> <p>23 Q. And it was contained within that flat?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Did the drill include any consideration of evacuation?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 how we'd deal with it, where the dry riser is, where the</p> <p>2 hydrants are.</p> <p>3 Also, one of the -- I can't quite remember the name,</p> <p>4 but they now have plates and Green Dragon Lane was one</p> <p>5 of the first places to have plates on the outside -- the</p> <p>6 name -- I can't remember the name -- but it's</p> <p>7 information for the firefighters and the officers in</p> <p>8 charge, layouts, where the stairs are, the rescue</p> <p>9 stairs, and firefighting media and lifts.</p> <p>10 Q. Did it have any information such as evacuation plans</p> <p>11 that you identified as part --</p> <p>12 A. Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>13 Q. Paul, might I ask you to turn up policy 633, which</p> <p>14 I think the reference is -- and he has that, almost by</p> <p>15 magic. [LFB00001256]</p> <p>16 First of all, are you familiar with policy 633?</p> <p>17 A. I think we have done it in a lecture.</p> <p>18 Q. And you may recall appendix 1, which sets out a number</p> <p>19 of points relevant to section 7(2)(d) visits.</p> <p>20 Now, first of all, have you seen this particular</p> <p>21 appendix before?</p> <p>22 A. I can't remember, sir.</p> <p>23 Q. Now, when you went on section 7(2)(d) visits, would you</p> <p>24 use a document such as this or a similar document as</p> <p>25 a check-list of things to look for?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 A. Me, personally, I -- the officer in charge or the crew 2 manager would have the paperwork. We would just -- 3 I would be just told to go and check a specific thing. 4 Q. How regularly were section 7(2)(d) visits carried out at 5 Green Dragon Lane, insofar as you know? 6 A. I can't answer that, sir. 7 Q. Mr O'Donoghue, the next topic I want to turn to now is 8 the night itself, your mobilisation and your journey 9 towards the tower. 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. Now, it's a matter of record that you were mobilised at 12 01.26, on the road at 01.30 and arrived at the tower at 13 01.39; does that seem right to you? 14 A. That does seem right. 15 Q. If I can ask you to turn to page 3 of your statement and 16 the first substantive paragraph, first line, which 17 reads: 18 "Due to heavy traffic in the area we had to park up 19 about 200-250 metres away which was about a road and a 20 half from GRENFELL TOWER." 21 Now, could I ask Paul to put up on the screens 22 MET00013078. If we're able to magnify that somewhat ... 23 Looking at that map now, Mr O'Donoghue, are you able 24 to assist us by identifying on the large screen where 25 you remember parking up?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 A. Well, that it had gone into every single flat above the 2 initial fire, the initial fire flat or compartment, 3 where fire had come out of. That's what it suggested to 4 me. 5 Q. When you went to the bridgehead -- 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. -- did you pass on that view to anyone? 8 A. No. 9 Q. Did anyone ask you what was happening on the outside? 10 A. No. 11 Q. Could I ask you to turn to page 4 of your witness 12 statement. It's the first line of the first substantive 13 paragraph on that page. 14 "At this stage the bridgehead was on the 1st floor 15 and being operated by a colleague I know as Paul WATSON 16 from HAMMERSMITH FIRE STATION." 17 Now, could I ask Paul to put up on the screens the 18 LFB's operational response report, which is 19 LFB00001914_89. 20 Mr O'Donoghue, you'll see at the top of that page 21 an entry for 01.58.00. It says: 22 "Firefighter Daoud and Firefighter Donoghue[sic] 23 from Chiswick, Golf 371, Chiswick's Pump Ladder, enter 24 the main entrance and proceed to make an entry into the 25 community room on the ground floor level."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 A. No, sir, no. 2 Q. You go on in the second substantive paragraph back in 3 your statement to say, "We parked next to a fire 4 hydrant". Can you remember where that hydrant was? 5 A. I can't remember the name of the road, no. 6 Q. Okay. Can you remember where the hydrant was? 7 A. It was on the corner. 8 Q. On the corner of the road? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Okay. 11 Did you encounter any problems operating that 12 hydrant? 13 A. No. The hydrant key and bar and hydrant itself had been 14 opened, and the hydrant had been shipped, ie the hydrant 15 had been put in. It was just waiting to be turned on. 16 And you don't do that until commanded. 17 Q. If I may ask you to go back to your witness statement, 18 page 3, the second paragraph, fifth line, where it says: 19 "The fire seemed to be thicker towards the bottom at 20 around the 3rd floor level and I assumed this was where 21 the fire had started. The fire reminded me of a roman 22 candle. It was about 2 windows width wide and 6 23 stories[sic] high." 24 Now, given the width and height of the fire, what 25 did that say to you about compartmentation?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 Does that sound about the right time? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. So in broad terms, you enter the tower roughly half 4 an hour after arriving? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Now, you mentioned that Mr Watson was operating the 7 bridgehead; what do you mean by "operating" in this 8 context? 9 A. Well, Mr Watson, Paul Watson, is a watch manager, and 10 you would have a watch manager, high-ranking officer, 11 running the bridgehead, and he was delegating jobs, 12 telling which firefighters what floor to go to before 13 starting up in their BA. 14 Q. Did you understand him to be in command of the 15 bridgehead at that moment? 16 A. At the time, he was the only white helmet I could see. 17 Q. Did you see any FSG calls being recorded on the walls, 18 boards or any other surface? 19 A. No. 20 Q. Did you overhear or witness how details of FSG calls 21 were being briefed by those operating the bridgehead to 22 those crews who had been deployed into the tower? 23 A. I didn't overhear or see any briefings, though my brief, 24 when me and Tristan got to the front of the line, we 25 were detailed that our job was an FSG call.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

4 (Pages 13 to 16)

<p>1 Q. What were you told?</p> <p>2 A. We were told -- Paul Watson spoke to me and Tristan and</p> <p>3 said, "This is an FSG call for flat 95 on the 12th</p> <p>4 floor, that's what I'm detailing you for you to go to".</p> <p>5 Q. Were you told how many residents were within that flat?</p> <p>6 A. No, but subsequently, I think I'm right in saying it was</p> <p>7 one adult, one child.</p> <p>8 Q. At the time --</p> <p>9 A. I'm not 100 per cent on that.</p> <p>10 Q. But can you remember whether at the time you were told</p> <p>11 that there was a child in the flat?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. You can't remember or you weren't told?</p> <p>14 A. I don't think I was told that.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you see any firefighters carrying extended duration</p> <p>16 breathing apparatus?</p> <p>17 A. At this time, no.</p> <p>18 Q. Could I ask you to turn back to page 4 of your witness</p> <p>19 statement and the first substantive paragraph at the top</p> <p>20 of that page, second line.</p> <p>21 I think the statement describes your colleague as</p> <p>22 "Tristian"; I think his name is Tristan?</p> <p>23 A. Tristan, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. "Whilst Tristan[sic] and I were in the queue we noticed</p> <p>25 some colleagues manoeuvring a 13.5 metre ladder on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 A. Once the ladder was moved and we told the team carrying</p> <p>2 it we were here to help if you needed BA at the top, two</p> <p>3 of them disappeared. I wasn't sure what their plan was,</p> <p>4 but we had to haul the 135 ladder up onto the mezzanine</p> <p>5 floor, which we've never done before.</p> <p>6 Q. Did members of the public help you in that task?</p> <p>7 A. I don't believe that there was members of the public</p> <p>8 around.</p> <p>9 Q. Were you given any information as to particular people</p> <p>10 who may be in the tower from members of the public</p> <p>11 nearby whilst you were manoeuvring the ladder?</p> <p>12 A. Me, no. My colleagues up on the mezzanine floor,</p> <p>13 I believe one of them was Will Murphy from Ealing, and</p> <p>14 he may have gotten information off the public up there.</p> <p>15 But as far as me and Tristan were concerned, once we'd</p> <p>16 hailed the ladder aloft, we thought our job was done and</p> <p>17 we joined the line as it was moving up the steps.</p> <p>18 Q. So you didn't see a rescue being effected or completed?</p> <p>19 A. No, but subsequently, I do believe Will did rescue some</p> <p>20 people.</p> <p>21 Q. When you got back to the bridgehead, did you update them</p> <p>22 on what you'd seen and that you'd essentially helped put</p> <p>23 a ladder up to effect a rescue?</p> <p>24 A. No, we didn't tell anyone.</p> <p>25 Q. Now, the next topic I want to turn to is the FSG in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 outside of the building. We were near the back of the</p> <p>2 queue and so Tristian and I left it thinking we could</p> <p>3 help manoeuvre the ladder and because we might be needed</p> <p>4 as BA wearers during any subsequent rescue on the</p> <p>5 ladder. Initially we tried to use the ladder whilst it</p> <p>6 was on ground level however it did not reach as high as</p> <p>7 it needed to go. So we lifted the ladder up onto the</p> <p>8 walkway near the entrance. It turned out that BA</p> <p>9 wearers weren't required so we rejoined the queue</p> <p>10 leading to the bridgehead."</p> <p>11 Now, asking a blunt question first,</p> <p>12 Mr O'Donoghue: is it normal to break off from a queue</p> <p>13 and go off and do another task without --</p> <p>14 A. Absolutely not.</p> <p>15 Q. An equally blunt question: why did you do it?</p> <p>16 A. I thought I could help. If I was to start up BA and the</p> <p>17 ladder was going into the second or third-floor window</p> <p>18 and there was smoke, I'd be there to help rather than</p> <p>19 having to call someone else. I took that completely on</p> <p>20 my shoulders and made that decision.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you think the ladder was part and parcel of an</p> <p>22 ongoing rescue effort?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Had you seen any issues arising out of the positioning</p> <p>25 of the ladder itself which instigated your decision?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 respect of flat 95 on the 12th floor.</p> <p>2 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>3 Q. If I could ask you to turn to page 4 of your witness</p> <p>4 statement and the second substantive paragraph on that</p> <p>5 page. It says:</p> <p>6 "Once at the bridgehead we were tasked to go to</p> <p>7 flat 95 which was on the 12th floor as the LFB had</p> <p>8 received a Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) call from the</p> <p>9 address."</p> <p>10 Now, we have spoken about the subject matter of the</p> <p>11 briefing that you were given.</p> <p>12 Could I ask Paul to put up MET00015629_001.</p> <p>13 Now, if I might ask Paul to magnify the bit of this</p> <p>14 image where you can see "12" and "95", roughly midway</p> <p>15 down the photograph.</p> <p>16 Mr O'Donoghue, the first question is: do you</p> <p>17 remember seeing this writing on a wall at or near the</p> <p>18 bridgehead before you went up?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Are you able to assist us with any of the information</p> <p>21 which is set out next to the numbers 12 and 95?</p> <p>22 A. 12th floor, flat 95, which seems obvious. I can't make</p> <p>23 out the rest, so I don't think I can help you.</p> <p>24 Q. Are you able to assist us with what the ticks might</p> <p>25 mean?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 A. Maybe that there had been a BA team assigned to go and 2 fulfil that rescue. Maybe. 3 Q. But you can't say for sure? 4 A. Can't say for sure. 5 Q. Okay. 6 Now, if I can ask you to turn to again the second 7 substantive paragraph of your witness statement in the 8 third line from the bottom, you say: 9 "Once we got onto the 3rd floor the stairwell was 10 smoke logged to the extent that I couldn't see my own 11 hand in front of my face. The stairwell itself was only 12 about 3ft wide." 13 First of all, can you remember, what colour was the 14 smoke you encountered at that stage? 15 A. As we started up on, shall we say, the first floor, it 16 was grey and wispy and progressively got darker. 17 On some of the floors as we progressed up, the 18 emergency lighting wasn't working, and that made the 19 area even darker. But it was as if it was -- we had 20 moments of -- not clarity, but grey smoke. That was on 21 the lower floors. As we got up, it was more 22 consistently dark black and thicker. 23 Q. Looking at the smoke conditions you encountered as you 24 went up from the bridgehead to the third floor -- 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 team that wanted -- if there was slight light from the 2 lobby, because they were going into where the front 3 doors were to effect rescues, if it was there to help 4 them come out, so I didn't remove it. 5 Q. Do you remember at that stage, around the area of the 6 third-floor stairwell, was there any equipment or other 7 firefighting equipment on the stairwell itself? 8 A. Yes, sir. My feet was bumping into equipment. 9 Q. Are you able to give us an idea of what equipment your 10 feet were touching? 11 A. Felt like hoses, felt like branches. I think one was 12 another halligan bar because of the metal clanging 13 sound. 14 Q. Are you able to give us an idea of the quantity of 15 equipment that you encountered on the stairwell? 16 A. It depended floor to floor. Some floors had -- I could 17 have missed it, you know, walked by it. It was 18 different on each floor. 19 Q. Now, as you went further up the tower, you came to the 20 fourth and fifth floor. If I could ask you to look at 21 the third substantive paragraph on page 4, where you 22 say, by the stage of the fourth and fifth floor: 23 "The conditions at this stage were very dark and 24 hot. Smoke in the stairway ranged from wispy to dark 25 black and there was a lot of shouting which was required</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 Q. -- that part of your journey, was the smoke wispy grey 2 and then darkening, how would you describe it? 3 A. Wispy grey. 4 Q. How thick was it at that stage? 5 A. Sometimes I could see Tristan, my BA partner, sometimes 6 I couldn't. Sometimes I could see my lamp would hit the 7 wall, sometimes I couldn't. 8 Q. Okay. And how hot was the stairwell on the third floor 9 at that time? 10 A. At the third floor, it was -- because of all the 11 training and fires we've been in, it was bearable. 12 Q. Can you remember whether the door between the stairwell 13 and the third-floor lobby was open or closed at the 14 time? 15 A. On my journey inside the tower, I only remember, 16 I think -- and I'm not sure what floor it was on, but it 17 may be the ninth -- that one of the doors was wedged 18 open with a halligan bar. To my knowledge, even though 19 sometimes I couldn't see, I assumed the doors were 20 closed. 21 Q. Dealing with that door that was kept open -- we may come 22 on to it later -- how practicable would it have been to 23 have removed that bar, thereby closing the door between 24 the stairwell and the lobby? 25 A. Well, I had no idea why it was that, if there was a BA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 by Firefighters to make themselves heard." 2 Now, where you say smoke ranged from wispy to dark 3 black, can you help us describe where on that stairwell 4 between the fourth and fifth floors the smoke was wispy 5 and where it was dark black? 6 A. It changed. It was ongoing. It was moving. It was -- 7 Q. Could you see where the smoke was coming from? 8 A. No, no. 9 Q. Again, do you remember whether the door between the 10 stairwell and the fourth-floor lobby was open or closed? 11 A. I can't remember. I assumed it was closed. 12 Q. Again, do you remember any firefighting equipment in the 13 stairwell on the fourth floor? 14 A. I couldn't say for sure. 15 Q. Could I ask you to turn over the page to page 5 of your 16 witness statement and the first substantive paragraph, 17 the first four lines: 18 "At around the 6th floor we encountered a male 19 Firefighter coming down holding a baby with his own 20 breathing mask over the baby's face. I remember 21 thinking 'good luck mate' and 'hurry up'. I know what 22 the heat and particulates you'll end up breathing in, 23 can do to you. At this stage the lighting in the 24 stairwell was out and the area was only being 25 illuminated from below."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

1 Now, in relation to that passage, the breathing mask
 2 over the baby's face, would BA crews as a matter of
 3 course carry spare masks with them?
 4 **A. Answer: no.**
 5 Q. How practicable is it for a BA wearer to carry a spare
 6 mask with him or her?
 7 **A. It could be done.**
 8 Q. In terms of lighting in the stairwell, how intense was
 9 the light coming from below?
 10 **A. Oh, very, very, very small. Very low.**
 11 Q. Can you remember whether any of the lighting in the
 12 stairwell above the sixth floor was working or not?
 13 **A. To my recollection, it was not working above the sixth.**
 14 Q. Can you remember on which floor the lighting stopped
 15 working?
 16 **A. I'd say the fifth or sixth.**
 17 Q. Now, staying in that same paragraph, eight lines from
 18 the bottom, the sentence which starts:
 19 "The conditions in the stairwell were very hot and
 20 it got hotter as we ascended. On every floor we would
 21 open the door into the lobby area to see if there were
 22 any casualties, and the lobby areas were hotter than the
 23 stairs."
 24 Now, as you ascended from the sixth floor upwards,
 25 can you describe the smoke conditions as you went up

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1 Q. How loud are you shouting?
 2 **A. You don't want me to do it!**
 3 Q. I wasn't asking for a demonstration!
 4 I think I probably asked for that response --
 5 **A. As loud as I could possibly do.**
 6 Q. Okay.
 7 One of the questions that arises is: when you opened
 8 the door to each lobby --
 9 **A. Okay.**
 10 Q. -- were you able to go into the lobby and check on each
 11 of the flat doors to double check?
 12 **A. No, because that wasn't our directive. We were doing**
 13 **that as just an extra thing to see if we could find**
 14 **casualties.**
 15 Q. You said you carried out that task on you thought three
 16 floors as you went beyond the sixth floor.
 17 **A. Yes, it wasn't every floor.**
 18 Q. What particular about those three floors caused you to
 19 open the door to check?
 20 **A. That we were on our own and that we weren't being passed**
 21 **by other BA teams, and that we had time to do it. When**
 22 **other BA teams are coming past, your concentration is**
 23 **with them, so when me and Tristan were on a floor with**
 24 **the lobby door, we thought why not?**
 25 Q. How much time, can you remember now, did you spend

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1 each staircase?
 2 **A. Yes. Incremental increases in thickness of black**
 3 **smoke -- it's no longer wispy, no longer grey, it was**
 4 **completely can't see your hand in front of your face.**
 5 Q. Again, can you describe for us the temperature as you
 6 went from the sixth floor up the tower?
 7 **A. Yes, it just kept increasing.**
 8 Q. When you were going up each stairwell, did you open the
 9 door between the stairwell and each lobby on each floor?
 10 **A. I don't think it was on each floor. I think we did it**
 11 **three times just in case because the smoke was so thick,**
 12 **maybe casualties, residents, had tried to come out, and**
 13 **if they'd fallen because of breathing in it, if they**
 14 **were just there, we could effect a rescue, even though**
 15 **we knew our planned route was to go to the 12th.**
 16 Q. When you opened the door and looked into each lobby, can
 17 you talk us through what you did on each and every
 18 occasion?
 19 **A. Just opened the door, looked in, felt the blast of hot**
 20 **air, shouted with no response. That's as far as we took**
 21 **it.**
 22 Q. Stopping there, what did you shout?
 23 **A. "Hello, anybody there?"**
 24 Q. Now, at this stage, you've got a mask on.
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 checking those three lobbies that you did?
 2 **A. Seconds.**
 3 Q. Now, again, in the same paragraph, you say:
 4 "Some of the doors had been blocked open by
 5 discarded equipment which was letting smoke in. I would
 6 say that the temperature on the stairs was around 200°F
 7 and as we went up it was getting hotter and darker."
 8 Now, you say some of the doors; to be clear, we're
 9 talking about the doors between the stairwell and the
 10 lobbies; is that right?
 11 **A. Answer: yes.**
 12 Q. Again, could you tell where the smoke was coming from?
 13 **A. No, I couldn't.**
 14 Q. Again, a question that's arisen is: why wouldn't you
 15 remove equipment that was propping open doors? Is it
 16 for the reason you gave earlier?
 17 **A. Yeah, for the reason I gave earlier.**
 18 Q. As you were going up from the sixth floor up, were you
 19 able to make out any numbers on the walls identifying
 20 the floor?
 21 **A. No, that was the strange thing. On the lower floors,**
 22 **where the emergency lighting was working, I could see on**
 23 **the walls numbers. But then on other floors, even like**
 24 **up to 5 or 6, there was no numbers, so I was assuming**
 25 **that on the -- that there was -- it was strange to have**

