

<p>1 Tuesday, 24 July 2018</p> <p>2 (9.30 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to</p> <p>4 today's hearing, at which we are going to hear more</p> <p>5 evidence from firefighters.</p> <p>6 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Good morning, Mr Chairman. Yes, we are.</p> <p>8 May I now please call Watch Manager Paul Watson.</p> <p>9 PAUL WATSON (sworn)</p> <p>10 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Watson.</p> <p>12 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: Mr Watson, good morning.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Morning.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Can I start, please, by asking you to give us your full</p> <p>16 name?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Just grab this water ...</b></p> <p>18 Q. Yes, of course.</p> <p>19 <b>A. My name is Paul Charles Watson.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>21 Now, in front of you, there is a blue file in which</p> <p>22 you will find a witness statement that you have done</p> <p>23 dated 10 November 2017 --</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: The one on the desk there.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: -- the reference to which is MET00008044. Can</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's the last page of tab C.</b></p> <p>2 <b>A. Last page, there is an exhibit there.</b></p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Right.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Then before that, there should be</p> <p>5 seven pages of ... yes.</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes, there are, there are several pages before that.</b></p> <p>7 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</b></p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Now, can I start by asking you a little bit</p> <p>9 about your career and training.</p> <p>10 You joined the London Fire Brigade in 1992, as you</p> <p>11 say in your statement; that's right, is it?</p> <p>12 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>13 Q. You're now a watch manager on Red Watch at Hammersmith?</p> <p>14 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>15 Q. When did you become a watch manager?</p> <p>16 <b>A. 2003.</b></p> <p>17 Q. 2003, okay.</p> <p>18 Can you just give us a little bit of a summary of</p> <p>19 your career from 2003?</p> <p>20 <b>A. From the beginning or from 2003?</b></p> <p>21 Q. From 2003. Which stations have you served at?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I've only served at Hammersmith Red Watch in that time.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Okay. And you've done the usual high-rise training,</p> <p>24 have you?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I have.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 I just ask you to look at that.</p> <p>2 Have you read it recently?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I have.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>5 Can you please confirm for us that the contents are</p> <p>6 true?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes. From what I can see of the first page, they are,</b></p> <p>8 <b>yes. They are true.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Have you discussed your statement or your evidence that</p> <p>10 you are going to give to us with anybody before coming</p> <p>11 here?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Now, you've also done a contemporaneous note, which is</p> <p>14 also in that file behind it, the reference to which is</p> <p>15 MET00005273.</p> <p>16 Do you recognise that document as yours?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes, I do.</b></p> <p>18 Q. It's dated 14 June 2017, as you can see from the fourth</p> <p>19 line. Is that when you wrote it?</p> <p>20 <b>A. That is, that's correct.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Okay. I think you've also got an exhibit at</p> <p>22 MET00015606, which may or may not be in that bundle.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It will be in tab C, I think, if you</p> <p>24 have it.</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes, is that the real tab C?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 Q. Have you done any post-Lakanal House training?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes, there was a package that we done online, which</b></p> <p>3 <b>I have completed at some point following Lakanal House.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 Do you remember, what was the take-away message that</p> <p>6 you got from that learning?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Like all our packages, just generally high-rise -- I do</b></p> <p>8 <b>remember the fire spreading to different compartments in</b></p> <p>9 <b>that job from stuff falling down from balconies. Just</b></p> <p>10 <b>generally, really. It was some time ago though.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Who designed that package, do you know?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Who delivered it to you as a trainee?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I was a watch manager at that time and I delivered it to</b></p> <p>15 <b>the watch.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Right, I see. So you delivered that training?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 Now, can I turn, then, to the night of the fire and</p> <p>20 your arrival.</p> <p>21 On the night of the fire at Grenfell Tower, your</p> <p>22 pump was G362, wasn't it?</p> <p>23 <b>A. No, pump ladder 361.</b></p> <p>24 Q. 361. I'm so sorry, you're right, 361. That was</p> <p>25 deployed as part of the initial attendance to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>2 <b>A. No, we went on as six-pump attendance.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Yes, but you were deployed, I think, at the time of</p> <p>4 make-up to six.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes, that's correct.</b></p> <p>6 Q. That was around --</p> <p>7 <b>A. 01.15.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Yes, and we have the make-up time about 01.13.</p> <p>9 According to the short incident log, you were mobile</p> <p>10 to the incident at 01.16.26. Would that sound about</p> <p>11 right to you?</p> <p>12 <b>A. About right, yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. And arrived at about 01.25.06.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Okay, yeah.</b></p> <p>15 Q. You were in charge, effectively, weren't you?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. And riding with you -- to get this out of the way -- you</p> <p>18 had Firefighters Murray --</p> <p>19 <b>A. I did.</b></p> <p>20 Q. -- Sephton --</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. -- Felton --</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. -- and Brodrick with no E?</p> <p>25 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 " We have aerial appliances, which need a lot of</p> <p>2 space to get in. I was conscious of the need not to</p> <p>3 block their path."</p> <p>4 Did you at that stage know that an aerial ladder had</p> <p>5 been ordered?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 Did you have any thoughts at that time about the</p> <p>9 need for aerial appliances to access the tower?</p> <p>10 <b>A. It would be common practice, especially in a high-rise,</b></p> <p>11 <b>to have aerial appliances attending.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Right. It would be common practice at what point in the</p> <p>13 make-up?</p> <p>14 <b>A. The incident commander who was first there, if it's</b></p> <p>15 <b>a fire that warrants getting an aerial appliance, he</b></p> <p>16 <b>would order one, or two, depending what the severity of</b></p> <p>17 <b>the fire was.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 You hadn't heard, or had you heard --</p> <p>20 <b>A. I hadn't, no.</b></p> <p>21 Q. -- about an aerial being ordered --</p> <p>22 <b>A. I hadn't, no.</b></p> <p>23 Q. -- at that stage? Did you come to hear later that</p> <p>24 an aerial had been ordered?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I was aware that aerals attended, but I wasn't told at</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 Q. You say in your witness statement on page 3, if I can</p> <p>2 show it to you, at paragraph 2, halfway down, you say</p> <p>3 you knew where Grenfell was:</p> <p>4 "... I knew that it was one way in and one way out</p> <p>5 and I knew that access would be difficult."</p> <p>6 How did you know that access would be difficult?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I've been to other fire calls there, fire alarms, on two</b></p> <p>8 <b>or three occasions, so I knew there was only one route</b></p> <p>9 <b>and it's a dead end, so if you drive into that dead end,</b></p> <p>10 <b>you've got to back out.</b></p> <p>11 Q. When you arrived on that night, did you find access to</p> <p>12 be difficult?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No, because what happened, as we approached the tower</b></p> <p>14 <b>from some way back -- I'm unfamiliar with the road</b></p> <p>15 <b>names -- I got the driver to stop the appliance and</b></p> <p>16 <b>I was going to pull up there some way from the tower so</b></p> <p>17 <b>we didn't clog up the whole entrance, but one of my own</b></p> <p>18 <b>crew managers, Crew Manager Davies, who had already</b></p> <p>19 <b>arrived at the scene, beckoned us down from where the</b></p> <p>20 <b>dead end was, so we went along and he turned us right</b></p> <p>21 <b>for us and we pulled up along there, so we didn't</b></p> <p>22 <b>actually go into the entrance, which was the main</b></p> <p>23 <b>concern.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You say at the end of the paragraph we're just looking</p> <p>25 at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 <b>any time, I just made that assumption.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Now, in your statement, again on page 3, you say that</p> <p>3 you parked on Bomore Road, and at the bottom of page 3,</p> <p>4 you say in the second line:</p> <p>5 "We walked the 100 yards or so to the entrance to</p> <p>6 the building where I saw Mick DOWDEN, call sign G27 from</p> <p>7 North Kensington fire station."</p> <p>8 Why did you park so far from the tower, 100 yards</p> <p>9 from the tower?</p> <p>10 <b>A. As I've said, if we'd actually approached past my crew</b></p> <p>11 <b>manager, we would've blocked that dead end route, so we</b></p> <p>12 <b>did a right and pulled up probably 20 metres past where</b></p> <p>13 <b>he was stood.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Right. Did you try to park near a hydrant?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 Were you not thinking that you were going to be</p> <p>18 doing any active firefighting with water?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes, but the first appliances there would've dealt with</b></p> <p>20 <b>the water side of things.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 Now, the time of arrival, according to the short</p> <p>23 incident log we have, puts you at arriving status 3 at</p> <p>24 01.25.06. Would you agree with that?</p> <p>25 <b>A. That's probably right. That's probably correct.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 Q. Going back up the statement, you say, just halfway down 2 on page 3, in the last line: 3 "In my own mind, I thought that the external 4 cladding was fully light." 5 That's the last sentence in the third paragraph down 6 on page 3, which is now highlighted there on the screen 7 for you. 8 Now, is that something you thought at the time? 9 <b>A. Yes. As I approached, I could see a fire from what 10 I now know to be the 23rd or 24th floor, from the fourth 11 floor all the way up, quite a fierce fire, and I can 12 remember walking, thinking: how is that possible? And 13 I know that all high-rises are completely concrete, so 14 in my own mind I thought it must be something that's 15 applied to the outside of the building.</b> 16 Q. Right. 17 <b>A. That's the only thing that could be burning because 18 obviously concrete doesn't burn.</b> 19 Q. So, is this right: you could actually see the exterior 20 material ignited? 21 <b>A. No, I could just see a large fire from the fourth to the 22 24th. As I got up to it, it was approximately 4-foot 23 wide, and it was some way off the building, maybe 4-foot 24 square kind of box straight the way up.</b> 25 Q. Had you ever seen anything like that before?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 <b>when.</b> 2 Q. Right. 3 Do you know about a fire at Shepherds Court in 4 Shepherd's Bush in August 2016? 5 <b>A. I am aware of it because it was my watch that were first 6 in attendance; however, I was on leave, so I didn't 7 attend there.</b> 8 Q. Do you know what lessons were learnt or take-away 9 messages were received from that fire? 10 <b>A. From what I can understand, with talking to the watch 11 after, the original flat fire did actually jump up three 12 or four floors, and so we had three or four compartments 13 alight, but from what I know, it stayed within them 14 compartments and the people above -- there may have been 15 smoke-logging, but the people above were generally 16 unaffected. It was just them fire compartments.</b> 17 Q. Did you get any training or hear any intelligence or 18 even gossip about lessons learnt from the Shepherds 19 Court fire after 2016 but before June 2017? 20 <b>A. I don't recall there being any specific packages. 21 However, the station carried out what we call a PRO, so 22 it's a performance of operations, and the senior manager 23 came down and discussed with the watch about things that 24 happened, which is common practice on any four-pump fire 25 and above.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 <b>A. No.</b> 2 Q. You refer to exterior in your answer just now and the 3 exterior cladding or external cladding in your witness 4 statement. 5 Did you know or think that the building was covered 6 in cladding? 7 <b>A. No. As I say, I know concrete high-rise buildings are 8 always concrete throughout, because that's how they're 9 built, so it had to be something that had been fixed to 10 the front facia of the building that was burning.</b> 11 Q. Were you aware at the time of previous cladding fires on 12 high-rise buildings? 13 <b>A. Not to the extent of that fire. I've seen fires where 14 you may have a small panel, maybe to the side or below 15 a window, that may catch light, a single panel, but this 16 fire went all the way to the top.</b> 17 Q. Just chasing that last answer up, a small panel, do you 18 remember when you saw fires where you had a small panel 19 on fire? 20 <b>A. Just over the years. Through the years, I've been to 21 quite a few high-rise fires and I've seen fire that's 22 left the window of a compartment and gone above to the 23 window above.</b> 24 Q. Yes. 25 <b>A. So I have experienced that, but I couldn't tell you</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you know who that was, the senior manager? 2 <b>A. I don't, no.</b> 3 Q. Were you ever shown a slideshow or any sort of package 4 of information as -- 5 <b>A. Personally, no.</b> 6 Q. -- part of that? No. 7 As part of that discussion, was there any discussion 8 about the risk of the exterior material or construction 9 of a high-rise building itself igniting? 10 <b>A. I don't know because I didn't attend the PRO. Because 11 I wasn't at the incident, you don't get invited.</b> 12 Q. Now, on page 3 of your witness statement, still in the 13 last paragraph on that page, you say, as I've just read 14 to you, that you went to see Mike Dowden, or you call 15 him Mick Dowden. Do you know him? 16 <b>A. I do.</b> 17 Q. Do you call him Mick? 18 <b>A. I think that's a typing error, it's Mike.</b> 19 Q. You then say: 20 "At that early stage, he was in charge of the 21 incident." 22 <b>A. That's correct.</b> 23 Q. "We had a discussion and both of us agreed that the fire 24 was so big that we needed to upgrade the number of 25 appliances to at least 20."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

1 Do you remember who suggested that the number of  
2 appliances should be upgraded?

3 **A. When I arrived, I'd had the short walk to the tower and**  
4 **took an oversight of the extent of the fire.**

5 Q. Yes.

6 **A. When I got to the base of the tower, I kind of took**  
7 **a snapshot -- and it was a snapshot -- and said to Mike,**  
8 **"How many machines are we, how many appliances?"**  
9 **I don't recall his answer, and I just said to him, "This**  
10 **is at least 20, just go 20 now".**

11 Q. What did he say?

12 **A. I don't recall, but he acknowledged that and that's what**  
13 **was sent.**

14 Q. Okay.

15 You say that's what was sent; who sent it, do you  
16 remember?

17 **A. Whoever was driving him or -- so he shouted across and**  
18 **somebody else got on the appliance and made that order.**

19 Q. He shouted across, did he?

20 **A. I was face-to-face and he shouted across to make it 20,**  
21 **and then we went into further discussion about what he**  
22 **wanted me to do.**

23 Q. How soon after your arrival -- which we, as I say, have  
24 put at about 01.25 -- was that discussion?

25 **A. Minutes. Literally, when we got off the appliance,**

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1 **I said to the guys, "Grab hose, breathing apparatus,**  
2 **branches, breaking-in gear", and we walked straight to**  
3 **the tower.**

4 Q. Okay. And so it was your advice which he essentially  
5 followed?

6 **A. It was.**

7 Q. Yes.

8 We can actually see the time at which pumps were  
9 made 20 from the short incident log at page 18. I don't  
10 need to take you to it, but it's at 01.29.46 it was made  
11 20.

12 Would that roughly correspond with your  
13 recollection?

14 **A. Yeah, probably correct, sir.**

15 Q. Okay.

16 What was your thinking as to what you would do with  
17 20 pumps?

18 **A. So to my mind, my snapshot, it had to be cladding alight**  
19 **because, as I said earlier, concrete doesn't burn, and**  
20 **my snapshot kind of said to me that the cladding in**  
21 **between the windows was fully light from the fourth to**  
22 **the top, and I remember thinking, as we know,**  
23 **summertime, some windows may be open, there will be**  
24 **smoke-logging into that area, as well as one or two**  
25 **compartments may catch fire, so we're going to need**

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1 **quite a big resourcing, we're going to need a lot of**  
2 **breathing apparatus, and that was the thinking behind**  
3 **that, really.**

4 Q. Was your emphasis on -- if I can put it this way --  
5 firefighter numbers and breathing apparatus or was your  
6 emphasis on firefighting with water?

7 **A. At that point, probably both. Because I thought it was**  
8 **external cladding, I still felt that we had a chance of**  
9 **putting it out, as well as needing resources in**  
10 **breathing apparatus to access higher floors.**

11 Q. Yes.

12 Now, at that stage, as you said in the previous  
13 paragraph, the right-hand elevation of the building was  
14 alight from the fourth floor to the top of the building.

15 Did you have any thoughts at that time, when you  
16 advised him to make pumps 20, about 01.29 or so, about  
17 evacuation at all?

18 **A. I didn't have any thoughts on it, but to put some**  
19 **context around that, at that time, I was the sixth**  
20 **appliance there, so effectively we've got six**  
21 **firefighting teams. Of them six teams, I knew that at**  
22 **least two of them would've been expelled, which would**  
23 **leave four firefighting teams, eight people. To**  
24 **evacuate a tower of that size with eight people wouldn't**  
25 **be easy, because as you go in, and rightly so, the**

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1 **public, when they open their doors and see smoke, they**  
2 **don't want to leave, and you'd have to escort them down**  
3 **to get them to leave. So to start mass evacuating into**  
4 **smoke-filled lobbies would be very difficult to do.**  
5 **People don't want to, naturally, walk into smoke.**

6 Q. No.

7 What information did you have at the time you  
8 advised him to make pumps 20 about the conditions in the  
9 lobbies or the stair?

10 **A. None. But I could see the fire, I could see that**  
11 **certain compartments either side of that fire would get**  
12 **smoke-logged, so I knew that there would be**  
13 **smoke-logging within that building, but I didn't know**  
14 **where.**

15 Q. You go on to say in the next sentence -- this is in your  
16 statement on the third page, last paragraph:

17 "I knew that the building would be smoke logged and  
18 we would need a high number of firefighters with BA kits  
19 to rescue people."

20 Did you have a discussion about that with  
21 Mike Dowden?

22 **A. No, I did not.**

23 Q. These are just your thoughts?

24 **A. Just my thoughts, yeah.**

25 Q. Right.

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4 (Pages 13 to 16)

<p>1 In terms of needing firefighters with BA to rescue</p> <p>2 people, did you have any thoughts about how, when all</p> <p>3 those BA wearers arrived, you would organise the</p> <p>4 rescues?</p> <p>5 <b>A. So I was given a role and that wasn't part of my role;</b></p> <p>6 <b>however, when I got up to the bridgehead, it's common</b></p> <p>7 <b>practice -- so you fight the fire floor, and if need be</b></p> <p>8 <b>evacuate that floor. Then you would go the two floors</b></p> <p>9 <b>above because, in general, the fire would spread up the</b></p> <p>10 <b>immediate floor above. And as I understand it, that's</b></p> <p>11 <b>what Watch Manager O'Keeffe was doing, which is common</b></p> <p>12 <b>practice for us.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 Similar question to the one I asked a minute ago:</p> <p>15 did you ask Mike Dowden if he had implemented a rescue</p> <p>16 or evacuation plan of any kind?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, I did not.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Is there a reason why you didn't have that discussion?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Because we had a very quick handover. I said about</b></p> <p>20 <b>making 20, make pumps 20, he'd done that, and then he</b></p> <p>21 <b>said straight back to me, "I want you to organise</b></p> <p>22 <b>staging, as staging officer". I now know why, but at</b></p> <p>23 <b>the time I didn't know. I was a bit taken aback, to be</b></p> <p>24 <b>honest; it's not something I would've thought of at that</b></p> <p>25 <b>time. But I understand from watching Watch Manager</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 a little bit, if I can ask you to do that, to page 11,</p> <p>2 in the third paragraph down on that page, you say:</p> <p>3 "For Grenfell, residents would have been told to</p> <p>4 stay put as you are in your safety area."</p> <p>5 Was that an assumption that you made on the night or</p> <p>6 was it something you actually knew?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, that is standard procedure from fire survival</b></p> <p>8 <b>guidance. In a high-rise, a high-rise compartment is</b></p> <p>9 <b>normally concrete, should give you two hours of</b></p> <p>10 <b>compartmentation, and generally your actual compartment</b></p> <p>11 <b>doesn't get smoke-logged from previous buildings, so</b></p> <p>12 <b>they would've been safe in that compartment.</b></p> <p>13 Q. You say two hours; where do you get the two hours from?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Just something I've read from previous incidents because</b></p> <p>15 <b>it's concrete.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 Jo Smith, who ran the control room, or helped run</p> <p>18 the control room on the night of the fire, said that her</p> <p>19 cut-off time post-Lakanal House was an hour?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Okay. Maybe that's correct, but because then of course</b></p> <p>21 <b>you've got the door, the front door wouldn't be two</b></p> <p>22 <b>hours, so maybe that's where that comes from. But the</b></p> <p>23 <b>actual construction, concrete, as far as I can remember</b></p> <p>24 <b>from reading previous notes, it's two hours.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Okay. All right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 <b>O'Keeffe's interview that he was asking for quite a lot</b></p> <p>2 <b>of equipment because we was getting people there and</b></p> <p>3 <b>they didn't have branches, breaking-in gear, so that's</b></p> <p>4 <b>why he gave me that role.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>6 So to your way of understanding at the time, would</p> <p>7 it be fair to say that the emphasis in terms of planning</p> <p>8 was more on resources --</p> <p>9 <b>A. Resourcing, exactly.</b></p> <p>10 Q. -- rather than what to do with the resources?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Get the resources there, as required, because they was</b></p> <p>12 <b>being called from or called for from the bridgehead, so</b></p> <p>13 <b>I believe he knew there was a lot of appliances coming</b></p> <p>14 <b>on and he wanted to organise that.</b></p> <p>15 Q. I see.</p> <p>16 Now, you said a minute ago that you'd had a very</p> <p>17 quick handover. Was there actually a handover of</p> <p>18 control?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, not a handover as such. He told me exactly what he</b></p> <p>20 <b>wanted me to do. It was no more than 10 seconds, and</b></p> <p>21 <b>I said, "Okay, I'll sort that" and I left him there.</b></p> <p>22 Q. You left him as the incident commander?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Left him where he was, yeah.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 Now, later on in your statement, just to jump ahead</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 But just to go back to my question. Let me put it</p> <p>2 slightly differently.</p> <p>3 Did you on arrival or at the scene actually know</p> <p>4 what the standing advice to residents was?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Not specifically for that building, but as far as I'm</b></p> <p>6 <b>aware, all high-rises are a stay-put policy.</b></p> <p>7 Q. All right.</p> <p>8 You then go on to say in the next sentence:</p> <p>9 "On that night, I don't know if that policy changed,</p> <p>10 I never had that information."</p> <p>11 Is that right? At no stage in the night did you get</p> <p>12 to hear that a standing advice to residents to stay put</p> <p>13 had been revoked or changed?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I never received that information.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 Now, given that you were thinking about rescue by</p> <p>17 multiple BA wearers, did you ask Mike Dowden about</p> <p>18 whether he was thinking of changing the policy?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Is there a reason why you didn't do that?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Because it all happened very quickly. I arrived there,</b></p> <p>22 <b>I'm one of a number of appliance commanders coming on.</b></p> <p>23 <b>We had a short discussion about making the appliances 20</b></p> <p>24 <b>and a very short discussion about what he wanted me to</b></p> <p>25 <b>do, and I left him there.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>2 Can I turn to a different topic, which is</p> <p>3 a self-contained topic that you cover in a paragraph on</p> <p>4 page 7, just before we move on to the staging, and</p> <p>5 that's the subject of lifts.</p> <p>6 If you go to page 7 of your statement and look at</p> <p>7 the last paragraph, you say:</p> <p>8 "When I first got to the scene I remember the lift</p> <p>9 door being opened. It was full of white smoke."</p> <p>10 Just pausing there, when did you go to see the</p> <p>11 lifts? Is that before or after your conversation with</p> <p>12 Mike?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Once I left Mike, I had no more contact with Mike on the</b></p> <p>14 <b>outside. So as I entered the building -- and I'm not</b></p> <p>15 <b>too sure of the sequence of events. However, very early</b></p> <p>16 <b>going into that lobby, I witnessed two firefighters</b></p> <p>17 <b>opening the lift door with a drop-down key.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Okay. Now, I wonder if we can just show you a picture</p> <p>19 of you entering the lobby and put a time on that. Can</p> <p>20 I ask you to be shown INQ00000225 up on the screen.</p> <p>21 Can you see yourself anywhere in that picture?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes, that's me in the white helmet.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Right, carrying a length of what looks like</p> <p>24 45-millimetre hose?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes, that looks correct, sir.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Maybe 10 metres or so.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Okay. Did you get a clear view of it?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yeah. Yeah, I think I recall the doors being open.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 <b>A. And I witnessed two firefighters open a lift door.</b></p> <p>6 Q. I see.</p> <p>7 When the lift door opened, you say it was full of</p> <p>8 white smoke?</p> <p>9 <b>A. (Nodded assent).</b></p> <p>10 Q. Could you describe it in a little bit more detail for</p> <p>11 us?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yeah, so as I opened the door, a large puff of white</b></p> <p>13 <b>smoke came out the top of the lift, which is possibly</b></p> <p>14 <b>unusual, it's not something you see all the time.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 What did that indicate to you about the development</p> <p>17 of the fire?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Well, it showed that possibly the lifts were being used</b></p> <p>19 <b>and smoke had entered the compartment. But the most</b></p> <p>20 <b>important thing there is the fact that it was white</b></p> <p>21 <b>smoke and not thick black smoke. If it would've been</b></p> <p>22 <b>black smoke, it would've been a lot more of a concern</b></p> <p>23 <b>because that would've meant that it was still hot.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Now, you then go on to say in the next sentence but one:</p> <p>25 "I made the decision that we couldn't use the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 Q. Right.</p> <p>2 We can time that at 01.30 exactly, in fact, once</p> <p>3 it's adjusted. If we take off 36 seconds for cameras 1</p> <p>4 to 5, which we have to do in order to adjust it, it</p> <p>5 gives you a time of 01.30.</p> <p>6 So at 01.30, we know that -- well, can I ask you</p> <p>7 this: at that stage, did you know what the pump make-up</p> <p>8 was at that point when you entered the building?</p> <p>9 <b>A. That was just after I'd spoken to Mike regarding make</b></p> <p>10 <b>pumps 20, so as far as I knew it was a 20-pump make-up.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>12 After you entered the tower, as we see, at 01.30,</p> <p>13 where did you go next?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Several things happened, as per my statement. So I'm</b></p> <p>15 <b>not sure of the actual sequence of events.</b></p> <p>16 <b>I remained on the ground floor for maybe</b></p> <p>17 <b>15/20 minutes, but quite a lot happened in that time.</b></p> <p>18 <b>If you want me to explain, I will.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Right. At what point did you go to the lifts?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I never actually went to the lift. Where the other</b></p> <p>21 <b>firefighter is standing there without the helmet,</b></p> <p>22 <b>I probably stood around that area and could visually see</b></p> <p>23 <b>the lifts through a set of double doors.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Oh, I see. Okay.</p> <p>25 So how far from the lift were you when you --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 lifts."</p> <p>2 Why was that?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I think that's taken a little bit out of context. The</b></p> <p>4 <b>reason that was put in there, as my statement goes on to</b></p> <p>5 <b>say later, I meet a fire and rescue unit crew and that's</b></p> <p>6 <b>where that came in.</b></p> <p>7 Q. I'm not sure that quite helps me understand your</p> <p>8 evidence, I'm afraid.</p> <p>9 Did you make a decision that you couldn't use the</p> <p>10 lifts?</p> <p>11 <b>A. If anybody asked me, which they did later on, I made</b></p> <p>12 <b>that decision that that FRU crew that came up were not</b></p> <p>13 <b>going to use the lift.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Oh, I see. So in relation to a particular crew?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Particular crew.</b></p> <p>16 Q. I see, okay.</p> <p>17 Did you communicate that decision that you've just</p> <p>18 described to anybody?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I don't believe I did.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 In the last sentence you say:</p> <p>22 "It was not an acceptable risk so I made what</p> <p>23 I still think was the correct decision and deemed the</p> <p>24 lifts out of use."</p> <p>25 Again, it sounds as if, from that evidence, you are</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