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7 (Pages 25 to 28)

<p>1 numbers on some floors and not on others.</p> <p>2 Q. How were you keeping count of the floors you were on?</p> <p>3 A. I guess we were just assuming.</p> <p>4 Q. Could I ask you to turn to the penultimate paragraph on</p> <p>5 page 5 of your statement, and it says this:</p> <p>6 "On the 9th floor we checked the amount of air we</p> <p>7 had on our gauges. I was reading 90bars and Tristian</p> <p>8 was reading about 120bars. We both started on around</p> <p>9 280bars. At rest a BA would probably last around</p> <p>10 40 minutes however as we were exerting ourselves by</p> <p>11 climbing upstairs, carrying equipment both on our backs</p> <p>12 and in our arms, and with the adrenaline pumping, we</p> <p>13 were using up our air quite quickly. Despite this we</p> <p>14 carried on up."</p> <p>15 At this stage, were you able to judge, given how</p> <p>16 much air you'd consumed, how much time you had under air</p> <p>17 left to you?</p> <p>18 A. When the BA set -- if you're not working very hard, if</p> <p>19 it gets to 84 bar, the emergency whistle and electronic</p> <p>20 whistle will go off. They tell you you have 12 minutes</p> <p>21 left when that happens, which to me, as there wasn't</p> <p>22 a lot of -- too much obstacles to get out, I think</p> <p>23 I would've been okay. So until that went off,</p> <p>24 I wouldn't -- which you shouldn't, in proper procedure,</p> <p>25 you should be out before your low pressure warning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 the paragraph which starts "As we got to the 11th</p> <p>2 floor", it reads this:</p> <p>3 "As we got to the 11th floor I saw Tristian walk</p> <p>4 into a man and a woman carrying towels with their eye</p> <p>5 closed. I have shouted to Tristian 'Tristian get them'.</p> <p>6 Almost immediately I have also walked into a female</p> <p>7 child with brown hair whom I'd say was about 11 years</p> <p>8 old wearing a white top with long sleeves and jeans.</p> <p>9 I grabbed the girl and told Tristian to grab the adults.</p> <p>10 The conditions at this stage were very hot with thick</p> <p>11 smoke limiting visibility. Although we had been told to</p> <p>12 go to the 12th floor I decided that we needed to save</p> <p>13 them and that if we didn't then they and the people in</p> <p>14 flat 95 would die where as we could at least save these</p> <p>15 3 people."</p> <p>16 Now, you'd mentioned earlier that the temperature on</p> <p>17 the stairs was around 200 degrees Fahrenheit in your</p> <p>18 estimate, and at the top of page 6, the conditions at</p> <p>19 this stage were very hot.</p> <p>20 Was it obviously hotter in or about the 11th floor</p> <p>21 than it had been below the 11th floor?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>23 Q. Was the smoke denser or much the same?</p> <p>24 A. It was denser.</p> <p>25 Q. Again, what colour was the smoke?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 whistle goes off, but in these incredible circumstances,</p> <p>2 we were going to carry on.</p> <p>3 Q. As you went up the tower, did you keep the bridgehead</p> <p>4 informed of your progress over the radio?</p> <p>5 A. We tried but no communications would get through.</p> <p>6 Q. Can you remember when the radio communications stopped</p> <p>7 working -- when you couldn't get through, rather?</p> <p>8 A. I don't think it's that they stopped working; I think it</p> <p>9 was that we were getting cut off. There were so many</p> <p>10 people trying to send messages. Once you press the</p> <p>11 button and you were talking, then someone else would</p> <p>12 press the button, your message wouldn't get through; it</p> <p>13 would be stopped.</p> <p>14 Q. So --</p> <p>15 A. I think that was happening, that there was so many</p> <p>16 people trying to do communications that none were</p> <p>17 getting through.</p> <p>18 Q. As you were going up, is it right to say, then, that you</p> <p>19 were actually hearing radio traffic but you couldn't</p> <p>20 break into it?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, just bits and pieces breaking up.</p> <p>22 Q. Were you able to hear incoming FSGs --</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. No.</p> <p>25 Looking at the bottom of page 5 of your statement,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 A. Black.</p> <p>2 Q. Again, just to try and get some detail on this, could</p> <p>3 you see where the smoke was coming from?</p> <p>4 A. No, sir.</p> <p>5 Q. Now, turning to the family that you encountered or the</p> <p>6 individuals that you encountered, can you remember</p> <p>7 whether there was a child on the adult male's back or</p> <p>8 not?</p> <p>9 A. I don't believe so.</p> <p>10 Q. Were the adults you helped to go down the tower able to</p> <p>11 do it under their own steam or did you or Tristan have</p> <p>12 to help out?</p> <p>13 A. As we came to the adults, the girl -- and it was like</p> <p>14 just a small moment of clarity within the black smoke to</p> <p>15 see their faces, and we couldn't believe that we'd come</p> <p>16 across them in the smoke. As I said, I shouted to</p> <p>17 Tristan to get the adults, obviously the more vulnerable</p> <p>18 person being the child. So I just immediately dropped</p> <p>19 my equipment, which was a hose and a branch, to the</p> <p>20 right, grabbed the child up onto my hip, my left hand on</p> <p>21 the inside rail, shouted to Tristan, 'I've got the</p> <p>22 child, you get the adults'.</p> <p>23 I thought, being a child, I thought more vulnerable,</p> <p>24 I have to get down faster, and I knew that would break</p> <p>25 our BA team up, but I wanted to get the child down as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 fast as possible.</p> <p>2 Q. As you were going, can you remember at which floor the</p> <p>3 conditions started to get less smoky and less hot?</p> <p>4 A. Probably about 4.</p> <p>5 Q. Can you remember the time at which you reached the</p> <p>6 bridgehead again?</p> <p>7 A. Well, to my recollection, it was strange because the</p> <p>8 bridgehead was -- it seemed to have been moved from</p> <p>9 where we went in, it was now higher up.</p> <p>10 Q. Where did you encounter it as you went down?</p> <p>11 A. I think it was the third.</p> <p>12 Q. What were the conditions like on the third floor in</p> <p>13 terms of smoke and heat?</p> <p>14 A. There was still wispy smoke down there. It surprised me</p> <p>15 though to come across it because radio communications</p> <p>16 hadn't worked. No one had got through to us that the</p> <p>17 bridgehead had been moved.</p> <p>18 Q. When you decided you were going to take the group of</p> <p>19 individuals down the tower, were you able to radio the</p> <p>20 bridgehead to tell them this is what you were doing and</p> <p>21 effectively you were breaking off from --</p> <p>22 A. I tried once and that was it, I didn't try again,</p> <p>23 because we'd been unsuccessful in our communications</p> <p>24 beforehand, I didn't see why it would work this time,</p> <p>25 but I did try.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 Q. Could I now ask you about once you'd got back to the</p> <p>2 bridgehead.</p> <p>3 Now, if I ask you to turn to page 6 of your witness</p> <p>4 statement, the first substantive paragraph, four lines</p> <p>5 up from the end, it says:</p> <p>6 "We informed the female officer manning the</p> <p>7 bridgehead that we had carried out a rescue but we</p> <p>8 hadn't been able to get to flat 95. I am not sure what</p> <p>9 she did with this information. I also informed guvnors</p> <p>10 that were around (distinguishable by their white</p> <p>11 helmets) and put the message over the radio channel."</p> <p>12 Can you remember whether the female officer recorded</p> <p>13 the result of this rescue?</p> <p>14 A. I believe she wrote it down on a piece of paper. I've</p> <p>15 consulted with my colleague Tristan on this and he</p> <p>16 100 per cent agrees with me that she did. We know who</p> <p>17 she was. She was --</p> <p>18 Q. Can you remember who she was?</p> <p>19 A. Yeah, she was the watch manager from Chelsea.</p> <p>20 Q. Louisa De Silvo?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you know what she did with that bit of paper?</p> <p>23 A. I don't know what she did with that bit of paper, but as</p> <p>24 you can imagine, the worry over the rest of the incident</p> <p>25 and weeks later that our job to go to the 12th floor</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 Q. Could I ask Paul to turn up the telemetry data, which I</p> <p>2 think is LFB00003115. Paul, could I ask you to magnify</p> <p>3 box 70, 7-0 -- or, rather, the boxes around 70, I should</p> <p>4 say.</p> <p>5 Now, you'll see at box 70, reading across from left</p> <p>6 to right, "Chiswick, Daoud, Tristan", and at the far</p> <p>7 right you have tally out at 02.20.</p> <p>8 If you look at the box immediately above --</p> <p>9 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>10 Q. -- you'll see a name, Carl Elsherif.</p> <p>11 Now, is Carl Elsherif based at Chiswick?</p> <p>12 A. He is, he's on the Blue Watch.</p> <p>13 Q. Were you Tristan's only partner that evening?</p> <p>14 A. I was.</p> <p>15 Q. Is it possible the BA equipment has identified the wrong</p> <p>16 person there?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. If I could ask Paul if you could extend the scope of the</p> <p>19 Excel spreadsheet so we can see the end of wear time for</p> <p>20 boxes 69 and 70.</p> <p>21 On the assumption that you are Carl Elsherif, you'll</p> <p>22 see end of wear time, I think, reading across, 02.40.36</p> <p>23 and Tristan at 02.41. Does that sound about right to</p> <p>24 you?</p> <p>25 A. Sounds about right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 wasn't fulfilled.</p> <p>2 Whilst giving my statement, the police officer</p> <p>3 looked into it and assured me that the people from</p> <p>4 flat 12 had been rescued, which was a great relief.</p> <p>5 Q. And --</p> <p>6 A. So I assume the information that we passed to her was</p> <p>7 passed on because a rescue happened.</p> <p>8 Q. Were you given any further orders by De Silvo?</p> <p>9 A. Not that I can remember.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you report the conditions you'd encountered as you'd</p> <p>11 gone up to the tower?</p> <p>12 A. I don't believe so.</p> <p>13 Q. Going back to a more general question about conditions,</p> <p>14 can you describe the effects on hearing whilst your</p> <p>15 wearing the BA equipment? Essentially, how easy is it</p> <p>16 to hear?</p> <p>17 A. You can hear, the actual breathing mask itself doesn't</p> <p>18 cover your ears, but you have a flash hood, if there was</p> <p>19 a flashover, to cover any exposed skin. So it's a piece</p> <p>20 of cotton cloth -- yeah, so it's just a cloth over the</p> <p>21 the ears. So your hearing is impeded but not so much</p> <p>22 that -- not so much that it makes such a difference.</p> <p>23 Q. So you don't feel it impedes your ability to hear --</p> <p>24 A. No, no.</p> <p>25 Q. -- people calling out for assistance?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Could I ask you to turn to page 7 of your witness</p> <p>3 statement and the first paragraph, penultimate line,</p> <p>4 which says:</p> <p>5 "Tristan and I discussed what we should do next and</p> <p>6 we decided to set up a casualty handling area near the</p> <p>7 tower."</p> <p>8 Now, did you seek out any LAS -- that's London</p> <p>9 Ambulance Service -- staff before setting up the</p> <p>10 handling area?</p> <p>11 A. No, and it's something -- on a normal -- if there ever</p> <p>12 is a normal fire -- it was something that would be set</p> <p>13 up. I hadn't seen anything set up close to the tower on</p> <p>14 the side that we broke out, and I thought that was the</p> <p>15 next best thing -- not that I was told to do it by</p> <p>16 an officer, but just 20 years' experience to do it. It</p> <p>17 was later on, once we set up the casualty handling area</p> <p>18 with IEC packs and water and a salvage sheet, that the</p> <p>19 LAS -- because we were probably only 50 metres away from</p> <p>20 the tower. We had some protection from about a 12-foot</p> <p>21 high wall, but then that area then became the -- it was</p> <p>22 like a triage for the ambulance. And I'm afraid also at</p> <p>23 the start it was an area for the body bags.</p> <p>24 Q. Before you set up the handling area --</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 I have been sort of asked to ask you, if that's all</p> <p>2 right.</p> <p>3 One resident at the tower remembers helping</p> <p>4 a firefighter moving a ladder onto the walkway.</p> <p>5 A. Okay.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you remember a slim BME male individual helping</p> <p>7 anyone with a ladder?</p> <p>8 A. No, sir.</p> <p>9 Q. When you were manoeuvring the ladder, going back to that</p> <p>10 point, did you feel that there were an insufficient</p> <p>11 number of firefighters there for the task?</p> <p>12 A. At that time, no, I didn't.</p> <p>13 Q. Why did you think --</p> <p>14 A. I thought -- when we came out of Chiswick fire station</p> <p>15 on the call, on the radio I heard make pumps 10.</p> <p>16 Halfway there, towards Shepherd's Bush, I heard make</p> <p>17 pumps 25, and then as we arrived and just before we got</p> <p>18 off the machine, I heard make pumps 40, which is a lot</p> <p>19 of staff that's going to be there.</p> <p>20 So at that time, then, once the incident moved on,</p> <p>21 and as you say the manoeuvring of the ladder, and the</p> <p>22 amount of BA wearers I could actually see when I came</p> <p>23 out after having my BA wear, I thought at the time there</p> <p>24 was enough resources, but obviously didn't --</p> <p>25 Q. On the benefit of your experience of two decades plus,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 Q. -- did you try and identify a suitably senior LAS</p> <p>2 officer who you could double-check --</p> <p>3 A. Not something we do, no.</p> <p>4 Q. Did you consider contacting the command unit to say what</p> <p>5 you were doing?</p> <p>6 A. Maybe I should've done, but no, I just got on with it.</p> <p>7 Q. Were you able to identify any emergency medical services</p> <p>8 around the base of the tower?</p> <p>9 A. No. You say the base of the tower; I was only at one</p> <p>10 side.</p> <p>11 Q. One side?</p> <p>12 A. Yeah, yeah.</p> <p>13 Q. Could I ask you about the ventilation system and ask you</p> <p>14 to turn to page 9 of your statement. It's the first</p> <p>15 substantive paragraph on that page, the third line:</p> <p>16 "The smoke management system obviously wasn't</p> <p>17 working as in the stairwell as[sic] I couldn't see my</p> <p>18 hand in front of my face due to the thickness of the</p> <p>19 smoke."</p> <p>20 Were you aware of the ventilation system working at</p> <p>21 any time during your --</p> <p>22 A. No, sir.</p> <p>23 Q. -- time in the tower?</p> <p>24 A. No, sir.</p> <p>25 Q. Mr O'Donoghue, there are some further matters which</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 would it have been practicable to use ladders to effect</p> <p>2 more rescues during the course of the --</p> <p>3 A. Only up to as high as they can go, because the 135</p> <p>4 ladder will only go up, as its name suggests,</p> <p>5 13.5 metres. A 9-metre ladder goes up to 9 metres.</p> <p>6 Q. Mr O'Donoghue, I only have probably about five more</p> <p>7 minutes' worth of questions. Are you content for me to</p> <p>8 go through that 5 minutes and then, with the chairman's</p> <p>9 permission, we can take a break?</p> <p>10 A. No, Mr Chairman, sir, I'd like to carry on.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You're happy to keep going?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll do that then.</p> <p>14 MR KINNIER: Another resident on the night of the fire, he</p> <p>15 assisted a firefighter moving a ladder onto the walkway</p> <p>16 again. Do you remember seeing a second slim BME man --</p> <p>17 A. No, I don't sir.</p> <p>18 Q. Now, could I ask you to turn back to page 8 of your</p> <p>19 witness statement and the third substantive paragraph on</p> <p>20 that page, the first sentence, which says:</p> <p>21 "The gas board has arrived as they had to turn off</p> <p>22 the gas supply to the tower as 'blue fires' were</p> <p>23 happening in flats from where gas pipes had burst. The</p> <p>24 gas board had about 8 tenders including JCBs to dig up</p> <p>25 the road to turn off the gas."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 First of all, can you remember what time the gas 2 board attended? 3 A. This I would say -- this is in the afternoon. I would 4 say roughly it is maybe three or four o'clock in the 5 afternoon. 6 Q. What are blue fires? 7 A. What we could see on the building, the building was now 8 charred and black, but there was blue flame as you would 9 get, as I mentioned earlier, from a Bunsen burner. 10 There was blue flame coming from the left-hand side 11 where the gas intake, I guess, the pipe going up the 12 building, had burst at certain areas, and that was quite 13 visible. 14 Q. Did you see any of the blue fires yourself? 15 A. Only on the outside. 16 Q. Can you remember where they were located in the tower? 17 A. It seemed to be at the apex of the corner. 18 Q. On what -- 19 A. On the -- I would say on about three floors. 20 Q. Which floors, can you remember now? 21 A. I mean, above middle. 22 Q. Okay. 23 Do you know what steps had been taken to shut off 24 the gas supply before the gas board attended? 25 A. Answer: no.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 usher, please. 2 (The witness withdrew) 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, we'll break then until 4 11 o'clock, please. Thank you. 5 (10.51 am) 6 (A short break) 7 (11.00 am) 8 (The witness returned) 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr O'Donoghue? 10 THE WITNESS: Yes, Mr Chairman. 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 12 Mr Kinnier. 13 MR KINNIER: Mr O'Donoghue, thank you very much for your 14 patience. I have just one question for you. 15 The error in relation to the telemetry data where 16 you appear to be Mr Elsherif in the datasheet, are you 17 able to explain the error or provide some possible 18 explanations for that error? 19 A. Yes. After you test your set, you have a logbook that 20 you have to sign to say that you have tested your set. 21 For some reason, being distracted, I hadn't signed that 22 book, and it was the previous wearer's name still in it. 23 MR KINNIER: Thank you very much. 24 Mr O'Donoghue, thank you very much for coming today 25 to answer my questions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 Q. Looking at the second sentence there, are you able to 2 explain what tenders you saw? 3 A. JCBs, transit vans, other transit vans, and maybe 4 a flatbed lorry. 5 Q. Can I just go back to one point just to clarify matters. 6 You mentioned earlier in your evidence there was 7 a halligan bar blocking a door; was that on the third or 8 the ninth floor, can you remember? 9 A. I think it was the ninth. 10 MR KINNIER: The ninth, thank you. 11 Sir, that might be a convenient moment for a break, 12 subject to your permission, sir. 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Do you have more questions? 14 MR KINNIER: I have no questions, but it might be -- 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: There might be some more that 16 emerge. 17 MR KINNIER: Yes. 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, Mr O'Donoghue, we're going to 19 have a short break now, 10 minutes or so. Please don't 20 talk to anyone about your evidence during the break. 21 I'm going to ask you to come back at 11 o'clock. 22 Come back at 11 o'clock, we'll see if there are any more 23 questions at that point. There may or may not be. 24 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you, Mr Chairman. 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr Chairman. 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr O'Donoghue, that's all we 3 have for you. Thank you very much indeed for coming to 4 give your evidence. It is really helpful for us to know 5 about your experience and we are very grateful. 6 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, if you would like to go with 8 the usher, off you go. Thank you. 9 (The witness was released) 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, Mr Kinnier -- 11 MR KINNIER: Mr Gillam is the next witness, sir. He has 12 asked to stand whilst giving his evidence, so I'm afraid 13 there will have to be some -- 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So we need a bit of adjustment to 15 the furniture. 16 MR KINNIER: It does, sir. Apologies for the irritation, 17 but might I ask you to rise so those changes can be done 18 and then I will invite you to return. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. I'll rise for 5 minutes or as 20 long as it takes. 21 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir. 22 (11.02 am) 23 (A short break) 24 (11.05 am) 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Kinnier, I think we are</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 ready now.</p> <p>2 MR KINNIER: I think we are.</p> <p>3 May I call Martin Gillam.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>5 MARTIN GILLAM (affirmed)</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Gillam.</p> <p>7 Now, I gather you'd rather stand to give your</p> <p>8 evidence?</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: Yes, please, sir.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Make yourself as comfortable as you</p> <p>11 can then and Mr Kinnier will have some questions.</p> <p>12 Questions by MR KINNIER</p> <p>13 MR KINNIER: Will you please confirm your name?</p> <p>14 A. Martin Gillam.</p> <p>15 Q. Thank you very much for coming to give evidence today;</p> <p>16 it's very much appreciated.</p> <p>17 Now, you have provided a witness statement and</p> <p>18 a contemporaneous note. If you turn to the blue bundle</p> <p>19 in front of you, hopefully behind the first tab you'll</p> <p>20 find your statement dated 21 December 2017.</p> <p>21 A. That's correct.</p> <p>22 Q. Have you read that document recently?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>24 Q. Are the contents true?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 A. That's correct.</p> <p>2 Q. And you're still based at Paddington; is that right?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Could I now turn to consider the issue of your training</p> <p>5 and practical experience.</p> <p>6 Could I ask you to turn to page 3 of your witness</p> <p>7 statement and the second paragraph there, which says:</p> <p>8 "I think there are twelve (12) FRUs in the brigade.</p> <p>9 They carry more specialist equipment. So they are more</p> <p>10 likely to attend road traffic collisions, incidents on</p> <p>11 the tubes etc. There are different skills across the</p> <p>12 brigade but our skill here at Paddington is line</p> <p>13 rescue."</p> <p>14 Then next paragraph:</p> <p>15 "To work on the FRU you have to be a competent fire</p> <p>16 fighter like I am. You either come to a FRU station or</p> <p>17 you transfer into one like I did. Then you have to do a</p> <p>18 fire rescue unit course which is a three (3) week course</p> <p>19 and there is also a separate three (3) day EDBA, extra</p> <p>20 duration breathing apparatus, course. On this course</p> <p>21 they teach you about the EDBA set which is practically</p> <p>22 the same there are just a few differences."</p> <p>23 First of all, are you able to give us an idea of the</p> <p>24 detailed substance of the FRU training you undertook?</p> <p>25 A. The FRU course is a three-and-a-half week course, I did</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 Q. Could you turn to the next tab, and hopefully you'll</p> <p>2 find the contemporaneous note.</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Have you read that document recently?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. And are the contents true?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Are you content that both those documents stand as your</p> <p>9 evidence to the inquiry?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p>11 Q. Now, because you've provided a detailed statement and</p> <p>12 a contemporaneous note, I'm not going to take you</p> <p>13 through each and every line of those documents, but</p> <p>14 simply to discuss particular issues with you.</p> <p>15 Now, if at any time you want a break, please say so.</p> <p>16 Also, if you're more comfortable giving evidence in</p> <p>17 shirtsleeves, that's not a problem either, just say so.</p> <p>18 Finally, on housekeeping matters, if any of my</p> <p>19 questions are unclear, the problem is mine; please say</p> <p>20 so and I'll rephrase the question so it's clearer.</p> <p>21 Now, can I start with some basic details.</p> <p>22 You've been a firefighter for nine years and been</p> <p>23 with the LFB since 2011; is that right?</p> <p>24 A. That's correct.</p> <p>25 Q. At the time of the fire, you were based at Paddington?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 mine based at Park Royal training centre, and that</p> <p>2 covers the different equipment that's carried on the</p> <p>3 fire and rescue unit. It's slightly different equipment</p> <p>4 on there, more heavy duty gear for attending road</p> <p>5 traffic collisions. On our particular appliance, we</p> <p>6 carry line rescue equipment, that's our skill at</p> <p>7 Paddington, and other sort of incidents, for attending</p> <p>8 train crashes, things for police systems, things like</p> <p>9 that.</p> <p>10 So the course entailed going through each of the</p> <p>11 bits of kit on the truck, going through it. Then we do</p> <p>12 practical stuff with it, training with it, a mixture of</p> <p>13 lectures in the classroom and practical based in the</p> <p>14 yard. Then at the end of that course you do a written</p> <p>15 exam and a practical exam.</p> <p>16 Q. Is there a high-rise element to the training you provide</p> <p>17 on the FRU course?</p> <p>18 A. Answer: no.</p> <p>19 Q. Apart from the difference in duration, in terms of their</p> <p>20 use, what are the principal differences between EDBA and</p> <p>21 standard duration breathing apparatus?</p> <p>22 A. An EDBA set would be used for longer duration wears, for</p> <p>23 example maybe something involving sewer rescue. Where</p> <p>24 the travel distance and the travel time between the</p> <p>25 entry control point and the scene of operations is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 longer, we'd utilise extended duration breathing 2 apparatus. The differences being it's a heavier set, it 3 weighs about 12 kilos more, it's got an extra cylinder 4 on the back which are attached, which obviously gives 5 you the extra volume of air, but the principles are very 6 much the same; the testing is the same, and the layout 7 of the bodyguard, the mask, is all identical.</p> <p>8 Q. When you're wearing EDBA, would you carry a spare mask 9 in the event that it's needed for someone you rescue, 10 for example?</p> <p>11 A. Answer: no.</p> <p>12 Q. Would it be practicable for you to carry a spare mask 13 when you are deployed with your EDBA kit?</p> <p>14 A. You could do, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Listening to what you say, is it fair to say that 16 someone who is trained in the use of SDBA would also be 17 able to use EDBA without too much difficulty?</p> <p>18 A. I would say yes to that.</p> <p>19 Q. Going back to your statement at page --</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Sorry to interrupt you, Mr Kinnier.</p> <p>21 If you were to carry a spare mask, how easy is it to 22 attach a spare mask to the existing set?</p> <p>23 A. It's very easy, sir. On the BA set itself, we have 24 what's called a second person connection. If 25 a firefighter becomes either unwell or trapped in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 I know -- I'm familiar with the job because my watch 2 attended it.</p> <p>3 Q. What learning points did you take away? You attended to 4 look at the wet riser; is that right?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, we attended to look at the wet riser and what would 6 happen if that happened again, and would we make use of 7 potentially lightweight portable pumps in the stairwells 8 and other means of getting water to the higher floors if 9 that happened again.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you look at any other aspect of high-rise 11 firefighting procedures and techniques?</p> <p>12 A. Answer: no.</p> <p>13 Q. Mr Gillam, I'd like now to talk about the night, your 14 mobilisation and arrival at the scene.</p> <p>15 Now, if we can just look at some basic facts, first 16 of all, it's a matter of record that you were mobilised 17 at 01.20, on the road at 01.22 and arrived on the scene 18 at 01.35. Does that seem right to you?</p> <p>19 A. Answer: yes.</p> <p>20 Q. On the night, you were in the FRU at Paddington and the 21 call sign is Alpha 216; is that right?</p> <p>22 A. That's correct.</p> <p>23 Q. You were riding with Crew Manager Phil Wigley and 24 Firefighters Roberts, Gonzalez and Harris; is that 25 right?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 irrespirable atmosphere, we can bring in a spare set and 2 that spare set, if there's nothing wrong with the actual 3 set they're wearing, we can plug in the spare mask into 4 what's called a second person connection. There's 5 a separate hose for it. So if we had the spare mask, in 6 theory we could put the mask on a casualty, which 7 I think was done on the night by a colleague of mine, 8 and then plugged into the second person connection on 9 the set.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's very helpful, thank you.</p> <p>11 MR KINNIER: Thank you.</p> <p>12 Turning back to page 2 of your witness statement and 13 the fourth paragraph, the last three lines, you mention 14 there the incident at Trellick Tower. You said:</p> <p>15 "The only reason we went to Trelick[sic] was because 16 the water didn't work so we went to look at the 17 procedures and what we would do in that situation 18 again."</p> <p>19 Now, in terms of learning points, what did you take 20 away from the Trellick Tower fire?</p> <p>21 A. In terms of accuracy, that statement there is a little 22 bit wrong. I was on duty that night but I was riding 23 the fire and rescue unit; we didn't attend the fire at 24 Trellick Tower. But I did attend the visit that came 25 afterwards due to the problems with the wet riser. But</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 A. That's correct.</p> <p>2 Q. Paul, could you put up on the screen LFB00001914_100 and 3 the second box from the top.</p> <p>4 Is that the type of FRU you were riding on the 5 night?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. For the avoidance of doubt and so people understand, 8 what are the principal functions of an FRU?</p> <p>9 A. An FRU is a rescue unit, so it doesn't carry ladders and 10 it doesn't have any water on board, it doesn't have 11 hoses or branches on board. It's not necessarily for 12 firefighting. It carries a larger range of equipment 13 and more complex incidents, road traffic collisions, 14 train crashes, people under trains, incidents of that 15 nature, and at Paddington we have line rescue as 16 a skill, so we might get called to persons threatening 17 to jump or someone stuck up a crane, incidents like 18 that.</p> <p>19 Q. Would it carry ground monitors and lightweight portable 20 pumps?</p> <p>21 A. Answer: no.</p> <p>22 Q. Turning back to page 4 of your witness statement and the 23 first substantive paragraph, the fourth line, you say 24 this:</p> <p>25 "... a message had come up on the MDT, mobile data</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 terminal, that said FRU was no longer required so we</p> <p>2 pulled over for a minute. Then Phil [Wigley] just</p> <p>3 clarified it on the main scheme radio, called control up</p> <p>4 'do you still require us for this incident?' and they</p> <p>5 said 'yes proceed' ..."</p> <p>6 Now, you say you pulled over for a minute; can you</p> <p>7 now remember precisely how long it took for the</p> <p>8 clarification to be sought or provided?</p> <p>9 A. Yes, I can remember that part specifically.</p> <p>10 The FRU was mobilised at make pumps eight, along</p> <p>11 with the pump ladder, which Watch Manager Collins was</p> <p>12 riding, and we were behind the pump ladder on our way to</p> <p>13 the incident, and on the handheld radio the governor got</p> <p>14 over that a message had appeared on the MDT that we were</p> <p>15 no longer required. I couldn't see that message because</p> <p>16 I'm riding in the back of the truck.</p> <p>17 So Phil, who was -- Crew Manager Wigley was in</p> <p>18 charge of that truck that night. We pulled over, he got</p> <p>19 control on the main scheme radio and just to clarify</p> <p>20 whether we were still required to attend. They said</p> <p>21 answer: yes.</p> <p>22 So that whole process probably took around</p> <p>23 2 minutes.</p> <p>24 Q. Now, in terms of its operation, how reliable is the MDT?</p> <p>25 A. Normally pretty reliable.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 Could I ask you to look at page 5 and the second</p> <p>2 substantive paragraph on that page, line 4 onwards. You</p> <p>3 said this:</p> <p>4 "You could see [the fire] was spreading up the</p> <p>5 building but it just looked like it was external,</p> <p>6 because it was just external, it just looked like it got</p> <p>7 the cladding."</p> <p>8 Did you think the cladding was involved at the time?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. What was it about your knowledge of cladding that</p> <p>11 allowed you to form that view?</p> <p>12 A. I could see the rest of the building and I could see</p> <p>13 that that window and the window directly above it were</p> <p>14 involved and that something was burning above it, and</p> <p>15 obviously looking at the rest of the building, I could</p> <p>16 identify that that was cladding that was alight.</p> <p>17 Q. Are you aware that one of the purposes of cladding is</p> <p>18 waterproofing?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. And that because of that, is it your view that it would</p> <p>21 be difficult to get water to penetrate the cladding in</p> <p>22 order to extinguish any fire or contain any fire?</p> <p>23 A. I don't know. I wouldn't want to speculate on that.</p> <p>24 Q. Staying with this paragraph, the final three lines:</p> <p>25 " I honestly thought we would get it. The turntable</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 Q. If I can now turn to the question of access problems.</p> <p>2 In the second half of page 4 of your witness</p> <p>3 statement and most of page 5, you set out in detail the</p> <p>4 various parked cars, et cetera, that hindered your</p> <p>5 access to the tower.</p> <p>6 Can you now remember how long it took you to</p> <p>7 manoeuvre around these various obstacles?</p> <p>8 A. I'd say at least 2 to 3 minutes. The FRU is slightly</p> <p>9 longer at the back, maybe another metre or so,</p> <p>10 1.5 metres longer than a normal appliance. Dean was</p> <p>11 driving and he couldn't get around the turn, so we had</p> <p>12 to bounce two cars out the way on the corner, so</p> <p>13 a couple of minutes at least.</p> <p>14 Q. Looking back at page 5, the final paragraph, and six</p> <p>15 lines up from the bottom, you say:</p> <p>16 "The hydrant was on the corner of Grenfell Road and</p> <p>17 Bomore Road on the right."</p> <p>18 Once the hydrant was operational, do you know what</p> <p>19 the water pressure was like? Was it adequate or not?</p> <p>20 A. I can't answer that. I helped lay out the hose for the</p> <p>21 pump from the hydrant. I didn't test the hydrant before</p> <p>22 it was plugged in.</p> <p>23 Q. Now, I'd like to ask you questions about the nature of</p> <p>24 the fire that you perceived when you first arrived at</p> <p>25 the tower.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 ladder (TL) was gonna put the water on that and it's</p> <p>2 going to go. When they said about the line I thought</p> <p>3 'oh yeah we will be able to get that.'</p> <p>4 Now, to be clear, the phrase, "we would get it", do</p> <p>5 you mean extinguish the fire?</p> <p>6 A. Answer: yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Given the rate of the spread of the fire you'd noticed</p> <p>8 over the course of 10 minutes or so, why did you think</p> <p>9 the turntable ladder would succeed in extinguishing the</p> <p>10 fire?</p> <p>11 A. Looking at the statement, the way that's written, my</p> <p>12 opinion was that the TL would put water on from the</p> <p>13 bottom, as far as it could reach, and that our job from</p> <p>14 the roof with the line would be putting water down onto</p> <p>15 the job. So with the two, with the water coming from</p> <p>16 underneath and above, I thought we'd get it.</p> <p>17 Q. When you're talking about the line here, to be clear,</p> <p>18 what are you talking about?</p> <p>19 A. Sorry, like I said, our skill at Paddington is line</p> <p>20 rescue, so line is a Brigade terminology for rope. So</p> <p>21 we basically make ourselves safe using rope.</p> <p>22 Q. When you say, "I thought 'oh yeah we will be able to get</p> <p>23 that'", what did you mean by that?</p> <p>24 A. That we'd be able to put it out.</p> <p>25 Q. Now, turning over the page to page 6, the last</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 paragraph, you say this at the bottom of the page:</p> <p>2 "After the hydrant and hose, Phil WIGLEY came back</p> <p>3 and said they wanted us to go into the tower and use</p> <p>4 line ups, which is rope access, which we are trained to</p> <p>5 do on the FRU. They said they wanted us to go to the</p> <p>6 roof, find a strong anchor point, tie ourselves off,</p> <p>7 make ourselves safe so if we did slip we are not going</p> <p>8 to fall to the floor and then put a jet down from the</p> <p>9 top of the tower and spray it down because obviously it</p> <p>10 was starting to take the cladding and the TL couldn't</p> <p>11 throw the water high enough to reach the top. I don't</p> <p>12 know who gave Phil that order, I just do as I'm told."</p> <p>13 Just to complete it:</p> <p>14 "So we looked at it and at the time it was a couple</p> <p>15 of flats going and a bit of the cladding on the outside</p> <p>16 but it looked like a doable job. We thought 'yeah we</p> <p>17 could do that.'"</p> <p>18 Now, given what you'd already seen of the fire</p> <p>19 spread, what risks did you identify at the time that</p> <p>20 flowed from applying the line as a means of</p> <p>21 firefighting?</p> <p>22 A. Do you mean risks to ourselves as firefighters?</p> <p>23 Q. Risks to yourselves primarily, yes.</p> <p>24 A. Well, in general, line is not used where there's a fire,</p> <p>25 obviously, because it burns. But looking at the job, as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 in fire situations is the obvious one: it burns?</p> <p>2 A. Answer: yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Now, beyond what you could see with your own eyes, what</p> <p>4 information did you have regarding any fire spread</p> <p>5 within the tower itself at the time you were tasked to</p> <p>6 go up to the roof?</p> <p>7 A. No information, sir.</p> <p>8 Q. Did you have any information regarding conditions on the</p> <p>9 roof itself?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you have any information regarding the means of</p> <p>12 access to the roof?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. Or whether it was obstructed by means of a gate or any</p> <p>15 other device?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. The next topic I'd like to discuss is your arrival at</p> <p>18 the bridgehead itself.</p> <p>19 Could I ask you to turn to page 7 of your witness</p> <p>20 statement and the first substantive paragraph, where you</p> <p>21 say:</p> <p>22 "So we walked into the tower, loads of stuff falling</p> <p>23 everywhere, we got up to the bridgehead which was just</p> <p>24 on the mezzanine at this point. The bridgehead is a</p> <p>25 thing that we set up on high rise incidents, a control</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 a group, as a team, we thought it was an achievable</p> <p>2 task. And obviously you have to take a certain element</p> <p>3 of risk in the nature of the job, and especially at that</p> <p>4 incident.</p> <p>5 Q. Did you question the feasibility of the task?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Did others question the feasibility of the --</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If I've understood it correctly, the</p> <p>10 purpose of the line was really to tie you on to the</p> <p>11 building when you got to the top; is that right?</p> <p>12 A. That's correct, sir. The purpose of the line would be</p> <p>13 to -- we've got three systems that we can use: work</p> <p>14 restraint, positioning and fall arrest. So basically we</p> <p>15 took all the equipment that we needed. The aim was to</p> <p>16 get to the roof, identify what we had to maybe use as</p> <p>17 tie off points, whatever, make ourselves safe, and then</p> <p>18 we were going to lean over and charge the jets and try</p> <p>19 and put water down onto the job.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So you would also have to get hose</p> <p>21 up to the roof of the building as well?</p> <p>22 A. We took hose with us, sir, yes.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>24 A. So the line was there for our protection.</p> <p>25 MR KINNIER: And the reason why line isn't ordinarily used</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 point. In charge of that was Watch Manager Brian</p> <p>2 O'KEEFE[sic] from Kensington. We told him we were</p> <p>3 briefed to go onto the roof. We made the decision that</p> <p>4 we would try and get up onto the roof and then what we</p> <p>5 would do we would start up and go under air on the roof.</p> <p>6 If we go under air there and go all the way up to the</p> <p>7 top we would have nothing left because it was smoky at</p> <p>8 the top. So we knew we would have to be under air to</p> <p>9 lean over the top to put the water down because</p> <p>10 obviously it's going to be coming right in our face. So</p> <p>11 we told Brian what we were doing and then we tried to go</p> <p>12 up not under air. We said that to Brian and he said</p> <p>13 'yeah, I don't really want you to do that but go on.'</p> <p>14 We all had EDBA sets on our back which are Extended</p> <p>15 Duration Breathing Apparatus, so they got two (2)</p> <p>16 cylinders on rather than one (1) which are carried on</p> <p>17 the normal truck. So we have longer. So we had them on</p> <p>18 our backs as well, plus all the gear."</p> <p>19 Now, at that stage, where was the bridgehead?</p> <p>20 A. On the mezzanine. On the mezzanine floor. You go into</p> <p>21 the tower, turn to your right, there's like a glass</p> <p>22 staircase and a mezzanine. On the mezzanine walkway,</p> <p>23 just at the entrance to that.</p> <p>24 Q. What briefing did Mr O'Keeffe give you regarding</p> <p>25 conditions within the tower at that stage?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 A. None. I told him what we'd been tasked with, what Phil</p> <p>2 had been tasked with by the officer in charge. I've</p> <p>3 known Brien a long time, he's been my governor, and he</p> <p>4 had a lot going on then at that time, so I tried to make</p> <p>5 his job a bit easier and just told him what we were</p> <p>6 planning on doing.</p> <p>7 Q. Did Mr Wigley or any member of your crew ask Mr O'Keeffe</p> <p>8 what the conditions were like in the stairwell?</p> <p>9 A. I can't answer that. I was at the front. Someone at</p> <p>10 the back might have asked that question but I didn't</p> <p>11 hear it.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you ask any questions regarding conditions on the</p> <p>13 roof, for example?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. When --</p> <p>16 A. Just on that point -- sorry, sir -- because we saw the</p> <p>17 job from the outside before we went in, we assumed</p> <p>18 nothing was alight on the roof because we could see what</p> <p>19 height the fire had reached, and it hadn't reached the</p> <p>20 roof at that time, sir.</p> <p>21 Q. Were you assuming at that stage that the fire was static</p> <p>22 or not?</p> <p>23 A. Can you explain what you mean?</p> <p>24 Q. Were you assuming that the fire would remain where it</p> <p>25 was when you saw it from the outside?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 particularly want us to go in not under air. Sort of</p> <p>2 expanding on what's said in that part, the idea was that</p> <p>3 we would go to the roof not under air, because obviously</p> <p>4 we need the air up there, not realising that we'd</p> <p>5 obviously -- the internal conditions at that time. So</p> <p>6 the idea was we'd get to the roof not under air and</p> <p>7 then -- our sets were on our back, but we'd actually put</p> <p>8 the face masks on to protect us from the smoke rising</p> <p>9 up.</p> <p>10 Q. As you were the first EDBA crew to be present at the</p> <p>11 bridgehead, did you have a conversation with Mr O'Keeffe</p> <p>12 or anyone else regarding prioritisation of tasks?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. We're going to discuss conditions on the fourth floor as</p> <p>15 you went up the tower, and on page 7, the final</p> <p>16 paragraph of that page, the first sentence starts:</p> <p>17 "So we went up to the fourth (4th) floor."</p> <p>18 Now, presumably, you went from the bridgehead up the</p> <p>19 stairwell to the third floor; is that a fair assumption?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Now, can you describe what conditions were like in the</p> <p>22 stairwell when you first entered it?</p> <p>23 A. I'd say grey smoke, but not -- wispy smoke not that hot.</p> <p>24 Q. How thick was it?</p> <p>25 A. Not that thick. You could see -- I could see my crew.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Can I ask, why did you assume that, given the spread in</p> <p>3 the 10 minutes you had perceived it from outside?</p> <p>4 A. To say we assumed -- I'm just talking about my personal</p> <p>5 opinion, not necessarily that of the whole crew. You</p> <p>6 could see that it was rising, but obviously at that</p> <p>7 point we were on the inside of the bridgehead. Coming</p> <p>8 out afterwards, we'd seen the scale of the spread, but</p> <p>9 at that time we didn't have that information, that it</p> <p>10 was spreading at that speed, so we -- yeah, it would be</p> <p>11 fair to say that we thought we could get to the roof and</p> <p>12 it would be worse but not as bad as it obviously became.</p> <p>13 Q. When you told Mr O'Keeffe about the task to go up to the</p> <p>14 23rd floor, can you remember the precise words he used</p> <p>15 in response or the gist of the words he used?</p> <p>16 A. I think it would be unfair to speculate. There was</p> <p>17 a lot going on, a lot of shouting. To remember</p> <p>18 a specific sentence, no.</p> <p>19 Q. Now, in the paragraph I've quoted, you say Mr O'Keeffe</p> <p>20 said, "Yeah, I don't really want you to do that but go</p> <p>21 on."</p> <p>22 Can you remember, did he not want you to go to the</p> <p>23 roof or was it he didn't want you to not commit under</p> <p>24 air?</p> <p>25 A. I told him we were going to the roof. He didn't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 Q. You went up to the fourth floor. Did you enter from the</p> <p>2 fourth-floor stairwell into the fourth-floor lobby at</p> <p>3 any time?</p> <p>4 A. Answer: no.</p> <p>5 Q. Could you tell where the smoke was coming from?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Can you remember -- apologies, it's a difficult</p> <p>8 question -- how long you spent on the fourth floor</p> <p>9 stairwell before deciding to return back to the</p> <p>10 bridgehead?</p> <p>11 A. Yeah, so we made our way up to the fourth. It became</p> <p>12 apparent pretty quickly that the conditions weren't</p> <p>13 going to allow us to get to the roof not under air, so</p> <p>14 I'd say that was a matter of -- the travel distance</p> <p>15 between the bridgehead and the fourth and back down,</p> <p>16 you're talking maybe a minute, maybe two.</p> <p>17 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>18 Now, you obviously returned to the bridgehead.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Put the EDBA on.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Tallied out.</p> <p>23 If I could ask Paul to turn up --</p> <p>24 A. Sorry, the EDBA was already on; we just put the masks</p> <p>25 on.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 Q. Put the mask on.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Could I ask Paul to turn to the telemetry data,</p> <p>4 LFB00003115, and box 40, and you'll see hopefully there,</p> <p>5 if that could be magnified a bit more, the tally-out</p> <p>6 time appears to be 01.56. Does that sound about right?</p> <p>7 A. Answer: yes.</p> <p>8 Q. When you returned to the bridgehead, did you inform</p> <p>9 Mr O'Keeffe or anyone else of the conditions you'd</p> <p>10 encountered on the stairwell going up to the fourth</p> <p>11 floor?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, we had a brief conversation along the lines of,</p> <p>13 "Bri, it's too smoky, we've got to go under air",</p> <p>14 something along those lines, and he said, "Go on then".</p> <p>15 Q. Who of your crew had that conversation?</p> <p>16 A. Me.</p> <p>17 Q. With Mr O'Keeffe?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Now, my next topic is your second attempt to go up the</p> <p>20 tower. If I could ask you to turn to page 9 of your</p> <p>21 witness statement, the first paragraph, first sentence,</p> <p>22 which says:</p> <p>23 "So we have started going up again from the</p> <p>24 mezzanine and its[sic] proper smoky but it's not too hot</p> <p>25 at this point. It's hot but not too bad. The stairwell</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 Q. Can you describe the temperature as you went from the</p> <p>2 fourth to the 11th floor; did it stay constant, did it</p> <p>3 increase or decrease?</p> <p>4 A. I can't remember, sorry.</p> <p>5 Q. You mentioned lighting in the stairwell; as you went</p> <p>6 from the fourth to the 11th floor, can you remember</p> <p>7 whether the stairwell was lit all the way up or</p> <p>8 partially?</p> <p>9 A. It wasn't lit. I'd say after about the the fourth floor</p> <p>10 there was no lighting.</p> <p>11 Q. Now, when you met Mills and Campbell did you talk with</p> <p>12 either or both of them?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Who started the conversation, was it you or they?</p> <p>15 A. That bit's a bit of a blur, but I can remember Millsy</p> <p>16 telling me that they couldn't get to the lady they aimed</p> <p>17 to rescue on the 20th floor, that he was running out of</p> <p>18 air, so they were going out.</p> <p>19 Q. Did they give you the flat number?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Did they give you any further details regarding the lady</p> <p>22 who they were seeking to rescue?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Was there any mention whether she was vulnerable or not?</p> <p>25 A. No. At that point, our plan wasn't to go to the 20th</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 was narrow, from the railing to the wall it was about a</p> <p>2 meter and a half."</p> <p>3 To be clear, are you saying that immediately on</p> <p>4 leaving the bridgehead on the mezzanine conditions had</p> <p>5 become smoky and hot?</p> <p>6 A. No. Sorry, that's a bit confusing.</p> <p>7 It was like wispy smoke. Not at the bridgehead,</p> <p>8 like immediately when you went up to the next floor,</p> <p>9 maybe the third and the fourth, you'd get to the grey</p> <p>10 wispy smoke again.</p> <p>11 Q. If we could look at the second paragraph on page 9, you</p> <p>12 say:</p> <p>13 "So we got to about the eleventh (11th) and twelfth</p> <p>14 (12th) floor ..."</p> <p>15 Stopping there, can you describe smoke conditions as</p> <p>16 you went from the fourth up into the 11th floors?</p> <p>17 A. They got worse. I'd say visibility was reduced but</p> <p>18 partially because partly because there wasn't much</p> <p>19 lighting. You could make out the outlines of your crew.</p> <p>20 You couldn't really see them that well. But I remember</p> <p>21 making out Firefighters Mills and Campbell because we</p> <p>22 know them.</p> <p>23 Q. Can you remember what colour the smoke was as you</p> <p>24 ascended up the tower?</p> <p>25 A. Grey.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 floor, we were going to stick to our brief, which was to</p> <p>2 make it to the roof.</p> <p>3 Q. Now, on page 9, at the bottom half of the page, you</p> <p>4 describe your progress up the tower.</p> <p>5 As you went from the 11th up until the 15th or 16th</p> <p>6 floors, can you describe the smoke conditions as you</p> <p>7 went between those floors?</p> <p>8 A. I'd say they got a little bit worse, but that might be</p> <p>9 due to -- I'm trying to remember, but obviously we were</p> <p>10 fatiguing at that point, we'd obviously climbed 15</p> <p>11 flights with the equipment we're carrying, so -- I'd say</p> <p>12 no, sorry.</p> <p>13 Q. Can you remember much about the temperature?</p> <p>14 A. Not really, no.</p> <p>15 Q. Can you remember whether any of the doors from the</p> <p>16 stairwell to individual lobbies were open or not?</p> <p>17 A. I don't recall seeing any open at that time, at that</p> <p>18 height, anyway.</p> <p>19 Q. Now, somewhere between the 15th and 16th floors, you've</p> <p>20 decided there was no realistic prospect of getting to</p> <p>21 the roof; is that a fair summary?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. What were the principal reasons why you came to that</p> <p>24 view?</p> <p>25 A. Because initially the plan was to get up there not under</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p>

17 (Pages 65 to 68)

<p>1 air, so we've -- the reason was we have to allow turn 2 around time in our sets, a safety margin to get back 3 down and out safely. So we realised pretty quick that 4 we weren't going to be able to get up onto the roof, 5 carry out the task we'd been given and get down all in 6 the same wear of that particular set.</p> <p>7 Q. When you came to that decision as a crew, can you 8 remember, for example, how much air you had left?</p> <p>9 A. I didn't take a gauge reading at that time. I can't 10 remember now.</p> <p>11 Q. Can you remember in terms of minutes how much air you 12 thought you had left?</p> <p>13 A. It felt like we'd been there about 15 minutes, so I knew 14 we'd have another 20 minutes, maybe.</p> <p>15 Q. Who suggested that you change tack and seek to rescue 16 the lady that Mills had informed you about?</p> <p>17 A. Me.</p> <p>18 Q. Did the other crew members agree with that?</p> <p>19 A. At the time, I thought they did. Having discussed it, 20 I think a few weren't aware, but I remember specifically 21 thinking that we need to get up there to get to the lady 22 that they couldn't rescue.</p> <p>23 Q. Could I ask you to turn to page 10 of your statement and 24 the first substantive paragraph, the fourth line. You 25 say:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 A. One of the crew with the BARIE set.</p> <p>2 Q. Are you able to help us, was it that there was no 3 response at all or was it that they couldn't crack 4 through the traffic, or what?</p> <p>5 A. I'm not sure. I remember when Crew Manager Wigley said 6 that that wasn't our brief, we discussed that we'd radio 7 down and let them know we were changing what we were 8 doing. I don't know if they got a response back from 9 that.</p> <p>10 Q. If comms are notoriously bad in concrete buildings, when 11 there's a change in task or brief, as happened here, how 12 do you inform the bridgehead or entry control of that 13 change, or indeed where you are?</p> <p>14 A. Well, this is obviously quite a unique incident in terms 15 of travel distance and breakdown in comms, but if it was 16 a house job, for example, you might be able to make your 17 way to the window, shout to them, let them know what 18 you're doing, but in this particular instance we didn't 19 have any way of doing that.</p> <p>20 Q. The next topic I'd like to discuss with you is your 21 arrival on the 20th floor itself.</p> <p>22 Again, if I could ask you to turn to page 10 of your 23 witness statement and the second substantive paragraph, 24 third line, you say:</p> <p>25 "So we got to twenty (20) we couldn't find anyone.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 "We tried to radio down because when you change your 2 brief or you are doing something different entry control 3 should know about it. We radioed down a couple times 4 and nothing because either they weren't getting us or we 5 weren't getting them. It's a concrete building so comms 6 are notoriously quite bad."</p> <p>7 On your way up the tower, had you received any 8 information via the radio regarding FSG calls?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. Had you heard any particular FSG calls before you went 11 up regarding residents on the 20th and 21st floors?</p> <p>12 A. No, but I think it's fair to say -- I didn't have comms. 13 I had a handheld radio but I didn't have a BARIE set on 14 that night, so I wouldn't have been able to hear them 15 anyway.</p> <p>16 Q. May I ask why you wouldn't have had a BARIE set on that 17 night?</p> <p>18 A. Across the machine, there's five EDPA sets. Two of them 19 would've had BARIE on. You don't need them on every 20 set. So two of the crew would've had BARIE and I wasn't 21 one of them.</p> <p>22 Q. Can you remember of your crew who had the BARIE sets?</p> <p>23 A. I think it was Firefighter Gonzalez and Crew Manager 24 Wigley, but I can't confirm that.</p> <p>25 Q. Who would've been radioing down to entry control?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 Andy HARRIS has opened the door that goes into the 2 hallway of twenty (20), nothing, fully smoke logged."</p> <p>3 I appreciate it's difficult at this remove, but can 4 you remember at what time or how long after you left the 5 bridgehead you arrived at the 20th floor?</p> <p>6 A. Accurately, no. I think you'll be able to get that 7 information from the BA telemetry information. It will 8 show you a calming down in the breathing rate 9 potentially of when we stopped at that floor.</p> <p>10 Q. That's useful.</p> <p>11 Now, did you see Andy Harris open the door and go 12 into the hallway of floor 20?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. How far into the lobby did he go?</p> <p>15 A. He just opened the door and took one pace inside. The 16 door was still ajar.</p> <p>17 Q. Did he shout anything and, if so, what did he shout?</p> <p>18 A. Yeah, there was a few of us shouting. I think he just 19 shouted, "Fire Brigade", something along them lines.</p> <p>20 Q. What were the conditions like, first of all, on the 21 stairwell at floor 20?</p> <p>22 A. Smoky. And when Andy opened that door, it let a lot of 23 darker smoke into that stairwell.</p> <p>24 Q. How hot was the smoke that came from the lobby into the 25 stairwell?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 A. It was bearable.</p> <p>2 Q. Now, at that stage, would it have been practicable for</p> <p>3 one or two members of your crew to break off and knock</p> <p>4 on each of the flat doors on floor 20?</p> <p>5 A. Potentially, but I wouldn't have -- personally</p> <p>6 I wouldn't have allowed that to happen.</p> <p>7 Q. Why?</p> <p>8 A. To split a crew -- I wouldn't have split the crew up,</p> <p>9 not at that -- not after what we'd just done, the travel</p> <p>10 distance we'd just done and what we had to go back down.</p> <p>11 I don't think with the guys riding with me that night we</p> <p>12 would've come to that decision.</p> <p>13 Q. So even though you were a crew of five, you wouldn't</p> <p>14 have split into, say, two component groups of two or</p> <p>15 three, for example?</p> <p>16 A. I'd say no.</p> <p>17 Q. Turning back to page 10 and the second substantive</p> <p>18 paragraph, six lines down, you say:</p> <p>19 "Andy HARRIS has opened the door that goes into the</p> <p>20 hallway of twenty (20), nothing, fully smoke logged.</p> <p>21 Fire fighter ROBERTS had gone up one more floor to</p> <p>22 twenty one (21) and there she was. She was lying on the</p> <p>23 mezzanine. The stairs zig zag and she was on that zig</p> <p>24 zag there on the half landing between twenty (20) and</p> <p>25 twenty one (21). So we have gone up there and she was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 Q. Did you try and radio the bridgehead or entry control to</p> <p>2 say that you'd found a woman between the 20th and 21st</p> <p>3 floors and were bringing her down?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, we did discuss getting comms down to the</p> <p>5 bridgehead, yes, but I didn't personally send that</p> <p>6 message.</p> <p>7 Q. Was the message able to get through to the bridgehead?</p> <p>8 A. I don't know.</p> <p>9 Q. You say further down in that paragraph:</p> <p>10 "Afterwards I was a bit upset because I thought if</p> <p>11 she has come from 21 and 22, I asked her if there was</p> <p>12 anyone on them floors and she said no and obviously</p> <p>13 I since found out there was people on them floors and</p> <p>14 people have died but I asked her as that is pretty</p> <p>15 normal because if you find a casualty you are meant to</p> <p>16 sweep round them and check. So I asked her and she said</p> <p>17 'no.'"</p> <p>18 You refer to a sweep around; what would that</p> <p>19 normally involve?</p> <p>20 A. There I'm describing if you are searching -- search and</p> <p>21 rescue looking for casualties, if they're unconscious,</p> <p>22 you'd do a cursory search around them, because generally</p> <p>23 casualties can be found together with their loved ones,</p> <p>24 so you'd spread out and you'd try and search for anyone</p> <p>25 else with them. But obviously in this instance the lady</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 lying on her back against the wall. She was coughing</p> <p>2 and spluttering. She was conscious and breathing,</p> <p>3 alert, knew what she was doing. I spoke to her and I</p> <p>4 asked 'have you got anyone with you?' 'no,' 'anyone left</p> <p>5 on your floor?' 'no.'"</p> <p>6 Taking each element of that, why did Andy Harris</p> <p>7 start to go up to the 21st floor on his own?</p> <p>8 A. That's inaccurate. Andy opened the door on the 20th</p> <p>9 floor. We were all bunched together on that landing.</p> <p>10 And Deano -- Dean Roberts went to go and do the same</p> <p>11 thing on the 21st. So in terms -- when you say breaking</p> <p>12 up, we were literally from the distance of where I am to</p> <p>13 you.</p> <p>14 Q. How did you become aware of the woman on the stairwell</p> <p>15 between the 20th and 21st floors?</p> <p>16 A. As Dean went from the 20th floor to the 21st, as the</p> <p>17 landings go back on themselves on the half landing, the</p> <p>18 lady was lying on the floor. You couldn't miss her.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you or any crew ask the woman which floor she had</p> <p>20 come from?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. Can you remember whether she had a cloth or a towel over</p> <p>23 her mouth or eyes?</p> <p>24 A. No. She had something around her head and I remember</p> <p>25 tying that around her mouth and nose.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 was conscious and breathing and talking so I just asked</p> <p>2 her if she had anyone with her and if there was anyone</p> <p>3 else up there with her, but I'm not actually sure if she</p> <p>4 was a resident of that floor or if she came down from</p> <p>5 higher up or up from down below, I can't help you there,</p> <p>6 sorry.</p> <p>7 Q. Looking back now, at that stage of the night, would it</p> <p>8 have been practicable for some members of your crew to</p> <p>9 go on to the 21st floor and double-check whether there</p> <p>10 were any other people in flats up on that floor or not?</p> <p>11 A. Dean Roberts did open the door to the 21st floor and the</p> <p>12 22nd floor, and I think the 23rd floor -- you'll have to</p> <p>13 ask him -- and he did call out, "Fire Brigade, anyone</p> <p>14 there?" At that time it was hot and smoky when he</p> <p>15 opened them doors, and our firefighting media which we</p> <p>16 took up with us was inside the line bags three or four</p> <p>17 floors below, so we had no protection from the heat and</p> <p>18 smoke of the fire.</p> <p>19 Q. Can you give us an idea of any of the conditions as</p> <p>20 between the 20th and 21st floors?</p> <p>21 A. Inside the hallways?</p> <p>22 Q. In sides the hallways?</p> <p>23 A. Thick black smoke.</p> <p>24 Q. Can I ask you to turn to page 11 and the third</p> <p>25 substantive paragraph, second line. Again, it flows</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 from the answer you've just given:</p> <p>2 "I think fire fighter Roberts had gone up to twenty</p> <p>3 two (22) just to check the doorway in twenty two (22)</p> <p>4 and I could hear people shouting 'fire brigade fire</p> <p>5 brigade' so that was the boys doing that out of my crew</p> <p>6 but no one made themselves known to us and we didn't</p> <p>7 have the hose at this point."</p> <p>8 Now, this may be a question for Mr Roberts himself,</p> <p>9 but when he came back, did you ask him if he had knocked</p> <p>10 on any of the doors of the flats on the 22nd floor?</p> <p>11 A. I didn't ask him that, no.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you ask him whether he'd kicked any of the doors?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. Given the conditions you encountered on the 20th and</p> <p>15 21st floors, to what extent are you able to factor in</p> <p>16 the possibility that people within flats on those floors</p> <p>17 wouldn't be able to shout out or call for assistance?</p> <p>18 How do you factor that into your search and rescue plan?</p> <p>19 A. Sorry, can you explain what you mean?</p> <p>20 Q. Yes.</p> <p>21 It may well be that occupants of flats on the 20th,</p> <p>22 21st, 22nd floors, are for some reason unable to shout</p> <p>23 out or call for help. How do you factor that</p> <p>24 possibility into your search and rescue plan?</p> <p>25 A. Well, you'd send crews specifically to those floors to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 Q. As you go further down page 12, roughly halfway down,</p> <p>2 you say:</p> <p>3 "I've tried to give her some air, I've taken my lid</p> <p>4 off, pulled my flash hood aside and I've tried to get my</p> <p>5 air to her. I've still got my neck loop on, the long</p> <p>6 one, so it is all just a mess. I've tried to put it on</p> <p>7 her face, she is leant over his shoulder backwards</p> <p>8 completely unconscious and I'm trying to put this on her</p> <p>9 face but it's just going everywhere. I started</p> <p>10 hyperventilating and I took a couple lung fulls of the</p> <p>11 smoke in and it just made me worse. So I've put it back</p> <p>12 on me, I've put my lid back on ..."</p> <p>13 Would it have helped if you'd had the spare mask at</p> <p>14 that stage?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Given the height of the building and the conditions you</p> <p>17 encountered, on the basis of your experience on that</p> <p>18 night, could the woman have been rescued from the 21st</p> <p>19 floor if firefighters had only had standard duration</p> <p>20 breathing apparatus?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. If I may ask the obvious follow-on from that: why?</p> <p>23 A. The travel distance was too long. I'm aware of some</p> <p>24 crews that did get to that height, but to bring</p> <p>25 a casualty down, to be working that hard bringing the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 search for residents of them flats. Our brief wasn't to</p> <p>2 do that, and because we'd already come across</p> <p>3 a casualty, we obviously had to bear that in mind in</p> <p>4 terms of time, that this lady was inhaling the smoke.</p> <p>5 So it wasn't -- and we couldn't gain access to them</p> <p>6 halls really without the firefighting media we needed to</p> <p>7 protect ourselves and them, so --</p> <p>8 Q. Put differently --</p> <p>9 A. In respect to that, we didn't factor that in. We just</p> <p>10 called out.</p> <p>11 Q. Can I summarise your evidence this way -- please shout</p> <p>12 if this is unfair -- your priority was bringing the</p> <p>13 woman down to safety?</p> <p>14 A. Answer: yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Now, between pages 11 and 12 of your witness statement,</p> <p>16 you describe the journey down the tower.</p> <p>17 Could I ask you to turn to page 12 and the top of</p> <p>18 the page.</p> <p>19 You say you picked the lady up:</p> <p>20 "... stuck her on my shoulders and I said 'boys</p> <p>21 we've got to move' ..."</p> <p>22 Then you set out what you did.</p> <p>23 Now, at that point, may I ask, are you trained to</p> <p>24 self-diagnose the symptoms of metabolic heat stress?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, we are trained in that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 casualty down, you'd just blow the set out too quick.</p> <p>2 You'd need the extended duration.</p> <p>3 Q. Given your experience on the night, and particularly the</p> <p>4 experiences bringing the woman down the tower, do you</p> <p>5 think if you had remained on the 20th floor, or up</p> <p>6 indeed to the 21st or 22nd floors, you'd have carried</p> <p>7 out a successful search of any flats?</p> <p>8 A. Without firefighting media, no.</p> <p>9 Q. Would you have been able to carry or escort people down</p> <p>10 from the 20th, 21st, 22nd floors?</p> <p>11 A. I'd say as a crew of five taking that lady down, who</p> <p>12 wasn't a particularly big lady, we were on the limit of</p> <p>13 what we could achieve. So maybe one other person. Any</p> <p>14 more than that, we could've got unstuck ourselves.</p> <p>15 Q. One point which has been raised is whether it would've</p> <p>16 been possible to have firefighters in standard duration</p> <p>17 breathing apparatus waiting at the lower landings to</p> <p>18 help bring casualties down.</p> <p>19 Would that have been a practicable option on the</p> <p>20 night?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, potentially, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Could I ask you now to turn to page 13 of your witness</p> <p>23 statement and six lines from the bottom. You say this:</p> <p>24 "Normally, the HART, Hazardous Ambulance Response</p> <p>25 Team, are always at these jobs and they always want to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