<p>1 making a general prohibition on the lifts being used; is</p> <p>2 that right?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yeah, but again, to put that into context, our</b></p> <p>4 <b>bridgehead was on the second floor. Generally the lifts</b></p> <p>5 <b>are only used up to the bridgehead. It would be bad</b></p> <p>6 <b>practice to take the lifts past the bridgehead, above</b></p> <p>7 <b>the fire, which we would've been doing in this case.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Did you know that Crew Manager Chris Secrett, the crew</p> <p>9 manager from North Ken, had already tried to bring the</p> <p>10 lift under control on arrival and had failed?</p> <p>11 <b>A. No, I didn't know that.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Did you know whether or did you form a view about</p> <p>13 whether the lifts were firefighting lifts properly</p> <p>14 so-called?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, because I know they had a drop key, which would</b></p> <p>16 <b>denote that they are a firefighting lift, but I never</b></p> <p>17 <b>actually went over to where the lifts are.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did you, from what you saw, think that the lifts had</p> <p>19 been brought under firefighter control or had not been</p> <p>20 brought under firefighter control?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I would say they wasn't and that's why they was actually</b></p> <p>22 <b>opening the lift door as opposed to just trying to bring</b></p> <p>23 <b>the lift down off the firefighter switch.</b></p> <p>24 Q. What did you think about that?</p> <p>25 <b>A. As I say, because the bridgehead was on the second</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 Can I ask you to look at the next picture, which is</p> <p>2 INQ00000226.</p> <p>3 Now, this is timed at 01.33.31, so just 3 minutes</p> <p>4 after you've come through into the lobby, and you're</p> <p>5 talking to some BA wearers.</p> <p>6 Do you know who those are, those BA wearers?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Not from that photo, no.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 Then if you look at the next one, which you'll have</p> <p>10 at 01.33.44, which is INQ00000227, that one, you appear</p> <p>11 to be doing something with the control panel. Do you</p> <p>12 know what?</p> <p>13 <b>A. So just after I arrived in there, one of my own</b></p> <p>14 <b>firefighters radioed me on my handheld and said there</b></p> <p>15 <b>appears to be no alarm actuating within the building, so</b></p> <p>16 <b>they said, "Can you see if there's an alarm panel</b></p> <p>17 <b>anywhere that you could actuate?"</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right. Oh, I see, okay.</p> <p>19 So what did you think that red control box was?</p> <p>20 <b>A. From memory, I believe it had fire panel on, so I opened</b></p> <p>21 <b>the door, but it wasn't -- it was some form of</b></p> <p>22 <b>ventilation system. I believe I closed that door and</b></p> <p>23 <b>then I moved across to where the door to the left is</b></p> <p>24 <b>there to try and get in there, because sometimes they</b></p> <p>25 <b>have fire alarm panels in an office, but that door</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 <b>floor, normally we use the lifts to get our equipment,</b></p> <p>2 <b>say, to the 10th floor where the fire is, two below, so</b></p> <p>3 <b>to walk up two sets of stairs wasn't really an issue as</b></p> <p>4 <b>such.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Did you have any thoughts about the risks posed to</p> <p>6 residents by having the lift not brought under</p> <p>7 firefighter control?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I didn't. Not at that time, no.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Now, we then move on to the next topic, which is the</p> <p>10 set-up of the staging area for BA sets.</p> <p>11 Going back, if we can, to page 3 of your statement,</p> <p>12 you say at the bottom:</p> <p>13 "Mike said that he had set up a bridgehead on the</p> <p>14 2nd floor and he told me to set up a staging area on the</p> <p>15 ground floor."</p> <p>16 I think what you go on to say is that the bridgehead</p> <p>17 was subsequently moved up to the third floor and then in</p> <p>18 fact came later down to the ground floor, in general</p> <p>19 terms; that's right, isn't it?</p> <p>20 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. In general terms.</p> <p>22 Now, just taking that in stages, can we start by</p> <p>23 looking at the initial staging area on the ground floor.</p> <p>24 I think this was when you were first tasked by</p> <p>25 Mike Dowden to set up the staging area.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 <b>I believe was locked, so I radioed him back and said I'm</b></p> <p>2 <b>unable to set the fire alarm off.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Do you know who that firefighter was, do you remember?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes, Firefighter Felton from my own station.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Felton, okay.</p> <p>6 Did you find out what that control panel actually</p> <p>7 did?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No. I now know that it was an extract system, but at</b></p> <p>9 <b>that time I was looking for a fire alarm panel and</b></p> <p>10 <b>didn't really pay a lot of attention to it.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Let's just look at another picture. This is 229,</p> <p>12 INQ00000229.</p> <p>13 We can see the panel open with something on the</p> <p>14 ground. Do you know what that thing on the ground is?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Was it you who opened the panel?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I did open the panel. I don't recall if I shut the door</b></p> <p>18 <b>or not, but I didn't operate anything on the panel.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Could you make out what the panel did or was for?</p> <p>20 <b>A. As I said, I didn't pay a lot of attention because it</b></p> <p>21 <b>wasn't what I was looking for, but I seem to remember</b></p> <p>22 <b>some wording along the lines of ventilation that was,</b></p> <p>23 <b>like, on a plaque on it.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 At that stage, what did you do further with the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 panel, if anything?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I was still looking for the AFA panel after opening</b></p> <p>3 <b>that, but even if that had have been a ventilation</b></p> <p>4 <b>panel, I wouldn't have operated anything. It's not</b></p> <p>5 <b>common practice. Unless you're part of the management</b></p> <p>6 <b>team or a fire prevention officer, I wouldn't operate</b></p> <p>7 <b>that because you've got a lot of people in the lobbies,</b></p> <p>8 <b>and I don't know the controls and it can spread fire and</b></p> <p>9 <b>smoke around the building, so I wouldn't have touched</b></p> <p>10 <b>it.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Was it unusual, in your experience, not to find an AFA</p> <p>12 in a high-rise such as this?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I believe so. I'm not sure of the specifics for this</b></p> <p>14 <b>building, but I know other buildings on North</b></p> <p>15 <b>Kensington's ground, we do go to a common area fire</b></p> <p>16 <b>alarm AFA, which covers all the common areas in the</b></p> <p>17 <b>building. I can't think of the name of them at the</b></p> <p>18 <b>moment, but there are several that we attend.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Can I just ask you to look at another picture, which is</p> <p>20 the next one in the sequence, INQ00000230.</p> <p>21 Can you identify yourself on that picture?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I can.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Which is which?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I'm on the right.</b></p> <p>25 Q. On the right in the white helmet?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you remember having any kind of discussion with</p> <p>2 Mike Dowden about an alarm --</p> <p>3 <b>A. I didn't. Once I entered the lobby, I had no more</b></p> <p>4 <b>contact with Mike Dowden.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 <b>A. Personally.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Having been prompted by Firefighter Felton to look for</p> <p>8 an AFA and activate it, did you then have any thoughts</p> <p>9 about whether it was necessary to effect a full or</p> <p>10 partial evacuation of the building?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Not a partial evacuation, as we call it, but I do know</b></p> <p>12 <b>that the first -- I know we can see firefighters there,</b></p> <p>13 <b>but I was the sixth appliance on, and I know that all</b></p> <p>14 <b>the firefighters before had gone up, so Watch Manager</b></p> <p>15 <b>O'Keefe would've had people going in to assess the</b></p> <p>16 <b>situation, bring people out immediately above the fire,</b></p> <p>17 <b>because that's what we do, that's common practice.</b></p> <p>18 Q. After you realised that the red box was not an AFA but</p> <p>19 a smoke control panel, did you look further for an AFA?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes. So the door to the left, I believe that door was</b></p> <p>21 <b>locked, I tried to enter there. As I said, it's not</b></p> <p>22 <b>uncommon for an alarm system to be in a locked office.</b></p> <p>23 <b>But I believe I'm right in saying that was locked and</b></p> <p>24 <b>I couldn't investigate any further. So I radioed him</b></p> <p>25 <b>back and said I don't think there is an alarm panel in</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Who are you talking to, do you know?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No, I don't. He's got a command unit -- looks like</b></p> <p>4 <b>a command unit tabard on, but I don't recall seeing him.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right. Does the name Watch Manager Kentfield mean</p> <p>6 anything to you?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I don't think it does, no.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Do you remember what discussion you had with him?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I don't remember the discussion. If I'm honest, I don't</b></p> <p>10 <b>even remember meeting him. However, it was probably to</b></p> <p>11 <b>find out what I was doing in there because they come</b></p> <p>12 <b>round and plot out exactly what people are doing and</b></p> <p>13 <b>where you are and they take that information back to</b></p> <p>14 <b>their command unit.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Yes.</p> <p>16 Going back to this question of the AFA and</p> <p>17 activating the alarm, did Mr Felton give you a reason as</p> <p>18 to why you should be looking for an AFA to activate?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, he didn't, but his thoughts would've been the same</b></p> <p>20 <b>as mine. By activating the alarm -- not mass</b></p> <p>21 <b>evacuation, because that wouldn't have been the intent,</b></p> <p>22 <b>but some people would've naturally evacuated, and at</b></p> <p>23 <b>that time in the morning, a lot of people would've been</b></p> <p>24 <b>asleep, so it would've alerted people that there was</b></p> <p>25 <b>a fire or something going on.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 <b>the building.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did you try and get into the room with the door we see</p> <p>3 in that picture?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I believe I did and I believe it was locked.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Did you find the key to it?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I didn't, no.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Do you know whether anybody else did?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I don't, no.</b></p> <p>9 Q. In terms of the red panel, we can see it open there at</p> <p>10 the moment and we can go back a picture or two to see</p> <p>11 you at it.</p> <p>12 Do you remember how you managed to get it open?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I believe there was a key in the door, or it may have</b></p> <p>14 <b>just been a thumb turn, but I didn't need any -- it just</b></p> <p>15 <b>opened. I just went up and opened it.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Was there a key to operate the panel within the panel?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I don't know, I didn't look at that.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 Going back to the actual staging area that you were</p> <p>20 setting up, if you turn to page 4 of your statement, you</p> <p>21 say in effectively the third paragraph down:</p> <p>22 "The staging post that I became responsible for was</p> <p>23 on the ground floor."</p> <p>24 And you go on to say:</p> <p>25 "It is my responsibility to hold firefighters there</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p>



1 until the Bridgehead is ready for them."

2 Would that require communication with the

3 bridgehead?

4 **A. Yes, it would.**

5 Q. Did you start having communications with the bridgehead?

6 **A. Yes. As I said, quite a lot happened when I first got**

7 **into the lobby. But at a very early stage, I tried to**

8 **contact Watch Manager O'Keeffe on the radio. And people**

9 **were -- because we use one channel, channel 1, and if**

10 **you're talking and somebody else cuts in, it cuts out**

11 **the transmission. And I do recall Watch Manager**

12 **O'Keeffe looking over the balcony and we spoke**

13 **face-to-face from two floors apart.**

14 Q. Right. So initially you were communicating with him

15 face-to-face?

16 **A. Yeah. He came over the balcony and I recall saying to**

17 **him, "Do you need anything?" and he said no.**

18 Q. Right.

19 Can I just take a half-step back and look at the

20 picture we saw at INQ00000230, just to do two things

21 with that picture.

22 You referred to a balcony just now. Can you

23 identify the balcony on that picture?

24 **A. I can see a balcony, but my memory of it, it was two**

25 **floors up as opposed to one, unless I'm incorrect there.**

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1 Q. All right. But is it --

2 **A. It's the same layout, if I'm correct in saying it's two**

3 **floors up, that's my recollection.**

4 Q. The second question on that picture: we can see you

5 talking to somebody in a red chequered surcoat or

6 tabard.

7 Is the red chequered tabard something that indicates

8 that that firefighter is from a command unit?

9 **A. I believe so.**

10 Q. Do you remember having a discussion with that person

11 about fire survival guidance?

12 **A. No. I don't even recall seeing him in there, if I'm**

13 **honest.**

14 Q. No, okay.

15 In general terms -- we're looking at a time mark of

16 about 01.36 -- did you know that fire survival guidance

17 calls were coming in?

18 **A. No.**

19 Q. You didn't?

20 **A. I wasn't told that.**

21 Q. You weren't told that?

22 **A. No.**

23 Q. Okay.

24 In terms of what radio equipment you had with you,

25 what did you have, do you remember?

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1 **A. Radio, so we have a personal handheld which communicates**

2 **with other firefighters only. I believe senior officers**

3 **have one which is an Airwave radio which communicates**

4 **and can listen to control, but watch manager and below**

5 **only have a personal radio --**

6 Q. Yes.

7 **A. -- to talk to each other.**

8 Q. So you only had what we've called fire ground radio?

9 **A. Fire ground radio.**

10 Q. Now, in paragraph 4 on page 4 of your statement -- we'll

11 come back to paragraph 3, I think in a minute --

12 you say:

13 "There were members of the public coming out of the

14 building. Some appeared to have no injuries but many

15 had smoke inhalation problems."

16 Just pausing there, what did that tell you about the

17 nature and extent of the smoke and fire spread within

18 the building?

19 **A. I think the way the police have put this interview**

20 **together jumps about a little bit, and I don't recall**

21 **seeing many members of the public coming past me at this**

22 **stage. I do recall one or two, but not many. And it's**

23 **not uncommon for people to be evacuating when we're**

24 **heading in, as they're coming out.**

25 **And for that point as well, if they'd have come from**

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1 **the fire floor, I know they would've come through some**

2 **smoke anyway.**

3 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, we're going to go on, but I've

4 been asked to take a break every 45 minutes with this

5 witness unless --

6 **A. I'm happy to continue for 15 more.**

7 **SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: How do you feel?**

8 **A. No, I'm fine, I'm happy to do another 15, if that's**

9 **okay, sir.**

10 **SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. Let's go on to 10.30 and**

11 **then we'll see how things look then.**

12 MR MILLETT: Very good, Mr Chairman, we'll do that.

13 Now, in the same paragraph, after the reference to

14 smoke inhalation problems, you say:

15 "I made contact with Watch Manager (W/M)

16 O'KEEFE[sic] who was in charge of the bridgehead,

17 initially by radio, but radio traffic was so busy that

18 we couldn't really speak."

19 Then you go on to say:

20 "He looked over the balcony down towards me and we

21 could communicate face-to-face ..."

22 Do you remember at that stage, that early stage,

23 what the problem was with communication?

24 **A. Yeah, as I stated earlier, if we're making**

25 **a transmission which can be heard by the whole fire**

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9 (Pages 33 to 36)

<p>1 ground, if somebody else keys their radio, it just cuts 2 the transmission completely. And there was quite a lot 3 going on outside; I could hear people asking for water 4 on hydrant, et cetera, et cetera. It was difficult to 5 talk to him.</p> <p>6 Q. Can you explain what you were communicating with Watch 7 Manager O'Keeffe about at this point?</p> <p>8 A. At that point, my role was staging, and I asked him did 9 he need anything as I first came into the building, and 10 he replied no.</p> <p>11 Q. He said no, so what did you do next?</p> <p>12 A. As my statement shows, quite a lot happened. I had 13 a person running round with an axe.</p> <p>14 Q. An American firefighter?</p> <p>15 A. An American firefighter. That's in my statement. And 16 I don't recall the actual sequence of events.</p> <p>17 Q. Now, if I can ask you to look at another CCTV picture, 18 and this one is at 01.38.50 and is at INQ00000231.</p> <p>19 We have the back of somebody wearing a tabard saying 20 "monitoring officer". Do you know who that is, or do 21 you remember who that is?</p> <p>22 A. I believe it to be Station Manager Loft, but I'm not 23 100 per cent.</p> <p>24 Q. Do you remember having a discussion with Station Manager 25 Loft? I should just say, the time mark for this is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 I told him, "Out". He was very animated, he wasn't 2 going to do us any good being in there, so I removed him 3 from the lobby.</p> <p>4 Q. Going back to your dealings with Station Manager Loft, 5 do you remember after this encounter with him outside 6 the building we've just looked at whether you had any 7 other dealings with Station Manager Loft during the 8 incident after that?</p> <p>9 A. No, not that I recall.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay.</p> <p>11 Now, going back to your statement, you say on page 4 12 in the third paragraph, which I said I'd come back to, 13 that you had obtained information about the layout of 14 the building. You say in the third line:</p> <p>15 "I remember thinking that we needed some kind of 16 sketch so firefighters had an understanding of the 17 layout inside. Hardly any of our firefighters would 18 have been inside the building before so I spoke to a 19 couple of crew who had already been up inside the 20 building."</p> <p>21 Then you go on to say:</p> <p>22 "From what they told me, I worked out that every 23 floor was identical and there were 6 flats on each 24 floor. CM SPETHTON[sic] drew a sketch on the wall 25 showing the layout, where the lifts were, where the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 01.38.14.</p> <p>2 A. As I was outside the building, that's the only time 3 I came out of the building. As I said in my statement, 4 we had a guy come into the lobby carrying an axe. He 5 said there were people threatening to jump at the back 6 of the building, so myself and Firefighter Murray left 7 the lobby and when he showed -- we was both going to go 8 and look, but when he showed me where it was, I couldn't 9 leave the lobby, so I sent Firefighter Murray with him 10 and I would've said to Station Manager Loft that's what 11 he's doing.</p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 I think if we look at the next picture, INQ00000232, 14 can we identify from that the American firefighter?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, that was him, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Where did he get the axe from, do you know?</p> <p>17 A. I can only presume one of our appliances. I've no idea.</p> <p>18 Q. What did you do with him?</p> <p>19 A. So he came into the lobby -- again, I'm not sure -- he 20 came in and said there's people threatening to jump and 21 then he came back at some point and he was a bit 22 animated. He said to me, "Where are the exits? I need 23 to smash every exit open in the building" and started 24 moving about, and at that point I just said to him, "Who 25 are you?" He said, "I'm an American firefighter", and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 flats were and the staircase. I knew there was only one 2 staircase so I briefed crews on the layout 10 at a 3 time."</p> <p>4 Now, I've read that all to you at length because 5 I have a number of questions.</p> <p>6 The first is: what time do you remember Crew Manager 7 Sephton drawing the map or the sketch on the wall?</p> <p>8 A. I don't know the time, but this happened when I'd gone 9 up to the second-floor balcony, and it would've been 10 after they'd come out of the job and they came up to me. 11 Crew Manager Sephton said that it was a complicated 12 layout, and he said, "Send your firefighters to the 13 third floor to look at the layout", and I said, "If 14 you've just been in, put it on the wall and then 15 everyone can view what you're talking about."</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 We might be able to do better if we start with the 18 exhibit, and this is in fact exhibited to Mr Sephton's 19 statement. If we can look at it, it is MET00016948, if 20 we can just have that picture.</p> <p>21 There it is.</p> <p>22 Is that the map you're referring to, do you think?</p> <p>23 A. I don't recall, but if that's on the second-floor 24 balcony, that was our map.</p> <p>25 Q. Second-floor balcony. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 Now, Mr Sephton -- and obviously he has given</p> <p>2 a statement and we'll have to explore with him his</p> <p>3 recollection in the same way we're doing with you, so</p> <p>4 I'm not putting to you what he says as gospel -- he</p> <p>5 recollects he drew it on the wall of the bridgehead, he</p> <p>6 thinks when the bridgehead was on the third floor.</p> <p>7 Do you have a recollection about which floor that</p> <p>8 map got drawn on?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I'm not sure I'm familiar with that map, and I'm looking</b></p> <p>10 <b>at the bag or whatever it is to the right, I don't</b></p> <p>11 <b>recall that being there. So possibly that's a different</b></p> <p>12 <b>map to what we had on the second-floor balcony.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>14 Now, you say:</p> <p>15 "I knew there was only one staircase so I briefed</p> <p>16 crews on the layout 10 at a time."</p> <p>17 Where did you get the information that there was</p> <p>18 only one staircase?</p> <p>19 <b>A. From Crew Manager Sephton.</b></p> <p>20 Q. He told you that, did he?</p> <p>21 <b>A. He told me that.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did he tell you that having come down from a wear?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes, I knew him and the firefighter he was with had just</b></p> <p>24 <b>worn.</b></p> <p>25 Q. I see.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 did?</p> <p>2 <b>A. So the first wave -- so the first six appliances, I lost</b></p> <p>3 <b>that wave of my staging area, and then I believe as more</b></p> <p>4 <b>appliances attended, I got quite a lot of people</b></p> <p>5 <b>starting to turn up. It was still difficult to talk to</b></p> <p>6 <b>Watch Manager O'Keeffe, so I made the decision to go up</b></p> <p>7 <b>to the second-floor lobby, or balcony, and set up my</b></p> <p>8 <b>staging area there.</b></p> <p>9 So the appliances coming on were bringing quite</p> <p>10 a lot of equipment because I'd spoken to Crew Manager</p> <p>11 Davies outside and asked him to get the required</p> <p>12 equipment, and we had like an equipment dump on that</p> <p>13 second floor as well as lots of firefighters in BA.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 So do you know or do you remember how long you were</p> <p>16 actually on the ground floor for before you moved your</p> <p>17 staging area up to the second floor?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I don't, no.</b></p> <p>19 Q. When you moved the staging up to the second floor, was</p> <p>20 that the time when you met Crew Manager Sephton coming</p> <p>21 down?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes, whilst I was stood there -- again, I'm not sure how</b></p> <p>23 <b>long after, but I remember Crew Manager Sephton coming</b></p> <p>24 <b>out and saying to me it was quite a difficult layout</b></p> <p>25 <b>because it was smoke-logged. There was a bin cupboard</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 So just give us a picture of the encounter. Where</p> <p>2 were you when you first saw Firefighter Sephton?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I was on the second-floor lobby. So there's a door</b></p> <p>4 <b>between the bridgehead and the balcony.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Yes.</p> <p>6 <b>A. And I was stood at the front of our row of firefighters,</b></p> <p>7 <b>which is where that drawing was put, right there.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 Now, we have Crew Manager Sephton's end of wear time</p> <p>10 at 01.57, and his tally in to bodyguard -- let's not go</p> <p>11 with that, let's go with the end of wear time, 01.57,</p> <p>12 just before 2 am.</p> <p>13 Would that correspond with your recollection, do you</p> <p>14 think?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Around that time.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 <b>A. But he had worn, so if that's when he's collected his</b></p> <p>18 <b>tally -- because that's how he was able to produce</b></p> <p>19 <b>a drawing, because he'd been up and seen the layout.</b></p> <p>20 Q. So just trying to piece this together in terms of your</p> <p>21 movements, we've seen you talking to Station Manager</p> <p>22 Loft at 01.38, talking to the American firefighter with</p> <p>23 the axe at 01.42, and we have Crew Manager Sephton's end</p> <p>24 of wear time at 01.57.</p> <p>25 So between 01.42 and 01.57, what do you think you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 <b>everyone was talking about that everyone kept going</b></p> <p>2 <b>into, so I said put the map on the wall.</b></p> <p>3 Q. I see, okay.</p> <p>4 At that stage, did you have any thoughts about</p> <p>5 getting an official map from somebody who could supply</p> <p>6 it, like the owner of the building?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, because my sole focus was my staging area. That's</b></p> <p>8 <b>something that would be done from outside through our</b></p> <p>9 <b>command, chain of command, as opposed to the role I had.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Did you think to ask Mike Dowden for an official map?</p> <p>11 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Okay.</p> <p>13 Once Crew Manager Sephton had come down and told you</p> <p>14 the layout, you say you drew the map?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, Crew Manager Sephton drew the map.</b></p> <p>16 Q. So sorry, he drew the map on the wall.</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did he tell you anything else about the conditions that</p> <p>19 he'd encountered in the stairwell?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Not specifically that I recall.</b></p> <p>21 Q. What about in the lobbies?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Again, not specifically. I believe he'd been up to the</b></p> <p>23 <b>fourth or fifth floor, but we didn't really have that</b></p> <p>24 <b>discussion.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 Now, you say that you were briefing crews on the 2 layout ten at a time. Was that once you'd got to the 3 second floor or was that while you were still on the 4 ground floor?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No, that was on the second floor.</b></p> <p>6 Q. We'll come back to that in a moment.</p> <p>7 Before you moved your staging post to the second 8 floor, so while it was still on the ground floor, was 9 any fire survival guidance information coming to you?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No. I received no fire survival guidance at that time.</b> 11 <b>Anything that was coming in would've gone straight to</b> 12 <b>the bridgehead, and I was one step back from that.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Okay.</p> <p>14 Now, on page 5 of your statement, you say in the, 15 I suppose, third paragraph, the second main paragraph, 16 which starts "It was a dynamic job", in the third 17 sentence, second line, you say:</p> <p>18 "So I decided to move my staging post from the 19 ground to the second floor balcony. The reason for this 20 is that I felt that communication between W/M O'KEEFE on 21 the bridgehead and myself would be better. The radios 22 weren't working ..."</p> <p>23 How long did it take you to set up the staging post 24 on the second-floor balcony?</p> <p>25 <b>A. So once the second wave of firefighters came in, and</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 questions before the break -- can I just ask you to be 2 shown master documents bundle, tab 5, and a plan of the 3 building on the second floor, which is MET00012593, 4 page 10 of that.</p> <p>5 There it is.</p> <p>6 Now, there -- it can be enlarged -- we have the 7 atrium in the south-east of the plan, and then the 8 walkway gallery, and then you can see towards the centre 9 of the building communal hall and steps up.</p> <p>10 Could you tell us by reference to this plan where 11 you set up your second-floor staging post?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Exactly where it says "walkway gallery", that's where</b> 13 <b>I was stood.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Where was Watch Manager O'Keeffe and the bridgehead?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I believe where it says "steps up".</b></p> <p>16 Q. Where were you standing?</p> <p>17 Well, let me ask it this way: did you have a clear 18 line of sight through the doorway to --</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes, I could see him through that doorway between the</b> 20 <b>two wordings.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Where were the firefighters, having come up from the 22 ground floor, where would they mass?</p> <p>23 <b>A. So where it says "walkway gallery", underneath there,</b> 24 <b>that's where they was all stood in a line, right the way</b> 25 <b>down the stairs, and above "walkway gallery" is where</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 there was quite a few of them, we just walked straight 2 up the stairs, nobody put any equipment down, we took 3 all the equipment and we put it to one side against the 4 wall so that the hose, et cetera, was there, so we could 5 use it.</p> <p>6 And possibly -- so straight away, instantly really, 7 once we -- so the time it would take to go up two 8 flights of stairs.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay, right. So a matter of a minute or so?</p> <p>10 <b>A. A minute or so, yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Now, given that you remember then speaking to Crew 12 Manager Sephton and him writing the map on the wall --</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. -- and given that we've got his end of wear time as 15 01.57, can you help time your move from the ground floor 16 to the second floor?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Maybe 5 or so minutes before that.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Before that?</p> <p>19 <b>A. As I said, concept of time -- I didn't have a watch.</b> 20 <b>But just prior to going up to them stairs, because once</b> 21 <b>I got to the top of the stairs, I was on the radio to my</b> 22 <b>other crew manager, Crew Manager Davies, to organise the</b> 23 <b>equipment we needed, because that was my role.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Now, in terms of position -- I'm just looking at the 25 time, this may be my last question or series of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 all the equipment was thrown, or stored.</p> <p>2 Q. Then they would go past you, would they, into the area 3 where the "steps up" wording is?</p> <p>4 <b>A. So as he required firefighters in BA, they would go past</b> 5 <b>me, through that doorway, into the communal hall to be</b> 6 <b>committed.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 The bridgehead equipment, so the BA entry board and 9 the forward information boards, where were they?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I believe they were all where it says "lift". They was</b> 11 <b>all lined up along there somewhere.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Could you see those?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No, not from where I was stood, but I did take one walk</b> 14 <b>in there at some point just to quickly see the set-up.</b></p> <p>15 Q. At that stage, once it had gone up to the second floor, 16 how did you control the BA wearers going in?</p> <p>17 <b>A. So it's common practice at a staging area -- normally</b> 18 <b>it's below the bridgehead, but in this -- for reasons</b> 19 <b>I've stated -- I stood at the front, where it said -- so</b> 20 <b>towards the back wall of where the walkway is, and the</b> 21 <b>firefighters lined up in a single line in front of me,</b> 22 <b>and they actually went down the stairs towards the end.</b> 23 <b>We had quite a few wearers ready to go.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Queueing on the stairs?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Just queueing.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 Q. When they got to the front of the queue, what did you 2 say to them?</p> <p>3 <b>A. It depended what stage in the evening.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Initially. I'm so sorry, initially.</p> <p>5 <b>A. So where it says "walkway gallery", right opposite there 6 is where I done a sketch or got Crew Manager Sephton to 7 do a sketch, and then I came to the front of that sketch 8 and just briefed them ten at a time or whoever was in 9 that vicinity: this is where you're going into, it's the 10 same on every level, the lifts are here, there's 11 approximately six flats and a cupboard door that 12 I showed them.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Can you help with the Sephton sketch. Was it on the 14 wall to the left of the wording "walkway gallery" or 15 above it?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Directly above it.</b></p> <p>17 Q. So you gave them an idea of the plan of the building. 18 Did you tell the BA wearers which floor and flat to go 19 to at that stage?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Okay. Who did that, do you know?</p> <p>22 <b>A. So it's common for staging just to hold the 23 firefighters, and if Watch Manager O'Keeffe wanted any 24 wearers for the bridgehead, he would call them through.</b></p> <p>25 Q. He would call them off. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 (10.35 am)</p> <p>2 (A short break)</p> <p>3 (10.45 am)</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, yes, thank you, if we could have 5 the witness back, thank you.</p> <p>6 (The witness returned)</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Watson?</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Happy to carry on?</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: Mr Watson, thank you for coming back. 13 Can I now ask you about the arrival of Watch Manager 14 Glynn Williams.</p> <p>15 In your witness statement on page 5, you say in the 16 third paragraph -- or perhaps the fourth paragraph, but 17 the second last one on that page:</p> <p>18 "Senior officers were starting to arrive and Watch 19 Manager (W/M) WILLIAMS, from Fulham fire station, was on 20 the ground floor and assumed the role of setting up Fire 21 Survival Guidance (FSG)."</p> <p>22 Do you know what time he arrived, or do you remember 23 what time he arrived, roughly?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I do remember him arriving. I would hazard a guess it's 25 around 2 o'clock because it was just after one of my own</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 At that stage, when you first moved the staging area 2 to the second-floor balcony, as you've just described, 3 were you handling any FSG calls or communications?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: Thank you.</p> <p>6 Mr Chairman, that's a convenient moment for the 7 break.</p> <p>8 I'm sorry, Mr Watson, we've gone a little bit over 9 the 10.30 break time.</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: That's okay.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You would probably like a bit of 12 a break now, wouldn't you?</p> <p>13 THE WITNESS: I would do. Yes, please.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll have a break for 10 minutes 15 and resume at 10.45, if that's all right.</p> <p>16 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Please don't talk to anyone about 18 your evidence or anything to do with it while you're out 19 of the room.</p> <p>20 THE WITNESS: No problem.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the 22 usher, please.</p> <p>23 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll resume at 10.45, please.</p> <p>25 Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 <b>firefighters had come downstairs for two sets, which we 2 haven't covered. So I believe from the operational 3 response timeline that was 58 and it was just after 4 that.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 Now, just to be able to pinpoint this better, we 7 actually have his arrival time on scene as 01.55.50, and 8 just for our record, that is page 85 of the ORR.</p> <p>9 So it would be after that?</p> <p>10 <b>A. It was after that.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 How soon after you moved up to the second floor from 13 the ground floor do you think he arrived?</p> <p>14 <b>A. It wasn't too long, maybe 15/20 minutes, but --</b></p> <p>15 Q. So you'd already be on the second floor 15 or 16 20 minutes, you think, when he arrived?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Maybe 15 minutes or so, yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 Now, you say that he assumed the role of setting up 20 fire survival guidance on the ground floor. Where were 21 you when he assumed that role?</p> <p>22 <b>A. In the same position: second-floor balcony.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Right. And they were where?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Watch Manager Williams was at the front door.</b></p> <p>25 Q. He was there, right, okay. Could you see him --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 <b>A. I could.</b></p> <p>2 Q. -- clearly?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I could.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Could you hear him?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I could.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 Now, you mention in the next sentence</p> <p>8 Group Manager Welch had asked him to do so. How do you</p> <p>9 know that, as you say, Group Manager Welch had asked</p> <p>10 Watch Manager Williams to set up fire survival guidance?</p> <p>11 <b>A. At that time, I wasn't aware it was Group Manager Welch.</b></p> <p>12 <b>That's retrospectively because I've spoken to Watch</b></p> <p>13 <b>Manager Williams since.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Right, I see.</p> <p>15 So you didn't hear a briefing that Watch Manager</p> <p>16 Williams received from Group Manager Welch then?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 When he set up or assumed, as you say, the role of</p> <p>20 setting up fire survival guidance, was he alone or was</p> <p>21 he with somebody?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I believe when I looked down there was another senior</b></p> <p>23 <b>officer, but it wasn't somebody I recognised.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You say "a senior officer" --</p> <p>25 <b>A. As in a white helmet.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 <b>into the bridgehead, there was an FIB board there to</b></p> <p>2 <b>collate information. That's the only knowledge I had.</b></p> <p>3 <b>I'd not been formally told anything about FSG. It was</b></p> <p>4 <b>only from an oversight, an overview.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Did Crew Manager Batterbee go past you with pieces of</p> <p>6 paper, I think you said --</p> <p>7 <b>A. I believe he did go past me.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Can I just finish the question -- while you were on the</p> <p>9 ground floor or only once you got to the second floor?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I only saw him on the second floor.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Just on this, do you remember where Crew Manager</p> <p>13 Batterbee was getting the pieces of paper from?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Where was he taking them to?</p> <p>16 <b>A. To the bridgehead.</b></p> <p>17 Q. To the bridgehead. Straight past you; is that right?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, which is correct because I was only a staging</b></p> <p>19 <b>officer.</b></p> <p>20 Q. I have it, right.</p> <p>21 Did you see Group Manager Welch at all while you</p> <p>22 were looking down into the lobby from the second-floor</p> <p>23 balcony?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Not at that time, no.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 Q. White helmet. Okay.</p> <p>2 Now, I may be able to show you a picture.</p> <p>3 Well, before I show this to you, do you remember</p> <p>4 when you looked down and saw Watch Manager Williams, was</p> <p>5 he doing anything?</p> <p>6 <b>A. When he called up to me, he was stood right at the front</b></p> <p>7 <b>door. I don't recall him actually doing anything.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 After he moved from the front door into the lobby,</p> <p>10 did he do anything next, do you remember?</p> <p>11 <b>A. No. The first time I had contact with him, he was stood</b></p> <p>12 <b>at the front door with a handful of FSG forms. That's</b></p> <p>13 <b>my first recollection.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 Did you communicate with Watch Manager Williams when</p> <p>16 he arrived to discuss how his role would fit into your</p> <p>17 role?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>19 Q. You didn't.</p> <p>20 Prior to his arriving and starting his management of</p> <p>21 fire survival guidance on the ground floor, do you know</p> <p>22 how fire survival guidance information was getting to</p> <p>23 the bridgehead?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I believe Crew Manager Batterbee came past me at one</b></p> <p>25 <b>point with papers in his hand, and when I took that walk</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 When you first saw Glynn Williams, do you remember</p> <p>2 who the incident commander was?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 Now, in his witness statement, Glynn Williams --</p> <p>6 again, as I say, we'll have to explore this with him --</p> <p>7 says that he was briefed by Group Manager Welch in the</p> <p>8 lobby and then he spoke to you, and he agreed with you</p> <p>9 that you would be the middleman between him, Williams,</p> <p>10 on the ground floor and the entry control at the</p> <p>11 bridgehead.</p> <p>12 Do you remember a discussion like that?</p> <p>13 <b>A. That is correct, but that was done with me on the</b></p> <p>14 <b>second-floor lobby and him at the front door.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 Now, can I show you a picture. It's INQ00000244.</p> <p>17 This is the first in a sequence of pictures which we'll</p> <p>18 look at in due course, but that is timed at 02.15.53.</p> <p>19 I don't think you can quite see it, but that's the time</p> <p>20 we have, subject to adjustment, once you take off the</p> <p>21 36 seconds for the camera. 02.15.53.</p> <p>22 You can see there a firefighter in a white helmet,</p> <p>23 so a watch manager, starting to write on the wall.</p> <p>24 Do you know who that was?</p> <p>25 <b>A. From that picture, no; however, that is exactly where</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 <b>Watch Manager Williams was stationed.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Right. Do you remember him writing on the wall?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I do.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Do you remember roughly what time he started writing on</p> <p>5 the wall?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I have no recollection of time.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Okay.</p> <p>8 Let me try it this way: how long do you think you</p> <p>9 had been on the second floor when he started writing on</p> <p>10 the wall?</p> <p>11 <b>A. If I can just go back, one of my firefighters came down</b></p> <p>12 <b>and I gave him two BA sets to take in for members of the</b></p> <p>13 <b>public on another floor, and from reading the</b></p> <p>14 <b>operational response, that was 01.58, and it was quite</b></p> <p>15 <b>quickly after that. That is my recollection.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Okay, all right.</p> <p>17 Now, you can see on the ground a little white object</p> <p>18 by this firefighter's left foot. Can you help with your</p> <p>19 recollection as to what that might be?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No, I cannot.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 Let's try another one. Let's try the next one, 245.</p> <p>23 This is a couple of minutes later, time adjusted at</p> <p>24 02.17.06. There's the white piece of paper.</p> <p>25 Do you recognise anybody in that picture?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 Q. If we can look at the next picture --</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm sorry, before we leave that</p> <p>3 picture, it looks to me as though on the right-hand side</p> <p>4 we can see the red door of the box that you were talking</p> <p>5 about earlier on. Is that right?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes, sir.</b></p> <p>7 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: The door is now open. Have you any</b></p> <p>8 <b>idea when and how it was opened?</b></p> <p>9 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>10 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No. Thank you.</b></p> <p>11 <b>Yes, I'm sorry, Mr Millett.</b></p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: Going back to the picture we're on at 02.17.46.</p> <p>13 It looks as if -- well, they're looking up. Do you</p> <p>14 know what they're looking up at?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I can only presume that he's speaking to me at that</b></p> <p>16 <b>time.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>18 Now, the crew manager on the left has a sheath of</p> <p>19 white papers in his hand. Do you know what those are,</p> <p>20 or did you know what those are?</p> <p>21 <b>A. They would've been fire survival guidance papers.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you know where he got them from?</p> <p>23 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Do you know what the system was at that time, 02.17 or</p> <p>25 so, whereby they got fire survival information?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Yes. The person on the right is Watch Manager Williams.</b></p> <p>2 Q. That's Watch Manager Williams. Right, okay.</p> <p>3 Who is on his left, do you know?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>5 Q. It's someone from the command unit, but you don't</p> <p>6 remember who?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 If we look at the next one, this is timed at</p> <p>10 02.17.17, so just 11 seconds later -- this is 246 -- you</p> <p>11 can see two firefighters there writing on the wall: one</p> <p>12 in the white helmet and one looks like a crew manager</p> <p>13 from the double black bars on the helmet.</p> <p>14 Do you know who that was?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Hm?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I don't know. Obviously the watch manager would be</b></p> <p>18 <b>Watch Manager Williams. The crew manager on the right,</b></p> <p>19 <b>I don't know.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 Do you remember what their system was at this stage,</p> <p>22 about 02.17, that they were using to --</p> <p>23 <b>A. No, but moving further forward, I know he recorded a lot</b></p> <p>24 <b>of information on the wall and was calling it up to me</b></p> <p>25 <b>as we went.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No, I didn't.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 Just going on, then, this is 02.19.10, the next</p> <p>4 picture, 248. We can see some information being written</p> <p>5 on the wall just there on the left.</p> <p>6 Again, does that correspond with your recollection</p> <p>7 as to how fire survival guidance information at that</p> <p>8 stage was being recorded, about 02.17?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes, it does. It was all handwritten on the wall by</b></p> <p>10 <b>Watch Manager Williams.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>12 <b>A. Could I just interject there? To the right of that</b></p> <p>13 <b>picture, that firefighter is Firefighter Felton.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Ah, okay.</p> <p>15 <b>A. And they're the sets that I sent in at 01.58 according</b></p> <p>16 <b>to the operational response. So whenever he came out,</b></p> <p>17 <b>that would be about the timing for you. Because he's</b></p> <p>18 <b>got a member of the public in a BA set there.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Yes. If we can just do this in real time. We have the</p> <p>20 timing of that photograph, 248, that is 02.19, and we</p> <p>21 have Felton's end of wear time as 02.06.37.</p> <p>22 So does that help you fix this in your own</p> <p>23 recollection in any way?</p> <p>24 <b>A. So as I said, from the operational response that the</b></p> <p>25 <b>Brigade published, he came and collected them sets from</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 me at 01.58, and it was very soon after that Watch  2 Manager Williams started calling up FSG.  3 Q. Right. Okay. So we can pin it down to then.  4 At that stage, we have you on the second floor --  5 A. That correct.  6 Q. -- in the balcony. Okay.  7 Now, just one or two pictures, just moving forward,  8 if we can.  9 If we go to 02.19.19, which is 249 -- we'll just run  10 through these next few pictures quite quickly if we can.  11 Again, who do we see in that picture?  12 A. We've got Watch Manager Williams to the right, I believe  13 you've got the member of the public with a white helmet  14 there in the middle, and you've got Firefighter Felton  15 by the looks of that picture on the left.  16 Q. Firefighter Felton leading out somebody wearing a white  17 helmet and a BA?  18 A. A member of the public.  19 Q. A member of the public?  20 A. That's correct.  21 Q. The next one, which is 250, at 02.20.06 -- that's  22 an adjusted time -- we can see very faintly some  23 information on the wall. I don't think we're able to  24 read.  25 Do you know who the firefighter is in the foreground</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 his hand, possibly, or he's pointing to the wall. There  2 was a lot of recorded information on the wall, and that  3 looks like me -- a rear shot of me in the middle, and  4 I believe the station manager to the right was Station  5 Manager Wolfenden.  6 Q. Okay. You say station manager to the right.  7 A. So to the right of me.  8 Q. On that close-up picture.  9 A. So if you look at the -- I believe that's me with the  10 white helmet on the left of that highlighted section.  11 Q. Right.  12 A. And I believe that would be Station Manager Wolfenden.  13 Q. In the other white helmet?  14 A. I believe so.  15 Q. Yes, okay.  16 Now, I'll ask you about him. Do you remember what  17 time Station Manager Wolfenden arrived in the  18 ground-floor lobby?  19 A. No, I don't.  20 Q. Do you remember what his role was?  21 A. Yes. Once we'd moved to the ground and he came in, he  22 was collating information for FSG in co-ordination with  23 Watch Manager Williams, and he was writing on pieces of  24 paper to give to me.  25 Q. Right. We've jumped ahead a bit --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 there?  2 A. I do not, no.  3 Q. Okay. And the firefighter holding the sheath of papers  4 is --  5 A. Watch Manager Williams.  6 Q. That's Watch Manager Williams.  7 All right, moving a little bit further forward,  8 let's look at the last one at 02.20, which is  9 photograph 252.  10 Again, what's happening there? That's at 02.20.24,  11 adjusted.  12 A. It looks like Watch Manager Williams -- my recollection,  13 he was given quite a wad of paper when he first arrived  14 and he was recording it on the wall.  15 Q. Then we jump forward in time by almost an hour to  16 picture INQ00000253, and this is at 03.16.29. You can  17 see the lobby is full of firefighters at this stage.  18 Do you remember when the bridgehead was moved to the  19 ground floor?  20 A. Time-wise, no.  21 Q. You don't remember. Okay.  22 At the top of the picture, just towards the right,  23 where we have seen Watch Manager Williams writing on the  24 wall, what do we see now?  25 A. So it looks like we're discussing FSG that he's got in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.  2 Q. -- but I'll come back to that because I don't want to  3 get too much into that detail just at the moment, but  4 just in terms of continuity, we can see, as you've said,  5 Watch Manager Williams there working at the wall.  6 To your recollection, did he ever stop working with  7 the fire survival guidance at that wall?  8 A. No. I believe he left the fire ground at 4.30, and from  9 my recollection, from the moment he got into that door  10 through to the time he left, he was working on that  11 wall.  12 Q. Right.  13 Now, we're going to look in a little bit more detail  14 at the FSG set-up.  15 Before we go to that system that you and Watch  16 Manager Williams in fact implemented, I just want to ask  17 you about how FSG is usually set up between control and  18 the incident ground.  19 In your experience, how is FSG normally communicated  20 in a normal incident?  21 A. So, generally, if we have an FSG, it's normally a  22 singular one to maybe three FSG. It comes through from  23 control. They designate it as an FSG, it has to be  24 generated from them. It's given via the main scheme  25 radio and in this case to a command unit. The command</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p>