1 get involved but they said they weren't allowed to go in
 2 tower jobs and they always want to get involved but they
 3 said they weren't allowed to go in tower so we had to
 4 get the casualties from the tower to them which was
 5 another one hundred and fifty (150) metres, another
 6 minute, whatever, which was annoying."
 7 Were you given a reason why HART weren't allowed in
 8 the tower or to move any closer to the tower?
 9 **A. No.**
 10 Q. Could I ask Paul to bring up the telemetry data again,
 11 and if we're able to scan across to the furthest
 12 right -- sorry, leave it there -- you'll see the end of
 13 wear time 02.21, and scanning slightly to the left to
 14 the tally in to bodyguard, 02.32.
 15 Do those times sound roughly right to you?
 16 **A. Sorry, you've brought up --**
 17 Q. Sorry, I've confused you.
 18 If you look at the end of wear column --
 19 **A. Yeah.**
 20 Q. -- and the bit that's highlighted --
 21 **A. Yeah.**
 22 Q. -- it says 02.21.
 23 **A. Yeah.**
 24 Q. The end of wear.
 25 **A. It sounds a bit short, but if that's what the telemetry**

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1 **is saying, then that's correct.**
 2 Q. If you scan to the left, there's the tally in column.
 3 **A. Yeah, that's accurate. There was a break in -- normally**
 4 **when you withdraw you pick up the tally straight away.**
 5 **We were performing CPR, so we didn't actually collect**
 6 **the tallies from the entry control board, so that would**
 7 **be the time between those two numbers.**
 8 Q. Now, you were concentrating on rescuing the woman,
 9 providing CPR, securing medical assistance.
 10 When did you have the opportunity to return to the
 11 bridgehead? Would it have been at 02.32 or thereabouts?
 12 **A. I didn't actually pick up the tally. So me and**
 13 **Firefighter Roberts went back in -- as soon as we**
 14 **dropped that lady off to an ambulance crew, we went back**
 15 **into the tower. As we walked back in, Crew Manager**
 16 **Stern came out with another casualty, which we assisted**
 17 **him out with, again to the ambulance.**
 18 **And then we went to go in again, but colleagues of**
 19 **ours, Andy Harris and Russell Gonzalez, had gone in and**
 20 **picked up all the tallies for our whole team and were**
 21 **waiting outside at that point, and they basically waved**
 22 **the tallies at us, so we didn't go back in after that.**
 23 Q. So you didn't have an opportunity to brief those at the
 24 entry control point or the bridgehead as to the
 25 conditions you'd encountered?

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1 **A. Not me personally, no.**
 2 Q. Do you know whether any other members of your crew were
 3 able to give that update to people at the bridgehead or
 4 the entry control point?
 5 **A. Well, Andy Russell and Phil came out with us, so I'm**
 6 **guessing -- I can't give an accurate answer to that, but**
 7 **I assume, knowing Phil, he would've.**
 8 Q. Is it likely they would've provided an update as to the
 9 rescue of the woman you found between the 20th and 21st
 10 floors?
 11 **A. Yes.**
 12 Q. Could I ask you now to turn to page 16 of your
 13 statement.
 14 At the top, the second paragraph on that page, you
 15 discuss the fire survival guidance calls.
 16 Can you remember the name of the watch manager who
 17 was providing you with the slips of paper?
 18 **A. I can't give you his name. I don't know him personally.**
 19 **I know he was Lambeth's governor, Lambeth's watch**
 20 **manager.**
 21 Q. You saw Glynn Williams place slips of paper on the
 22 floor; did you see anyone reporting to Mr Williams the
 23 results of any rescue missions in response to any FSG?
 24 **A. No.**
 25 Q. Were you asked to relay any information back to the

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1 command unit, ie whether a crew had been deployed or the
 2 result of any search and rescue task?
 3 **A. No, that wasn't my role. My role was just going from**
 4 **Lambeth's watch manager into the tower and I gave the**
 5 **FSGs to Glynn.**
 6 Q. So simply a runner?
 7 **A. I was -- yeah, a bit later in the chain.**
 8 Q. Could I ask you to turn to page 19 of your statement.
 9 In the first substantive paragraph on that page, you
 10 describe encountering a woman near the side exit that
 11 had been opened up in the tower to allow firefighters
 12 and residents to escape safely.
 13 You say roughly two-thirds of the way down the page:
 14 "t this point she is going mad, kicking, screaming.
 15 I saw DEANO [Dean Roberts], who is a big lad, and I said
 16 'DEANO give us a hand' so he has grabbed her as well.
 17 We are trying to console her but we are saying she has
 18 got to get out. She said 'my daughter my daughter' so
 19 I said 'where's your daughter?' she said 'we have come
 20 down from the 21 floor, flat 183' and he said 'I'll tell
 21 them, we will get your daughter.'
 22 Can you remember what time this event happened now?
 23 **A. I couldn't give you an accurate time, sorry. It's after**
 24 **the -- the access from the tower, we were no longer**
 25 **going through the front, we were going through the side,**

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21 (Pages 81 to 84)