16 (Pages 61 to 64)



<p>1 unit would then fill out a control information form with</p> <p>2 the details of the FSG. It would include number of</p> <p>3 people, the floor they're on, flat number, just as</p> <p>4 a basic. There are other details if they had the time</p> <p>5 to fill it out.</p> <p>6 Then that would come from the control unit up to the</p> <p>7 bridgehead, and next to the entry control you would have</p> <p>8 an FSG post and the information would go straight to</p> <p>9 them, and then they would take the firefighters from the</p> <p>10 staging area and enter them firefighters with one</p> <p>11 specific FSG.</p> <p>12 Q. Now, just breaking that answer, which is very helpful,</p> <p>13 into a number of parts.</p> <p>14 First of all, command unit.</p> <p>15 Would you have a command unit at a particular pump</p> <p>16 level or would it be when there were persons reported?</p> <p>17 A. A command unit comes on four pumps and above, and at</p> <p>18 persons reported.</p> <p>19 Q. You do both, do you?</p> <p>20 A. We do both.</p> <p>21 Q. Second question: in terms of what the command unit</p> <p>22 records onto, is that onto a control information form?</p> <p>23 A. As far as I'm aware, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Do you know what that looks like?</p> <p>25 A. I do.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 Q. But in a normal incident, would it be a paper chain or</p> <p>2 would it be radio communication?</p> <p>3 A. It may be both, just depending on the situation and</p> <p>4 circumstance.</p> <p>5 Q. If it was radio, which channel would be used, normally?</p> <p>6 A. Again, if it was a small incident, it would probably be</p> <p>7 the command channel, number 1, but I do know the command</p> <p>8 unit can use channel 3. And it depends, again, who's up</p> <p>9 at the bridgehead. If it was just Watch Manager</p> <p>10 O'Keeffe, he wouldn't necessarily change channels.</p> <p>11 Q. Once the information gets to the bridgehead, how is it</p> <p>12 recorded there normally, in a normal incident?</p> <p>13 A. So we put it on to what we call a forward information</p> <p>14 board.</p> <p>15 Q. Once you have information from the crews being deployed</p> <p>16 about whether a mission is successful or unsuccessful,</p> <p>17 is that information then fed back to control from the</p> <p>18 bridgehead?</p> <p>19 A. So, yeah, we would commit the crews. They would go and</p> <p>20 do the rescue or not make the flat, whichever. They</p> <p>21 would be debriefed and then it would be common practice</p> <p>22 to feed that back.</p> <p>23 Q. What would be the chain of communication back from the</p> <p>24 bridgehead to control?</p> <p>25 A. Again, it depends on the size of the incident, whether</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 Q. It's an appendix to the FSG policy. Is that what you're</p> <p>2 talking about?</p> <p>3 A. Yeah, basically it consists of three pieces of paper.</p> <p>4 I believe they're white, pink and green.</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 Rather than just ask you to do this on the hoof,</p> <p>7 let's nail this down. If you could just be shown</p> <p>8 policy 790, appendix 2, in tab 5 of our policies bundle.</p> <p>9 Let's quickly clear this out of the way. It's</p> <p>10 appendix 2, which is at page 8.</p> <p>11 Is that the piece of paper which in normal</p> <p>12 circumstances is used by personnel on the command unit</p> <p>13 to record the FSG information they get from the control</p> <p>14 room?</p> <p>15 A. That's correct, sir.</p> <p>16 Q. And there are four coloured copies: white, yellow, blue</p> <p>17 and green.</p> <p>18 A. That's correct.</p> <p>19 Q. Now, we are going to come back, I think, possibly, to</p> <p>20 some of those later, but that's the form.</p> <p>21 That form is then used to go to the bridgehead?</p> <p>22 A. That's correct.</p> <p>23 Q. How is that normally sent?</p> <p>24 A. It can be sent via radio, but I do know in the case of</p> <p>25 Grenfell it was by runners on foot.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 it be by filling out a form or by radio, maybe a runner.</p> <p>2 It just depends on the size of the incident.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay.</p> <p>4 Would you expect that control would stay on the line</p> <p>5 to the caller and provide updating information that</p> <p>6 control had received from the incident ground in the</p> <p>7 normal case?</p> <p>8 A. As in FSG or --</p> <p>9 Q. As in FSG.</p> <p>10 A. What, to the public or to ourselves?</p> <p>11 Q. No, would you expect that control would stay on the line</p> <p>12 with the caller and give the caller updating information</p> <p>13 as it came from the incident ground?</p> <p>14 A. That's my expectation.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 Now, turning to the system that you did set up with</p> <p>17 Watch Manager Williams.</p> <p>18 You say at the very top of page 6 of your statement,</p> <p>19 having explained FSG policy generally, you say:</p> <p>20 "But this was different."</p> <p>21 You go on to say:</p> <p>22 "I had direct communication with W/M Glynn WILLIAMS,</p> <p>23 on the ground floor, who began to shout up numbers for</p> <p>24 flats, which need FSG."</p> <p>25 Now, as to that, how was that different, or how was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 the system more generally different?</p> <p>2 <b>A. So on a normal incident, the FSG would be directly next</b></p> <p>3 <b>to the entry control officer.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 <b>A. On this occasion, it was on the ground floor and our</b></p> <p>6 <b>bridgehead was on the second floor.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Okay. And why the need for that difference?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you know why the FSG information wasn't being passed</p> <p>10 directly from the command unit to the bridgehead?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I don't.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Did it occur to you at the time that this was a novel or</p> <p>13 different system from what you'd normally expect?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I mean, it's fair to say -- I didn't know at this point,</b></p> <p>15 <b>but shortly following that, it's fair to say that the</b></p> <p>16 <b>FSG was like nothing I've experienced before in sheer</b></p> <p>17 <b>numbers.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 When did you first begin to experience the FSG</p> <p>20 coming in?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Once Watch Manager Williams was at the door and he</b></p> <p>22 <b>started calling up to me, that was my first knowledge of</b></p> <p>23 <b>the FSG.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Okay. And was it noisy in the lobby area when he</p> <p>25 started that?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 <b>the flat and the floor number, and on some of them the</b></p> <p>2 <b>number of persons.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did he shout up any details about conditions in each</p> <p>4 flat?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Or on each floor?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 Did he shout up any priorities to you?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Did he shout up anything about children or elderly</p> <p>12 persons?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No. I know he was shuffling the papers on the ground</b></p> <p>14 <b>floor, so whether he's done that before he's called up,</b></p> <p>15 <b>you'll have to ask him, but it was done in chronological</b></p> <p>16 <b>order. As soon as he called them up, whatever number he</b></p> <p>17 <b>called got the first attendance.</b></p> <p>18 Q. And the same question: what about persons with mobility</p> <p>19 difficulties or other disabilities?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I didn't have any of that information.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 So far as you could see, was he shouting up the</p> <p>23 information he was recording on the wall?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes, so my recollection, he had the forms that you've</b></p> <p>25 <b>just seen, and he was writing them on the wall as he was</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 <b>A. It was noisy when firefighters were bringing casualties</b></p> <p>2 <b>out. There was quite a lot of shouting to clear the</b></p> <p>3 <b>stairs for the casualties.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Could you always hear Watch Manager Williams clearly?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes, I could.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 Now, when he shouted up to you, what did you do with</p> <p>8 the information he shouted up?</p> <p>9 <b>A. So at first I didn't realise the sheer numbers of FSG he</b></p> <p>10 <b>had, and I turned around on that same wall where my plan</b></p> <p>11 <b>was originally and I think I wrote maybe two or three</b></p> <p>12 <b>numbers down, floors and flat numbers, and it soon</b></p> <p>13 <b>became very apparent that that wasn't going to work</b></p> <p>14 <b>because he was giving me too many. So I took my notepad</b></p> <p>15 <b>out of my pocket and started writing individual sheets.</b></p> <p>16 <b>So he would call out the person, flat number, floor</b></p> <p>17 <b>number, I would record it, repeat it back to him and</b></p> <p>18 <b>then I'll hand it to the firefighters one sheet at</b></p> <p>19 <b>a time.</b></p> <p>20 Q. So you say he shouted out person, flat number, floor</p> <p>21 number; when you say "person", do you mean number of</p> <p>22 persons?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Number of persons, yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. So he did shout numbers of persons, did he?</p> <p>25 <b>A. On every FSG that wasn't the case, he was just giving me</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 <b>reading them. He would shout them up to me, I'd write</b></p> <p>2 <b>them down on my notepad, hand it to the BA crew, give</b></p> <p>3 <b>them a short brief and they was gone. And --</b></p> <p>4 Q. Okay.</p> <p>5 <b>A. -- that's how we continued at that point.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Now, in terms of pictures, could you look, please, at</p> <p>7 MET00015815.</p> <p>8 Now, this is a photograph which is exhibited to</p> <p>9 Watch Manager Louisa De Silvo's witness statement.</p> <p>10 We'll have to explore with her who actually took the</p> <p>11 photograph; it's clearly taken in daylight, so not on</p> <p>12 the night necessarily, or at least not during the hours</p> <p>13 of darkness.</p> <p>14 She says in her statement -- and it's page 10 for</p> <p>15 our own notes -- that this was one of the walls on the</p> <p>16 ground floor.</p> <p>17 Does that writing or the location of that writing</p> <p>18 look familiar to you?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Possibly the wall. I don't recognise the writing. But</b></p> <p>20 <b>by the sheer amount of writing there, I would suggest</b></p> <p>21 <b>that was Watch Manager Williams's wall.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Now, Watch Manager Williams says -- again, I caveat this</p> <p>23 by saying we'll have to explore this with him in his</p> <p>24 evidence when he comes -- but he says he wrote "02.15"</p> <p>25 at the top of the wall which is when he started the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>

1 process.  
 2 First of all, does that tally with the timing,  
 3 having looked at the photographs we've seen before, of  
 4 him shouting up at you and starting to write?  
 5 **A. I believe he would have a more accurate gauge on timing**  
 6 **than I would.**  
 7 Q. Fair enough.  
 8 Now, do you remember ever seeing the community room  
 9 sign removed from the wall next to the door which the  
 10 chairman asked you about earlier on this morning?  
 11 **A. No, I didn't.**  
 12 Q. Okay.  
 13 When you got the information -- well, you say you  
 14 started writing it on a wall. How did you do that?  
 15 What would you do it with?  
 16 **A. I took a chinagraph out, which is the same that he's**  
 17 **obviously used there.**  
 18 Q. Now, I wonder if we have a picture of this. Just bear  
 19 with me.  
 20 Can I ask you to be shown, first of all,  
 21 MET00015625. This is exhibit 4 to Justin O'Beime's  
 22 witness statement.  
 23 I may have to come back to this later on this  
 24 morning, but is that the information you started --  
 25 **A. No.**

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1 Q. So not that.  
 2 **A. That looks like the third floor, and mine was literally**  
 3 **two or three flat numbers, before it was aborted.**  
 4 Q. I see, okay.  
 5 Can I ask you to be shown a different picture, which  
 6 is JOB/8. The reference to that is MET00013074.  
 7 I'm sorry to put these things and fish for answers.  
 8 Is that something you recognise?  
 9 **A. No, that's not my writing.**  
 10 Q. That's not you, right. So that can be closed.  
 11 How much information do you remember putting up on  
 12 the wall before you switched to your system of jotting  
 13 it down on pieces of paper?  
 14 **A. Approximately three floors and three flat numbers, but**  
 15 **he was still calling them out and I decided it was going**  
 16 **to take too long to process, so that's when I took my**  
 17 **notepad out instead.**  
 18 Q. Okay.  
 19 Can I ask you to be shown INQ00000254, which I think  
 20 we looked at possibly earlier.  
 21 Again, let me just try this one more time.  
 22 This is clearly down in the lobby, and this is later  
 23 on. This is I think at 03.16. I think that's you in  
 24 the foreground there in the white helmet.  
 25 **A. That's correct.**

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1 Q. You're holding something in your hand. Can you tell us  
 2 what that is?  
 3 **A. It looks like a notepad. We did change the system when**  
 4 **we got to the ground, I became more of a runner, so I'm**  
 5 **not sure at that stage if that had happened or not.**  
 6 Q. Well, I'll come back to that. Let's leave that picture  
 7 and move away from it.  
 8 When Williams was shouting up to you the  
 9 information, did he shout it up in groups or was it one  
 10 flat or floor at a time?  
 11 **A. He called out one floor number, one flat number, number**  
 12 **of people, if he knew, because he didn't necessarily**  
 13 **have that information. I repeated it, wrote it in my**  
 14 **notepad and gave it to the next BA crew.**  
 15 Q. I see, okay.  
 16 Now, at the point you were recording FSG information  
 17 on the wall, for which we have so far failed to be able  
 18 to show you a photograph, how did you brief the crews?  
 19 **A. So I'd already give the crews, ten at a time, a generic**  
 20 **brief of the layout of the building, and they would've**  
 21 **all heard exactly what was going on with the FSG because**  
 22 **he said to me, "I'm taking a lot of FSG, can you take**  
 23 **it?" I said, "Okay", because I had all my wearers**  
 24 **there, I had all the equipment we needed, I knew the**  
 25 **bridgehead was behind me and it needed to be done urgent**

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1 **because each FSG is basically a rescue.**  
 2 **So I took my -- I started to write it, that wasn't**  
 3 **going to work, so I took my pad out, done singularly,**  
 4 **gave that crew, "That's where you're going, take the**  
 5 **equipment, go to the BA board to be committed".**  
 6 Q. Right. Okay.  
 7 So do you recall handing BA wearers a slip for the  
 8 flat in question?  
 9 **A. Yes, I do.**  
 10 Q. Do you remember the firefighters you handed flat slips  
 11 to?  
 12 **A. There was so many I handed out, I don't know.**  
 13 Q. So if I was to ask you of any given slip, who did you  
 14 hand it to and when, would you be able to help?  
 15 **A. I would have no recollection. There were so many**  
 16 **numbers, I wouldn't be able to answer that.**  
 17 Q. Right.  
 18 Now, still at the point when you're writing the  
 19 information on the wall and you brief them, what did  
 20 they do with the information, do you know, when they got  
 21 to the bridgehead?  
 22 **A. So my brief was -- I don't know the exact wording --**  
 23 **"That's where you're going, take that paper, go to get**  
 24 **committed", as in to the entry control. Whether they**  
 25 **gave that paper over, held it, I don't know.**

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19 (Pages 73 to 76)

<p>1 Q. Okay.</p> <p>2 Now, if we go to page 6 of your statement and look</p> <p>3 at the third paragraph, you say:</p> <p>4 "At first I started to write them down on the wall,</p> <p>5 but it soon became apparent that there were too many of</p> <p>6 them. So I changed the process and wrote the floor and</p> <p>7 flat number down in my notebook. Once written, I handed</p> <p>8 each firefighting crew (called wearers as they were</p> <p>9 wearing BA kit) the piece of paper with the floor and</p> <p>10 flat number on it."</p> <p>11 You go on to say they then took that to the</p> <p>12 bridgehead, who noted it down on the FIB and then</p> <p>13 committed the crews.</p> <p>14 I think you said before, but just to be clear, how</p> <p>15 soon, do you think, after you started writing on the</p> <p>16 wall did you change the process to jotting it down on to</p> <p>17 the notepad?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Seconds.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Seconds, right.</p> <p>20 Did you rerecord the information that was on the</p> <p>21 wall anywhere else?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, the reason for putting it on the wall would be to</b></p> <p>23 <b>have my own record at that level, but I think at that</b></p> <p>24 <b>point I decided it was more important to get the crews</b></p> <p>25 <b>into the bridgehead and get them committed.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 but Watch Manager Williams wouldn't know to which crew</p> <p>2 the FSG information had been handed, would he?</p> <p>3 <b>A. It didn't matter which crew. We had a whole line of</b></p> <p>4 <b>maybe 20/30 wearers, and the first two that come up as</b></p> <p>5 <b>he called the numbers, I was giving the sheet. So it</b></p> <p>6 <b>was sort of pot luck which number and floor you was sent</b></p> <p>7 <b>to.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Do you know whether the BA wearers handed the piece of</p> <p>9 paper you gave them to anybody at the bridgehead?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Now, I just want to show you one or two slips of paper</p> <p>12 that Watch Manager O'Keeffe gave evidence about when he</p> <p>13 was at the bridgehead.</p> <p>14 Can I ask you to look at LFB00001929.</p> <p>15 Now, do you recognise these pieces of paper, do you</p> <p>16 think?</p> <p>17 <b>A. So from the left, looking from top left, paper 3,</b></p> <p>18 <b>paper 4, that's my writing.</b></p> <p>19 Q. So the one that says "7/8/9 on balconies"?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes, and "72/73 10th floor".</b></p> <p>21 Q. Right. Just help me, "on balconies", what's that</p> <p>22 a reference to?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I don't understand that. I was just recording what he</b></p> <p>24 <b>was telling me and handing them to the wearers.</b></p> <p>25 Q. We don't see any details there for numbers of persons on</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 Q. Once you gave the slip of paper to the BA wearer, or the</p> <p>2 team, that information went with them, did it?</p> <p>3 <b>A. It did.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Was it recorded anywhere else other than on the wall in</p> <p>5 the lobby?</p> <p>6 <b>A. So they would've taken that to the bridgehead, and they</b></p> <p>7 <b>would've said to the bridgehead where they was going,</b></p> <p>8 <b>maybe handed the paper, maybe not, I don't know,</b></p> <p>9 <b>I wasn't present, but they would've had to have told the</b></p> <p>10 <b>bridgehead where they was heading for, so it should've</b></p> <p>11 <b>been recorded at the bridgehead.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 Did you yourself make a record of which flat or</p> <p>14 floor you had --</p> <p>15 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>16 Q. -- given to each firefighter or group?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, because that was being done by Watch Manager</b></p> <p>18 <b>Williams, and the important thing for me was to get as</b></p> <p>19 <b>many firefighters into that building as quickly as</b></p> <p>20 <b>possible.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 <b>A. I was kind of facilitating it, rather than actually</b></p> <p>23 <b>running anything.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 You say it was being done by Watch Manager Williams,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 those floors or in those flats. Why is that?</p> <p>2 <b>A. So what I would say, the other writing I believe to be</b></p> <p>3 <b>Station Manager Wolfenden, although I can't confirm</b></p> <p>4 <b>that, you'll have to ask him. But definitely on some of</b></p> <p>5 <b>mine, and there was a lot of them on that second floor,</b></p> <p>6 <b>there were numbers of persons. If I was given that</b></p> <p>7 <b>information, it was recorded.</b></p> <p>8 Q. I see.</p> <p>9 So just to be clear as to whose writing this is, the</p> <p>10 third and fourth from the left at the top are yours?</p> <p>11 <b>A. That is correct.</b></p> <p>12 Q. The rest you say are Station Manager Wolfenden's, that's</p> <p>13 Pete Wolfenden?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Pete Wolfenden. I believe they are but I can't confirm</b></p> <p>15 <b>that.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 To your knowledge, where was Pete Wolfenden when he</p> <p>18 was jotting these pieces of paper down?</p> <p>19 <b>A. So this would've been when we returned to the ground</b></p> <p>20 <b>floor and later on in the incident.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Right. Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>22 Now, at the stage when you were handing out pieces</p> <p>23 of paper to the firefighters, were you doing any</p> <p>24 prioritisation?</p> <p>25 <b>A. No, it was literally in number order. As he was giving</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 <b>me them, they was getting attendance.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 Now, in the third paragraph on page 6 of your</p> <p>4 statement, you say that they were handing the paper over</p> <p>5 so the bridgehead knew what flat they were going to.</p> <p>6 In the last sentence you say:</p> <p>7 "The Bridgehead marked the number on the FIB and</p> <p>8 then committed the crew when it was time to do so."</p> <p>9 We've covered this just a second ago, but can I ask</p> <p>10 you this question: how did you know that the bridgehead</p> <p>11 was marking the numbers on the FIB and then committing</p> <p>12 the crew accordingly?</p> <p>13 <b>A. That actual line there is just an assumption, that's</b></p> <p>14 <b>what should've happened.</b></p> <p>15 Q. I see. Okay. So you didn't actually see them doing</p> <p>16 that?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I didn't witness that, no.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 Did you ever check to see whether the information</p> <p>20 that you had and was giving them was consistent with the</p> <p>21 information that they were recording and the floors to</p> <p>22 which they were committing crews, did you do that check?</p> <p>23 <b>A. For the bridgehead?</b></p> <p>24 Q. Yes.</p> <p>25 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 <b>information.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 Do you know how Watch Manager Williams was recording</p> <p>4 the information about the results of deployments?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No, I don't, but he was writing quite a lot of</b></p> <p>6 <b>information on that wall.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Let me try it with a picture.</p> <p>8 Could you please be shown MET00015815, which again</p> <p>9 is an exhibit to Louisa De Silvo's statement, number 5,</p> <p>10 which is the photograph I showed to you before.</p> <p>11 If we could just look a little bit more closely at</p> <p>12 the middle column, you can see some ticks. Do you know</p> <p>13 what those represent?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>15 Q. And you can see some deletions as well of flats; do you</p> <p>16 know what that represents?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Okay. All right.</p> <p>19 When you got information about the results of</p> <p>20 deployments from casualties, did you make your own</p> <p>21 record of it?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, I didn't. I was on the ground floor then and</b></p> <p>23 <b>I recall specifically, as I recall, flat 74, and I went</b></p> <p>24 <b>over and told Watch Manager Williams, who marked his</b></p> <p>25 <b>wall.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 Q. Now, at the bottom of page 6 of your witness statement,</p> <p>2 you say:</p> <p>3 "It would be common practice for crews that are</p> <p>4 exiting the building to be debriefed at the Bridgehead.</p> <p>5 I wasn't there so don't know if that was done. But</p> <p>6 I did get information from casualties such as where they</p> <p>7 had come from, what flat number they had been rescued</p> <p>8 from. I passed that information to W/M WILLIAMS who</p> <p>9 wrote it on his wall."</p> <p>10 Now, just pausing there, how did you transmit that</p> <p>11 information to Watch Manager Williams?</p> <p>12 <b>A. My recollection is whilst on the second floor, I didn't</b></p> <p>13 <b>get any of that information; a lot of people being</b></p> <p>14 <b>brought through were unconscious.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 <b>A. When I returned to the ground floor and I became more of</b></p> <p>17 <b>a runner as opposed to the job I was doing on the second</b></p> <p>18 <b>floor, I was able to stop some people and then go and</b></p> <p>19 <b>tell Watch Manager Williams face-to-face.</b></p> <p>20 Q. I see, so the communication back to Watch Manager</p> <p>21 Williams about the results of deployments only happened</p> <p>22 once you'd moved down to the ground floor?</p> <p>23 <b>A. For me personally, yes, but I do recall Watch Manager</b></p> <p>24 <b>Williams stopping people at the door to try and get</b></p> <p>25 <b>information. But I didn't obtain any of that</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 Q. Right.</p> <p>2 <b>A. But I do believe there was one or two others a little</b></p> <p>3 <b>bit earlier in the incident and we done that</b></p> <p>4 <b>face-to-face.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 Now, while we're still on that picture, can I just</p> <p>7 ask you, you can see there that at the very top of the</p> <p>8 picture it says, "Above 10 EDBA, Below 10 SDBA".</p> <p>9 Do you know who wrote that there?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I don't know, no, but I didn't see anybody other than</b></p> <p>11 <b>Watch Manager Williams writing information on that wall.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 Did you ever see Watch Manager Wolfenden writing FSG</p> <p>14 information on that wall?</p> <p>15 <b>A. He may have done. I know he recorded when myself and</b></p> <p>16 <b>Watch Manager Williams left the incident. He put our</b></p> <p>17 <b>times down on the wall, I remember that. But I don't</b></p> <p>18 <b>recall.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 Watch Manager Wolfenden, we have him on scene at</p> <p>21 02.12.58, so that is actually just before the 02.15 that</p> <p>22 you also see on the picture.</p> <p>23 Do you remember Watch Manager Wolfenden taking part</p> <p>24 in either writing on the wall or being involved in fire</p> <p>25 survival guidance on the ground floor?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 <b>A. I don't recall when he arrived in the lobby, but when he</b>  2 <b>did arrive, he was -- I recall him on his radio making</b>  3 <b>radio traffic to outside, which, again, I can only</b>  4 <b>assume it was the command unit. But once he was there,</b>  5 <b>he was quite heavily involved in the FSG.</b>  6 Q. I am going to turn to a different topic, which is your  7 move to the ground floor from the second floor, but  8 before I do that, can I just show you a particular  9 document and just ask you whether you've seen it before.  10 This is MET00016967.  11 Now, I'll tell you what this is, or at least what we  12 understand it to be, and this is an envelope which Watch  13 Manager Sadler was given early on which recorded some  14 early FSG information. Watch Manager Sadler was, he  15 says, acting as a forward, forward information board,  16 outside the tower, collating information coming from the  17 command unit -- precisely which one we will have to  18 explore with him -- before it was sent into the tower.  19 He says that this envelope was sent to the  20 bridgehead as a piece of paper.  21 Do you remember seeing it?  22 <b>A. I've no knowledge of that piece of paper.</b>  23 Q. Right.  24 Now, in your statement on page 8, if we can just go  25 to it, you say in the second paragraph that you were</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 <b>A. No, he didn't.</b>  2 Q. Okay.  3 So when you went to the ground floor, at that time,  4 where was the bridgehead?  5 <b>A. I'm not sure when the bridgehead moved between the</b>  6 <b>second and the third.</b>  7 Q. No.  8 <b>A. So I don't know. In fact -- hold on, let's backtrack</b>  9 <b>there, because I actually went up, so it was on the</b>  10 <b>third floor.</b>  11 Q. Okay.  12 Now, we are trying to get a time for the move to the  13 third floor from the second floor. Let's see if we can  14 do this: how long after Watch Manager Williams had  15 started recording FSG on the wall in the lobby and  16 shouting up to you do you remember the bridgehead moved  17 from the second to the third floor?  18 <b>A. I don't remember the bridgehead moving. I knew it had</b>  19 <b>moved, I'm not sure how I knew that, but I've got no</b>  20 <b>idea of the timings for that.</b>  21 Q. Before you moved to the ground floor, do you remember  22 roughly how long the bridgehead was on the third floor  23 for?  24 <b>A. No, I don't.</b>  25 Q. Now, we have some potential evidence about the timing of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 told by a senior officer to move your staging post to  2 the ground floor. Second substantive paragraph.  3 "There was a stage when something happened, I'm not  4 sure what, but I was told by a senior officer to move my  5 staging post to the ground floor. I told him I was  6 involved in FSG, he told me to go to the ground floor.  7 I left the 2nd floor and took the wearers that were with  8 me to the ground floor."  9 First question: do you know or can you remember who  10 told you to move to the ground floor?  11 <b>A. I did not know the officer, but I believe it to be</b>  12 <b>Station Manager Walton.</b>  13 Q. Walton. What is that belief based on?  14 <b>A. Sorry?</b>  15 Q. What is your belief that it was Station Manager Walton  16 based on?  17 <b>A. Because, again, I've asked other people who was in the</b>  18 <b>lobby.</b>  19 Q. What did the senior officer say to you, do you remember?  20 <b>A. Yeah, he tapped me on the shoulder and he said, "You're</b>  21 <b>moving your staging post to the ground floor". I said</b>  22 <b>to him, "I'm taking FSG, I can't move to the ground</b>  23 <b>floor", and he said to me, "Go to the ground floor".</b>  24 Q. Did he give you any indication as to why he wanted you  25 to move to the ground floor?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 the move.  2 Station Manager Gareth Cook, who is going to give  3 evidence later, says -- and we'll explore this with  4 him -- that it moved at about 02.15, which should be  5 very shortly after Glynn Williams started recording on  6 the wall.  7 Would that be about right?  8 <b>A. I've really got no recollection of timings.</b>  9 Q. Right, okay.  10 Did you go up to the third floor when the bridgehead  11 moved or did you stay on the second-floor balcony?  12 <b>A. No, I stayed on the second floor at that point.</b>  13 Q. How did you continue to communicate with the bridgehead,  14 which was now a floor above you?  15 <b>A. At that point, I was still taking the FSG and</b>  16 <b>facilitating it and I was just giving the numbers to the</b>  17 <b>firefighters and forward them on to the bridgehead, so</b>  18 <b>I had no communication with them at that point.</b>  19 Q. I follow.  20 Did your communications with Watch Manager Williams  21 continue as they had done even though the bridgehead had  22 moved up a floor?  23 <b>A. They continued right until that point when I was told to</b>  24 <b>go to the ground.</b>  25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 Do you remember how long the bridgehead was on the</p> <p>2 third floor for?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Okay.</p> <p>5 Do you remember whether Watch Manager O'Keeffe asked</p> <p>6 you to take a photograph?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes, he did.</b></p> <p>8 Q. If I can just pick this up in your statement at page 8,</p> <p>9 you say at the end of the second substantive paragraph,</p> <p>10 after you've referred to the move to the ground floor,</p> <p>11 you say:</p> <p>12 "Just after that, another senior officer stood</p> <p>13 exactly where I had been."</p> <p>14 Now, just pausing there, is that on the second</p> <p>15 floor?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Second-floor mezzanine.</b></p> <p>17 Q. "He was with 10 wearers. There was no explanation. The</p> <p>18 bridgehead had now been moved from the 2nd to the 3rd</p> <p>19 floor. I climbed up to the bridgehead on the 3rd floor</p> <p>20 where I saw firefighters in a queue waiting to go up."</p> <p>21 First, having been told to go to the ground floor in</p> <p>22 the way that your statement says and you've just told</p> <p>23 us, Mr Watson, why did you go to the third floor?</p> <p>24 <b>A. So as I explained, I was told to go to the ground floor</b></p> <p>25 <b>to take the staging to the ground floor. As I was kind</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 <b>moved to the ground floor.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 Do you know why he wanted you to photograph what was</p> <p>4 on the third floor?</p> <p>5 <b>A. As I say, I can only presume it was FSG and it would be</b></p> <p>6 <b>good practice to carry that all downstairs with you.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Okay.</p> <p>8 Can I ask you then -- before we move to the next</p> <p>9 topic -- just to look at MET000015625.</p> <p>10 Now, we have I think established that that is the</p> <p>11 third floor and that the 3 is correct.</p> <p>12 Do you remember whether this was what Watch Manager</p> <p>13 O'Keeffe asked you to photograph?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 After you went up to the bridgehead on the third</p> <p>17 floor and had the conversation with Watch Manager</p> <p>18 O'Keeffe, did the bridgehead then move?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Literally as we got there, someone said the fire's below</b></p> <p>20 <b>us and we moved straight downstairs.</b></p> <p>21 Q. All of you?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Everybody.</b></p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p>24 Now, that's a moment when I'm going to move to the</p> <p>25 next topic. Would you like a 5-minute break or are you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 <b>of the link for the FSG, I explained that, I was still</b></p> <p>2 <b>told to go to the ground. So when I got to the ground,</b></p> <p>3 <b>I spoke to Watch Manager Williams and asked him who is</b></p> <p>4 <b>doing the FSG. He said he didn't know. So I said,</b></p> <p>5 <b>"Okay, look after my staging post" and I went back up to</b></p> <p>6 <b>the third floor to find out what was happening with the</b></p> <p>7 <b>FSG.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Okay. When you say what was happening with the FSG, do</p> <p>9 you mean at the bridgehead?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yeah, because to my mind, the link had been broken.</b></p> <p>11 <b>I was facilitating getting that to the bridgehead and</b></p> <p>12 <b>now we didn't have that link. So I went past all of</b></p> <p>13 <b>these people up to the third to the bridgehead, to speak</b></p> <p>14 <b>to Watch Manager O'Keeffe.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Right. And did you have a conversation with him?</p> <p>16 <b>A. I did.</b></p> <p>17 Q. What did you talk about?</p> <p>18 <b>A. When I got there, I don't know if we actually mentioned</b></p> <p>19 <b>what's happening with the FSG because virtually as soon</b></p> <p>20 <b>as I got there, someone said the fire's below us, we're</b></p> <p>21 <b>now going to move to the ground, and he then said to me,</b></p> <p>22 <b>"Have you got your phone?" I said, "I haven't got my</b></p> <p>23 <b>phone", and he pointed to a wall which had a lot of</b></p> <p>24 <b>writing on, which, again, I can only presume was FSG,</b></p> <p>25 <b>but I couldn't photograph it for him, and then we all</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 happy to continue?</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I was going to suggest we might have</p> <p>3 one.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think 5 minutes would be a bit</p> <p>6 mean to ourselves, wouldn't it? If we said about 11.55,</p> <p>7 we would then have an hour to run before the break for</p> <p>8 lunch.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: Yes. That would be very good.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, we'll break now until 11.55,</p> <p>11 then, please.</p> <p>12 Please don't talk to anyone about your evidence</p> <p>13 while we're out. All right?</p> <p>14 If you would like to go with the usher now.</p> <p>15 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, 11.55, then, please.</p> <p>17 (11.42 am)</p> <p>18 (A short break)</p> <p>19 (11.55 am)</p> <p>20 (The witness returned)</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Comfortable to carry on?</p> <p>22 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>24 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 I want to turn now to the subject of the bridgehead 2 moving down to the ground floor. 3 In terms of timing, I wonder if we can just look at 4 a few photographs together and see if we can fix that. 5 Before I do, do you have a recollection of roughly 6 how long after you'd started on the second-floor balcony 7 with your staging the bridgehead moved from the third 8 floor to the ground floor? 9 <b>A. In all honesty, as I said, I didn't have my phone with 10 me, I don't wear a watch, so no concept of time at all.</b> 11 Q. Okay. 12 Now, if I can start, then, by asking you to look at 13 INQ00000234. That is a photograph taken of the bottom 14 of the stairs by the green wall at the back, and the 15 time mark for that adjusted is 03.09.47. 16 We can see a lot of BA wearers coming down with some 17 equipment, including a large bag. 18 What would that large bag be? 19 <b>A. That looks like an IEC bag, so like with medical 20 equipment in it.</b> 21 Q. At 03.09.55, just eight seconds later, INQ00000235, can 22 you help us there with what we see? 23 <b>A. So you've got Watch Manager O'Keeffe on the bottom of 24 the staircase. I do not recognise any of the other 25 firefighters.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 Let's look at the next picture then at 238. Now, 2 there we have -- if you look at the part of the wall 3 where we looked at earlier with Glynn Williams writing 4 FSG information, what do we see there? Can you help? 5 <b>A. Yeah, it looks like he's collating FSG information on 6 the forms that we looked at earlier and possibly 7 transferring to the wall.</b> 8 Q. All right. Now, I've shown you that, but do you have 9 a recollection of that happening? 10 <b>A. I remember him writing on the wall all night, not at 11 that specific point.</b> 12 Q. Do you have a recollection of anybody writing anything, 13 once the bridgehead had moved to the ground floor, on 14 a green wall by the stairs? 15 <b>A. So when we moved to the ground floor, at one point 16 I became more of a runner between Glynn Williams and 17 Watch Manager O'Keeffe.</b> 18 Q. Okay. 19 Now, let's just see if we can get an idea of that. 20 Look at 239, the next picture in the sequence, which is 21 taken at -- that's not it. 22 That should be -- is that 239? Right, let's look at 23 240 then. 24 So this is taken at the foot of the stairs by the 25 green wall at the bottom and it shows the BA control</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 Q. Okay. 2 At 03.10, INQ00000236, that is the lobby. Can you 3 see yourself there anywhere? 4 <b>A. I believe that looks like me, top middle of the picture 5 there.</b> 6 Q. Right. It does? 7 <b>A. Yes.</b> 8 Q. Do you remember being in the lobby with that throng of 9 firefighters at around that time? 10 <b>A. Yes, I do.</b> 11 Q. Right. 12 Then if we go to the next picture, you can see -- 13 this is now 03.11.20 -- control boards are in the lobby 14 next to the wall where originally Watch Manager Williams 15 had been writing FSG information. 16 Again, do you remember what was happening at this 17 time? 18 <b>A. What was the timing for this?</b> 19 Q. Well, we have an adjusted time of 03.11.20 for this 20 picture. 21 <b>A. You see, my recollection was the entry control board -- 22 so if you look to the right, someone's writing, my 23 recollection was they was at the bottom of the stairwell 24 and not there, so I don't recall that being there.</b> 25 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 board there in the bottom left-hand corner of the 2 picture. 3 Do you know who that firefighter was in the white 4 helmet? 5 <b>A. No, I don't. I can't recall his name. Group manager, 6 looking at the rank markings.</b> 7 Q. Yes. All right. But you don't remember. 8 Do you remember that happening, that the BA control 9 boards were set up by that green wall at the foot of the 10 staircase? 11 <b>A. That's my recollection, that all the BA was set up 12 across the foot of that wall.</b> 13 Q. Let's skip on a couple more to 242. 14 Do you recognise anybody in that photograph? 15 <b>A. Yes. So from the left you've got Watch Manager De 16 Silvo, she's at Chelsea, you've got Justin O'Beirne from 17 North Ken, you've then got Watch Manager O'Keeffe and 18 I believe that is Group Manager Welch.</b> 19 Q. That's Welch, is it? 20 <b>A. I believe so.</b> 21 Q. Right. Okay. 22 Do you remember the BA entry control boards and 23 other materials being moved to the foot of the stairs by 24 the green wall there? 25 <b>A. When you showed me the earlier photo with the BA board</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p>