<p>1 an access had been broken through because of the debris 2 falling. So in and around when that access was made, 3 this lady was brought out, and my role was simply just 4 to -- I just took her from the bridge -- down through 5 the debris, because there was a lot of debris falling 6 and sharp objects and stuff on the floor.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you know whether the message was passed regarding 8 this lady's daughter to anyone?</p> <p>9 A. It absolutely was. Dean did it.</p> <p>10 Q. Dean did it. Do you know to whom he passed the message?</p> <p>11 A. I don't know the answer to that, but I have seen the 12 writing on the wall, 183, 21st floor, in white 13 chinagraph on the wall in the tower.</p> <p>14 Q. It might well be we'll have a break in due course and it 15 might well be we can bring up that photograph and 16 discuss it further.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Since you raised it, Mr Kinnier, how 18 do you feel? Are you happy to keep going for a bit?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, I'm fine, sir.</p> <p>20 MR KINNIER: Do you know yourself what steps were taken to 21 rescue this lady's daughter?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Can you remember whether the lady referred to anyone 24 else other than her daughter?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 been taken by another crew. There was lots of 2 firefighters on the ground that can wear EDBA, so 3 they've taken them sets. So our second wear was 4 slightly later than that, I think, 6 am, and those sets 5 came from PEG and we tested them on the scene.</p> <p>6 Q. If we just scan further over to the right, looking at 7 the tally-out time, 05.05, you think that's probably 8 an hour or so later; is that right?</p> <p>9 A. Yes. So the names written here, Dean, Andrew, Russell 10 and myself, we didn't wear the sets at that time, but 11 because we've signed the book, it looks like they're our 12 sets, but our second wear were from sets that came from 13 stores.</p> <p>14 Q. And so doing the best you can, you thought you 15 re-entered the tower around 6 o'clock?</p> <p>16 A. It was 6 am when I went in, yeah.</p> <p>17 Q. How can you be so certain? Obviously it is difficult 18 now remembering. Why are you so certain it was --</p> <p>19 A. Because I remember the sun coming up and thinking I'd 20 better ring my wife.</p> <p>21 Q. Looking back at page 20, the final paragraph, three 22 lines from the bottom of the page:</p> <p>23 "They gave us our brief which was to take a TIC, 24 thermal imaging camera, and as we would go up we would 25 come across some charged lengths of hose with a branch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 Q. Now, the next topic I'd like to discuss with you is your 2 return inside the tower.</p> <p>3 Could I ask you to turn to page 20, fourth 4 paragraph, line 1, which starts:</p> <p>5 "They asked for only EDBA wearers to come forward so 6 we did and they pushed us to go back in again. We went 7 in to another holding area. To get you into the 8 building two (2) police officers would cover you with 9 their shields to get you in through the side entrance. 10 We got to the front and they were like 'have you been in 11 before?' and we were like 'nah' and they were like 'you 12 have' we were like 'yeah we have but we know where we 13 are going.'"</p> <p>14 Now, if I could ask Paul to turn up the telemetry 15 data again, and if we could look at box 191.</p> <p>16 There we see, reading from left to right, second BA 17 wear, your name, almost, I think the surname is spelt 18 incorrectly.</p> <p>19 A. Yes, that's inaccurate, sir. After our initial wear, we 20 went out and completed what's called an A test, so we 21 put fresh cylinders on the sets, and we were told that 22 we would not be going back in straight away without 23 a long break because of obviously the conditions and the 24 work we'd done. So we left our sets up by the leisure 25 centre, and on returning a bit later on, those sets had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 on. We were to take one of them and go to the twelfth 2 (12th) floor. We were to fight the fire on the twelfth 3 (12th) floor as we had had contact with people on the 4 twelfth (12th) floor like an hour ago they hadn't given 5 up on those people."</p> <p>6 Can you remember, at the time you were deployed on 7 that particular task, where was the location of the 8 bridgehead?</p> <p>9 A. The bridgehead was on the ground floor at the bottom of 10 the glass staircase.</p> <p>11 Q. As you went up from the bridgehead, up the tower can you 12 describe conditions in the stairwell as you went from 13 the third floor up?</p> <p>14 A. I'd say smoky the entire way.</p> <p>15 Q. And how thick was that smoke?</p> <p>16 A. I can't really remember that.</p> <p>17 Q. Can you remember its colour?</p> <p>18 A. I can remember the smoke when we opened the doors to the 19 hallways, but not so much in the -- you could see the 20 crews, the other crews, the outlines of the other crews.</p> <p>21 Q. What do you remember about the temperature of the 22 stairwell at that time in the morning?</p> <p>23 A. Not much, sorry.</p> <p>24 Q. Now, when you reached the 10th floor, it's right that 25 you found a body on the landing. Is that right?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 A. That's correct. I think in my statement it said it was 2 a male but I believe it to be a female casualty now. 3 Q. And it is believed that the person you found was 4 Khadija Saye from flat 173 on the 20th floor. 5 Were you able to check for vital signs of life? 6 A. When we got up there, the crews that we took over from 7 had already done that and I think that had been done 8 a few times, but from my experience and seeing the lady 9 in situ, it was fair to say that she was deceased. 10 Q. Could I now turn to a separate matter, and that's hoses 11 and other firefighting equipment. 12 You mention at various points in your statement that 13 hoses and other firefighting kit were left in the 14 stairwell. 15 Do you know what efforts were made during the course 16 of the night to clear that equipment from the stairwell? 17 A. No. 18 Q. Would it have been practicable to have removed hoses, 19 et cetera, discarded equipment, from the stairwell? 20 A. Where I described hose there in my statement, that's 21 charged lengths of hose, so crews are using that to 22 firefight, so we needed that in there. 23 Q. But as you went up the stairwell, was there other hoses, 24 discarded hoses, discarded equipment, on the stairwell 25 at that stage?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 told people to get out." 2 Can you remember now whether this was the only 3 message about change from the stay-put advice that you 4 heard on the radios during the course of the night? 5 A. There may have been more but that is the one that 6 I recall at that time -- I don't know if that time is 7 accurate, you'll be able to get that data somewhere 8 else, but I specifically remember that coming over the 9 handheld radio, that all Fire Brigade personnel be made 10 aware that people are being told to self-evacuate now. 11 MR KINNIER: Sir, I have come to the end of that section of 12 questions. It might be a useful time for a break for 13 5 or 10 minutes to see if there are any further matters 14 arising and then we can put them to Mr Gillam. 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You have further questions yourself? 16 MR KINNIER: I might do in respect of the chinagraph. 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. 18 We'll have a break now, Mr Gillam. Please don't 19 talk to anyone about your evidence or anything related 20 to it over the break. We'll resume at 12.15, please. 21 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir. 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the 23 usher, she'll look after you. 24 (The witness withdrew) 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, 12.15, then, please.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 A. I wouldn't say discarded; all the hose was charged, 2 which means it's under pressure, it's full of water, to 3 my knowledge it was being used, so it wasn't discarded. 4 Q. So it was only operative kit that you came across as you 5 went up? 6 A. I didn't see anything other than hose on the staircase. 7 Q. As you went up, can you remember whether the doors from 8 the stairwells to the lobbies were open or closed? 9 A. On the floors that I was on, 10, 11 and 12, they were 10 closed. 11 Q. Can I now ask you about a separate topic, and that's 12 stay-put advice. 13 Could I ask you to turn to page 24 in the statement. 14 I think it's the second paragraph on that page, it's 15 difficult to see with these statements. 16 "In the middle of the night when we were stood on 17 the grassy area by the sports call ..." 18 Is that meant to be "hall" rather than "call"? 19 A. Yes 20 Q. "... a message came over the radio on channel one that 21 said that 'all fire fighters and ground personnel to be 22 aware that we have now advised the residence to 23 self-evacuate.' Time wise on that I don't know, three 24 (3) / four (4) (0300 / 0400 hours) in the morning maybe. 25 That definitely came over the hand held radios that they</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 (12.05 pm) 2 (A short break) 3 (12.15 pm) 4 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir. 5 (The witness returned) 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Gillam? 7 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think possibly a few more 9 questions. 10 MR KINNIER: Thank you, sir. 11 Mr Gillam, thank you very much for your patience. 12 We're nearly done. So the end is in sight, but I'd be 13 grateful for your help on a few more points. 14 A. No worries. 15 Q. First of all, we were discussing whether the lady's 16 message regarding her daughter in flat 183 was 17 communicated and you rightly referred to markings on 18 a wall. 19 Could I ask Paul to turn up MET00015815. 20 Now, if we look at the left-hand side, are you able 21 to identify 183, four lines down in the top left-hand 22 corner? 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. And reading from left to right, I think 183, floor 21. 25 Are you able to decipher the script further to the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 right?</p> <p>2 A. I think that says "BA" and then "F".</p> <p>3 Q. Do you know what F might stand for?</p> <p>4 A. I'm assuming fatality.</p> <p>5 Q. If we could pull further towards the left, you'll see in</p> <p>6 the middle in large capitals FSG at 02.15.</p> <p>7 Given that you emerge from the tower at 02.20, and</p> <p>8 that was already on the board, is it likely in your view</p> <p>9 that the FSG call had been received before you</p> <p>10 encountered the lady?</p> <p>11 A. Answer: yes.</p> <p>12 Q. That is probably wrong --</p> <p>13 A. Answer: yes.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I am just wondering, did you</p> <p>15 actually see this wall, Mr Gillam?</p> <p>16 A. I was about to say, this isn't the wall I was referring</p> <p>17 to.</p> <p>18 MR KINNIER: I was coming on to that.</p> <p>19 The next photograph might be more useful.</p> <p>20 MET00015816.</p> <p>21 Is that what you saw?</p> <p>22 A. Answer: yes.</p> <p>23 Q. In the top right-hand corner that we can all see "183 -</p> <p>24 daughter, 21 or 22".</p> <p>25 A. Categorically, that is what I saw.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 A. Just the behaviour of it, what it entails and how it can</p> <p>2 act. As far as I can remember, yeah.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you recall any lectures that dealt with vertical and</p> <p>4 lateral fire spread and how best to combat that?</p> <p>5 A. That is the coanda effect, isn't it?</p> <p>6 Q. Sometimes it's viewed more broadly, there seems to be --</p> <p>7 A. Right, I couldn't --</p> <p>8 Q. Some witnesses have given a particular answer and some</p> <p>9 have given a general answer.</p> <p>10 A. Yeah, I couldn't give you a specific time or date that</p> <p>11 I would've gone a package on that if we did.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you recall any lecture that dealt with how best to</p> <p>13 effect partial or total evacuation from high-rise</p> <p>14 buildings in the event of a fire?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. Going back to the kit and equipment you have on an FRU,</p> <p>17 would it carry emergency lighting?</p> <p>18 A. Yes, it carries the reels to set up the lighting and the</p> <p>19 lighting, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay, and was that lighting deployed on the evening?</p> <p>21 A. No, the lighting carried on the fire and rescue unit is</p> <p>22 powered by a generator, so you'd have to get the cable</p> <p>23 reels up through the tower. That was not done. On the</p> <p>24 pumping appliances, we carried battery powered lighting,</p> <p>25 which would've been better.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 Q. That is what you saw on the night after you'd spoken to</p> <p>2 the lady?</p> <p>3 A. Answer: yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>5 Mr Gillam, could I go back to asking you about</p> <p>6 training and what training you received at Paddington.</p> <p>7 What training did you receive in respect of the</p> <p>8 particular risks and procedures relating to high-rise</p> <p>9 firefighting?</p> <p>10 A. We would just do practical drills in the yard and</p> <p>11 theoretical input on a PowerPoint when that came around</p> <p>12 on the training diary. So routine -- I couldn't tell</p> <p>13 you when we would do input, but it was given by the</p> <p>14 watch manager on the risks and techniques associated</p> <p>15 with high-rise firefighting.</p> <p>16 Q. Did they involve a lecture on breach of compartmentation</p> <p>17 and what to do should a breach occur?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you have anything which covered the particular risks</p> <p>20 posed by external cladding in high-rise fires?</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you recall any lecture on phenomena such as the</p> <p>23 coanda effect?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, we are trained in that.</p> <p>25 Q. What are you taught in that regard?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 Q. On the evening, would it be practicable to set up</p> <p>2 emergency lighting to assist people, for example, in the</p> <p>3 stairwell to aid visibility?</p> <p>4 A. I would say yes, that could've been done, but at the</p> <p>5 time I was in there, it wasn't.</p> <p>6 Q. Does an FRU carry equipment such as an emergency</p> <p>7 extractor?</p> <p>8 A. As in smoke extractor?</p> <p>9 Q. Yes.</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Would it carry kit such as axes that could be used to</p> <p>12 force entry into flats, for example?</p> <p>13 A. Axes and breaking-in gear are carried on all front-line</p> <p>14 firefighting appliances, not FRUs.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you take up an axe?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. No.</p> <p>18 The next topic I'd like to cover with you is the</p> <p>19 question of second masks for BA sets.</p> <p>20 You mentioned in evidence there was a colleague who</p> <p>21 connected a second mask to his BA set. Do you remember</p> <p>22 who it was?</p> <p>23 A. Harry Bettinson, James Wolfenden, Guy Tillotson and Ben</p> <p>24 Gallagher were part of a crew I know on my watch who</p> <p>25 performed that rescue using second person connection.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 Q. You gave evidence regarding a conversation you had 2 between Firefighters Mills and Campbell on the stairway. 3 Mills has said in his evidence that he told us the 4 FRU crew that their task was to rescue a woman from 5 flat 175. 6 Can you remember whether they specifically referred 7 to flat 175 or not? 8 A. He could've done, but I don't remember. 9 Q. Only three more questions now, Mr Gillam. 10 First of all, dealing with the MDT. 11 I asked you a question regarding its reliability and 12 you said it was normally pretty reliable. 13 We're going to hear evidence from Dean Roberts later 14 on this afternoon. He says that "the MDT often fails". 15 Does that reflect your experience, do you agree with 16 him? 17 A. Personally, I found it pretty reliable, but I sit in the 18 back. Deano has done a bit of acting up, so he would 19 use it more than I would. 20 Q. We discussed together the feasibility of the initial 21 task you were given, ie to get to the roof, and you in 22 your statement said you felt it was "doable", to quote. 23 Can I ask you to turn to your contemporaneous note. 24 I think it's behind the second tab in your blue bundle. 25 It's three-quarters of the way down the first page,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 A. Sorry, you said FSG equipment. 2 Q. FRU. 3 A. FRU equipment. 4 Q. Sorry. 5 A. How heavy was all the gear? 6 Q. I think you said you were carrying four or five bags of 7 equipment. 8 A. Not me personally. I carried a bag which had matrix 9 harnesses in it. I also put two or three length of 10 45-millimetre hose in there and a branch, so that bag 11 may have weighed maybe 40 to 50 kilos. 12 The total kit, we've got two line bags, a large bag 13 which has got all the pulleys and systems in it, two 14 line bags, that, the harnesses and the hose. I'd say 15 between the five of us, maybe around 70 to 80 kilos. 16 Q. This may be an unfair question: are you able to say how 17 much heavier that kit is than the kit a firefighter 18 carrying SDBA would be carrying? 19 A. Well, if they're not carrying any line gear, quite 20 a bit. 21 MR KINNIER: Yes. Thank you. 22 Mr Gillam, thank you very much for your time and 23 patience this afternoon. It's much appreciated. 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Gillam, it just remains for me to 25 thank you very much for coming to give us your evidence.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 where you say: 2 "We knew at this [start] ..." 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: "Stage", I think. 4 MR KINNIER: Apologies, sir? 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think it's "stage", isn't it? 6 MR KINNIER: "Stage", sorry: 7 "... that the conditions would be too bad on the 8 roof and that we wouldn't have enough air to make it 9 back down and that using line was not an option." 10 Now, looking back, what you set out in your 11 contemporaneous note appears to be a more negative 12 assessment of the prospects of the task to the roof? 13 A. I think that's why I paused at the start when you asked 14 me if this was accurate. I'd say a lot of this should 15 be disregarded because I've just come off of a job that 16 I was on for nearly 12 hours, obviously not sleeping 17 that day either, and obviously still high on adrenaline. 18 So I just wrote this as quick as I could to get out of 19 there, to be honest. 20 Q. So a fairer reflection of your view is set out in your 21 statement rather than the contemporaneous -- 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Finally, there was the question of the weight of the FSG 24 equipment that you carried for the roof task. 25 How heavy was the four or five bags of equipment --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 It's always very helpful to hear what was going on 2 inside the tower and we're very grateful to you for 3 coming along. 4 Thank you very much and now you're free to go. 5 THE WITNESS: Cheers. 6 (The witness was released) 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, then, Mr Kinnier. 8 MR KINNIER: Sir, there's one final witness for us today, 9 Mr Dean Roberts. He is travelling down from North Wales 10 today. I think he was assuming a 2 o'clock start and so 11 I don't think he's yet with us. 12 Only just with us. So in the circumstances -- 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Was he told he would be on at 14 2 o'clock? 15 MR KINNIER: I think there was an assumption -- or he was 16 told, yes. 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's all right. In that case, 18 I don't suppose he's quite ready to be shot into the 19 witness box. 20 MR KINNIER: I suspect he's not. 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Can you give me any idea how long 22 you think you might require with him? 23 MR KINNIER: An hour or so. 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So we could take an early lunch and 25 come back at 2 o'clock without fear of over-running the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 day.</p> <p>2 MR KINNIER: Yes.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's what we'll do then.</p> <p>4 You've heard that Mr Roberts is coming but he's not</p> <p>5 expecting to give evidence until 2 o'clock. I think it</p> <p>6 would be a bit discourteous to try and start him before</p> <p>7 lunch. So we'll break now and resume at 2 o'clock, when</p> <p>8 we'll expect to see Mr Roberts.</p> <p>9 Thank you.</p> <p>10 (12.25 pm)</p> <p>11 (The short adjournment)</p> <p>12 (2.00 pm)</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Just coming, I think. Yes.</p> <p>14 (Pause)</p> <p>15 DEAN ROBERTS (affirmed)</p> <p>16 Questions by MR KINNIER</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Roberts.</p> <p>18 Sit down and make yourself comfortable.</p> <p>19 Yes, Mr Kinnier.</p> <p>20 MR KINNIER: Good afternoon.</p> <p>21 First of all, could you confirm your name?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, it's Dean Roberts.</p> <p>23 Q. First of all, thank you very much for coming along today</p> <p>24 to give evidence; it's much appreciated.</p> <p>25 A. No problem.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 A. Okay.</p> <p>2 Q. Now, if I don't ask a clear question, say so and I'll</p> <p>3 rephrase it and put it more clearly and in better terms</p> <p>4 for you.</p> <p>5 Now, could we first start with some basic details.</p> <p>6 You've been a firefighter since 2010; is that right?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>8 Q. You're based at Paddington?</p> <p>9 A. Based at Paddington.</p> <p>10 Q. You're a member of the FRU crew; is that right?</p> <p>11 A. Yeah, that's correct.</p> <p>12 Q. You are a trained driver?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. In particular, you are trained to drive the fire and</p> <p>15 rescue unit?</p> <p>16 A. I am, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Now, the first substantive topic I'd like to discuss</p> <p>18 with you is training and experience, Mr Roberts.</p> <p>19 A. Okay.</p> <p>20 Q. First of all, what high-rise firefighting training have</p> <p>21 you received?</p> <p>22 A. We cover quite a lot of high-rise on the basic</p> <p>23 firefighter course, which was held at Southwark when</p> <p>24 I did it, and that was over four months, and we</p> <p>25 basically touched on various elements through theory</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 Q. In the file in front of you in the blue folder,</p> <p>2 hopefully in the first tab, you'll find your</p> <p>3 statement --</p> <p>4 A. That's correct.</p> <p>5 Q. -- dated 5 December 2017.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Have you read that recently?</p> <p>8 A. I have, yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you confirm that its contents are true?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. If you turn to the next tab, hopefully you'll find your</p> <p>12 contemporaneous note.</p> <p>13 Have you read that document also recently?</p> <p>14 A. I have, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you confirm the contents of that document are also</p> <p>16 true?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Are you content that those documents stand as your</p> <p>19 evidence to the inquiry?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Mr Roberts, thank you.</p> <p>22 As I've said to other witnesses, I'm not going to</p> <p>23 take you through each line of your statement or</p> <p>24 contemporaneous note; I'm simply going to draw out</p> <p>25 particular topics and events and discuss them with you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 work and it concluded with a large-scale exercise at</p> <p>2 Moreton-in-Marsh, so that's the training fire centre</p> <p>3 college, so we did that there.</p> <p>4 Also, at Paddington, because we've got like quite</p> <p>5 a large tower, we do drills on that quite regularly, and</p> <p>6 we've got various different machines so we can chop and</p> <p>7 change as we see what we want to do.</p> <p>8 Q. Dealing with the first element of that, the drills at</p> <p>9 Moreton-in-Marsh, the drills you carried out there, did</p> <p>10 they involve a partial or total evacuation?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Did they consider what to do should there be a breach of</p> <p>13 compartmentation in a high-rise fire?</p> <p>14 A. Just basically with firefighting on the outside is just</p> <p>15 to get a covering jet and to cover the surrounding area,</p> <p>16 but apart from that, no.</p> <p>17 Q. Dealing with the second drill facility you discuss, the</p> <p>18 tower at the Paddington station.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Have the drills there involved partial or total</p> <p>21 evacuation?</p> <p>22 A. No. Basically the tower is just a small, single-storey</p> <p>23 tower of around 10 floors. It's all down to</p> <p>24 imagination. It's all sort of make believe. There's</p> <p>25 nothing really you can do to put people up there and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 evacuate them as such.</p> <p>2 Q. In terms of lectures, have you had any particular</p> <p>3 lectures that deal with the risks posed by cladding for</p> <p>4 high-rise buildings?</p> <p>5 A. No, not at all.</p> <p>6 Q. What training do you receive as a member of the FRU</p> <p>7 crew?</p> <p>8 A. When I did it, it was a four-week course, and that was</p> <p>9 held at Southwark. There's various core components, so</p> <p>10 you spend like a week doing heavy RTC. There's a small</p> <p>11 section that you do line training. You do stuff on</p> <p>12 RAR(?), so you go down on the rail, on the tube, the</p> <p>13 underground, and do evacuation from a tube and sort of</p> <p>14 stuff like that, really.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you receive any training in relation to use and</p> <p>16 operation of extended duration breathing apparatus?</p> <p>17 A. Yeah, you do do a three-day course prior to going on</p> <p>18 your FRU course.</p> <p>19 Q. Is it right only FRUs carry EDBA equipment?</p> <p>20 A. That's correct.</p> <p>21 Q. Compared to standard duration breathing apparatus, what</p> <p>22 additional equipment does the EDBA require?</p> <p>23 A. The elements are pretty much the same. The only</p> <p>24 difference is the amount of time you can spend under</p> <p>25 air. I think the duration is around 40 to 45 minutes,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 example, I use quite a lot of air when I go into jobs,</p> <p>2 I breathe quite heavily, I get through my air a lot</p> <p>3 quicker than some of the guys, like, say, for example,</p> <p>4 Martin Gillam. So me sticking a supplementary set would</p> <p>5 be a no-no because I'd run out of air myself and then</p> <p>6 I'd become a casualty.</p> <p>7 Q. That's useful.</p> <p>8 Now, the next topic I'd like to discuss with you is</p> <p>9 the night itself.</p> <p>10 A. Okay.</p> <p>11 Q. First of all, it's a matter of record that you were</p> <p>12 mobilised at 01.20, on the road at 01.22 and you arrived</p> <p>13 on the scene at 01.35. Does that sound about right to</p> <p>14 you?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, that's sounds about right.</p> <p>16 Q. You were riding with Crew Manager Wigley and</p> <p>17 Firefighters Gillam, Gonzalez and Harris; is that right?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Could I ask you to turn to page 3 of your witness</p> <p>20 statement. It's really nine lines down from the top of</p> <p>21 the page. It says:</p> <p>22 "We progressed down the Harrow Road, our MDT failed</p> <p>23 and had gone off."</p> <p>24 How regularly does that happen?</p> <p>25 A. Just from my experience, that night it happened and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 but then that depends on obviously your working</p> <p>2 duration, how heavy you're breathing, how hard you're</p> <p>3 working, et cetera, and again -- so -- what did I say --</p> <p>4 the weight, and obviously it's a two-cylinder rather</p> <p>5 than one, so manoeuvrability is a little bit more</p> <p>6 difficult. So getting around is that little bit more</p> <p>7 intense.</p> <p>8 Q. Now, I don't know whether you were able to hear this</p> <p>9 this morning, but we heard from Mr Gillam who said even</p> <p>10 if a firefighter hadn't been trained in the use of EDBA,</p> <p>11 experience of SDBA ought to be sufficient to allow him</p> <p>12 to use it.</p> <p>13 Would you agree with that proposition?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, I'd sort of say yeah, I would. The elements are</p> <p>15 exactly the same. You put the set on, the only real</p> <p>16 difference you're going to notice is the weight and the</p> <p>17 size.</p> <p>18 Q. What is your view of the practicability of BA wearers,</p> <p>19 whether it's extended or standard duration, carrying</p> <p>20 a supplemental mask should the need arise in search and</p> <p>21 rescue tasks?