<p>1 <b>against Watch Manager Williams's wall, I don't recall</b></p> <p>2 <b>that, but I do recall all the BA boards being on that</b></p> <p>3 <b>wall where they are now.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>5 Given the times we have for these -- and this one,</p> <p>6 I should say, is at, adjusted, 03.17.22 -- does that</p> <p>7 help you with your recollection -- or should I perhaps</p> <p>8 say does this correspond with your recollection of</p> <p>9 roughly when the bridgehead moved down to the ground</p> <p>10 floor?</p> <p>11 <b>A. As I say, timing-wise, I don't know, but I remember</b></p> <p>12 <b>somebody said the fire's below us and everybody moved to</b></p> <p>13 <b>the ground floor, and that's where we operated from</b></p> <p>14 <b>after that point.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Now, in his statement, Station Manager Pete Wolfenden</p> <p>16 says that he assisted you after you'd come down to the</p> <p>17 ground floor.</p> <p>18 Can you, from your recollection, tell us what</p> <p>19 Station Manager Wolfenden's involvement was to the best</p> <p>20 of your recollection once --</p> <p>21 <b>A. My recollection was I remember him being on the radio</b></p> <p>22 <b>quite a lot, talking to outside, which I can only</b></p> <p>23 <b>presume was a command unit or someone to do with the</b></p> <p>24 <b>command unit.</b></p> <p>25 <b>He was, I believe, taking numbers, writing things</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 informed myself, WM Williams and SM Wolfenden that all</p> <p>2 FSGs were to go to him then onto the relocated Entry</p> <p>3 Control boards."</p> <p>4 First of all, do you remember who the GM was?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Group Manager Welch.</b></p> <p>6 Q. That's Welch.</p> <p>7 The relocated entry control boards ended up where?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Where they was on that last photo, at the foot of the</b></p> <p>9 <b>stairs.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 Now, what was your understanding about</p> <p>12 Group Manager Welch's role on the bridgehead at or from</p> <p>13 that point?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I had no contact with Group Manager Welch. When we got</b></p> <p>15 <b>to the ground floor, I did witness him briefing crews</b></p> <p>16 <b>along with -- the name's come back to me now --</b></p> <p>17 <b>Pat Goulbourne, who was also a group manager, but I had</b></p> <p>18 <b>no sort of personal contact at that point.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Coming back to Pete Wolfenden, who you've referred to in</p> <p>20 your contemporaneous notes, he says in his statement</p> <p>21 that he was there to oversee Watch Manager Williams and</p> <p>22 yourself in co-ordinating fire survival guidance</p> <p>23 information.</p> <p>24 First of all, does that accord with your</p> <p>25 recollection?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 <b>down. He was giving them to me and I was forwarding</b></p> <p>2 <b>them on either to the firefighters or on to Watch</b></p> <p>3 <b>Manager O'Keeffe.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 Now, do you know what time he arrived in the</p> <p>6 ground-floor lobby?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I don't recall the time, but I don't believe he was</b></p> <p>8 <b>there when he first moved down. I think we moved on</b></p> <p>9 <b>a little bit time-wise.</b></p> <p>10 Q. He arrived on the fire ground at 02.12.58, and these</p> <p>11 pictures are now an hour or so later.</p> <p>12 Do you remember what time he came to the ground</p> <p>13 floor to assist with the work you were doing when you</p> <p>14 had arrived at the ground floor?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I don't know time-wise, but I think we was on the</b></p> <p>16 <b>ground-floor lobby for a short period and then he just</b></p> <p>17 <b>appeared.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 Now, let me take it in this order. If we can look</p> <p>20 at your contemporaneous notes, I think, first of all,</p> <p>21 and look at page 3. This is where you cover the move.</p> <p>22 The bottom of page 2, you say, I should just show</p> <p>23 you this, bottom of page 2 you say:</p> <p>24 "Some time later? The bridgehead was relocated to</p> <p>25 the ground floor and a GM [Group Manager] came and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 He also goes on to say that he put information up on</p> <p>4 what he describes as the beige wall, ie not the green</p> <p>5 wall.</p> <p>6 Again, do you recall him doing that?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I don't recall him writing, but I know when I left the</b></p> <p>8 <b>incident at the end, or at the end of my time in the</b></p> <p>9 <b>incident, he did record that on the wall. I witnessed</b></p> <p>10 <b>him do that. So possibly he was writing on the wall.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Now, just to show you a photograph. This is</p> <p>13 MET00015815, which is or should be LDS/5. There's quite</p> <p>14 a lot of information there.</p> <p>15 Pete Wolfenden says in his statement that where</p> <p>16 there was a tick -- well, do you remember what a tick</p> <p>17 represents?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I don't, because I didn't have any sort of dealings with</b></p> <p>19 <b>the wall personally.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Okay. All right. So you can't help us with what the</p> <p>21 ticks or crosses or circles represent on that?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Can you help us with how much you know about</p> <p>24 Pete Wolfenden's input into the material that we see on</p> <p>25 the wall, the writing on the wall?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 <b>A. Actually physically writing, I'm unaware, but I was</b>  2 <b>quite busy so he may well have written on the wall. But</b>  3 <b>he had more of an overseeing role as you've just stated.</b>  4 Q. Now, you were busy. Can you tell us what you were doing  5 once the bridgehead had moved to the ground floor, and  6 the writing up on the wall continued by Glynn Williams?  7 What were you doing?  8 <b>A. So I still had kind of a dual role. I was still</b>  9 <b>organising getting EDBA/SDBA into the base of the tower,</b>  10 <b>equipment as required, and I had a direct link with</b>  11 <b>Watch Manager Brown, who was in the holding area outside</b>  12 <b>of the incident, so just making sure that we had enough</b>  13 <b>firefighters to send in. That was one of my roles.</b>  14 The other role at that point was as FSG was coming  15 in, he was giving them to me, and at this point I was  16 still handing them direct to crews to go forward to the  17 BA board.  18 Q. Right.  19 Who was handing you FSG pieces of paper?  20 <b>A. I believe at this point it was Station Manager</b>  21 <b>Wolfenden.</b>  22 Q. Wolfenden?  23 <b>A. Wolfenden.</b>  24 Q. Right, in what form were those pieces of paper?  25 <b>A. Handwritten.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 information in the form of control information forms,  2 those formal appendix 2 control information forms?  3 <b>A. At no stage in the incident was I given a formal piece</b>  4 <b>of paper.</b>  5 Q. When I say "still", that was a bad question, but at no  6 stage.  7 Now, did you receive any debriefing from crews  8 descending or from casualties being brought out about  9 the conditions in the tower or success or failure of  10 rescues?  11 <b>A. At this stage now, where you saw the set-up at the base</b>  12 <b>of the tower where the stairs were, the bridgehead</b>  13 <b>effectively would've been stopping crews. But as they</b>  14 <b>came through, and we now had a side entrance rather than</b>  15 <b>a front entrance because of the amount of debris coming</b>  16 <b>down, I did actually physically stop two or three people</b>  17 <b>to find out where they'd come from and went direct</b>  18 <b>face-to-face with Watch Manager Williams to give him</b>  19 <b>that information so he could update his wall.</b>  20 Q. Did you see him update the wall with the information you  21 gave him?  22 <b>A. I don't recall, no.</b>  23 Q. Okay. You don't know what system he used to --  24 <b>A. I don't know the system, but I know he was writing on</b>  25 <b>that wall as I was telling him.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 Q. I see.  2 <b>A. To my memory.</b>  3 Q. I see. So when we looked at the photograph earlier on,  4 LFB00001929, I think most of those you said were Station  5 Manager Wolfenden's writing.  6 <b>A. That's only an assumption, because at that point I don't</b>  7 <b>recall writing any more papers, they was being handed to</b>  8 <b>me. And it was kind of a dual role. I was taking them</b>  9 <b>to the wearers to give them where they was going, and</b>  10 <b>I was, I believe -- because I had quite a lot of</b>  11 <b>dealings with Watch Manager O'Keeffe at that point as</b>  12 <b>well -- forwarding that on to him so he had an awareness</b>  13 <b>of what we was doing as well.</b>  14 Q. Do you know where Pete Wolfenden was getting the  15 information on the pieces of paper that he was giving to  16 you?  17 <b>A. I believe I'm correct in saying it was via his radio.</b>  18 Q. Did you see him --  19 <b>A. I did see him use his radio, yes.</b>  20 Q. -- on his radio? Did you see him recording on paper  21 what he was getting over the radio?  22 <b>A. No, I didn't, but I did witness him using his radio.</b>  23 <b>Whether or not we still had people coming in with slips</b>  24 <b>of paper, I'm not sure.</b>  25 Q. At that stage, did you handle any fire survival guidance</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you know or did you see what he then did with the  2 information you were giving him about conditions in the  3 tower?  4 <b>A. I don't know.</b>  5 Q. You didn't see him communicate that on to the command  6 unit or somebody else?  7 <b>A. No, no.</b>  8 Q. Okay.  9 Were you able to keep tabs on FSG callers who  10 actually managed to get out without being rescued?  11 <b>A. At that point, I believe all the residents coming out</b>  12 <b>were being brought out by BA crews, and the actual</b>  13 <b>logging of the FSG would've been more Watch Manager</b>  14 <b>Williams. He would've had more of an overall view of</b>  15 <b>that.</b>  16 Q. Okay.  17 Now, do you remember at any stage -- any stage,  18 whether before or after the bridgehead was moved down  19 from the third floor to the ground floor -- being told  20 that crews were struggling to get above the 11th floor?  21 <b>A. I didn't have that information, no.</b>  22 Q. Do you remember whether you got information that they  23 were struggling to get above the 15th floor?  24 <b>A. No. Again, that would've been more the bridgehead and</b>  25 <b>the watch or incident commanders that were near the</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 <b>bridgehead.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>3 Now, on page 9 of your statement, if you can just go</p> <p>4 to that, you say in the third paragraph:</p> <p>5 "WELCH and WOOLFENDENE[sic] had a discussion and the</p> <p>6 decision not to go above the 10th floor was changed to a</p> <p>7 maximum of the 15th floor."</p> <p>8 Were you privy to that discussion?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I was aware of the discussion but I wasn't privy to the</b></p> <p>10 <b>information that was passed.</b></p> <p>11 Q. How were you privy to the discussion? Were you standing</p> <p>12 there when they were talking?</p> <p>13 <b>A. So, where that originates from, at this point I was</b></p> <p>14 <b>still directly giving firefighters information on where</b></p> <p>15 <b>they was going, and I overheard who I now know to be</b></p> <p>16 <b>Group Manager Welch say to somebody, "We're not going</b></p> <p>17 <b>above the 10th", and I had just given a crew a ticket</b></p> <p>18 <b>effectively to the 11th. They'd already been to the</b></p> <p>19 <b>entry control and they was just starting up at the</b></p> <p>20 <b>bottom of the stairs, pulling their masks on. And</b></p> <p>21 <b>I asked him, "Did you say we're not going above the</b></p> <p>22 <b>10th?" He said, "Yes", and I said, "I'd better stop</b></p> <p>23 <b>that crew because they're going to the 11th". He said</b></p> <p>24 <b>to me that I shouldn't be committing anyone. I told him</b></p> <p>25 <b>I wasn't committing anyone because to my mind I'd been</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 Q. To be clear, was this the first time that you'd become</p> <p>2 aware that entry control wasn't sending BA crews above</p> <p>3 the 10th floor?</p> <p>4 <b>A. To my recollection, yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Did you know how long they'd been operating that policy</p> <p>6 for before you found out about it?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I don't, no.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Now, you say in the third paragraph that there was this</p> <p>9 discussion. At that stage you were more of a runner.</p> <p>10 Did you talk to Group Manager Welch directly or did</p> <p>11 you only deal with Pete Wolfenden on this question of</p> <p>12 deployment above the 10th and the 15th floor?</p> <p>13 <b>A. So I've probably gone into sort of two bits that</b></p> <p>14 <b>happened there. Once I stopped that crew going to the</b></p> <p>15 <b>11th, he then instructed me all FSGs to go direct to</b></p> <p>16 <b>him.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Right. I see, okay.</p> <p>18 Now, in the previous paragraph, where you cover what</p> <p>19 you've just told us in your evidence about pieces of</p> <p>20 paper going to Group Manager Welch, you say in the last</p> <p>21 line that:</p> <p>22 "My impression was that he [Wolfenden] didn't agree</p> <p>23 with WELCH's decision."</p> <p>24 How did you get that impression?</p> <p>25 <b>A. The fact that he went straight onto his radio to say he</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 <b>doing this same format all night. So that crew was</b></p> <p>2 <b>stopped.</b></p> <p>3 <b>I think just after that I gave him some more --</b></p> <p>4 <b>which came from Station Manager Wolfenden -- FSG,</b></p> <p>5 <b>I believe five in total, and it was all above the 10th,</b></p> <p>6 <b>and he said to me, "I told you, we're not going above</b></p> <p>7 <b>the 10th". So I gave them back to Station Manager</b></p> <p>8 <b>Wolfenden and he asked me what they were, and I said</b></p> <p>9 <b>"We're not committing above the 10th". And I recall him</b></p> <p>10 <b>going on to his radio and enquiring and saying, "Can</b></p> <p>11 <b>this be recorded, that we're not going above the 10th".</b></p> <p>12 <b>He then left me and went to have what I would call</b></p> <p>13 <b>a tactical meeting with Group Manager Welch, and at that</b></p> <p>14 <b>point -- and it was quite short from my recollection --</b></p> <p>15 <b>it was changed to the 15th, so we was recommitting back</b></p> <p>16 <b>up to the 15th.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Were you told why the decision was made by</p> <p>18 Group Manager Welch not to commit above the 10th?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I wasn't, but what I would say, he would've had</b></p> <p>20 <b>an overall view of -- he would've been debriefing</b></p> <p>21 <b>firefighters coming down, so he would've had an overall</b></p> <p>22 <b>view of the fire situation, and he also would've had</b></p> <p>23 <b>an overview from outside of what was happening. So</b></p> <p>24 <b>whereas I was kind of blindfolded to what was happening</b></p> <p>25 <b>outside, I had no contact other than my staging area.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 <b>wanted it recorded at this time.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 Do you know at this point who the incident commander</p> <p>4 was?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Who did you think the incident commander was?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I had no idea because we're talking now maybe 3 hours</b></p> <p>8 <b>into the incident, whatever it was.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you know at that stage what the status of the advice</p> <p>10 to residents was?</p> <p>11 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Do you know whether the stay put had been changed or</p> <p>13 not?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I don't, no.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 I wonder whether we can time this by looking at some</p> <p>17 of the notes that Watch Manager O'Keeffe introduced into</p> <p>18 evidence and we've looked at already a couple of times</p> <p>19 this morning. That's LFB00001929, if we can just go</p> <p>20 back to that.</p> <p>21 We've looked at these a few times now this morning,</p> <p>22 but if you look at, for example, the second one in from</p> <p>23 the left, you have flats 111 to 115, all on the 14th</p> <p>24 floor, timed at 04.10.</p> <p>25 Does that help you with your recollection of when</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 this decision not to go above the 10th was made?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No, not really. As you can see from that, I was getting</b></p> <p>3 <b>rather a lot of pieces of paper which were being</b></p> <p>4 <b>forwarded on and I wasn't really looking at numbers, to</b></p> <p>5 <b>be honest.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 What about any of the other pieces of paper, for</p> <p>8 example the 11th floor, flat 82, three persons, 4.30,</p> <p>9 and 15th floor at 4.20?</p> <p>10 Again, do those help you with your recollection as</p> <p>11 to when this discussion about deployment --</p> <p>12 <b>A. No, it doesn't, I'm sorry, no.</b></p> <p>13 Q. All right.</p> <p>14 So just to clarify one thing, if you could go,</p> <p>15 again, just one more time to MET00015815 -- we've looked</p> <p>16 at this a number of times and I probably covered this</p> <p>17 with you -- at this point in the night, and we're</p> <p>18 talking about floors, you can see there at the top of</p> <p>19 the picture somebody has written, "Above 10 EDDB, Below</p> <p>20 10 SDBA".</p> <p>21 Do you remember seeing that being written on the</p> <p>22 wall or a wall during the night?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I don't remember that being recorded, but at the point</b></p> <p>24 <b>when we was towards the sort of tail end of the</b></p> <p>25 <b>incident, I do remember there being a lot more EDDB than</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 <b>So I possibly can't help with that.</b></p> <p>2 Q. If they're right about that and crews weren't being</p> <p>3 committed or were having difficulties getting above the</p> <p>4 15th floor, let's say by latest 02.47, that would be</p> <p>5 before the bridgehead moved to the ground floor on the</p> <p>6 basis of what we've looked at earlier. Would you agree</p> <p>7 with that?</p> <p>8 <b>A. That's possible. But just to reiterate, my role was</b></p> <p>9 <b>staging and facilitating FSG, so the bridgehead would've</b></p> <p>10 <b>had a lot more overview of what was happening both</b></p> <p>11 <b>outside and firefighters coming down.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 Do you remember whether there were any disagreements</p> <p>14 or other disagreements between the FSG team -- that's</p> <p>15 you, Glynn Williams and Pete Wolfenden -- and members of</p> <p>16 the bridgehead team, as it were?</p> <p>17 <b>A. As we've just explored in my statement, when I was told</b></p> <p>18 <b>we're not going above the 10th, I gave the papers back</b></p> <p>19 <b>to Station Manager Wolfenden, who went straight on to</b></p> <p>20 <b>his radio to the command unit. I witnessed that.</b></p> <p>21 <b>Once he'd sent the message, he walked over and had</b></p> <p>22 <b>what I would call a tactical meeting with</b></p> <p>23 <b>Group Manager Welch and the decision was then changed</b></p> <p>24 <b>back to the 15th.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Now, Watch Manager Williams says in his statement that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 <b>there was SDBA because that was part of my role, and</b></p> <p>2 <b>I was in contact with a watch manager outside and I was</b></p> <p>3 <b>constantly asking him for more EDDB as opposed to</b></p> <p>4 <b>standard duration.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 Now, Station Manager Wolfenden has given us</p> <p>7 a statement, and he says -- again, we'll have to explore</p> <p>8 it with him -- that it was he who wrote those words,</p> <p>9 "Above 10 EDDB, Below 10 SDBA".</p> <p>10 Does that accord with your recollection or do you</p> <p>11 not know one way or the other?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I don't recall that being put onto the wall.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Okay. All right, we'll have to explore that with him.</p> <p>14 Now, we've had evidence from control room staff:</p> <p>15 Jo Smith, who was the senior operations manager in the</p> <p>16 control room on the night, and from DAC Adrian Fenton,</p> <p>17 who was also in the control room on the night.</p> <p>18 They've told us that information that crews were</p> <p>19 struggling to get above the 15th floor was a factor in</p> <p>20 their own decision to change the FSG advice from "stay</p> <p>21 put" to "get out", which may well have been between</p> <p>22 02.30 and 02.47 in the night.</p> <p>23 Does what I've just told you tally with anything</p> <p>24 that you can recall?</p> <p>25 <b>A. As I said earlier, time-wise I'm very vague with times.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 there was a verbal conflict -- his words -- between you</p> <p>2 and Group Manager Welch between 4.00 and 4.30 in the</p> <p>3 night, and the reason is because he says that there was</p> <p>4 FSG information being shared directly to Group</p> <p>5 Manager Welch without Watch Manager Williams's</p> <p>6 knowledge.</p> <p>7 <b>A. I think --</b></p> <p>8 Q. Can you help with that?</p> <p>9 <b>A. That side of it, I'm not sure. I think the conflict, as</b></p> <p>10 <b>he puts it, was when Group Manager Welch said to me</b></p> <p>11 <b>I shouldn't be committing anybody, to which I replied</b></p> <p>12 <b>"I'm not committing anybody".</b></p> <p>13 Q. So it's that same discussion?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I believe so.</b></p> <p>15 Q. I see, okay. You don't have any recollection of any</p> <p>16 independent later or different disagreement with</p> <p>17 Group Manager Welch, do you?</p> <p>18 <b>A. So the only other point then -- so that stopped that</b></p> <p>19 <b>crew, and then, as I explained earlier, when I was given</b></p> <p>20 <b>another five FSGs and I gave them to Group</b></p> <p>21 <b>Manager Welch, he looked at them, handed me them back</b></p> <p>22 <b>and said, "I told you we're not going above the 10th",</b></p> <p>23 <b>which is the point when I go back to Station Manager</b></p> <p>24 <b>Wolfenden and he reports it on the radio.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 At the point when you were doing this running, that</p> <p>2 you were doing, between the wall and the bridgehead, now</p> <p>3 on the ground floor, were you recording any of the</p> <p>4 information that you were getting yourself anywhere?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I wasn't, no.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Okay. Can I just show you a picture of the green wall.</p> <p>7 If you would just give me a moment, I will find that for</p> <p>8 you. (Pause)</p> <p>9 It's MET00015816.</p> <p>10 In your role as runner on the ground floor, do you</p> <p>11 remember seeing anybody writing on the green wall?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Is this the wall next to where the entry control was set</b></p> <p>13 <b>up at the base of the stairs?</b></p> <p>14 Q. Base of the stairs.</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes, so, again, I'm not sure what was recorded, but I do</b></p> <p>16 <b>recall Watch Manager O'Keeffe recording stuff on there.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Right. Do you know when the recording of writing</p> <p>18 on this wall started?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I believe as soon as we got to the ground floor.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 Now, Louisa De Silvo has said in her witness</p> <p>22 statement -- again, we'll explore it with her -- the</p> <p>23 writing "183 - daughter, 21 or 22", was her.</p> <p>24 Do you have a recollection of her putting that up</p> <p>25 there?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 <b>They said they needed assistance, so I took that</b></p> <p>2 <b>message. I told them I was on the ground-floor lobby.</b></p> <p>3 <b>I went over to Watch Manager O'Keeffe, told him. He</b></p> <p>4 <b>then made a radio transmission to another crew and them</b></p> <p>5 <b>people were successfully rescued.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Do you know whether that information was recorded by</p> <p>7 Watch Manager O'Keeffe or anybody else when you told it?</p> <p>8 <b>A. It was recorded to -- at that point, I can't remember if</b></p> <p>9 <b>Watch Manager Williams was still there or it was Station</b></p> <p>10 <b>Manager Wolfenden, because Watch Manager Williams left</b></p> <p>11 <b>quite early, but it was recorded, I believe, on his wall</b></p> <p>12 <b>because I took the information back, because I actually</b></p> <p>13 <b>verbally spoke to them people.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Right. When you say "his wall", which wall is that?</p> <p>15 <b>A. That is the lobby entrance wall, not the staircase.</b></p> <p>16 Q. The beige wall, not the green wall?</p> <p>17 <b>A. The beige wall.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>19 So you recall that, do you?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I do, because I actually spoke to them residents when</b></p> <p>21 <b>they came out and I believe they're in my statement.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>23 Let's go back to that wall, a picture of that wall,</p> <p>24 the one we were looking at. I think MET00015815 is</p> <p>25 probably the clearest version of that we have.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 What about the big ring with "153 18th" in it? Do</p> <p>4 you have a recollection of that?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No, I don't, no.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 Now, let me just ask you one or two questions about</p> <p>8 a particular event.</p> <p>9 Firefighter Lawson has said that they came down and</p> <p>10 said they couldn't get people down from the 18th floor,</p> <p>11 and the telemetry data for tallying in for that</p> <p>12 firefighter was at 02.27.</p> <p>13 Do you have a recollection of being told at any</p> <p>14 stage of difficulties getting people down from the 18th</p> <p>15 floor?</p> <p>16 <b>A. The incident you're talking about, I don't recall. No.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Okay.</p> <p>18 Do you remember Charlie Batterbee telling you</p> <p>19 anything about difficulties getting people down from the</p> <p>20 18th floor?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, I don't. The only recollection I have, which is in</b></p> <p>22 <b>my statement, I took a radio message on channel 1 from</b></p> <p>23 <b>a BA crew, so they switched from channel 6 to 1. They</b></p> <p>24 <b>said they was on the 10th floor. They had members of</b></p> <p>25 <b>the public with them, I believe to be from flat 74.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 Can you help us identify where on this wall that</p> <p>2 information was recorded?</p> <p>3 <b>A. As I say, my recollection was they told me -- the</b></p> <p>4 <b>firefighters said they was on the 10th floor and the</b></p> <p>5 <b>residents said they'd come from flat 74, which, looking</b></p> <p>6 <b>at that, is down the bottom of that first list, ticked</b></p> <p>7 <b>off. So three from the bottom.</b></p> <p>8 Q. I see, okay. That's it, is it? I follow. Looks like</p> <p>9 there's a separate list. I was going to ask you, in</p> <p>10 fact, because the central list has 74 on the 10th, as</p> <p>11 you can see there next to it, with "BA" and then "F",</p> <p>12 but no other information.</p> <p>13 Can you help with why that is?</p> <p>14 <b>A. It just looks as though maybe they've hung the phone up</b></p> <p>15 <b>and called back again because they have been recorded</b></p> <p>16 <b>again. That's what it looks like. But, again, you'll</b></p> <p>17 <b>have to check with Watch Manager Williams as he was</b></p> <p>18 <b>collating that information.</b></p> <p>19 Q. All right.</p> <p>20 If I can just ask about one more. You can see in</p> <p>21 the second column on this same photograph, flat 152</p> <p>22 appears to be deleted, 18th. Appears to be deleted.</p> <p>23 Do you know anything about that?</p> <p>24 <b>A. In all honesty, other than flat 74 -- to my recollection</b></p> <p>25 <b>I actually spoke to them people and sent that message</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 back to that particular officer and wall. Other numbers</p> <p>2 during the night, I took so many numbers, I don't</p> <p>3 recall.</p> <p>4 Q. Right, thank you very much. Okay.</p> <p>5 On page 8 of your statement you refer to the fact</p> <p>6 that you gave two prepared BA sets to two of your own</p> <p>7 firefighters for a woman and a child who needed air.</p> <p>8 It's on page 8, the second paragraph down. I've</p> <p>9 summarised what you said there.</p> <p>10 Do you remember which firefighters this was?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, Firefighter Felton, who is based at Hammersmith.</p> <p>12 Q. And who else?</p> <p>13 A. I'm not too sure. I know he took two sets, two prepared</p> <p>14 sets, but he was with another firefighter who I didn't</p> <p>15 know.</p> <p>16 Q. Is that the photograph we saw earlier?</p> <p>17 A. I believe that was them actually exiting the building,</p> <p>18 but this happened on the second-floor balcony.</p> <p>19 Q. Do you know whether that was a result of a fire survival</p> <p>20 guidance call that had gone through you or not?</p> <p>21 A. I don't know, no.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay. You also say in that paragraph in the statement,</p> <p>23 the second line:</p> <p>24 "I don't know what floor they were on but the crew</p> <p>25 couldn't get them down as it was too smoke logged."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 He didn't shut down and went straight back upstairs.</p> <p>2 Q. Oh, I see. Right, okay.</p> <p>3 He then came back down again?</p> <p>4 A. I didn't see him return. I was quite busy. I don't</p> <p>5 know if that was the point when the FSG had started or</p> <p>6 not, but I was very consumed and I didn't even see the</p> <p>7 people come back out. But I do know that we</p> <p>8 successfully brought two people out.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay.</p> <p>10 You think that was flat 158. How do you remember</p> <p>11 that it was flat 158 in particular?</p> <p>12 A. No, I didn't say that, I just know retrospectively that</p> <p>13 it was the ninth floor. I don't know the flat number.</p> <p>14 Q. You don't know the flat number?</p> <p>15 A. I don't know the flat number.</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: Right, okay.</p> <p>17 Well, thank you very much, Mr Watson. You've been</p> <p>18 very, very helpful and I'm grateful to you for coming to</p> <p>19 give evidence.</p> <p>20 I wonder whether, given the time, we might just take</p> <p>21 a 5-minute break, not by way of encouragement but by way</p> <p>22 of me being able to make sure I've covered everything in</p> <p>23 my notes, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Shall we do that, Mr Watson? We'll</p> <p>25 break for just over 5 minutes and then Mr Millett can</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 Who told you that the floor they'd come from was too</p> <p>2 smoke-logged?</p> <p>3 A. So this was quite a pertinent moment for me. I now know</p> <p>4 this to be 01.58 from the operational response from what</p> <p>5 the Brigade's printed. So my own firefighter came down.</p> <p>6 He said, "I need two sets". I said to the next two</p> <p>7 people, "Get started up" and he said, "No, no, I need</p> <p>8 two BA sets". So I said, "What do you need them for?"</p> <p>9 He said, "The stairwell's too smoke-logged to get people</p> <p>10 down". And it was quite a sort of telling moment,</p> <p>11 really, that the escape route we're using is now</p> <p>12 smoke-logged.</p> <p>13 So I gave him the two sets, and I now know that</p> <p>14 a crew from Paddington was up in the flat with these</p> <p>15 people on the ninth floor and we successfully brought</p> <p>16 them down.</p> <p>17 Q. Was this after Firefighter Felton had come down to the</p> <p>18 bridgehead from a deployment?</p> <p>19 A. Yes. He'd already been deployed and I believe the crew</p> <p>20 radioed them to come down and collect two sets.</p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 We have him with an end of wear time -- sorry,</p> <p>23 I should ask you first: when you had that discussion</p> <p>24 with him, had he ended his wear?</p> <p>25 A. No, he was still in BA. He took two prepared sets in.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 see if he has left anything out, and then probably</p> <p>2 you'll be able to go. All right?</p> <p>3 If you would like to go with the usher, please.</p> <p>4 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, if I say 12.40,</p> <p>6 Mr Millett, would that be all right?</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>8 (12.35 pm)</p> <p>9 (A short break)</p> <p>10 (12.40 pm)</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Watson?</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: Mr Watson, just a couple of questions.</p> <p>14 First of all, I wonder whether you could be shown,</p> <p>15 please, INQ00000229.</p> <p>16 Now, this is time-stamped at 01.37, and adjusted</p> <p>17 it's 01.36.27.</p> <p>18 You can see the AOV control panel open.</p> <p>19 My question is whether you could identify who else</p> <p>20 we see in that picture?</p> <p>21 A. The black guy is on my watch, he's Firefighter Murray.</p> <p>22 Q. That's Murray, is it?</p> <p>23 A. That's Murray. The other two, I don't know.</p> <p>24 Q. On the right-hand side of the picture there is</p> <p>25 a firefighter there assisting somebody on crutches</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 coming out of the building. Do you know who the 2 firefighter is?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I don't know, but he is a trainee. That's what the 4 diamond represents on his helmet.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right, thank you.</p> <p>6 You gave an answer earlier in your evidence this 7 morning when I was asking you about the distribution of 8 the slips that you were giving to firefighters at the 9 staging area, and the context was when you were on the 10 second floor.</p> <p>11 Did you consider whether an FSG sheet or slip of 12 paper should be given to an EDBA wearer or an SDBA 13 wearer?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Again, it's in my statement. The line crew from 15 Paddington came through quite early into the FSG, and 16 I do distinctly remember I had an FSG to the 21st floor 17 and I stopped that EDBA crew and said to them, "I've got 18 an FSG, can you take it?" He told me no, they've been 19 tasked to go to the roof and he asked me where the lift 20 was, and that's where the discussion comes in about not 21 using the lift. But I wasn't able to use them, so I had 22 to go back to using standard duration because that's all 23 I had in the line at the time.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 On the question of using the crew to go to the roof,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 opposed to which SDBA wearers should be deployed to 2 a particular FSG call?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I think from my own personal take, if my memory serves 4 me, as there was a lot of EDBA at this point, as I was 5 getting FSGs, I was going straight to them as opposed to 6 the SDBA.</b></p> <p>7 Q. So when you used the words "pot luck as to who got the 8 slip" this morning, does that refer to decisions as to 9 whether you send EDBA or SDBA?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No, everybody in my line at that point was SDBA, but 11 when I say "pot luck", I do remember two floors, 12 23rd floor and 21st floor, and I tried to give the FSG 13 to the EDBA crew, who couldn't take it because they was 14 tasked elsewhere, and I remember having a conversation 15 with the pair that was going into the 21st floor and 16 they kind of said, "Are we going to get up to the 21st 17 floor?" And I remember distinctly saying them, "You can 18 only do what you can do, because that's all we've got at 19 the moment".</b></p> <p>20 Q. So you tasked an SDBA crew to go to the 21st floor?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes, I did.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Even though they only had SDBA?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Because that's all we had at the time.</b></p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: That's all you had at the time. Okay, thank 25 you very much.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 did you try to speak to Mike Dowden about the wisdom of 2 that trip?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I didn't because at that time I didn't know who had 4 asked that, and what you've got to realise, it was a big 5 incident, there was a lot going on, a lot of things 6 I would have no knowledge on. So to intervene -- there 7 are a lot of like -- because we kind of sectorise and -- 8 so to intervene in a decision that has been made 9 wouldn't be my place as a staging officer.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Before you moved to the ground floor, do you remember 11 what availability there was for EDBA?</p> <p>12 <b>A. So on the second floor, it was limited, if at all. On 13 the ground floor, it was quite well resourced.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>15 <b>A. That's my recollection.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Do you remember roughly when the EDBA wearers turned up 17 in numbers?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Definitely on the ground floor, but time-wise, I'm not 19 sure. I was in close contact, as I said, with the 20 holding area and we did keep having a discussion we 21 needed EDBA as opposed SDBA. So I suggest as it 22 arrived, we were transferring to EDBA once we had the 23 availability.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Once you had the availability, was there a system for 25 deciding which EDBA wearers should be deployed as</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 Mr Watson, thank you very much for coming to give 2 evidence. I have no further questions for you and I'm 3 extremely grateful to you for coming to the inquiry 4 today and assisting us. Thank you.</p> <p>5 THE WITNESS: Could I just add in one last thing, is that 6 okay?</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Please do.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: Is that okay, sir?</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course.</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: I would like to say to a man and a woman in 11 the Fire Brigade who was in that lobby, we was all there 12 for one sole reason: to save as many lives as we could. 13 And we all knew that building had been burning for many 14 hours, still loses its tensile strength at 650 degrees, 15 and we all knew that that building could come down. But 16 we stayed there, I certainly stayed there, until that 17 FSG ceased. And I would suggest to a man and woman 18 stood in that lobby, it must have been on everybody's 19 mind, and I'd just like to say we was there for one sole 20 reason: to rescue as many people as we could.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Well, thank you very much 22 indeed and, as Mr Millett said, we are really very 23 grateful to you for coming to give your evidence. 24 There's a lot of evidence surrounding the handling of 25 the FSG calls and, as you can tell from the documents</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 you've been asked to comment on, it's not always easy to</p> <p>2 piece it together. So we're particularly grateful to</p> <p>3 you for coming along to tell us your part of it.</p> <p>4 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much indeed.</p> <p>6 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the</p> <p>8 usher.</p> <p>9 (The witness was released)</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, now, Mr Millett, that's</p> <p>11 a convenient point to break, perhaps?</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: It's the point to break.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: That's right.</p> <p>15 We have Station Manager Gareth Cook this afternoon</p> <p>16 and, looking at my notes, I'm confident that we should</p> <p>17 be finished before the end of the afternoon, even though</p> <p>18 it might be quite a long afternoon.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Shall I say 2 o'clock?</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: Certainly 2 o'clock.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: In that case, we'll break now and</p> <p>22 resume at 2 o'clock now, please.</p> <p>23 Thank you.</p> <p>24 (12.47 pm)</p> <p>25 (The short adjournment)</p> <p>Page 125</p>	<p>1 22 November 2017, which you'll find in the little bundle</p> <p>2 in front of you, but we tend to work from the screen</p> <p>3 which you'll find on your desk anyway.</p> <p>4 The reference to it is MET00007882.</p> <p>5 There's a further statement dated 21 February 2017,</p> <p>6 which is MET00012779.</p> <p>7 Have you read both of those statements recently?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Can you confirm that their contents are true?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Yes, thank you.</p> <p>12 Have you discussed your statement or your evidence</p> <p>13 that you are going to give to the inquiry today with</p> <p>14 anybody before coming here today?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Now, you also have some contemporaneous notes, the</p> <p>17 reference to which is MET00005717, and an exhibit,</p> <p>18 GAC/2, which is a lengthy document, which is</p> <p>19 MET00015779, which we'll look at in due course. That,</p> <p>20 I think, is the exhibit.</p> <p>21 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Now, we'll come back to that later.</p> <p>23 Just while I'm on it, though, and while we have it</p> <p>24 on the screen -- we've just lost it -- your statement</p> <p>25 for the police dated 22 November was made -- is this</p> <p>Page 127</p>
<p>1 (2.00 pm)</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>3 Now, we are going to hear another witness.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: We are, we are going to hear Gareth Cook.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>6 GARETH COOK (sworn)</p> <p>7 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Cook.</p> <p>9 Over to you, Mr Millett.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Thank you.</p> <p>11 Mr Cook, could you please give the inquiry your full</p> <p>12 name?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Gareth Cook.</b></p> <p>14 Q. First of all, can I say thank you very much for coming</p> <p>15 here to give evidence today to the inquiry and assisting</p> <p>16 us in our investigations. We do appreciate it.</p> <p>17 My questions are intended to be short and simple;</p> <p>18 sometimes they're not either of those things. So if you</p> <p>19 don't understand a question I'm asking you or you want</p> <p>20 me to repeat it, please just say.</p> <p>21 If you want to have a break at any stage, please</p> <p>22 just signal, but we are intending to have a break at</p> <p>23 some point halfway through the afternoon in any event.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Okay. Thank you very much.</b></p> <p>25 Q. You've provided us with a witness statement dated</p> <p>Page 126</p>	<p>1 right? -- after you did these long notes which are</p> <p>2 exhibited?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes, these notes were compiled up to a point within the</b></p> <p>4 <b>incident -- you'll see it comes to a bit of a stop</b></p> <p>5 <b>halfway through -- and they were compiled purely for me</b></p> <p>6 <b>to get a timeline, and you'll see that when you look</b></p> <p>7 <b>through.</b></p> <p>8 Q. I was going to ask, because they appear to be a formal</p> <p>9 LFB product. Did somebody ask you to provide these</p> <p>10 statements?</p> <p>11 <b>A. No, this is just the way that I worked it.</b></p> <p>12 Q. So did you have access to the template, the LFB --</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes, absolutely.</b></p> <p>14 Q. A nice picture of a fire appliance.</p> <p>15 <b>A. Standard template.</b></p> <p>16 Q. That's a standard LFB template, is it? Okay.</p> <p>17 Can I start by asking you about your position and</p> <p>18 training.</p> <p>19 Could you give us your current rank as at today?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Group manager.</b></p> <p>21 Q. When were you appointed a group manager?</p> <p>22 <b>A. 6 July, so very recently.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Congratulations.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Thank you.</b></p> <p>25 Q. As at 13/14 June 2017, what was your position?</p> <p>Page 128</p>