</p> <p>22 A. It's all well and good carrying a second mask to use on</p> <p>23 casualties and firefighters if they become entrapped or</p> <p>24 need any supply of oxygen, but that's also limiting you</p> <p>25 and the amount of oxygen you've got. Like for me, for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 there's been several occasions where sometimes the</p> <p>2 system does crash and you have to resort back to getting</p> <p>3 on the main scheme radio and contacting control.</p> <p>4 Q. When the MDT does crash, what are the usual remedial</p> <p>5 measures? Can you reboot, for example?</p> <p>6 A. Yeah, there's a button behind the driver's seat that you</p> <p>7 push and it will reboot the whole system.</p> <p>8 Q. How long does that take to take effect?</p> <p>9 A. It can take anything from a minute onwards.</p> <p>10 Q. In your statement, you say, page 3, some 12 or 15 lines</p> <p>11 down:</p> <p>12 "We had no mapping system so we referred back to the</p> <p>13 old mapping books in the back of the FRU ..."</p> <p>14 By "old mapping books", is that basically an A to Z?</p> <p>15 A. Yeah, basically an A to Z.</p> <p>16 Q. The next topic is access on the night. Again, if</p> <p>17 I could ask you to keep page 3 of your statement open,</p> <p>18 the large paragraph on that page, four lines up from the</p> <p>19 bottom of that paragraph, you say:</p> <p>20 "These roads were really tight. The cars were all</p> <p>21 double parked and some were parked on double sold yellow</p> <p>22 lines. There was an issue getting through easily.</p> <p>23 I recall there was only one car that we needed to move</p> <p>24 out of way but luckily, I think it had its handbrake off</p> <p>25 because one of my colleagues rolled it out of the way</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 quite easily."</p> <p>2 How long did access problems delay your arrival at</p> <p>3 the scene?</p> <p>4 A. Just a couple of minutes. It was just initially that</p> <p>5 car was just in the way, the FRU is slightly longer than</p> <p>6 the normal fire engine, so I had to sort of think about</p> <p>7 the manoeuvrability of getting that through there.</p> <p>8 Luckily for us, it seemed the handbrake wasn't on</p> <p>9 because Firefighter Gillam just sort of pushed it out</p> <p>10 the way with firefighter Gonzalez.</p> <p>11 Q. Looking further down the page to the second paragraph on</p> <p>12 that page, roughly halfway down, the sentence where you</p> <p>13 say:</p> <p>14 "I managed to derived the FRU and park it</p> <p>15 approximately 100 metres away on the approach road to</p> <p>16 the Tower."</p> <p>17 Now, Paul, could I ask you to turn up MET00013078.</p> <p>18 If that's able to be magnified so the clarity is</p> <p>19 greater.</p> <p>20 Are you able to identify on the big screen where you</p> <p>21 parked the FRU?</p> <p>22 A. It was on Grenfell Road, just next to the electricity</p> <p>23 substation, so just where the path in front of that is.</p> <p>24 That's where we parked.</p> <p>25 Q. Looking at that plan, on the right-hand side, where the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 I do not know the reason for taking the line gear to the</p> <p>2 roof. I think the line gear was needed at the roof so</p> <p>3 then you'd be able to fight fire from the roof down the</p> <p>4 Tower."</p> <p>5 Now, could I ask you a couple of questions arising</p> <p>6 out of that paragraph.</p> <p>7 Can you now remember the precise words that Crew</p> <p>8 Manager Wigley gave to you or the gist of the words he</p> <p>9 used when describing the task you were directed to carry</p> <p>10 out?</p> <p>11 A. Because I'm the driver, obviously the crew had gone</p> <p>12 slightly ahead of me because I was getting rigged, so</p> <p>13 there is potential there that I did miss a more thorough</p> <p>14 briefing. So obviously rather than waste time and Crew</p> <p>15 Manager Wigley giving me a full-on brief that he may</p> <p>16 have given to the crew prior to my arrival, then I may</p> <p>17 have missed something, but he basically said we've got</p> <p>18 to take the line gear up to the roof.</p> <p>19 Q. Did anyone ask who had given that order?</p> <p>20 A. I was one of them. I'm not too sure whether</p> <p>21 Firefighter Gillam did or Firefighter Gonzalez.</p> <p>22 Q. What answer did you get?</p> <p>23 A. I think Watch Manager Dowden and he said we've just been</p> <p>24 tasked to go to the roof.</p> <p>25 Q. At the end of the third line, it says:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 legend is electricity substation?</p> <p>2 A. Yes. And then the command unit come in behind me and</p> <p>3 parked literally directly behind.</p> <p>4 Q. How soon after was that parked up?</p> <p>5 A. That was almost instantaneous. As we were moving the</p> <p>6 vehicle out the way, I seen the command unit in my side</p> <p>7 mirrors and then he followed us in down Grenfell Road</p> <p>8 and parked up.</p> <p>9 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>10 Could I ask you to turn over the page to page 4 of</p> <p>11 your statement and the first substantive paragraph on</p> <p>12 that page. I'll read it out:</p> <p>13 "After a few minutes I met up with the rest of the</p> <p>14 crew outside the Tower, we all stayed together and we</p> <p>15 all worked together. CM WIGLEY explained to us that the</p> <p>16 crew were tasked to take all the line gear to the top of</p> <p>17 the Tower. I do not know who asked us. We were not</p> <p>18 told any more information and we all questioned this as</p> <p>19 it was a strange task and the information was brief but</p> <p>20 we did as we were told and decided to assess things when</p> <p>21 we get the line gear to the roof. The line gear is</p> <p>22 similar to climbing gear. It was a strange task as line</p> <p>23 gear and 'fire' does not go well together unless there</p> <p>24 is a specific reason. As a crew, we questioned this</p> <p>25 task however; we did not get an answer. To this date,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 "... we all questioned this as it was a strange</p> <p>2 task ..."</p> <p>3 Can you remember what you said in response to the</p> <p>4 order?</p> <p>5 A. Just for me, I was just looking at the bigger picture of</p> <p>6 the scene and the scenario and the way the fire had</p> <p>7 developed that quickly from the initial time of call to</p> <p>8 when we got there. I was concerned that the roof may</p> <p>9 have been compromised, what would happen if we got up</p> <p>10 there with the line and there was fire, because</p> <p>11 initially we're going in with no media.</p> <p>12 The access to and from the roof generally in</p> <p>13 high-rise buildings, there's some sort of locked gate,</p> <p>14 ladders to get up there. Do we have keys? All that</p> <p>15 sort of stuff was going through my mind at that time.</p> <p>16 Q. You say going through your mind; did you articulate that</p> <p>17 to Crew Manager Wigley?</p> <p>18 A. I don't think I did, just because time was of the</p> <p>19 essence and it wasn't normal circumstances for us to</p> <p>20 stand about questioning. We just wanted to get on with</p> <p>21 the task and get up there and assess once we got to the</p> <p>22 roof and make a decision when we were up there.</p> <p>23 Q. What did any other members of the crew say, if anything?</p> <p>24 A. I couldn't tell you.</p> <p>25 Q. You don't remember?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 A. I don't know.</p> <p>2 Q. You say in the paragraph:</p> <p>3 "... [we] decided to assess things when we get the</p> <p>4 line gear to the roof."</p> <p>5 When the crew made this decision, were you looking</p> <p>6 at the tower and were you able to evaluate the rate at</p> <p>7 which the fire was spreading?</p> <p>8 A. Again, for me personally, that's one of the things I was</p> <p>9 actually looking at. Again, looking at the bigger</p> <p>10 picture. Whether the others did that, that's something</p> <p>11 you'd have to ask them. I don't know.</p> <p>12 Q. You went on to say:</p> <p>13 "It was a strange task as line gear and 'fire' does</p> <p>14 not go well together unless there is a specific reason."</p> <p>15 It may be obvious, but can I ask you: why do line</p> <p>16 gear and fire not go well together?</p> <p>17 A. Because it will burn.</p> <p>18 Q. What would be the specific reason that would justify the</p> <p>19 use of line gear where there's fire, given the risk of</p> <p>20 it burning?</p> <p>21 A. I would say basically in that scenario, if the fire had</p> <p>22 actually been contained just to the eastern side then we</p> <p>23 could have set line up over to the western side and</p> <p>24 worked from that side with the line.</p> <p>25 Q. Can I ask you to turn to page 9 in your witness</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 was a bit of questioning about what we were going to do</p> <p>2 once we got there between our Crew Manager and the Watch</p> <p>3 Manager. We were asked whether we had a backup crew, an</p> <p>4 emergency crew. We were asked where the next FRU was</p> <p>5 and how far are they going to be. Because of the way</p> <p>6 the fire was going at that time and we believed the next</p> <p>7 FRU crew wasn't that far behind, we made a decision that</p> <p>8 we were going to go up the Tower with the line gear. We</p> <p>9 were told the stairwell was quite clear, that it wasn't</p> <p>10 smoke logged so we didn't go up using any breathing</p> <p>11 apparatus."</p> <p>12 Now, taking a step back there.</p> <p>13 First of all, who was asking the questions, was it</p> <p>14 the watch manager or was it Crew Manager Wigley?</p> <p>15 A. I think it was Crew Manager Wigley and Watch Manager</p> <p>16 O'Keeffe.</p> <p>17 Q. What did Mr O'Keeffe ask, can you remember?</p> <p>18 A. I couldn't say.</p> <p>19 Q. Can you remember what Mr Wigley asked?</p> <p>20 A. I couldn't say again.</p> <p>21 Q. Can you remember whether Mr O'Keeffe discussed the use</p> <p>22 of EDBA and whether it might be used for search and</p> <p>23 rescue, for example?</p> <p>24 A. Again, it's another question I can't answer.</p> <p>25 Q. Mr Gillam said earlier that when they told Mr O'Keeffe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 statement and the second paragraph, the first three</p> <p>2 lines:</p> <p>3 "With the line gear, I found out after my shift that</p> <p>4 we would not have been able to take the line gear to the</p> <p>5 roof as there was a metal gate that was locked and would</p> <p>6 have blocked our access. We did not know at the time</p> <p>7 but we were never going to get up onto the roof."</p> <p>8 Had the crew made it to the roof, did you have the</p> <p>9 necessary kit to gain access to that roof?</p> <p>10 A. From what I know now, it was a girder key that opened</p> <p>11 it. It was like a black five-bar metal gate. We won't</p> <p>12 have got up there. We do carry keys. At Paddington,</p> <p>13 each person has their own set of keys, but there wasn't</p> <p>14 a key that we had for that particular lock that night</p> <p>15 when we went up. There are girder keys on the trucks we</p> <p>16 could've potentially taken off, but we didn't know.</p> <p>17 Q. The next topic is the arrival at the bridgehead.</p> <p>18 If I could ask you to turn back in your statement to</p> <p>19 page 4, the third paragraph on that page, I think five</p> <p>20 lines from the top, it starts:</p> <p>21 "When we got onto the mezzanine flooring, there were</p> <p>22 a couple of crews hanging around and one of the Watch</p> <p>23 Managers from Kensington asked us whether we had been</p> <p>24 tasked. We told him that we had been tasked to take the</p> <p>25 line gear up and a second FRU would take over. There</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 what you were planning on doing, he responded "Yeah,</p> <p>2 I don't really want you to do that but go on". Do you</p> <p>3 have any memory of that exchange?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. In that paragraph you said:</p> <p>6 "We were asked whether we had a backup crew, an</p> <p>7 emergency crew."</p> <p>8 Who asked those questions?</p> <p>9 A. I think that was Firefighter Gillam, but I'm not</p> <p>10 100 per cent sure.</p> <p>11 Q. Who answered those questions?</p> <p>12 A. Again, I'm not sure. It would possibly be Watch Manager</p> <p>13 O'Keeffe.</p> <p>14 Q. Again, dealing with another element of that paragraph,</p> <p>15 you said:</p> <p>16 "Because of the way the fire was going at that time</p> <p>17 and we believed the next FRU crew wasn't that far</p> <p>18 behind, we made a decision that we were going to go up</p> <p>19 the Tower with the line gear."</p> <p>20 First of all, which way was the fire going at that</p> <p>21 time?</p> <p>22 A. It was just on the eastern side, so it was about three</p> <p>23 or four floors from the top.</p> <p>24 Q. Taking a step back, between your arrival at the scene</p> <p>25 and going into the tower, can you describe how far and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 at what rate the fire had spread?</p> <p>2 A. I didn't actually see any sort of fire spread, it was</p> <p>3 around the same sort of level, but obviously I was</p> <p>4 concerned about it getting to the roof and that was</p> <p>5 where we were going.</p> <p>6 Q. When you say "Because of the way the fire was going at</p> <p>7 that time", was that an assessment made by the crew,</p> <p>8 Mr O'Keeffe or both, can you remember?</p> <p>9 A. I couldn't answer.</p> <p>10 Q. What was the basis of the belief that the next FRU crew</p> <p>11 wasn't far behind?</p> <p>12 A. I think we heard multiple calls or it had been made up</p> <p>13 and FRUs were requested, so we knew they wasn't going to</p> <p>14 be that far anyway. I think Chelsea was the next</p> <p>15 closest one, I'm not too sure.</p> <p>16 Q. Now, the final bit of the quotation I put to you was:</p> <p>17 "We were told the stairwell was quite clear, that it</p> <p>18 wasn't smoke logged so we didn't go up using any</p> <p>19 breathing apparatus."</p> <p>20 Can you remember who told you that?</p> <p>21 A. That was Watch Manager O'Keeffe.</p> <p>22 Q. Can you remember the words used or the gist of the words</p> <p>23 he used?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. Now, the next topic I'd like to discuss with you is the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 Q. If I could ask Paul to turn up the telemetry data at</p> <p>2 this point, and if we could go to box 43.</p> <p>3 Reading from left to right, that's your name.</p> <p>4 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>5 Q. If we go to the furthest green column there, 01.57</p> <p>6 I think is your tally-out time; is that right?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, that would seem about right.</p> <p>8 Q. Thank you, Paul.</p> <p>9 When you'd gone back to the BH, gone under air,</p> <p>10 before you went under air, did you inform Mr O'Keeffe or</p> <p>11 anyone else at the bridgehead the conditions you</p> <p>12 encountered on the stairwell?</p> <p>13 A. Obviously the stairwell is quite a tight space. As we</p> <p>14 came back down, we were a crew of five, so space was</p> <p>15 limited. So I wasn't at the front where any</p> <p>16 conversations were going on, so I couldn't tell you.</p> <p>17 Q. Where the conversations were going on -- were</p> <p>18 conversations going on?</p> <p>19 A. Yeah, there was a conversation, I think, between Watch</p> <p>20 Manager O'Keeffe, Crew Manager Wigley and I think</p> <p>21 Firefighter Gillam, possibly, I'm not sure.</p> <p>22 Q. But you didn't hear the exchange?</p> <p>23 A. No, I was right at the back.</p> <p>24 Q. If I can ask you to turn back to page 5 and roughly</p> <p>25 halfway down that paragraph, it starts with the words:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 start of your ascent up the tower. If I could ask you</p> <p>2 to turn to page 5 of your statement and the second</p> <p>3 sentence from the top of the page, and I'll read out</p> <p>4 a few lines.</p> <p>5 "We walked up to approximately the fourth floor and</p> <p>6 there it became apparent to us that we were unable to</p> <p>7 progress any further without any breathing apparatus as</p> <p>8 there was too much smoke. Visibly it didn't look like</p> <p>9 too much but we were struggling to breathe and were</p> <p>10 coughing so we left all the apparatus we were carrying</p> <p>11 on the fourth floor and went back down the stairs."</p> <p>12 First of all, on what floor after you'd left the</p> <p>13 bridgehead did you first encounter smoke?</p> <p>14 A. I think it was just between floors 3 and floor 4.</p> <p>15 Q. Can you describe the smoke when you first encountered</p> <p>16 it?</p> <p>17 A. It was pretty clear. Light, wispy, white, grey smoke.</p> <p>18 Nothing too spectacular, really.</p> <p>19 Q. That's what you meant when you say visibly it didn't</p> <p>20 look too much?</p> <p>21 A. You could see perfectly fine.</p> <p>22 Q. You returned to the bridgehead, and what did you do</p> <p>23 there?</p> <p>24 A. That's where we started up and went under air and put</p> <p>25 our EDBA sets.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 "When we were walking up at around floor 10 or 11 we</p> <p>2 saw a couple of crews walking down. When we saw them we</p> <p>3 had a short discussion just clarifying that they were</p> <p>4 going down and we were going up."</p> <p>5 First of all, can you remember what the first crew</p> <p>6 said to you?</p> <p>7 A. Again, I wasn't at the front of the queue or at the</p> <p>8 front of the crew going up, so I wouldn't have spoke to</p> <p>9 them. It would've just been a sort of pass on the</p> <p>10 stairs as they were going down. No information was</p> <p>11 passed to me at all.</p> <p>12 Q. So I can understand the order that you are going up, who</p> <p>13 was leading the way up the stairs, can you remember?</p> <p>14 A. I think initially it was Firefighter Gillam, Crew</p> <p>15 Manager Wigley, myself, Firefighter Gonzalez followed by</p> <p>16 Firefighter Harris at the back.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you stay in that formation as you went up the tower?</p> <p>18 A. No, there was various changes as we got up higher in the</p> <p>19 tower and we sort of juggled kit around.</p> <p>20 Q. Did you have any discussion with any member of the</p> <p>21 second crew you encountered on the way up?</p> <p>22 A. I personally didn't, but whether anybody else in the</p> <p>23 crew did, I don't know.</p> <p>24 Q. There was some discussion this morning as to which</p> <p>25 members of the crew had the BARIE sets. Can you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 remember who had BARIE sets?</p> <p>2 A. Me as the driver, I definitely didn't have one, so</p> <p>3 I think it would've been Crew Manager Wigley and</p> <p>4 possibly either Firefighter Harris or Firefighter</p> <p>5 Gonzalez.</p> <p>6 Q. Can you remember a member of the crew radioing the</p> <p>7 bridgehead to say that you'd met and encountered these</p> <p>8 two crews?</p> <p>9 A. I don't know. It's something you'd have to ask them.</p> <p>10 Q. Now, in that same paragraph, you say visibility was</p> <p>11 good. At that time, were the stairwells lit, can you</p> <p>12 remember?</p> <p>13 A. Yeah, it was pretty clear, pretty light. You could see</p> <p>14 the person in front of you as you were walking up, all</p> <p>15 the way up to possibly around floor 10, I think it was.</p> <p>16 Q. So just to be clear, your recollection is that the</p> <p>17 stairwell was lit up until the floor 10 level?</p> <p>18 A. Yeah, I think so.</p> <p>19 Q. Can you describe the smoke conditions you encountered on</p> <p>20 floor 10?</p> <p>21 A. Again, it wasn't any difference to downstairs, really.</p> <p>22 Visibility was pretty good. There was a slight</p> <p>23 temperature increase, but nothing that sort of threw it</p> <p>24 out of the ordinary.</p> <p>25 Q. Can you remember its colour, the smoke?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 there. We didn't realise what was going on outside. We</p> <p>2 didn't have any communications, our radios were just not</p> <p>3 working. We tried several times to make contact with</p> <p>4 the communications operator at the Bridgehead but there</p> <p>5 was no response. It felt like we were somewhat blind</p> <p>6 inside."</p> <p>7 Starting from the beginning, were your radios</p> <p>8 working when you were on the fourth floor?</p> <p>9 A. Again, I didn't have a BARIE set, so I wouldn't know</p> <p>10 whether the radios were working. There was traffic</p> <p>11 going over the main scheme and handheld radios, but</p> <p>12 apart from that, I don't know.</p> <p>13 Q. Could you hear the traffic on the handheld radios as you</p> <p>14 went up the tower to the 10th and 11th floor?</p> <p>15 A. I don't remember any at all.</p> <p>16 Q. The next topic I'd like to discuss with you is floor 20</p> <p>17 itself.</p> <p>18 By the time you reached the 20th floor, can you</p> <p>19 describe the conditions you encountered in the</p> <p>20 stairwell?</p> <p>21 A. Again, the stairwell was pretty clear, visibility was</p> <p>22 pretty good. There was no major change in the stairwell</p> <p>23 at all.</p> <p>24 Q. Looking at page 5 of your witness statement, the last</p> <p>25 paragraph on that page and five lines up from the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Could you see where the smoke was coming from?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. As you'd gone up the stairwell, had you noticed whether</p> <p>5 the doors to the lobbies were open or closed?</p> <p>6 A. I didn't notice any doors open on any of the floors all</p> <p>7 the way up.</p> <p>8 Q. In his evidence, Crew Manager Wigley noted the smoke</p> <p>9 levels eased as you went up the building. Does that</p> <p>10 accord with your recollection?</p> <p>11 A. Sorry, can you say that again?</p> <p>12 Q. Yes. Crew Manager Wigley noted in his statement that</p> <p>13 smoke levels in fact eased as you went up the tower.</p> <p>14 A. Yeah, sort of as you got past I think it was about</p> <p>15 floor 10 or 11, it sort of slightly -- the going was</p> <p>16 pretty straightforward, quite simple. We just walked up</p> <p>17 there. There was nothing again that stood out and said</p> <p>18 there was a major fire going on outside.</p> <p>19 Q. What was in the stairwell as you went up? Were there</p> <p>20 any obstacles?</p> <p>21 A. Again, lower down, I didn't notice anything, all the way</p> <p>22 up nothing at all, it was only when we came back down</p> <p>23 there was hose in the stairwell.</p> <p>24 Q. In the same paragraph you go on to say:</p> <p>25 "It was eerily quiet and it felt like it was only us</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 bottom, you say this. You've reached floor 20:</p> <p>2 "The time was now approximately 0200-215am. As</p> <p>3 I put the gear down that I was carrying, I noticed an</p> <p>4 Asian looking female standing in the corner of the</p> <p>5 stairwell between floors 20 and 21. I didn't know where</p> <p>6 she had come from or whether she was with anyone so with</p> <p>7 FF GILLAM, I went up to speak to her. I asked her where</p> <p>8 she had come from, who she was with and if she had</p> <p>9 anyone else."</p> <p>10 Just for the sake of completeness, could I ask, did</p> <p>11 you or any other member of the crew radio the bridgehead</p> <p>12 to inform them that you'd found a casualty on the</p> <p>13 stairwell?</p> <p>14 A. I tried on my handheld radio, and I believe they</p> <p>15 would've definitely tried on the BARIE radios to try and</p> <p>16 get comms, because that is normal procedure, if we find</p> <p>17 a casualty, we'll inform the bridgehead and let them</p> <p>18 know and then we'll start coming out with the casualty.</p> <p>19 Q. Were you able to get through when you radioed?</p> <p>20 A. There was nothing at all. There was no traffic,</p> <p>21 I couldn't --</p> <p>22 Q. The line was dead completely?</p> <p>23 A. I don't know whether it was dead, but there was just</p> <p>24 nothing. We wasn't receiving anything back.</p> <p>25 Q. Were you hearing anything?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 A. Nothing at all.</p> <p>2 Q. Mr Gillam stayed with the woman. Did you go into the</p> <p>3 lobby of floor 20 to see whether there were any other</p> <p>4 casualties?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, so once we found the casualty, obviously she was on</p> <p>6 her own so sort of our logic was thinking she's possibly</p> <p>7 with somebody else, a family member. She wasn't giving</p> <p>8 out any information, so I decided that it was --</p> <p>9 basically, when you find a casualty, you'd do</p> <p>10 a secondary sweep, and that's searching within the</p> <p>11 vicinity to see if there's anybody else with her. So my</p> <p>12 secondary sweep was a little bit further, so I went up</p> <p>13 to the 21st floor.</p> <p>14 Q. If I can stop you there. If we look at floor 20, first</p> <p>15 of all, the secondary sweep.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. You were on the stairwell between the 20th and the 21st</p> <p>18 floor.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Did you carry out a secondary sweep of the lobby of the</p> <p>21 20th floor?</p> <p>22 A. The 20th, no, I was already up between those two floors.</p> <p>23 Whether somebody at the back, Firefighter Harris or</p> <p>24 Gonzalez did, I don't know. That's something you'd have</p> <p>25 to ask them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 Q. What did you shout, if anything, when you opened the</p> <p>2 door to the 21st lobby?</p> <p>3 A. It was something along the lines of, "Firefighters, can</p> <p>4 anybody hear me". Obviously you're in a BA mask, so</p> <p>5 you've got to shout as loud as possible, and again,</p> <p>6 doing that, you're taking down the contents of your</p> <p>7 cylinder. But then I started to kick the doors, like</p> <p>8 the actual entrance of the door into the stairwell, to</p> <p>9 see if anybody could hear me, but there was sort of no</p> <p>10 reaction.</p> <p>11 Q. How long did it take to carry out that secondary sweep</p> <p>12 of the 21st floor?</p> <p>13 A. It was really quick, probably 30 seconds and I was sort</p> <p>14 of in, shouted, and then Martin Gillam opened the door</p> <p>15 and I went out and just passed it on to him, and</p> <p>16 basically what I did then was said I'll double-check the</p> <p>17 next floor, so I went up and did exactly same.</p> <p>18 Q. If I can stop you there, was there any difference in the</p> <p>19 conditions between the 21st and the 22nd floor in the</p> <p>20 stairwell?</p> <p>21 A. No, the stairwell didn't really change at all.</p> <p>22 Q. As you opened the door into the 22nd-floor lobby, what</p> <p>23 did you encounter?</p> <p>24 A. Again, exactly the same as the 21st floor: pitch black,</p> <p>25 eerily quiet. You couldn't see literally your hand in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 Q. You went up to the 21st floor --</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Apologies, I interrupted you -- and you carried out</p> <p>4 a secondary sweep on that floor; is that right?</p> <p>5 A. I basically opened the door into the lobby area.</p> <p>6 Q. If I could stop you there, what were the conditions on</p> <p>7 the 21st lobby?</p> <p>8 A. Visibility was zero, I had my torch on. There was no</p> <p>9 light. I would literally have to put my hand in front</p> <p>10 of my face to see anything in there.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you go in --</p> <p>12 A. I took a couple of steps in, then as I turned around,</p> <p>13 I could see the door closing, so I was quite concerned</p> <p>14 if I did get disorientated and the door did close and</p> <p>15 Firefighter Gillam wasn't to come up, I could</p> <p>16 potentially have got lost on that 21st floor.</p> <p>17 Q. What would a secondary sweep involve in this context?</p> <p>18 Would it involve knocking on the doors of each</p> <p>19 individual flat or not?</p> <p>20 A. I think if visibility had been good enough, that's</p> <p>21 something I definitely would've done, but as I couldn't</p> <p>22 literally see in front of me, there's no way I could've</p> <p>23 gone in there -- and, like, time constraints of the</p> <p>24 amount of air we used to get up there, we were getting</p> <p>25 close to our turnaround point anyway.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 front of your face.</p> <p>2 Q. What secondary sweep did you carry out on the 22nd</p> <p>3 floor?</p> <p>4 A. I did the same: I took a couple of steps and noticed the</p> <p>5 door was shutting so had to go back out.</p> <p>6 Q. How long did you spend on the 22nd floor do you think?</p> <p>7 A. Again, it was so quick, 30 seconds, if that.</p> <p>8 Q. Did you or any member of the crew report the conditions</p> <p>9 that you encountered on the 21st and 22nd floor back to</p> <p>10 the bridgehead at that point?</p> <p>11 A. I'm not too sure because as myself, I came out with the</p> <p>12 casualty, so I sort of went straight out onto the</p> <p>13 mezzanine floor, so whether any of other crew passed</p> <p>14 that information on, I couldn't tell you.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you recall whether communications were restored at</p> <p>16 any point on your descent down the tower?</p> <p>17 A. Not that I'm aware of. Again, it was sort of you were</p> <p>18 so involved with bringing the casualty down, how much</p> <p>19 air you had, you were just trying to get out, basically.</p> <p>20 As you got lower and lower, the conditions were getting</p> <p>21 worse and worse, it was getting hotter and darker from</p> <p>22 around floor 10, 11, and then around --</p> <p>23 Q. If I could stop you before you go any further, before</p> <p>24 you started the descent itself, can you remember how</p> <p>25 much air you had left or how many minutes you gauged you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 128</p>

<p>1 had left under air?</p> <p>2 A. We probably used up half the duration. Carrying that</p> <p>3 amount of kit up was quite a physical task, so we wasn't</p> <p>4 sure if the conditions -- especially as we were going</p> <p>5 up, it was quite warm. We didn't know if anything was</p> <p>6 going to deteriorate, so you've got to factor in getting</p> <p>7 out as well as getting in and making that judgement, so</p> <p>8 we wanted to save a little bit of extra air to make sure</p> <p>9 we got out okay.</p> <p>10 Q. Now, on pages 6 and 7 of your statement, you describe</p> <p>11 the descent down the tower with the woman you'd rescued.</p> <p>12 On the second paragraph of page 6, roughly halfway</p> <p>13 down, you say:</p> <p>14 "When we go to approximately floor 11 or 10</p> <p>15 conditions all of a sudden became really hot. It was so</p> <p>16 hot; my legs were getting extremely hot. As we were</p> <p>17 walking, I noticed that the female was starting to</p> <p>18 darken as well. This is when the smoke comes into</p> <p>19 contact with the skin causing it to become darker in</p> <p>20 colour. The female appeared to be choking a lot more;</p> <p>21 she was sick and then became unconscious. I shouted out</p> <p>22 to the rest of the crew this change to the female so we</p> <p>23 began to move faster."</p> <p>24 Now, if I can take each element of that stage by</p> <p>25 stage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 Q. When you reached the bottom of the tower, understandably</p> <p>2 you were preoccupied with ensuring the lady received</p> <p>3 medical treatment.</p> <p>4 Did you have the opportunity to return to entry</p> <p>5 control to brief them on what you'd encountered?</p> <p>6 A. I didn't personally because as we obviously came out</p> <p>7 with the casualty, we were expecting sort of a handover</p> <p>8 to LAS, but they wasn't there, so myself and Firefighter</p> <p>9 Gillam took her down out of the tower to the awaiting</p> <p>10 LAS. Whether anybody out of the crew did that, I don't</p> <p>11 know.</p> <p>12 Q. No.</p> <p>13 Were you able to see any information when you were</p> <p>14 back in the tower as to what you'd encountered on the</p> <p>15 20th, 21st and 22nd floors on the walls or anything like</p> <p>16 that?</p> <p>17 A. Is this in relation to later on?</p> <p>18 Q. No, just at the point --</p> <p>19 A. Not that I noticed. Everything was so quick, bringing</p> <p>20 her out. We just got outside so quickly, I don't</p> <p>21 remember seeing anything at all.</p> <p>22 Q. Could I now turn to the topic of the woman from flat</p> <p>23 183. Could I ask you to turn to page 7 of your</p> <p>24 statement and the bottom of page 7, the final two lines.</p> <p>25 You say:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 I interrupted you earlier on, you were describing</p> <p>2 smoke conditions as you came down the tower.</p> <p>3 Can you describe, first of all, coming down from the</p> <p>4 20th to the 15th floor, what the smoke conditions were</p> <p>5 like on those five floors?</p> <p>6 A. It was pretty clear. There wasn't really much of</p> <p>7 a change. Visibility was good down them floors. You</p> <p>8 could see your crew in front of you. I was carrying the</p> <p>9 casualty at the head end, so I had her arms, Firefighter</p> <p>10 Gillam had the legs and I could see Firefighter Gillam</p> <p>11 and whoever was in front of him quite clearly.</p> <p>12 Q. And what was the position between the 15th and 10th</p> <p>13 floors in terms of smoke?</p> <p>14 A. Again, exactly the same.</p> <p>15 Q. Were you able to identify a cause for this sudden</p> <p>16 increase in heat that you encountered around floor 10</p> <p>17 and 11?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. You're aware of metabolic heat stress.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you think you were suffering from it, you were</p> <p>22 experiencing symptoms from it, as you came down?</p> <p>23 A. I was hot, but there was nothing there that really</p> <p>24 suggested that I was suffering from any stress at all,</p> <p>25 no.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 "As we were doing this [assisting casualties] I</p> <p>2 assisted the removal on a conscious lady who told me she</p> <p>3 was from flat 183 on the 15th floor. She told me that</p> <p>4 her 12 year old daughter, her two dogs, a male and her</p> <p>5 pregnant friend were still in the flat."</p> <p>6 To whom did you pass the information that the woman</p> <p>7 had given you regarding her daughter and the others?</p> <p>8 A. I initially went over to the outside of the tower where</p> <p>9 there was a -- Paladin bins were set up with all the</p> <p>10 FSGs going on on the floor. I don't know who I passed</p> <p>11 the information on to, but I passed it on there, and</p> <p>12 I think they told me to then go and tell the bridgehead,</p> <p>13 and I also went back into the tower to tell the</p> <p>14 bridgehead that information straight after that.</p> <p>15 Q. When you say tell the bridgehead, can you remember who</p> <p>16 you told at the bridgehead?</p> <p>17 A. I think it might have been Glynn Williams. I'm not</p> <p>18 100 per cent sure.</p> <p>19 Q. Might I ask Paul to bring up the photograph that was at</p> <p>20 MET00015816.</p> <p>21 Do these writings seems familiar to you? Have you</p> <p>22 seen them before?</p> <p>23 A. Yeah, that's as you go into the front of the tower, it</p> <p>24 was on the wall on the left-hand side.</p> <p>25 Q. If you see at the top-right --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 A. 183, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Yes. Did you see anyone write that?</p> <p>3 A. I didn't see anyone write that at all, no, I'd just seen</p> <p>4 that later on when I had my second wear in the early</p> <p>5 hours of the morning. But I don't know who wrote that,</p> <p>6 no.</p> <p>7 Q. When you came to give the information to Glynn Williams,</p> <p>8 can you explain the precise information you communicated</p> <p>9 to him?</p> <p>10 A. It was sort of very brief, very quick, basically what</p> <p>11 the lady said to me, flat 183, a 12-year-old daughter,</p> <p>12 two dogs, 15th floor, and a male and a friend. And --</p> <p>13 Q. Do you know how he recorded that information?</p> <p>14 A. I have no idea, no.</p> <p>15 Q. Are you able to provide any further detail about the</p> <p>16 steps taken to rescue that lady's daughter?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. Now, the penultimate topic I'd like to discuss with you</p> <p>19 is your second entry back into the tower.</p> <p>20 As I understand it, your evidence says that the EDBA</p> <p>21 crews, including yourself, were dispatched back into the</p> <p>22 tower.</p> <p>23 I'd be grateful if Paul could turn up the telemetry</p> <p>24 sheet, LFB00003115 and box 188.</p> <p>25 Now, again, reading from left to right, there is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 Surrey may have been able to get close to the top of the</p> <p>2 Tower."</p> <p>3 As far as you're aware, is the Surrey turntable the</p> <p>4 nearest one to London?</p> <p>5 A. Again, that's a question I can't answer.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you know whether London has a turntable the size of</p> <p>7 the Surrey one?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 MR KINNIER: Mr Roberts, thank you very much. Those are the</p> <p>10 questions I have for you. Others may have more.</p> <p>11 Sir, might I ask you to rise for 10 minutes.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>13 MR KINNIER: I can collate any questions that may arise.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Roberts, it may be that there are</p> <p>15 some more questions or it may be there won't be.</p> <p>16 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We're going to have a break now for</p> <p>18 10 minutes and if you would like to come back at 2.50,</p> <p>19 we'll see if there are any more questions.</p> <p>20 THE WITNESS: Okay thank you.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Please don't talk to anyone about</p> <p>22 your evidence while you're out. Thank you very much.</p> <p>23 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, 2.50, then, please.</p> <p>25 (2.40 pm)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 your name. Then we have tally out at 05.05. Does that</p> <p>2 sound right to you?</p> <p>3 A. No. Basically, once we came out and did our first wear,</p> <p>4 our sets -- we A-tested them on the fire ground and our</p> <p>5 sets were taken away by other oncoming FRU crews who</p> <p>6 obviously used them. I didn't actually use my own set;</p> <p>7 I used a set later on from PEG.</p> <p>8 Q. What task were you given on your return to the tower?</p> <p>9 A. It was go up to floor 10 and 11 to fight the fire.</p> <p>10 Q. Now, is it right that you found a deceased female on the</p> <p>11 stairwell between the 10th and 11th floor?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>13 Q. Had the body been there on your earlier descent down the</p> <p>14 tower?</p> <p>15 A. No, I didn't see any bodies on the way down.</p> <p>16 Q. On your return to the tower, are you able to give us</p> <p>17 a time when you reached the 10th floor and saw the body?</p> <p>18 A. I couldn't tell you at all, no.</p> <p>19 Q. The final topic I'd like to discuss with use is the</p> <p>20 question of the Surrey turntable. If I could ask you to</p> <p>21 turn to page 9 of your witness statement and the top</p> <p>22 paragraph there, five lines down:</p> <p>23 "I recall seeing a larger turntable ladder attending</p> <p>24 Grenfell Tower from Surrey Fire Service. We do not have</p> <p>25 a turntable ladder this large in London. The one from</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 (A short break)</p> <p>2 (2.50 pm)</p> <p>3 MR KINNIER: Sir, thank you.</p> <p>4 (The witness returned)</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. All right?</p> <p>6 THE WITNESS: Yeah, fine.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you.</p> <p>8 MR KINNIER: Mr Roberts, just a few additional questions.</p> <p>9 Thank you for your patience.</p> <p>10 First of all, just going back to your time on the</p> <p>11 22nd floor, you opened the door between the stairwell</p> <p>12 and the lobby. As you opened that door, what did you</p> <p>13 shout, if anything?</p> <p>14 A. Again, it wasn't until I went inside I shouted at all.</p> <p>15 As I opened the door, I didn't shout anything. Only</p> <p>16 once I went inside did I shout.</p> <p>17 Q. Next, can I ask you about the locked gate at the roof.</p> <p>18 Have you been on any 7(2)(d) visits of high-rise</p> <p>19 buildings on your patch?</p> <p>20 A. On Paddington's ground? Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Have you encountered situations in which the access to</p> <p>22 the roof is governed by locked gates or similar</p> <p>23 protection?</p> <p>24 A. Yeah, there generally seems to be some sort of gated</p> <p>25 access obviously that will stop any members of the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p>