<p>1 <b>A. I was a station manager working in the north-west area</b>  2 <b>team as a quality assurance officer.</b>  3 Q. As a quality assurance officer?  4 <b>A. Yes.</b>  5 Q. What did that role involve?  6 <b>A. Quality assurance is a way within the area of making</b>  7 <b>sure that our training, practices on fire stations and</b>  8 <b>various other things meet the standards. We have 11</b>  9 <b>service standards within the London Fire Brigade which</b>  10 <b>we need to make sure that we maintain, and part of that</b>  11 <b>role was for me to go out and audit those and help</b>  12 <b>putting together various exercises, monitoring and</b>  13 <b>assuring them.</b>  14 Q. Are those standards regularly reviewed?  15 <b>A. It's changed now and it's being reviewed currently as</b>  16 <b>well. It was in the process of being changed at the</b>  17 <b>time, but that's something that the service will be able</b>  18 <b>to give you in more detail.</b>  19 Q. Okay.  20 Now, in your statement you explain that you have  21 20 years' service with the LFB; is that right?  22 <b>A. Yes -- well, two fire brigades, actually; I've worked in</b>  23 <b>London and Avon Fire and Rescue.</b>  24 Q. Indeed. I think it's right in both brigades you've held  25 every operational rank from firefighter through to now</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 <b>relation to high-rise fires, and obviously, as part of</b>  2 <b>my role, I've delivered training also.</b>  3 Q. I see.  4 Did you have specific training on high-rise  5 buildings from the London Fire Brigade as a station  6 manager?  7 <b>A. We delivered back to basics training which covered</b>  8 <b>high-rise in 2015, I think, might have been 2016, you'll</b>  9 <b>have to -- might have to correct -- but, yeah, no, it</b>  10 <b>was 2016, apologies, where we delivered that to our</b>  11 <b>borough, which was Islington at the time.</b>  12 Q. Are you able to tell us whether there was any difference  13 between the training that you got after you joined the  14 LFB from the training that you got while you were at  15 Avon on high-rise buildings?  16 <b>A. Generally speaking it tends to be very, very similar.</b>  17 <b>The procedures, standard operating procedures, policy</b>  18 <b>notes, et cetera, they all tend to be very similar.</b>  19 <b>There can be slight nuances, but they're very slight.</b>  20 <b>Some of the training I received in Avon was when</b>  21 <b>I went to the Fire Service College in Moreton and did</b>  22 <b>specific high-rise training there which was part of</b>  23 <b>their packages as a watch manager. That was very</b>  24 <b>useful. That was hosted by someone called Andy Forshaw</b>  25 <b>a station manager from Merseyside.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 group manager.  2 <b>A. Yes.</b>  3 Q. Right.  4 You spent some time at the Avon Fire Service. Could  5 you give us the dates during which you were there?  6 <b>A. Yes, 1 January 2006 until 5 November 2014.</b>  7 Q. What role did you occupy at Avon, or rather what rank or  8 ranks did you hold?  9 <b>A. Crew manager, watch manager A and watch manager B.</b>  10 Q. Okay.  11 When you returned to the LFB, was that to take up  12 the role of station manager?  13 <b>A. It was, yes.</b>  14 Q. So you'd been a station manager as at June 2017 for  15 something like just under two years.  16 <b>A. Three-and-a-half years.</b>  17 Q. Three-and-a-half years.  18 <b>A. Yes.</b>  19 Q. Yes.  20 <b>A. I think.</b>  21 Q. On page 2 of your statement you say that you've had  22 a lot of training in relation to high-rise buildings.  23 Was that training as a station manager or at a lower  24 rank?  25 <b>A. I've received training throughout the ranks with</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 <b>With regards to London, we have our policy notes,</b>  2 <b>and coming in as a station manager, I've passed</b>  3 <b>knowledge tests to show that I understand those and I've</b>  4 <b>delivered training on them subsequently.</b>  5 Q. Right.  6 In terms of your training at the Moreton -- that's  7 the Moreton-in-Marsh Fire College, is it?  8 <b>A. Yes, Fire Service College.</b>  9 Q. You went there as a watch manager?  10 <b>A. I believe so.</b>  11 Q. Do you remember the dates of your training there?  12 <b>A. I'm afraid I haven't. I could probably find them but</b>  13 <b>I'd have to go back and look.</b>  14 Q. Do you remember whether the training you received there  15 at that course postdated or pre-dated the Lakeland House  16 fire?  17 <b>A. Oh, it definitely postdated. It would've been around</b>  18 <b>2011, maybe 2012.</b>  19 Q. Right. Okay.  20 Are you aware of a national policy put out by the  21 DCLG in 2014 called generic risk assessment 3.2?  22 <b>A. I'm aware of generic risk assessments, but I'd just like</b>  23 <b>to point out that I'm aware of them. In London, we work</b>  24 <b>to the policy within London.</b>  25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 Have you ever heard of a fire at Shepherds Court 2 in August 2016? 3 <b>A. I have. It was a 20-pump incident for which I was off 4 duty.</b> 5 Q. I was going to ask you, were you there? 6 <b>A. No, unfortunately.</b> 7 Q. As an operational station manager, which you were at the 8 time, as you tell us, on your dates, did you get any 9 training on the lessons learnt from that fire? 10 <b>A. Not that I can recall.</b> 11 Q. Right. 12 So you don't ever recall seeing a slideshow or any 13 information pack? 14 <b>A. No. I remember that it triggered or it assisted with 15 our white goods campaign, but I can't remember any 16 formal outcomes I learnt from it, sorry.</b> 17 Q. Okay. 18 In your statement at the bottom of page 2 you talk 19 generally about familiarisation visits. 20 <b>A. Mm.</b> 21 Q. During your time as a watch manager, were you trained as 22 to how to conduct them? 23 When I say during your time as watch manager, I mean 24 at Avon, I suppose. 25 <b>A. Yes, all fire services will have a set -- if you like,</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 <b>rising main outlets are, inlets and outlets, et cetera.</b> 2 <b>In terms of the construction, that wouldn't be something 3 we necessarily would be looking for.</b> 4 <b>I take it from that you're looking to see would we 5 have checked for cladding, et cetera. I can tell you 6 now as a watch manager we wouldn't be looking for that 7 because it wasn't something we would have been aware of 8 particularly.</b> 9 Q. To the best of your recollection, did you have a policy 10 at Avon when you were watch manager which had a list of 11 things, like a checklist, that a familiarisation visit 12 would have to look at? 13 <b>A. I'm sure there would've been something; however, 14 I couldn't confirm it entirely for you. I'm very sorry, 15 it's been a few years.</b> 16 Q. Do you know whether at any stage -- 2006 to 2014 when 17 you were a watch manager at Avon -- that checklist 18 included things like the materials on the outside of 19 a building such as cladding? 20 <b>A. No, I do not. I do not. But I can't recall, but 21 I couldn't tell you exactly.</b> 22 Q. What about other materials that might contribute to the 23 risk of fire spread? Were you trained to look at things 24 like that? 25 <b>A. Again, I'm sorry, but I can't recall that. Apologies.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 <b>prescriptive -- we use the ORD, the MDT, the mobile data 2 terminal, to store information, and part of that 3 information we will gather from what's there.</b> 4 <b>So, for example, as I've put here -- I hope you 5 don't mind me referencing my statement -- we would look 6 for access and egress routes, building structure, 7 construction and layout, lift motor room, those kinds of 8 things, and they would form the tactical plan so that if 9 an incident commander were to attend who, for example, 10 wasn't from the fire station ground, wasn't familiar 11 with it, didn't have the familiarisation, they can 12 instantly draw up a tactical plan and get to work with 13 that information. That's what it's for.</b> 14 Q. You refer in your statement there, as you just read out, 15 to "building structure such as the construction and 16 layout". 17 <b>A. Mm.</b> 18 Q. In your experience as a watch manager, having been 19 trained on high-rise firefighting and familiarisation 20 visits, was it your experience that you had to look when 21 you did a familiarisation visit at the precise 22 construction and layout? 23 <b>A. No. No. Absolutely not. So we will be looking for 24 things that affect us as firefighters, as I say, access, 25 egress, lift motor rooms, fire lifts, where the dry</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 Q. Now, you held, I think, operational ranks prior to going 2 to Avon in London at Paddington. 3 <b>A. Mm.</b> 4 Q. And indeed at North Ken. 5 <b>A. Yes.</b> 6 Q. Before you moved to Avon, what was your rank at North 7 Kensington? 8 <b>A. Crew manager.</b> 9 Q. You were a CM. What were the dates of your tenure as 10 crew manager at North Kensington? 11 <b>A. Sorry, at North Kensington on the Red Watch, I was there 12 for literally about two months. It wasn't very long. 13 2005.</b> 14 Q. Right. Do you recall ever making a visit to 15 Grenfell Tower? 16 <b>A. Oh, no, absolutely not, sorry, I don't recall that.</b> 17 <b>I remember going there operationally because Paddington 18 and North Kensington worked very closely at the time, 19 but I never went there for a fire; I only ever attended 20 for things like shut in lifts -- but it's a very distant 21 memory.</b> 22 Q. Now, on the night of the incident -- let's just turn to 23 that -- you say that you were on 24-hour duty from home. 24 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b> 25 Q. You say in your statement at the top of page 2 that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 you're informed of incidents when there's a six-pump 2 fire and above. I say you're informed, you as -- 3 <b>A. A station manager that is in the locality will be 4 informed of certain incidents, yes.</b> 5 Q. Is that the reason you were paged? 6 <b>A. I was paged as a press liaison officer that night.</b> 7 Q. Right. Okay. 8 Would that be a normal role for you to occupy at 9 six-pump fire? 10 <b>A. Yes, that's one of the roles I could occupy, yes.</b> 11 Q. Now, if we look at the short incident log, which is at 12 tab 23 of our documents bundle, and turn to page 13. We 13 can see from that that you were assigned to the incident 14 at about 01.15. 15 <b>A. Yes.</b> 16 Q. If you look at page 13, this is the list of officers, 17 and we can see your name, OG54 -- 18 <b>A. Yes.</b> 19 Q. -- assigned at 01.15.28. 20 <b>A. Yes.</b> 21 Q. Would that correspond with your recollection? 22 <b>A. Yes, I believe so.</b> 23 Q. Just while we're on that, we can see you were on 24 scene -- that's status 2 -- at 01.38.25 -- 25 <b>A. Status 3, sorry.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 way, to film the building or -- 2 <b>A. No.</b> 3 Q. -- would you just leave it to them? 4 <b>A. In terms of what your role is, obviously you're there 5 very early in the incident. There may be press there, 6 there may not. We make sure that we capture images that 7 we can send back to our press office so they have a good 8 overview. Especially in today's society with social 9 media, we need to make sure we get that message out 10 there quickly.</b> 11 Q. Right. 12 Now, in your statement, you say that your role was 13 also to be a supporting role to the incident commander. 14 <b>A. Mm.</b> 15 Q. What did that involve, or what would that have involved? 16 <b>A. So -- let me try and think of the best way I can 17 contextualise it. So there will be a mobilisation of 18 certain officers at certain phases. So I think I was 19 informed when this was either a four or a six, I can't 20 recall exactly, but I was informed as the press liaison 21 officer. That means another officer would be informed 22 as the monitoring officer.</b> 23 <b>As the incident progresses, so as the make-ups come 24 in, the assistance messages, so too would they start to 25 mobilise more officers. So a six-pump fire will -- and</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 Q. I'm sorry, my fault. Mobile to incident, which is 2 status 2, at 01.17.31. 3 <b>A. Yes.</b> 4 Q. And then on scene, status 3, 01.38.25. 5 Again, do those two times correspond to your 6 recollection? 7 <b>A. I believe so, yes.</b> 8 Q. Okay. 9 Now, you said a minute ago that you were attending 10 as a press liaison officer. 11 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b> 12 Q. What does that role involve, can you tell us? 13 <b>A. Press liaison officer -- we're trained as station 14 managers, and other ranks are trained above me, to be 15 able to report back to our press office to make sure 16 that we've got a good overall capture of the picture of 17 what's going on and to deal with any interviews or press 18 queries whilst we're there in liaison with the duty 19 press officer from the service.</b> 20 Q. Okay. 21 Would you encourage the press to take a particular 22 view or report in a particular way on what you were 23 seeing in front of you? 24 <b>A. Sorry, could you rephrase that?</b> 25 Q. Would you encourage the press to report in a particular</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 <b>I can't remember the exact amount, but it would probably 2 get two further station managers and a group manager and 3 it will go on from there, depending on what they want 4 from scene with their assistance message.</b> 5 <b>It's very common to receive a four-pump fire with 6 a monitoring officer going on to the incident, 7 potentially, and a press officer gets called as well. 8 The press officer will make a decision and go to 9 support, or potentially support, that officer with the 10 press side of things.</b> 11 <b>If you were to arrive and there was an necessity for 12 you to undertake another role, than you would do that as 13 and when it was necessary.</b> 14 Q. Okay. 15 Now, Watch Manager Dowden you say in your 16 statement -- it's just halfway down page 3 -- was the 17 officer in charge. 18 <b>A. Yes.</b> 19 Q. You then go onto say: 20 " My role was that of Press Liaison Officer and a 21 supporting role to the incident commander." 22 <b>A. Mm.</b> 23 Q. If you were the senior officer arriving, why not take 24 over? 25 <b>A. Okay. So that's actually a pretty easy question for me</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 to answer.</p> <p>2 So I've heard the officers that were already there</p> <p>3 booking in. I know that their role was already to go on</p> <p>4 as a monitoring officer. So because I knew that I'd</p> <p>5 heard them book in before me, as I walked down I was</p> <p>6 able to see that one of those officers was there, so</p> <p>7 I carried on with my press role, bearing in mind the</p> <p>8 scale of the incident very quickly. You'll see that as</p> <p>9 the statement goes through.</p> <p>10 Q. Yes.</p> <p>11 Can you name the other senior officers who you say</p> <p>12 you knew had booked in?</p> <p>13 A. So the first three there were Andy Walton, Brett Loft</p> <p>14 and myself. I can't remember the exact times.</p> <p>15 Q. Right. Let me see if I can help you with that.</p> <p>16 A. Please.</p> <p>17 Q. If you go to the short incident log, tab 23, and turn to</p> <p>18 page 13.</p> <p>19 We have those names there, just above yours, in</p> <p>20 fact.</p> <p>21 I'll use the "On Scene". We have Andrew Walton on</p> <p>22 scene at 01.40.12 --</p> <p>23 A. Okay.</p> <p>24 Q. We have Brett Loft on scene at 01.32.08.</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 Q. We have you here booking in as mobile to incident at</p> <p>2 01.17.31, if you look at it, and in your exhibit you say</p> <p>3 that you set off at 01.24. We perhaps should look at</p> <p>4 that. This is your exhibit at page 1. The exhibit</p> <p>5 I want to show you is MET00015779?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. So if you go to page 1.</p> <p>8 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>9 Q. You say -- well, I think we have to --</p> <p>10 A. 01.24.</p> <p>11 Q. We have to expand it on the screen so everybody can see</p> <p>12 it, but figure 1 is your vehicle app --</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. -- for your car showing the time of travel between 01.24</p> <p>15 and time of arrival.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. We can see the 01.24 -- I'm sorry to take it</p> <p>18 piecemeal -- 01.24 is there just about halfway down</p> <p>19 where it says "Wednesday". So that's the time you left</p> <p>20 where you were, is it?</p> <p>21 A. Well, that's the time that that vehicle was mobile, I'd</p> <p>22 assume.</p> <p>23 Q. So we have you booking in as mobile at 01.17.31</p> <p>24 according to the short incident log and leaving for the</p> <p>25 incident at 01.24?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 Q. And we have you on scene at 01.38.25.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Now, when you arrived, do you remember whether or not,</p> <p>4 from your own recollection, Andrew Walton had in fact</p> <p>5 arrived?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. It looks from this as if in fact he arrived a couple</p> <p>8 of minutes after you.</p> <p>9 A. What I will say though is that sometimes it can be quite</p> <p>10 difficult to book in via the Airwave because there's</p> <p>11 a lot of radio traffic. Just to let you know that.</p> <p>12 Q. Your recollection is that those SMs had already --</p> <p>13 A. I heard Brett book in, definitely.</p> <p>14 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>15 What about Patrick Goulbourne?</p> <p>16 A. He came later.</p> <p>17 Q. He was mobile to incident, as we can see, at 01.46.</p> <p>18 A. Yes. I think he would've turned up around about --</p> <p>19 well, after 2 o'clock anyway.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you remember that?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, I do, but I'm not sure if I have an exact timeline</p> <p>22 for when he turned up.</p> <p>23 Q. Let's go to your en route experience, if I can put it</p> <p>24 that way.</p> <p>25 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. That's 7 minutes, if I can prove my maths this</p> <p>3 afternoon.</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. What were you doing during that period?</p> <p>6 A. So when you get mobilised, what you should be doing as</p> <p>7 a senior officer is looking at the map book, making sure</p> <p>8 you understand the topography of the area, seeing what's</p> <p>9 there. As a press officer, I would be looking at</p> <p>10 Twitter, Facebook, various other news things, including</p> <p>11 RT News, and checking to see if there's anything coming</p> <p>12 through immediately, and of course getting myself ready</p> <p>13 to get out of that door.</p> <p>14 So 7 minutes with those things would be about right.</p> <p>15 We have 20 minutes where we're expected to respond.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 A. Or it's hoped that you would respond. I think it's the</p> <p>18 SM1, the first station manager, should respond within</p> <p>19 20 minutes. You'll have to check that as well.</p> <p>20 Q. That's 20 minutes between it being paged and departure?</p> <p>21 A. Between booking status 2 and booking status 3. So</p> <p>22 mobile, status 3. So when I finished the phone call</p> <p>23 with control, I would book status 2. Then I would go</p> <p>24 through the parts I need to do, then I'm en route.</p> <p>25 Q. Now, did you try at any time after booking in as mobile</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 at 01.17.31 to find out anything about the building</p> <p>2 itself?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No. But all I got from -- this would be a very vague</b></p> <p>4 <b>memory -- I would've googled the area, I would've looked</b></p> <p>5 <b>at Grenfell Tower itself, it would've given me a library</b></p> <p>6 <b>image. I would've then gone on to Twitter and checked</b></p> <p>7 <b>that to see if there was anything coming through: fire</b></p> <p>8 <b>Notting Hill, fire North Kensington, et cetera. But</b></p> <p>9 <b>it's so long ago, I'm afraid, I couldn't tell you</b></p> <p>10 <b>exactly, so apologies.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Did you have access to the ORD?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Did you have access to the Vision system via BOSS?</p> <p>14 <b>A. So I have got what they call remote access, but you have</b></p> <p>15 <b>to log on and that process takes some time. On this</b></p> <p>16 <b>particular night, I didn't. It's something I can do as</b></p> <p>17 <b>a station manager, but it's not an expectation.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 Would it be normal in your experience as a station</p> <p>20 manager in London to log on through BOSS to Vision once</p> <p>21 you're paged?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, not so much. From a group manager's perspective,</b></p> <p>23 <b>you are monitoring an incident -- if you're a station</b></p> <p>24 <b>manager and you're monitoring an incident, then yes, you</b></p> <p>25 <b>would look to log on and monitor, which would give you</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 <b>A. So through the main scheme radio -- and I think it</b></p> <p>2 <b>references in my statement -- you hear assistance</b></p> <p>3 <b>messages, you will hear crews asking about rendezvous</b></p> <p>4 <b>points or various other things that may potentially</b></p> <p>5 <b>happen, so you'll get, if you like, that audible</b></p> <p>6 <b>picture. And as I say in my statement -- I'm sure we'll</b></p> <p>7 <b>come to it -- they were calling assistance messages in</b></p> <p>8 <b>very regularly, which gives you an overview as</b></p> <p>9 <b>an officer attending that you're going into something</b></p> <p>10 <b>quite serious.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Yes.</p> <p>12 So essentially -- is this right? -- in summary, you</p> <p>13 heard pump escalation and standard messages --</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. -- for orderings?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Did you hear a message for persons reported?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I can't recall. If it's in my statement -- it might be</b></p> <p>19 <b>there, I don't know. Sorry.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Now, in your statement on page 4, if we just turn the</p> <p>21 page, you've gone through, at the bottom of page 3, the</p> <p>22 acceleration through the pumps. You say:</p> <p>23 "At 0128hrs the pumps jumped again to 15 with 2</p> <p>24 aerials and then at 0130hrs became 20 pumps with 2 Fire</p> <p>25 Rescue Units (FRUs)."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 <b>the tools necessary to continue to monitor via that and</b></p> <p>2 <b>the main scheme radio. But as a station manager whose</b></p> <p>3 <b>booked status 2, no.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 Now, en route in your statement --</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. -- you say just below halfway down:</p> <p>8 "... [I] continued to monitor my Airwave radio,</p> <p>9 listening for updates on the developing situation such</p> <p>10 as the building, location, and risk assessments and how</p> <p>11 it was currently being dealt with."</p> <p>12 Did you continue to do that throughout your journey?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. When you were referring to Airwave radio, can you just</p> <p>15 explain, is that a direct line to control?</p> <p>16 <b>A. So the Airwave radio is basically a small TETRA</b></p> <p>17 <b>handheld, very like police officers have got, Airwave</b></p> <p>18 <b>radio which goes on to our main scheme. So the main</b></p> <p>19 <b>scheme radio that the fire appliances send their</b></p> <p>20 <b>messages through to control from, we're also on that</b></p> <p>21 <b>main scheme with these handheld radios.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did that mean you could hear FSG calls being</p> <p>23 communicated from control to the fire ground?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>25 Q. So what did you hear?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Then you say, "Has Mike ... lost his mind??"</p> <p>3 <b>A. Absolutely, yeah.</b></p> <p>4 Q. You say it was unusual, but why would you think he had</p> <p>5 lost his mind?</p> <p>6 <b>A. When I say lost his mind, maybe there's a bit of</b></p> <p>7 <b>flippancy there, but as an operational officer, for</b></p> <p>8 <b>a watch manager to be going to 20 pumps in that</b></p> <p>9 <b>succession, and I think -- I'm not sure if its there or</b></p> <p>10 <b>not, but it shows the succession, how quickly it was --</b></p> <p>11 <b>you think 20 machines, that's an awful lot for a watch</b></p> <p>12 <b>manager to call on.</b></p> <p>13 So bearing in mind I was going to a fire in a flat</p> <p>14 as a press liaison officer, and I've now got 20 fire</p> <p>15 appliances being asked for as assistance, I'm thinking,</p> <p>16 well, that's a big call. 20 is quite a large incident.</p> <p>17 Q. You say you were going to a fire in a flat.</p> <p>18 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Where did you get that information from?</p> <p>20 <b>A. So my initial pager message and my mobilisation and</b></p> <p>21 <b>everything was still, I believe, to flat 16.</b></p> <p>22 Q. But it was a six-pump fire by the time you were called</p> <p>23 on, I think.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. So just going back a step to that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Flat in a fire, six pumps.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Putting the two together, what were your thoughts about</p> <p>5 that?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Well, part of our procedure, especially a high-rise</b></p> <p>7 <b>procedure, requires a certain amount of resources. So</b></p> <p>8 <b>if you have a confirmed fire in a flat, depending on the</b></p> <p>9 <b>height of the flat, depending on the layout of the</b></p> <p>10 <b>building, depending on the risk assessment conducted by</b></p> <p>11 <b>the incident commander, to make pumps six for resources</b></p> <p>12 <b>and to implement high-rise procedure isn't actually</b></p> <p>13 <b>unusual. So that's quite standard, I would suggest.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Right. But 6 to 20, not?</p> <p>15 <b>A. 6 to 20 in that space of time, absolutely not.</b></p> <p>16 Q. So you then say in the next paragraph:</p> <p>17 "My previous experience of a 20 pump fire came in</p> <p>18 2003 at Telstar House. On that occasion it took a long</p> <p>19 time to become a 20 pump fire — likely over an hour."</p> <p>20 Do you have any clear recollections of Telstar?</p> <p>21 <b>A. As in the incident itself?</b></p> <p>22 Q. Let me ask you: where was Telstar House?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Telstar House was on Alpha 21 Paddington's ground.</b></p> <p>24 <b>I believe it was Eastbourne Terrace near Paddington</b></p> <p>25 <b>railway station. It was a London Underground head</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 We have at the bottom of page 2 your timing of 01.38</p> <p>2 to booking status 3.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. It may be me, but I couldn't find where you got the time</p> <p>5 of 01.34 from.</p> <p>6 <b>A. No problem. If you go to the top of the page, you'll</b></p> <p>7 <b>see "01:28 make pumps 15", 01.30 -- you see? -- and</b></p> <p>8 <b>"01:34 Make pumps 25 FRUs x 2 Aerials x 2".</b></p> <p>9 Q. I see. So the reference to 01.34 is not the time of</p> <p>10 arrival.</p> <p>11 <b>A. No, that was the message.</b></p> <p>12 Q. I see.</p> <p>13 On arrival at Grenfell Tower, you say in your</p> <p>14 statement, halfway down page 4, if you go to it:</p> <p>15 "I parked my car on the corner of Grenfell Road ..."</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. "... in a location that would not affect the flow of</p> <p>18 emergency service traffic and be out of the way."</p> <p>19 I think you show the location of where you parked in</p> <p>20 figure 2 on page 2 of your exhibit.</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Now, if I keep calling it "your exhibit", we'll all know</p> <p>23 what we're talking about.</p> <p>24 If you go to that, there's I think a -- there,</p> <p>25 that's figure 2.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 office, and in 2003, a persons reported fire started on</p> <p>2 the fourth floor, I believe. We were initially called</p> <p>3 to an automatic fire alarm actuating.</p> <p>4 There was subsequently a firefighter emergency at</p> <p>5 the time, crews had to withdraw, and as a result of</p> <p>6 an open plan office, the fire continued to spread and</p> <p>7 the coanda effect -- I think it took out three or maybe</p> <p>8 four floors.</p> <p>9 Q. Was that a high-rise building in the sense of</p> <p>10 a high-rise policy?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes. We treat it as a high-rise building, yeah, and it</b></p> <p>12 <b>was an office block, not residential, but nonetheless</b></p> <p>13 <b>it's still a high-rise building. There's exactly the</b></p> <p>14 <b>same block in Notting Hill, actually, although that</b></p> <p>15 <b>block's now gone. Telstar House has been replaced.</b></p> <p>16 Q. You then go on to say in the statement:</p> <p>17 "Just before I arrived, at 0134hrs, a new message</p> <p>18 was relayed ..."</p> <p>19 Where did you get the 01.34 time from?</p> <p>20 <b>A. I couldn't tell you. If we went back and looked at my</b></p> <p>21 <b>notes, my contemporaneous notes, I would suggest it</b></p> <p>22 <b>would be there.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Let's do that.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes, please.</b></p> <p>25 Q. If you just go back to the exhibit, it is MET00015779.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yes, the red cross.</b></p> <p>2 Q. It's the red cross, is it?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. It's not very easy to see, but if you go to the very top</p> <p>5 of the picture you can see a square with the words</p> <p>6 "Lancaster Green" to the right of that. So you parked</p> <p>7 essentially at the bottom of Grenfell Road where it</p> <p>8 joins Treadgold Street?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. So it's a few minutes' walk up to the tower?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I don't think it's a few minutes. It's not as far as it</b></p> <p>12 <b>perhaps looks.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Okay.</p> <p>14 You say in your statement, just going back to it --</p> <p>15 we're going to jump, I'm afraid, from one to the other:</p> <p>16 "I pressed '7' on my Airwave radio and confirmed</p> <p>17 that OG54 (my call sign) was status 3 (in attendance)."</p> <p>18 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b></p> <p>19 Q. That is roughly in accordance with what we've seen on</p> <p>20 the SIL, isn't it?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Now, you say, five lines up from the bottom of the same</p> <p>23 paragraph:</p> <p>24 "I was aware that the Command Unit had been set up</p> <p>25 in Belmore Road ..."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 I think that's a mistake for Bomore Road.</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. "... and could see the antennas and blue lights</p> <p>4 flashing."</p> <p>5 Are you able on the map we've just being looking at</p> <p>6 at figure 2 in your exhibit to see where on Bomore Road</p> <p>7 you can remember the command unit was parked?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Sure, okay. So if we look at the map, and you can see</b></p> <p>9 <b>that Bomore Road goes to the right of Grenfell Road, the</b></p> <p>10 <b>command unit was literally at the entrance to there.</b></p> <p>11 Q. I see. So on the corner of Grenfell Road and Bomore</p> <p>12 Road?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes, around there.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Okay. Right.</p> <p>15 Was it allowing access down Bomore Road into</p> <p>16 Grenfell road?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Absolutely, yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Do you remember what number that command unit was?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Charlie Uniform 8, CU8.</b></p> <p>20 Q. You say that -- it won't come out on the transcript --</p> <p>21 with a question mark at the end. Let me see if I can</p> <p>22 help you.</p> <p>23 The short incident log has -- you don't need to turn</p> <p>24 it up -- CU8 arriving at about 01.30, and CU7 has some</p> <p>25 slightly uncertain arrival time at the moment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 Delaney were there, and you are right they were on CU2,</p> <p>2 but I've shown you that only arrived 20 minutes after</p> <p>3 you did. But you can't help, I think?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No, sorry.</b></p> <p>5 Q. When you got to the CU, you say -- let's just go back to</p> <p>6 your statement, if we can, at page 4, four lines up from</p> <p>7 the bottom:</p> <p>8 "When I arrived I could see that Watch Managers</p> <p>9 Peter Johnson and Pat Delaney were already there and</p> <p>10 I made my presence known to them."</p> <p>11 When you say "when I arrived", does that mean --</p> <p>12 well, let me ask you: "when I arrived" where?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Okay. So where I parked in Grenfell Road, I walked down</b></p> <p>14 <b>and saw the command unit on the corner of Bomore and</b></p> <p>15 <b>Grenfell Road. I can't recall if I continued to walk</b></p> <p>16 <b>down towards the incident or if I put my head in the</b></p> <p>17 <b>door very quickly and put my roll board in. I really</b></p> <p>18 <b>can't recall it.</b></p> <p>19 I've said that I've made my presence known to them,</p> <p>20 so I suggest that I probably did from my statement. But</p> <p>21 it's very hazy, that part.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you remember talking to a watch manager called Dan</p> <p>23 Meyrick?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Do you remember talking to a watch manager called</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 Does that help you with your recollection?</p> <p>2 <b>A. All I know is that the command unit that night was from</b></p> <p>3 <b>Islington, I believe, because of the crew that was on</b></p> <p>4 <b>it, which was Watch Manager Pete Johnson and Watch</b></p> <p>5 <b>Manager Pat Delaney.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Yes. Now, in fact, CU2, which is from Islington,</p> <p>7 actually arrives a little bit later, in fact.</p> <p>8 <b>A. Oh, okay.</b></p> <p>9 Q. I'll get this sorted out. Let's look at the short</p> <p>10 incident log because it may be it's wrong or it may be</p> <p>11 your recollection isn't right.</p> <p>12 If you look at page 8 of the short incident log, we</p> <p>13 can see that CU8's status 3 time, on scene time, is</p> <p>14 01.30.48. CU7 we don't have a sensible time for, but</p> <p>15 the time of mobile to incident is 01.23. CU8 comes from</p> <p>16 Fulham and CU7 from Wembley, just so you know.</p> <p>17 CU2 we can see a third of the way down page 9 with</p> <p>18 an arrival time, status 3 time, of 01.58.</p> <p>19 So I'm just wondering, having shown you that data,</p> <p>20 and on the assumption that that data is correct, does</p> <p>21 that help you with the your recollection of what CU you</p> <p>22 saw?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Sorry. Sorry, it doesn't. Apologies.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Don't worry. We may get a little bit further.</p> <p>25 But your recollection is I think that Johnson and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 Kentfield?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Okay. Let's just hold that moment.</p> <p>4 At that point, did you try to speak to the incident</p> <p>5 commander?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No. I will set the scene for you there, if you don't</b></p> <p>7 <b>mind, very briefly.</b></p> <p>8 So as I got out of my car, put my personal</p> <p>9 protective equipment on as I was listening to the radio,</p> <p>10 there was a large amount of people running down</p> <p>11 Grenfell Road, shouting and screaming. There was</p> <p>12 hysteria. It was a very dynamic and quite awful</p> <p>13 situation.</p> <p>14 As I walked down towards the incident -- and I'd</p> <p>15 heard Brett booking in -- you'll see from my statement</p> <p>16 I started to take pictures of what was going on with the</p> <p>17 incident.</p> <p>18 So straight away I knew that we had something quite</p> <p>19 serious.</p> <p>20 There was a thought for me at one point that this</p> <p>21 has gone up very quickly and the only time I've ever</p> <p>22 seen something like this before is scaffold netting.</p> <p>23 When people put scaffold netting around buildings, it</p> <p>24 catches fire very quickly, it's very dramatic and it</p> <p>25 goes out very quickly too.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

<p>1 But as I started to get nearer, I noticed that there</p> <p>2 was -- you know, this was a little bit more compounded,</p> <p>3 shall I say.</p> <p>4 Again, in my statement, as I came to what was</p> <p>5 Lancaster Green, again, it becomes mildly hazy.</p> <p>6 I believe I saw Brett speaking to Mike Dowden. Now,</p> <p>7 I either saw him on my way in or on my way back, because</p> <p>8 I went down, took some pictures, helped a firefighter in</p> <p>9 trouble from falling cladding and debris and then went</p> <p>10 back to the command unit and fielded a call to our press</p> <p>11 office on the way.</p> <p>12 Now, I'd love to be really clear about this, but I'm</p> <p>13 afraid I can't, but I saw the incident commander, or the</p> <p>14 incident commander tabard, Mike Dowden, and I saw</p> <p>15 a station manager speaking to him who had already booked</p> <p>16 in.</p> <p>17 So, for me, as a press liaison officer, I know</p> <p>18 there's an officer there. I knew this has gone up very,</p> <p>19 very quickly and that we'd have supporting officers</p> <p>20 very, very quickly as well, and I needed to ensure that</p> <p>21 I got that information back to the press office and also</p> <p>22 to our duty AC to make sure that this picture hopefully</p> <p>23 was distributed to other oncoming officers and I was</p> <p>24 hoping wherever it needed to go, because it was clearly</p> <p>25 very unprecedented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 Q. Given that one of your roles, as you said, was to</p> <p>2 support the incident commander -- and if we go to your</p> <p>3 statement on page 4, you say it again, six lines up from</p> <p>4 the bottom of page 4 -- if, as you say, you were "very</p> <p>5 much there to support the Incident Commander", can you</p> <p>6 explain why you didn't approach the incident commander</p> <p>7 and ask them what support they wanted?</p> <p>8 A. So, yeah, I mean, where we've put there "to support the</p> <p>9 Incident Commander", I think maybe my language is a bit</p> <p>10 strong there, because we all support one another. And</p> <p>11 part of my role as a press liaison officer is to support</p> <p>12 them, to make sure there's a press strategy in place and</p> <p>13 see what they need next.</p> <p>14 It's very hard to describe to you the scene of that</p> <p>15 incident at the beginning. And there's a huge memory</p> <p>16 blank from the beginning of that incident which is</p> <p>17 why -- what I've given you in the notes that you've</p> <p>18 got -- more so -- I think you've probably got more out</p> <p>19 of my contemporaneous notes and the notes with the</p> <p>20 photographs that give you a timeline than maybe perhaps</p> <p>21 my police statement, looking at it.</p> <p>22 I think in terms of the support to the incident</p> <p>23 commander, I'm not entirely sure where you're heading</p> <p>24 with that. So if you wouldn't mind letting me know,</p> <p>25 I'll see if I can contextualise a little bit more.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 Q. Who was the duty AC?</p> <p>2 A. Duty AC Andy Roe.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you speak to him at that point?</p> <p>4 A. No, what I did was in the morning, at 07.30, we get</p> <p>5 a bulletin which tells you who the duty officers are for</p> <p>6 the day. So when you're on a 24 duty or even a 9 duty,</p> <p>7 you know who to get hold of and their various roles.</p> <p>8 I knew it was Andy Roe, so I took pictures and sent them</p> <p>9 to the AC and to the press office. I e-mailed them and</p> <p>10 sent them straight away.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. I have a question or two about that.</p> <p>12 What I get from what you've told us is that you</p> <p>13 didn't seek to speak to Mike Dowden yourself on the fire</p> <p>14 ground?</p> <p>15 A. I honestly can't remember. What I do recall very</p> <p>16 lucidly was seeing someone with Mike and going: okay,</p> <p>17 that's where we are.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you see them at a distance or did you go up to them</p> <p>19 and speak to them?</p> <p>20 A. I can't recall, sorry.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you make your presence known to Mike Dowden?</p> <p>22 A. Again, I can't recall. I'm very sorry.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you seek to take direction, instructions, from</p> <p>24 anybody?</p> <p>25 A. I can't recall.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 Q. I'm not heading anywhere, really, I'm just asking you</p> <p>2 really to explain what happened.</p> <p>3 Given that you say in your statement that you were</p> <p>4 very much there to support the incident commander --</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. -- my question is, given that that was your purpose, as</p> <p>7 you saw it, why you didn't go to the incident commander</p> <p>8 and seek to take instructions or direction from him?</p> <p>9 A. I don't know if I did.</p> <p>10 Q. My question is: why not, given that that was your</p> <p>11 purpose?</p> <p>12 A. I can't recall. Sorry, I can't recall.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 Now, you've referred to some photographs that you</p> <p>15 took in your exhibit. Let's just go to that. These</p> <p>16 I think are on page 3.</p> <p>17 That I think is a photograph you say you took at</p> <p>18 01.39?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Can I ask you, Mr Cook, where we see these photographs</p> <p>21 in this exhibit --</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. -- and a screenshot, I suppose you'd call it --</p> <p>24 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>25 Q. -- and a time on the screenshot, do you take the time of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p>



<p>1 taking the photograph from that screenshot?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No, so the way that I do it with the phone -- I had to</b></p> <p>3 <b>find out a way of doing this -- when you import it into</b></p> <p>4 <b>the computer, when you look at properties, which is your</b></p> <p>5 <b>box to the right, it gives you the date and time that</b></p> <p>6 <b>the photograph was taken.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Yes.</p> <p>8 So you took this photograph yourself?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. On what?</p> <p>11 <b>A. On my fire service mobile phone.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Your fire service mobile phone?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. The screenshot of the time stamp for it is taken from</p> <p>15 where?</p> <p>16 <b>A. The screenshot of the time stamp is taken from when I've</b></p> <p>17 <b>put it through a Fire Brigade computer. So what I've</b></p> <p>18 <b>done is I've put those three images together for you.</b></p> <p>19 Q. And you are satisfied, are you, that in each case of all</p> <p>20 these photographs, the time stamp is accurate?</p> <p>21 <b>A. It is as accurate as the phone is and so I was -- it</b></p> <p>22 <b>helped me to put the notes together.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Okay.</p> <p>24 Now, at this stage, just looking at page 3, you can</p> <p>25 see the extent of the fire and you have an arrow which</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 <b>not recorded correctly in this statement.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did you have any thoughts about internal spread, about</p> <p>3 the risk of fire breaking back into the building?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Do you know, I've never seen a fire do that externally</b></p> <p>5 <b>on a high-rise building ever, so I'm quite happy to say</b></p> <p>6 <b>that I was almost in a bit of a state of shock to see it</b></p> <p>7 <b>doing what it did.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 Now, going back to your statement, at page 5, you</p> <p>10 say, a quarter of the way down, you took pictures and</p> <p>11 you sent the images, you say, through to the DAC.</p> <p>12 <b>A. That's the AC, sorry.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Yes, I thought it might be, that's the AC. The</p> <p>14 Assistant Commissioner Andy Roe?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. "... whom I knew would be the first to pick up and</p> <p>17 likely be monitoring by this point including Fig. 6 —</p> <p>18 Lancaster Green ..."</p> <p>19 I haven't shown you that but I don't think I need to</p> <p>20 for the purposes of this question.</p> <p>21 My question is: did you know where Andy Roe was at</p> <p>22 the point you sent him these pictures?</p> <p>23 <b>A. No, not at all. The reason that I sent the AC the</b></p> <p>24 <b>pictures is because it was so unprecedented and it had</b></p> <p>25 <b>been made up, the assistance messages had been made up</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 points to the south side of the building.</p> <p>2 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did you at that stage have any thoughts about the policy</p> <p>4 that was in place --</p> <p>5 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>6 Q. -- for residents to stay put or not stay put?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Did you have any thoughts about whether it might be</p> <p>9 necessary to change that advice and to move to some kind</p> <p>10 of evacuation procedure?</p> <p>11 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Now, you took another photograph, which is fig 4 on</p> <p>13 page 4.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. We have a time stamp at 01.40 and you have put an arrow</p> <p>16 there.</p> <p>17 <b>A. Mm-hm.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Which is Lancaster Green, facing west.</p> <p>19 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Again, you say in your statement that your initial</p> <p>21 thoughts were that if it had gone up quickly, it could</p> <p>22 push out and around quickly.</p> <p>23 <b>A. No, no, that's incorrect, sorry. What was said there</b></p> <p>24 <b>was if it's gone up quickly, I felt that it will</b></p> <p>25 <b>probably go out as quickly, and unfortunately it's just</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 <b>so quickly, that I felt it would be appropriate and</b></p> <p>2 <b>beneficial to give him an image overview of what was</b></p> <p>3 <b>actually happening.</b></p> <p>4 Q. How soon after taking the pictures do you think you sent</p> <p>5 them to Andy Roe?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Very quickly, I think, yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 Did you consider trying to contact him to speak to</p> <p>9 him about what you were seeing?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No, it was too dynamic. I think after I took those</b></p> <p>11 <b>pictures -- again, I can't recall the exact sequence of</b></p> <p>12 <b>events, but Firefighter Danny Brown was trying to</b></p> <p>13 <b>operate a covering jet from Alpha 213, the turntable</b></p> <p>14 <b>ladder, and he was getting quite a lot of debris falling</b></p> <p>15 <b>on him, so my priority changed to going over to help him</b></p> <p>16 <b>get out of the way. It's quite hard to manoeuvre</b></p> <p>17 <b>a covering jet on your own. I had to get him away from</b></p> <p>18 <b>that danger area.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 Now, you say, just about a third of the way down</p> <p>21 page 5 of your statement:</p> <p>22 "Whilst stood on the end of Silchester Road I could</p> <p>23 see the level of our response at that point and took in</p> <p>24 what the building was doing and the pictures I had taken</p> <p>25 and thought it was bizarre ... there were not enough of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 us."</p> <p>2 Now, when you say "there were not enough of us" --</p> <p>3 <b>A. Okay, so --</b></p> <p>4 Q. Well, let me just finish the question.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Sorry.</b></p> <p>6 Q. What did you think was lacking?</p> <p>7 <b>A. We didn't have the resources there at the time because</b></p> <p>8 <b>obviously the assistance messages had gone through,</b></p> <p>9 <b>those machines need to attend, get to the RVP and get</b></p> <p>10 <b>themselves to the incident. Because of the speed of it,</b></p> <p>11 <b>and those appliances needing to attend, at the time I</b></p> <p>12 <b>looked around and there's not enough of us at the</b></p> <p>13 <b>moment, but we knew we had assistance en route.</b></p> <p>14 Q. What did you think you needed?</p> <p>15 <b>A. The incident commander had made the decision that he</b></p> <p>16 <b>wanted assistance, messages of make pumps 25, two FRUs.</b></p> <p>17 <b>The incident commander made that decision. So as far as</b></p> <p>18 <b>I was concerned, it needed 25 machines and two FRUs at</b></p> <p>19 <b>that point.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did you know what the incident commander intended to do</p> <p>21 with those 25 pumps?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Not necessarily at that point, no.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Did you try to make it your business to find out?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I can't recall.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Now, you say in the next paragraph on page 5:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 <b>I fielded the call. The call was a lady, I don't</b></p> <p>2 <b>know who she was, I can't remember the flat number. She</b></p> <p>3 <b>told me that she -- at the time I believe she said that</b></p> <p>4 <b>she was frightened and she could see smoke and I told</b></p> <p>5 <b>her, "Wait and the fire service would be on their way to</b></p> <p>6 <b>you".</b></p> <p>7 <b>I wrote down the flat number -- I don't recall it --</b></p> <p>8 <b>passed it to the runner, said "Could you get it to the</b></p> <p>9 <b>bridgehead for me, please", and the runner was off.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Now, three things.</p> <p>11 First of all, how soon after sending the photographs</p> <p>12 to Andy Roe, for which we have a time mark of about</p> <p>13 01.40, did you have that conversation, do you think?</p> <p>14 <b>A. With the gentleman?</b></p> <p>15 Q. Yes.</p> <p>16 <b>A. Well, it would've been between 01.40 -- I think it was</b></p> <p>17 <b>01.46 the images went. It would have been between 01.46 and</b></p> <p>18 <b>01.59, around about that time, I think.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Why do you pick 01.59?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Because we went down to the tower around about</b></p> <p>21 <b>2 o'clock, myself and Group Manager Welch, roughly.</b></p> <p>22 Q. So we have a window of about 10 minutes during which you</p> <p>23 had that discussion?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I think so.</b></p> <p>25 Q. The second thing is you say "I took the information</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 "I then made my way back to the Command Unit and</p> <p>2 sent my images to them ..."</p> <p>3 <b>A. No, sorry, that's not right either. I only sent my</b></p> <p>4 <b>images to AC Roe and the press office.</b></p> <p>5 Q. So that's wrong, is it?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. You went back to the command unit. Now, which command</p> <p>8 unit was that?</p> <p>9 <b>A. This is the one on the corner of Bomore.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 You say towards the bottom of the page that you</p> <p>12 spoke to a man who was on the phone to his wife, who was</p> <p>13 in the tower. You say the the very bottom of the page:</p> <p>14 "I took the information down and passed it to the</p> <p>15 Bridgehead via a runner that had been set up."</p> <p>16 Now, let me see if I can break this down.</p> <p>17 <b>A. Sure.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Were you inside or outside the command unit when you</p> <p>19 spoke to the gentleman?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No, so on my way back to the command unit, the gentleman</b></p> <p>21 <b>came to me and said someone's on the end of the phone.</b></p> <p>22 <b>A firefighter -- I couldn't remember who it was -- was</b></p> <p>23 <b>standing by waiting who had been sent from the</b></p> <p>24 <b>bridgehead at the time, and I now know that he had been</b></p> <p>25 <b>sent from the bridgehead as a runner.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 down"; what did you take it down on?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I'm sorry, I can't remember.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did you have available to you at that point the forms</p> <p>4 which are in the form of -- control information form?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No, if anything, it would have been on my fire service</b></p> <p>6 <b>notepad -- I have a notepad that I carry -- which was</b></p> <p>7 <b>later found in the building on the -- I think it was</b></p> <p>8 <b>found on the 10th floor when crews were searching later,</b></p> <p>9 <b>so I don't know what happened with that. I think it</b></p> <p>10 <b>must have been on that, yeah.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Sorry, your notepad itself was found on the 10th floor,</p> <p>12 was it?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Later in the incident, after the incident was closed</b></p> <p>14 <b>down, it was found by USAR crews, so -- and it hasn't</b></p> <p>15 <b>got anything in there that's relevant or I would've</b></p> <p>16 <b>supplied it as evidence, but it's likely I'd have</b></p> <p>17 <b>written it down on that because I jot down notes about</b></p> <p>18 <b>the press stuff on there as well.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Third thing, do you remember who the runner was that</p> <p>20 was --</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, no, sorry.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you remember whether it was a crew manager or --</p> <p>23 <b>A. No, don't remember. I believe it was a firefighter, but</b></p> <p>24 <b>I can't recall.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 Now, your advice to the lady was that she should</p> <p>2 essentially stay put; is that correct?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. As you've told us.</p> <p>5 Did you consider at all whether to tell her to leave</p> <p>6 her flat and make her way out?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, not at all. For me, I was aware that assistance was</b></p> <p>8 <b>on its way with further crews. I was aware there was</b></p> <p>9 <b>obviously a bridgehead because someone had been sent as</b></p> <p>10 <b>a runner. So that told me that the structure was in</b></p> <p>11 <b>place and that, you know, if necessary, BA crews would</b></p> <p>12 <b>be committed.</b></p> <p>13 <b>At the point that those pictures were taken of the</b></p> <p>14 <b>external facade of the building alight, I had no concept</b></p> <p>15 <b>of, you know, the effect that that would have on the</b></p> <p>16 <b>inside of the building whatsoever, none at all.</b></p> <p>17 Q. No.</p> <p>18 Do you know or did you have any impression of</p> <p>19 whether fire survival guidance calls were being received</p> <p>20 by any command unit at that point?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I can't recall, sorry.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Do you know why or did you ask yourself why there was</p> <p>23 a runner at the CU?</p> <p>24 <b>A. As an assumption, there's fire survival guidance calls</b></p> <p>25 <b>and they must have known that they needed -- I just</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 2 o'clock, where was he? Was he already there or did he</p> <p>2 arrive after you did?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Well, where I've put GM Welch was booking in -- so when</b></p> <p>4 <b>you book into the unit, you give them your normal roll</b></p> <p>5 <b>board and they understand that you're there, et cetera.</b></p> <p>6 <b>So whether he was already there or whether he got there</b></p> <p>7 <b>as I got there or as I was taking the fire survival</b></p> <p>8 <b>guidance call we just discussed -- I can't remember.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 Now, we have him on scene according to the short</p> <p>11 incident log -- there's no need to turn it up -- at</p> <p>12 01.57.21, status 3 at 01.57.21.</p> <p>13 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>14 Q. And you say at about 2 o'clock he was booking in. So</p> <p>15 does that help you with your recollection about the</p> <p>16 precisely what was happening on the command unit when</p> <p>17 you arrived back at it?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No, not at all. I mean, it gives me a better timeline</b></p> <p>19 <b>but it doesn't help with any recollection, sorry.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Who else do you remember was at the command unit when</p> <p>21 you came back to it at that point, about 2 o'clock?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I remember seeing Pete Johnson, and I don't remember</b></p> <p>23 <b>anybody else.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Do you remember Station Manager Danny Egan?</p> <p>25 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 <b>don't know, really. If I'm really truthfully honest,</b></p> <p>2 <b>I wasn't processing that at the time.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did you see any system of communication of fire survival</p> <p>4 guidance in process when you turned up at the command</p> <p>5 unit at this point?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Can't remember.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Now, at the top of page 6 of your statement, you say:</p> <p>8 "At approximately 0200hrs I was at the Command Unit</p> <p>9 and was about to inform them that they would need more</p> <p>10 press officers. The situation was escalating rapidly</p> <p>11 and I felt that, as an experienced commander, they would</p> <p>12 need as many commanders on the ground as possible."</p> <p>13 Then you say:</p> <p>14 "At the same time, Richard Welch, a Group Manager</p> <p>15 had arrived and naturally took over the running of the</p> <p>16 incident owing to the number of appliances being</p> <p>17 utilised; he also increased the make-up to 40 pumps."</p> <p>18 Now, in your contemporaneous note, if I can just</p> <p>19 show you that first, you say two-thirds of the way down</p> <p>20 the first page --</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. "When I arrived at the command unit GM Welch was booking</p> <p>23 in."</p> <p>24 So in your statement, it looks as if -- yes, to be</p> <p>25 clear, when you got back to the command unit at</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you remember somebody called Anthony Peckham?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>3 Q. What about a watch manager called Norman Harrison?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>5 Q. In your statement you say he naturally took over running</p> <p>6 of the incident, as I've just read to you.</p> <p>7 Did you hear him take over as incident commander?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I can't recall. But I remember him saying make pumps 40</b></p> <p>9 <b>and saying, "Come with me", which was -- that's all</b></p> <p>10 <b>I really recall.</b></p> <p>11 Q. You remember that?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Where were you when he said that?</p> <p>14 <b>A. At the door of the command unit, I remember that.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Where was he?</p> <p>16 <b>A. He'd just got on to the unit.</b></p> <p>17 Q. He's just got on to the unit?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes. He was very, very good. He was very dynamic. He</b></p> <p>19 <b>got a very quick appraisal, I remember that, and he was</b></p> <p>20 <b>very focused.</b></p> <p>21 Q. So let's just see if we can pin this down in terms of</p> <p>22 time.</p> <p>23 If you would go to the short incident log, page 21.</p> <p>24 In the middle of the page there we have 02.03.41:</p> <p>25 "IUP G271 MAKE PUMPS 25."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 172</p>

<p>1 That's clearly a mistake, I think we all accept</p> <p>2 that; that should be 40. That's at 02.03, so only</p> <p>3 3 minutes after your statement says you arrived and he</p> <p>4 arrived.</p> <p>5 Then 02.04.20:</p> <p>6 "Informative</p> <p>7 "CU7 GM WELCH NOW IC."</p> <p>8 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Now, in terms of timing, does that assist you with</p> <p>10 timing when he took over as IC, incident commander?</p> <p>11 <b>A. That's the time that he would've been declared IC,</b></p> <p>12 <b>informing control and other officers, and I'm sure the</b></p> <p>13 <b>fire ground would've been informed. However, that's the</b></p> <p>14 <b>time that it was logged, and if you can imagine the</b></p> <p>15 <b>amount of radio traffic at the time, there could've been</b></p> <p>16 <b>some delay in sending the message.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Okay, well, we have the timing.</p> <p>18 In terms of what the CU is, it says there CU7. Do</p> <p>19 you think that you may be mistaken in your recollection</p> <p>20 about which CU number it was?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Oh, undoubtedly. I can't recall it exactly.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>23 Do you remember any discussions at the CU with</p> <p>24 anybody about the wisdom of maintaining the stay-put</p> <p>25 advice?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 <b>the subsequent performance reviews of command,</b></p> <p>2 <b>et cetera, but I can't recall.</b></p> <p>3 Q. On the night, can you think back and remember how you</p> <p>4 knew that he had taken over?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I'm really sorry, I can't recall.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Now, do you remember the incident being declared a major</p> <p>7 incident?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Okay.</p> <p>10 The short incident log has it being declared a major</p> <p>11 incident by Group Manager Welch at 02.06. Do you</p> <p>12 remember that?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Does that trigger a recollection?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, sorry.</b></p> <p>16 Q. All right.</p> <p>17 Do you remember having any discussion yourself with</p> <p>18 Group Manager Welch about the stay-put advice or whether</p> <p>19 it should be changed?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Now, turning to a slightly different topic, into the</p> <p>22 tower.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>24 Q. In your statement, on page 6 -- this is again the same</p> <p>25 paragraph we were on, the first paragraph -- you say:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>2 Q. There's a watch manager called Norman Harrison, who</p> <p>3 I just mentioned to you, who recalls in his statement</p> <p>4 that when he first went to the command unit -- and that</p> <p>5 was 8 on his arrival -- he said he thought the stay-put</p> <p>6 advice was wrong. Do you remember anything like that?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Do you remember a DAC called O'Loughlin being involved?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I remember seeing DAC O'Loughlin and I remember seeing</b></p> <p>10 <b>DAC O'Loughlin speaking to -- I believe it was</b></p> <p>11 <b>Mike Dowden, and possibly Brett Loft. I cannot tell you</b></p> <p>12 <b>when that was. It was when I was on my way back into</b></p> <p>13 <b>the building -- but I came in and out the building a few</b></p> <p>14 <b>times, so I can't exactly recall, but I saw</b></p> <p>15 <b>DAC O'Loughlin there.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Do you have a recollection of whether he took over as</p> <p>17 incident commander at any point?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Do you know whether he took over incident command --</p> <p>20 <b>A. I know he took over as incident commander, yes, but</b></p> <p>21 <b>I can't recollect it, I'm sorry.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 Do you remember how you found out that he had taken</p> <p>24 over as incident commander?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Not at the incident. Obviously I now know it because of</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 "He immediately relieved me of press officer duties</p> <p>2 and asked that I made my way with him to the Bridgehead</p> <p>3 to be appraised of the situation."</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Did you go with him to the bridgehead?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Did you go with anybody else?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No, it was just Richard and myself, that I recall.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Okay. Do you remember the presence of somebody called</p> <p>10 Mulholland?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I know Mick, but I don't remember at that time.</b></p> <p>12 Q. You know him?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes, but I can't recall it.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 Now, at the end of that paragraph, you say:</p> <p>16 "Having observed the fire on the east side, I</p> <p>17 thought if necessary we could move residents to the west</p> <p>18 side before evacuations took place."</p> <p>19 Was that a thought you had at the time; in other</p> <p>20 words, as you approached the tower and entered the</p> <p>21 tower?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I think, if I recall, my inner monologue said: it's all</b></p> <p>23 <b>on one side, if we have a problem with evacuation or if</b></p> <p>24 <b>we need to move them to do firefighting, if we had to,</b></p> <p>25 <b>we could get them at least to another side -- I can't</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 even really recall it, to be honest with you, it's</p> <p>2 obviously crossed my mind. Whether I communicated it or</p> <p>3 not, I don't know. And -- yeah, sorry.</p> <p>4 Q. So is your answer, so that I'm clear, when you say what</p> <p>5 you say here in your statement "I thought if necessary</p> <p>6 we could move residents", are you saying that was</p> <p>7 a thought you had at that time?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I believe so, yeah.</b></p> <p>9 Q. What prompted that thought, do you know?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>11 Q. What was the basis for it?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No, I don't know. Maybe I just looked at it and -- as</b></p> <p>13 <b>a firefighter you -- firefighters are incredibly good at</b></p> <p>14 <b>common sense. They'll look at things and go: okay,</b></p> <p>15 <b>maybe you need to do this or that. Part of my thought</b></p> <p>16 <b>processes said it's all in one side of the building at</b></p> <p>17 <b>that point. If it's affecting the inside, maybe we can</b></p> <p>18 <b>move them to that side and evacuate. I didn't know.</b></p> <p>19 <b>I'm not 100 per cent sure, I'm sorry.</b></p> <p>20 Q. But as you say, you didn't communicate that thought to</p> <p>21 anybody?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Not that I can recall.</b></p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Right, okay.</p> <p>24 Mr Chairman, it may be necessary or appropriate now</p> <p>25 to take a short break.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 In both your statement and your exhibit you say that</p> <p>2 the bridgehead was on the second floor.</p> <p>3 What do you actually recall? Do you recall it being</p> <p>4 on the second floor?</p> <p>5 <b>A. When we arrived?</b></p> <p>6 Q. Yes.</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Can you look at your contemporaneous notes. I just want</p> <p>9 to iron this out.</p> <p>10 In your contemporaneous notes on the first page you</p> <p>11 say the bridgehead area -- this is right at the</p> <p>12 bottom -- was the third floor.</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. "... (I believe). WM Louisa De Silvo was dealing with</p> <p>15 FSGs ..."</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. When you say "the third floor (I believe)", when you</p> <p>18 came to do your exhibit and your statement, did you have</p> <p>19 a better thought?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes. These contemporaneous notes were written</b></p> <p>21 <b>immediately after the incident, so these were written at</b></p> <p>22 <b>about 2 o'clock the following day, so easily after</b></p> <p>23 <b>12 hours I was very tired, very confused, and so to</b></p> <p>24 <b>a degree my memory would've been slightly jaded there.</b></p> <p>25 Q. The reason I am asking you is not just as a memory test</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Is this a convenient time for you?</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, it is.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You will probably welcome a short</p> <p>4 break, Mr Cook, so we'll stop now and have 10 minutes</p> <p>5 off and come back at 3.15, please.</p> <p>6 Please don't talk to anyone about your evidence</p> <p>7 while you're out of the room.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. Go with the</p> <p>10 usher, she'll look after you.</p> <p>11 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, 3.15, please.</p> <p>13 (3.05 pm)</p> <p>14 (A short break)</p> <p>15 (3.15 pm)</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Cook?</p> <p>17 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Happy to carry on?</p> <p>19 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now you're ready to go.</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: Thanks very much.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: Mr Cook, can we now discuss you and Group</p> <p>25 Manager Welch entering the tower.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 but because the bridgehead did move up to the third</p> <p>2 floor and we are trying to get a timing on that.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. I'll come to that precise point in a moment if I can,</p> <p>5 but before you got to the bridgehead when you arrived in</p> <p>6 the lobby, how soon was that after Group Manager Welch</p> <p>7 booked in at the command unit, roughly?</p> <p>8 <b>A. It would've been quite soon. On my other notes there's</b></p> <p>9 <b>a picture taken from outside.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Yes.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Which will grab the picture.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Is this page 10 of your --</p> <p>13 <b>A. I'm not sure of the exact page, but it's the picture</b></p> <p>14 <b>that shows the breathing apparatus teams going up the</b></p> <p>15 <b>two stairs in the lobby area.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Let's look at that. That's the exhibit at page 10,</p> <p>17 figure 10.</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes. Unfortunately there's no time there, is there?</b></p> <p>19 Q. Is that the picture you're referring to, Mr Cook?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>21 Q. There's no time stamp on it, but I was going to ask you</p> <p>22 about that. Why is there no time stamp on it, do you</p> <p>23 know?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I don't know. Maybe a technical difficulty getting the</b></p> <p>25 <b>time stamp.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 180</p>