1 **public getting up on to the roof. There is generally**
2 **some sort of lock or controlled access.**
3 Q. Is that a point you've noted and highlighted on 7(2)(d)
4 visits on your patch?
5 **A. Yeah. It's just something you pick up as you go around.**
6 Q. Is it the type of information that you'd find on the
7 MDT?
8 **A. Again, I don't use the MDT for looking up that sort of**
9 **information, so that would be down to a crew manager or**
10 **watch manager who is sat in that seat controlling the**
11 **MDT.**
12 Q. What training do you receive to deal with or respond to
13 the type of smoky conditions you experienced at
14 Grenfell Tower on 14 June?
15 **A. It's just basically something that you cover in your**
16 **basic fire training at Southwark.**
17 MR KINNIER: Mr Roberts, those are all the questions I have
18 for you. Thank you very much for your time today and
19 your patience.
20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You can help me with one thing
21 before Mr Roberts goes. Could we just look at his
22 statement, page 7.
23 MR KINNIER: Yes, sir.
24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Last line.
25 You asked him about this. This is refers to flat

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1 183 on the 15th floor; is that correct?
2 MR KINNIER: Sir, I think that was the evidence --
3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Has there been a transposition?
4 MR KINNIER: I think that's the evidence of Mr Gillam and
5 Mr Roberts.
6 Are you sure it's flat 183?
7 **A. Yeah, it was definitely 183. She was screaming 183 to**
8 **me several times. I did ask her to clarify what she**
9 **said and she was saying 183.**
10 **SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Okay.**
11 **I wasn't sure if that was on the 15th floor, that's**
12 **all.**
13 MR KINNIER: I think that might be a fair observation, but
14 I think the evidence we've had from Mr Gillam and
15 Mr Roberts is it was flat 183.
16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. That's as you recall it,
17 is it, Mr Roberts?
18 **A. Yeah, that's definitely what she said, flat 183, and she**
19 **said 15.**
20 **SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: There it is. Thank you very much.**
21 **Well, no more questions for you. Thank you very**
22 **much for coming to give your evidence.**
23 **You've come a long way, I think?**
24 THE WITNESS: Yeah, North Wales.
25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much for taking the

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1 trouble to come.
2 THE WITNESS: That's fine. Thank you.
3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the
4 usher, that's fine, thank you.
5 (The witness was released)
6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Kinnier, we've done rather
7 well for today.
8 MR KINNIER: We have done.
9 Sir, I have an application to make on behalf of
10 Mr Millett. Tomorrow we have two witnesses,
11 Mr Paul Watson and Mr Gareth Cook.
12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.
13 MR KINNIER: Mr Millett's application is an invitation to
14 ask you to start at 9.30, simply because both witnesses
15 cover a broad range of detailed issues and he would be
16 grateful for the additional half an hour in which to
17 cover those in order to keep within the timetable.
18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Oh, I see. He sent you in to make
19 the application!
20 MR KINNIER: He has!
21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I think given the fact that
22 they are two quite substantial witnesses, it would be
23 right to start at 9.30 tomorrow.
24 MR KINNIER: I'm grateful, sir.
25 Sir, that concludes today's business.

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1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, thank you very much.
2 Well, I'm afraid it's another early start tomorrow,
3 but we'll get an early afternoon this afternoon.
4 So 9.30 tomorrow, please. Thank you very much.
5 (2.53 pm)
6 (The hearing adjourned until Tuesday, 24 July 2018 at
7 9.30 am)
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