<p>1 Q. Okay. But when do you think you took that picture?</p> <p>2 <b>A. It would've been really --</b></p> <p>3 Q. Let me try a better question.</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. How soon after leaving the command unit with --</p> <p>6 <b>A. That's immediate, I think. Immediate time, yeah.</b></p> <p>7 Q. You say there:</p> <p>8 "When we entered the building WM Brian O'Keefe was</p> <p>9 on the second floor where the Bridgehead had been set</p> <p>10 up. This was at the start/base of the central</p> <p>11 stairwell. Various crews were being committed and the</p> <p>12 Fire Survival Guidance was coming through."</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Now, I want to ask you about the fire survival guidance.</p> <p>15 Before you got to the bridgehead, did you see</p> <p>16 anybody or hear anybody transmitting fire survival</p> <p>17 guidance at any point in the --</p> <p>18 <b>A. I can't recall, I'm really sorry.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Did you see a watch manager on the ground floor writing</p> <p>20 flats and floor numbers on a wall?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did you see or hear a watch manager in the lobby</p> <p>23 shouting fire survival guidance information up to</p> <p>24 somebody on the second-floor balcony?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Again, I can't recall it, sorry.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you remember that?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I remember him being there, so yeah.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Do you remember who was manning the entry control boards</p> <p>4 at that time?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I don't remember who would have been crewing the entry</b></p> <p>6 <b>control boards. It might have been Mr O'Beirne,</b></p> <p>7 <b>actually.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 Now, in your contemporaneous notes, just to go back</p> <p>10 to where we were a moment ago, and indeed the sentence</p> <p>11 I read to you, in the bottom of page 1 of those you say</p> <p>12 at the very foot of the page:</p> <p>13 "WM Louisa De Silvo was dealing with FSGs ..."</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. "... WM (Kensington W/W) ..."</p> <p>16 What's "W/W"? Something something.</p> <p>17 <b>A. "W/W" would be --</b></p> <p>18 Q. Oh, sorry, yes. Maybe that's "WM":</p> <p>19 "... O'Keefe was assisting as was a CM from</p> <p>20 Hammersmith."</p> <p>21 What I wanted to ask you about was what you saw in</p> <p>22 terms of dealing with FSGs?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Okay, so this contemporaneous note here, it says there,</b></p> <p>24 <b>"WM (Kensington W/W)", which is White Watch, which shows</b></p> <p>25 <b>how confused I was when I was writing this note, because</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 Q. Now, when you say in your notes here the fire survival</p> <p>2 guidance was coming through, was that something that you</p> <p>3 observed at the time you took this picture or when you</p> <p>4 entered the building or was it something you</p> <p>5 subsequently learnt?</p> <p>6 <b>A. It's very hard for me to give you an exact answer on</b></p> <p>7 <b>that, I'm really -- you know, again -- when I'd have --</b></p> <p>8 <b>the whole thing is incredibly blurry, so please excuse</b></p> <p>9 <b>me.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Yes.</p> <p>11 <b>A. But when I'd have got to the base of the stairs and fire</b></p> <p>12 <b>survival guidance was likely to have been coming</b></p> <p>13 <b>through -- when I say the base of the stairs, I mean the</b></p> <p>14 <b>central stairwell where Mr O'Keeffe was -- the guidance</b></p> <p>15 <b>that was coming through, I would've picked it up</b></p> <p>16 <b>somehow, but I couldn't tell you exactly how. Really</b></p> <p>17 <b>sorry.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Let's see how we go.</p> <p>19 You say in your statement, page 6, second paragraph:</p> <p>20 "As we entered the building, we were met by Watch</p> <p>21 Manager Brian O'Keefe[sic] at the Bridgehead. The</p> <p>22 Bridgehead was positioned on the second floor at the</p> <p>23 base of the central stairwell."</p> <p>24 He was in charge of the bridgehead?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 <b>Brien is Red Watch and I know his name. So for whatever</b></p> <p>2 <b>reason I couldn't recall that at the time.</b></p> <p>3 <b>Where it says the bridgehead area was on the third</b></p> <p>4 <b>floor, that was when we'd moved it up to the third floor</b></p> <p>5 <b>and Watch Manager Louisa De Silvo was dealing with the</b></p> <p>6 <b>FSGs.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Fine, we'll come back to that, then.</p> <p>8 <b>A. This wasn't the second floor, this was the third.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Okay.</p> <p>10 Now, at the second floor, just looking at your</p> <p>11 recollection, do you remember whether fire survival</p> <p>12 guidance information was being recorded anywhere at the</p> <p>13 bridgehead when you went there?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>15 Q. No.</p> <p>16 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Is it that you recall that it wasn't or is it that you</p> <p>18 just can't recall?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I can't recall, sorry.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 Can I see if I can prompt some kind of recollection</p> <p>22 with a photograph. Could you be shown MET00013074,</p> <p>23 which is JOB/8 to Justin O'Beirne's statement.</p> <p>24 Now, that is a photograph which is taken at 02.17 of</p> <p>25 a wall.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 184</p>

<p>1 Does this prompt a recollection of anything you saw</p> <p>2 when you went to the bridgehead --</p> <p>3 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>4 Q. -- with Group Manager Welch?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 Now, on page 6 of your statement, just going back to</p> <p>8 that, you say just below halfway down in that second</p> <p>9 main paragraph:</p> <p>10 "When we arrived, I saw firefighters ready to commit</p> <p>11 ... but I could also see that Brian and Station Manager</p> <p>12 Andy Walton were having some sort of disagreement. My</p> <p>13 understanding was that Andy wanted the Bridgehead moved</p> <p>14 but Brian had said 'No — ignore the Station Manager,</p> <p>15 it's staying'. I know both Brian and Andy and not</p> <p>16 wanting to see an open disagreement between 2 managers</p> <p>17 in front of the firefighters, I said to Andy, 'I've got</p> <p>18 it, go'."</p> <p>19 Now, where do you think Station Manager Walton</p> <p>20 wanted the bridgehead moved to?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I don't know. But at that point I believe Station</b></p> <p>22 <b>Manager Walton had taken over as incident commander and</b></p> <p>23 <b>there was obviously a discussion between him and</b></p> <p>24 <b>Mr Welch at some point around that.</b></p> <p>25 Q. This is between Walton and Brien O'Keeffe.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 Q. What was the upshot of the discussion you had with</p> <p>2 Brien O'Keeffe at that point?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Oh, I can't remember that, sorry.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Did the bridgehead actually move up at that stage or did</p> <p>5 it stay where it was at that stage?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No, because there's a period here around this time where</b></p> <p>7 <b>I think Richard Welch had asked me to go and see if</b></p> <p>8 <b>there were any other exits or access or egress points</b></p> <p>9 <b>around the building, so I exited the building again to</b></p> <p>10 <b>go and see if there were.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Okay. I'll come back to that in just a moment, just to</p> <p>12 finish off this line in your statement.</p> <p>13 You say at the bottom of page 6 and at the top of</p> <p>14 page 7 that:</p> <p>15 "Richard Welch instructed that the board be kept</p> <p>16 100% accurate."</p> <p>17 Which board is that?</p> <p>18 <b>A. That would've been the entry control board.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Then you go on to say, two lines down:</p> <p>20 "Brian was doing an excellent job of running the</p> <p>21 Bridgehead so it made sense to let him continue despite</p> <p>22 me being a Station Manager."</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Then you say:</p> <p>25 "Sometimes situations can develop when there are too</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. So just taking it in stages. You say you don't know</p> <p>3 where he wanted it moved to. When you said to Station</p> <p>4 Manager Walton "I've got it, go" --</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. -- do you know what his role was at that point in terms</p> <p>7 of the chain of command?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No, I don't.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Okay. Was he incident commander at all at that point do</p> <p>10 you think?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I don't know, I'm going off memory with it. It's very</b></p> <p>12 <b>vague. I know Andy very well and I know Brien well and</b></p> <p>13 <b>they're both exceptional officers, and it's very common</b></p> <p>14 <b>on the fire ground for there to be slight frustrations</b></p> <p>15 <b>exchanged. It actually reads far worse than it is.</b></p> <p>16 <b>It's a frustration.</b></p> <p>17 Q. I understand.</p> <p>18 <b>A. And then you go, "Okay, I've got it, you go and do what</b></p> <p>19 <b>you need to do".</b></p> <p>20 Q. When you said Andy, "I've got it, go", what were you</p> <p>21 intending to do? When you said, "I've got it", what</p> <p>22 were you going to "get"?</p> <p>23 <b>A. So, like, I'm a station manager as well, so for me it's</b></p> <p>24 <b>like, "Andy, I've got this, you go, do what you need to</b></p> <p>25 <b>do. Brien, what have we got?" That sort of context.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 many people with command positions trying to have input</p> <p>2 and I was conscious that I was there in a support</p> <p>3 capacity ..."</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. You didn't want to make things worse.</p> <p>6 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>7 Q. At that point, when you sent Andy Walton away, "I've got</p> <p>8 it, go", what did you think your role was?</p> <p>9 <b>A. No. Again, I'll put some context around that. I think</b></p> <p>10 <b>the way that the statement has been taken isn't quite</b></p> <p>11 <b>right.</b></p> <p>12 <b>So as the senior officer, I could've become the</b></p> <p>13 <b>bridgehead commander, and the point that I think I'm</b></p> <p>14 <b>trying to make there is that if you over-complicate</b></p> <p>15 <b>things, you can cause issues with handovers and</b></p> <p>16 <b>takeovers, which could -- at that point, time is risk</b></p> <p>17 <b>critical if there are FSGs coming in, if there are</b></p> <p>18 <b>people being committed, and the people that are there</b></p> <p>19 <b>competent doing what they're already doing, rather than</b></p> <p>20 <b>breaking that at that point, I'd support them until the</b></p> <p>21 <b>time was right to take over.</b></p> <p>22 <b>Is that -- yeah.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Okay, I follow.</p> <p>24 So you said a moment ago you went outside the</p> <p>25 tower --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 188</p>

<p>1 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>2 Q. -- in order to investigate what Richard Welch had told</p> <p>3 you to investigate or asked you to investigate, which</p> <p>4 was access or egress routes.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. You record that at the top of page 12 of your exhibit,</p> <p>7 MET00015779. You say:</p> <p>8 "GM Welch asked me ..."</p> <p>9 This is the exhibit. I'm sorry to flip back and</p> <p>10 forth between the two documents.</p> <p>11 <b>A. No, no.</b></p> <p>12 Q. MET00015779.</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Page 12.</p> <p>15 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Page 12. It's the page before.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Internal page 12?</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: Oh, I see. No, sorry, exhibit page 12. So</p> <p>19 page 11 internally.</p> <p>20 Yes. At the top of the page there you record that</p> <p>21 he asked you to check access and egress, then you say:</p> <p>22 "... what conditions were like on the outside of the</p> <p>23 building and if this was the only stairwell."</p> <p>24 Do you see that?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 189</p>	<p>1 <b>building, I think I note that there was falling cladding</b></p> <p>2 <b>and it was starting to potentially compromise the ground</b></p> <p>3 <b>floor, which would've changed our firefighting tactics</b></p> <p>4 <b>dramatically.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 You can see from that page that you took</p> <p>7 a photograph of the north, or from the north --</p> <p>8 <b>A. From the north, yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Well, yes, from and of the north, I think, of the</p> <p>10 building, at 02.15. You got the time mark for that.</p> <p>11 So you hadn't been at the bridgehead very long and</p> <p>12 you come back out of the building, and we have a time</p> <p>13 mark of 02.15?</p> <p>14 <b>A. That's what I mean, I think I'm fairly in and out, yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. When you say in the text just above the photograph:</p> <p>16 "On 360 inspection it was clear that the fire had</p> <p>17 spread considerably and rapidly."</p> <p>18 First of all, did you do a full 360-degree</p> <p>19 inspection of the tower?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes. I would go around to the south side by the</b></p> <p>21 <b>children's park, which was west-facing, and then all the</b></p> <p>22 <b>way back around again to the entrance, if I remember</b></p> <p>23 <b>correctly.</b></p> <p>24 <b>Around the children's play park and the north side</b></p> <p>25 <b>where the cladding had started to fall -- I think it's</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 191</p>
<p>1 Q. Do you know why he asked you that question?</p> <p>2 <b>A. He would need to know if there were any other exits that</b></p> <p>3 <b>we needed to make sure we'd monitor because there could</b></p> <p>4 <b>be people coming out of the building that we wouldn't be</b></p> <p>5 <b>able to account for. So by knowing the exact exit</b></p> <p>6 <b>route, one central stairwell, et cetera, we know that</b></p> <p>7 <b>everybody coming through the entry control board, the</b></p> <p>8 <b>bridgehead area, were accounted for and that's the only</b></p> <p>9 <b>way out, basically.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Then you say:</p> <p>11 "I then went to gather this information. I could</p> <p>12 only find one stairwell so I then went to check out the</p> <p>13 perimeter of the building to report on fire conditions."</p> <p>14 So you went outside, back down through the lobby,</p> <p>15 did you?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes, and that's -- you know where I put about -- there's</b></p> <p>17 <b>that slight time difference there with whether I took</b></p> <p>18 <b>over the bridgehead or had the discussion or did the</b></p> <p>19 <b>walk-around, I can't recall exactly.</b></p> <p>20 Q. I understand.</p> <p>21 <b>A. But the walk-round was, "Can you check" because for</b></p> <p>22 <b>Mr Welch, he needs a proper appraisal and understanding</b></p> <p>23 <b>of what's going on. As I said, so he understands</b></p> <p>24 <b>casualties and what we're doing with the breathing</b></p> <p>25 <b>apparatus crews. So when I went outside of the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 190</p>	<p>1 <b>in another image, possibly on page 12 -- you know, that</b></p> <p>2 <b>raised some concerns for me, but I couldn't see any</b></p> <p>3 <b>other exit routes at that level.</b></p> <p>4 Q. So just looking at page 12, which side do you think that</p> <p>5 was? Page 12, the next page of the exhibit, which is</p> <p>6 a photograph taken at 02.17, so 2 minutes later?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Could we go just to the next image, sorry? It will help</b></p> <p>8 <b>me.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Yes, of course. That's a photograph also taken at</p> <p>10 02.17.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yeah. So I put down there that that's north side.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Yes.</p> <p>13 <b>A. So it would be north side. And if you see where the</b></p> <p>14 <b>cladding's falling, my concerns were that it would</b></p> <p>15 <b>compromise the glass that was there if we didn't do</b></p> <p>16 <b>something to try and deal with it, which, as I say,</b></p> <p>17 <b>would affect our firefighting tactics considerably.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right. So you then say on page 13 --</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Sorry, before I ask you that, you've described here,</p> <p>21 actually, and shown us some photographs of considerable</p> <p>22 fire spread, falling cladding and cladding alight on the</p> <p>23 ground, as we've seen.</p> <p>24 Now, in your statement -- just keep that there, I'll</p> <p>25 just tell you what your statement says -- in the middle</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 192</p>



<p>1 of page 7, you say that what you saw suggested a problem 2 with compartmentation. 3 Was that a thought you had at the time? You did 4 your 360, as we've seen from the photographs. Did you 5 think at the time that there had been or was now 6 a problem with compartmentation? 7 <b>A. Was that my police statement?</b> 8 Q. Yes. I can see that you're looking quizzical. Perhaps 9 I can show it to you. I was trying to stay on your 10 exhibit, but let's go to the statement. 11 Middle of page 7, you are describing your 12 photographs and you describe figure 12, which we've just 13 looked at on page 12 of your exhibit. 14 <b>A. Okay, yeah, I've seen it.</b> 15 Q. And you say: 16 "... the fire had moved up and diagonally very 17 quickly which to me suggested a problem with 18 compartmentation." 19 My question is: did you have that thought at the 20 time, that there was a problem with compartmentation in 21 the building? 22 <b>A. I don't even recall saying this in my statement, and</b> 23 <b>when I look at it now, I don't -- it wouldn't be a term</b> 24 <b>that I would generally use, "a problem with</b> 25 <b>compartmentation".</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 193</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Yeah, I know Pete.</b> 2 Q. Where was he? Was he out there as soon as you came out 3 or after you'd done your 360? 4 <b>A. I don't remember. I remember Pete coming from maybe the</b> 5 <b>west side towards the east and I saw him near the play</b> 6 <b>park and it said to him, "Pete, I'm worried that might</b> 7 <b>compromise the ground floor, can we get a couple of</b> 8 <b>machines around to get covering jets to try and protect</b> 9 <b>it?" Pete said, "No worries, I'll get that done."</b> 10 <b>Again, Pete's a very good officer and we speak to</b> 11 <b>each other -- we worked with each other for a few years,</b> 12 <b>so every faith that he would make it happen, so to</b> 13 <b>speak.</b> 14 Q. Now, you say in your exhibit, in the text just below the 15 pictures we can see there, that you had a conversation 16 with him about it being likely to compromise the ground 17 floor, falling cladding compromising the ground floor. 18 <b>A. Mm.</b> 19 Q. And if that happened -- I'm summarising -- you'd have to 20 change firefighting tactics considerably as you'd have 21 to commit from the outside of the building. 22 Would that involve moving the bridgehead to the 23 ground floor? 24 <b>A. Oh, absolutely. That would involve coming out of the</b> 25 <b>building. So my concern was that if the ground floor</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 195</p>
<p>1 <b>I can only say that my police statement was so</b> 2 <b>emotionally distressing that day that it was very hard</b> 3 <b>sometimes to re-visit it. So my apologies. I genuinely</b> 4 <b>apologise.</b> 5 Q. That's all right. I'm going to try to work off your 6 statement rather than the statement, but the statement 7 is there and I have to ask you questions about it. 8 <b>A. Yeah, sure. Sorry about that. I'm really sorry about</b> 9 <b>that. I wish I could help you further but there are</b> 10 <b>things where I go -- really sorry, I don't know.</b> 11 Q. I understand. 12 Did you have on your 360 any thoughts, now that you 13 could see the spread and speed of spread of the fire, 14 about whether there should be any kind of evacuation 15 strategy put into place? 16 <b>A. No, I wasn't thinking of that.</b> 17 Q. Did you have any thoughts about whether the stay-put 18 advice as you understood it to be remained appropriate? 19 <b>A. No.</b> 20 Q. Now, you say in your exhibit -- this is page 14 of the 21 MET number, 13 internally, if we can just look at 22 that -- that: 23 "Whilst outside I met SM Peter Wolfenden and we had 24 a discussion." 25 Did you know Peter Wolfenden?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 194</p>	<p>1 <b>was to become compromised by fire, we can't have</b> 2 <b>a bridgehead there because we have to start up in</b> 3 <b>a safe, clean environment for breathing apparatus</b> 4 <b>wearers, which would mean that we would have to</b> 5 <b>potentially start remotely and go into the building,</b> 6 <b>which would extend the time that crews would take to get</b> 7 <b>anywhere and reduce their effectiveness.</b> 8 Q. Right. 9 Then you go on to say at the bottom of that page: 10 "I then re-entered the building and on arrival at 11 the bridgehead a decision had been made to move it up to 12 the third floor (I believe)." 13 <b>A. Yes.</b> 14 Q. Do you know who made that decision? 15 <b>A. I would think it would've been Mr Welch, but I couldn't</b> 16 <b>be sure.</b> 17 Q. If in fact you were thinking that the bridgehead should 18 move down to the ground floor because of the risk -- 19 <b>A. No, no, I wasn't thinking of moving it to the ground</b> 20 <b>floor; I was concerned about protecting the ground</b> 21 <b>floor.</b> 22 Q. Okay. 23 <b>A. Yes.</b> 24 Q. When you got to the bridgehead and learnt that 25 a decision had been made to the third floor, did you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 196</p>

<p>1 have a discussion with anybody about the wisdom of</p> <p>2 moving it to the third floor, having seen what you'd</p> <p>3 seen outside?</p> <p>4 <b>A. So one thing that I did is any images that I took that</b></p> <p>5 <b>you see here, I would show to everybody within the</b></p> <p>6 <b>building when I went back to give them a good idea of</b></p> <p>7 <b>what was happening with conditions and the progress of</b></p> <p>8 <b>conditions and the worsening of conditions. So</b></p> <p>9 <b>I would've showed people at the time, yeah.</b></p> <p>10 Q. I see.</p> <p>11 So you get to the bridgehead -- it's still on the</p> <p>12 second floor, is it?</p> <p>13 <b>A. No, it would've gone up to the third when I come back.</b></p> <p>14 Q. I see. So when you say in your exhibit a decision had</p> <p>15 been made to move it up, you got to the second floor and</p> <p>16 it had already gone up?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yeah, yeah.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 Does that mean you weren't involved with the actual</p> <p>20 move from the second to the third floor?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Not that I can recall. I just recall vividly that we</b></p> <p>22 <b>were on the third when I came back.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Now, can you help us with the timing of the move from</p> <p>24 the second to the third floor? How soon after your</p> <p>25 taking these photographs at 02.15, 02.17, did you come</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 197</p>	<p>1 use them to -- all the images here I would use to brief</p> <p>2 the crews that are in there and any commanders, fire</p> <p>3 sector commander, anyone that came along, because it</p> <p>4 gives you the situational awareness of how things are</p> <p>5 changing --</p> <p>6 Q. Did you --</p> <p>7 <b>A. -- by doing that.</b></p> <p>8 Q. -- try to radio the incident commander or Richard Welch,</p> <p>9 if it was he, to tell him about what you were seeing?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Maybe, I don't know. I also took a call from the press</b></p> <p>11 <b>officer again, and they had to leave an answerphone</b></p> <p>12 <b>message in the end while this was all going on, so --</b></p> <p>13 Q. Going back to the point about the move of the bridgehead</p> <p>14 from the second to the third floor, do you know how long</p> <p>15 it took them to get up a floor?</p> <p>16 <b>A. More or less instantaneous. It's just, "Right, go", and</b></p> <p>17 <b>move it up. Everything's portable, entry control</b></p> <p>18 <b>boards, any forward information board, IEC pack --</b></p> <p>19 <b>anything that needs to go could be moved really quickly.</b></p> <p>20 <b>It's portable.</b></p> <p>21 Q. At this time -- so once you come back to the bridgehead</p> <p>22 and you find it's been moved to the third floor, pretty</p> <p>23 well, as you've said, after you've taken these</p> <p>24 photographs at around 02.15, 02.17 -- do you remember</p> <p>25 any difficulty with crews not being able to get above</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 199</p>
<p>1 back into the building and find that it had been moved</p> <p>2 to the third floor?</p> <p>3 <b>A. It would've been straight away, so -- yeah.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Right, okay, that's helpful.</p> <p>5 While I'm still on this part of your exhibit, just</p> <p>6 looking at page 12, figure 12, if we can just go back to</p> <p>7 it, when you took that at 02.17, did you have any</p> <p>8 thoughts about whether compartmentation had been</p> <p>9 breached, just looking at what we can see and what you</p> <p>10 could see?</p> <p>11 <b>A. In all honesty, I've never seen anything like that</b></p> <p>12 <b>before. Ever. And the travel of fire there -- it looks</b></p> <p>13 <b>like a diagonal. So it looked to me as though it was</b></p> <p>14 <b>the external cladding and there was some -- but I've</b></p> <p>15 <b>never seen an incident like this before, ever.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Could you see or observe whether the fire was breaking</p> <p>17 back into apartments as it moved across the face of the</p> <p>18 building?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, I couldn't, no. Or I definitely would've reported</b></p> <p>20 <b>that back in.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 Did you in fact report to anybody what you'd seen</p> <p>23 while you were going round?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yeah, as I say, all of these images that I take that are</b></p> <p>25 <b>in this document I took back into the building and I'd</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 198</p>	<p>1 the 15th floor?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Not that I can recall. I remember there being</b></p> <p>3 <b>difficulty with everything. I remember everyone feeling</b></p> <p>4 <b>incredibly frustrated. I remember crews being</b></p> <p>5 <b>incredibly tired. I can't remember the exact floors.</b></p> <p>6 <b>When I say tired, I mean exhausted. I can't remember</b></p> <p>7 <b>the exact floors; I just remember that conditions</b></p> <p>8 <b>worsened incredibly quickly.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you remember any discussion at the bridgehead once</p> <p>10 you'd come back to it about difficulties committing</p> <p>11 crews above the 15th floor?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No. No, sorry.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Okay.</p> <p>14 Now, moving to the subject of the bridgehead when it</p> <p>15 was on the third floor.</p> <p>16 At the top of page 14 of your exhibit -- and that's</p> <p>17 14 internally, 15 of the MET number -- you explain there</p> <p>18 that Group Manager Welch asked you to oversee the</p> <p>19 bridgehead operations --</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. -- and ensure that entry control boards were kept</p> <p>22 100 per cent accurate.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Just to be clear, that's once it's on the third floor?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 200</p>

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<p>1 Q. Now, you then say in the list that then follows that</p> <p>2 Louisa De Silvo was involved, and --</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. -- a third of the way down, you say:</p> <p>5 "The FSG calls were being written on the wall by WM</p> <p>6 De Silvo ..."</p> <p>7 And that's consistent with what we saw in your</p> <p>8 contemporaneous note.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Do you know or did you know where the FSG information</p> <p>11 she was writing up on the wall was coming from?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No, I cannot recall.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Let me see if I can help.</p> <p>14 Do you know whether it was coming via radio or</p> <p>15 through a runner on bits of paper, or what? What did</p> <p>16 you observe?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, I can't recall. It was ... it was a very difficult</b></p> <p>18 <b>situation, so I can't recall the fine details. I'm</b></p> <p>19 <b>sorry, I just can't.</b></p> <p>20 Q. No, okay.</p> <p>21 Just casting your mind back -- and I know it's</p> <p>22 difficult -- did you actually see her writing on the</p> <p>23 wall?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes, there's a picture, there's an image of the wall.</b></p> <p>25 Q. There is, and that's on the next page, and we're just</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 201</p>	<p>1 Manager De Silvo write up?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Now, when she was writing it, do you remember where she</p> <p>4 was getting the information from?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>6 Q. You don't?</p> <p>7 <b>A. (Indicated dissent).</b></p> <p>8 Q. Watch Manager Watson this morning said that he was</p> <p>9 acting as a runner. He was distributing pieces of paper</p> <p>10 to crews, giving them their destinations, effectively,</p> <p>11 where they were to be deployed.</p> <p>12 Do you remember that?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Now you've said it, there is a recollection, but it's</b></p> <p>14 <b>very vague.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Right. What is the recollection of?</p> <p>16 <b>A. What you've just told me, people running with bits of</b></p> <p>17 <b>paper, and there's lots of that, I'm afraid, where</b></p> <p>18 <b>people will come to me and say, "Do you remember this?"</b></p> <p>19 <b>and then suddenly I do, but it's not my memory; it's</b></p> <p>20 <b>something that someone else has given me, if you like.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 You say the picture there, the time of the</p> <p>23 evacuation, was 03.08.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>25 Q. What was the purpose of your taking the photograph, do</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 203</p>
<p>1 going to look at that in a moment, but -- perhaps it</p> <p>2 helps to look at it now, actually.</p> <p>3 This is page 15 internally, and this is figure 14.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Cook, are you comfortable</p> <p>5 carrying on for the moment?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: We can take a break any time you like.</p> <p>8 <b>A. No, thanks for asking, but please carry on.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Now, this photograph which you've referred to we can go</p> <p>10 straight to. I think you'll need to include the text</p> <p>11 just above the picture on page 15 internally of your</p> <p>12 exhibit. You say:</p> <p>13 "As the Bridgehead was being evacuated I took</p> <p>14 pictures of the FSG calls that had been written on the</p> <p>15 wall. The time of this evacuation was 03:08</p> <p>16 approximately."</p> <p>17 Now, you took this picture, did you?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. I think you say you did. The time of it, as you say, is</p> <p>20 03.08. We have the Microsoft screenshot for that.</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. There's a wider picture of that which I'd like to show</p> <p>23 you which is at MET00015625.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Is that the same information that you were seeing Watch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 202</p>	<p>1 you remember?</p> <p>2 <b>A. So to make sure that we had all of the information --</b></p> <p>3 <b>when we moved the bridgehead down, to make sure we have</b></p> <p>4 <b>all the information in picture form so we make sure we</b></p> <p>5 <b>cross-referenced it and rewrote it if we needed to or</b></p> <p>6 <b>put it on forward information boards, whatever we needed</b></p> <p>7 <b>to do at the new bridgehead, we had that information</b></p> <p>8 <b>captured.</b></p> <p>9 Q. I'm going to come back to that in a moment because</p> <p>10 I want to pursue that answer in a bit more detail.</p> <p>11 Before I do, can I just ask you, while you were on</p> <p>12 the bridgehead, how long were you there for?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Not really sure.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Does this help: you go to the bridgehead, as you've told</p> <p>15 us, pretty much straight away after coming back into the</p> <p>16 building, having taken the external photographs at</p> <p>17 02.17, and the bridgehead then moves down from the third</p> <p>18 floor at 03.08.</p> <p>19 Were you there the whole time? Were you at the</p> <p>20 bridgehead on the third floor for that whole period?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I don't know. There were casualties coming down the</b></p> <p>22 <b>stairs and all sorts of things going on. I think I've</b></p> <p>23 <b>put it in my notes that what happened with the third</b></p> <p>24 <b>floor bridgehead -- it is a slightly different entrance</b></p> <p>25 <b>to the rest of the floors. So as you walked up the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 204</p>

51 (Pages 201 to 204)

<p>1 <b>stairs, the door was to the left -- no, I need a break</b></p> <p>2 <b>now.</b></p> <p>3 <b>That's enough. Sorry, sorry, sorry. You've taken</b></p> <p>4 <b>me back to the bit where the casualties are, I've got to</b></p> <p>5 <b>take a break, really sorry.</b></p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: Do you want a break now?</p> <p>7 THE WITNESS: Absolutely, yes, please. Sorry.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No, that's quite all right, no need</p> <p>9 to worry about that. We'll take 10 minutes.</p> <p>10 Would you like to go with the usher, she'll look</p> <p>11 after you, and please don't talk to anyone else about</p> <p>12 your evidence.</p> <p>13 THE WITNESS: Thanks.</p> <p>14 (The witness withdrew)</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, before we break, just</p> <p>16 give me an idea of where we are going for the rest of</p> <p>17 the afternoon.</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: I have a fair bit to go, but I am going to try</p> <p>19 to keep it down to no more than 40 more minutes.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We're not going to resume until</p> <p>21 4 o'clock.</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And I don't want to put Mr Cook</p> <p>24 under unreasonable pressure just through an extension of</p> <p>25 time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 205</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much. It's much appreciated.</p> <p>2 <b>A. Thank you.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Can I take you back to figure 12 of your exhibit on</p> <p>4 page 12 internally.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Just to have it in front of you. It's the picture that</p> <p>7 you took there.</p> <p>8 You said earlier on when we were discussing this</p> <p>9 together -- this is page 193 at lines 1 to 6 in the</p> <p>10 [draft] transcript -- that you took the images back into</p> <p>11 the building and used them to brief the crews in there</p> <p>12 and any commanders, fire sector commanders.</p> <p>13 Can I just ask you, casting your mind back, when you</p> <p>14 got to the third floor, did you show anybody there the</p> <p>15 photographs -- that photograph particularly -- that</p> <p>16 you'd taken outside?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I believe so.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 <b>A. I believe so.</b></p> <p>20 <b>The reason for taking the images were not actually</b></p> <p>21 <b>as they've turned out for my own statement but, as</b></p> <p>22 <b>I say, they were to increase situational awareness for</b></p> <p>23 <b>the crews operating inside of the building.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Do you remember who you showed those pictures to?</p> <p>25 <b>A. No, but I would've showed them to people at the</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 207</p>
<p>1 MR MILLETT: No, absolutely. I understand that. Let me try</p> <p>2 and see if I can keep it as short as half an hour, but</p> <p>3 obviously there are a number of things I need to try --</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: When we resume, I think I shall need</p> <p>5 to ask him if he's comfortable going on for another 30</p> <p>6 to 40 minutes. He may not be.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: He may not, we'll have to see how we go.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right. We'll deal with that at</p> <p>9 4 o'clock then.</p> <p>10 4 o'clock, please.</p> <p>11 (3.48 pm)</p> <p>12 (A short break)</p> <p>13 (4.00 pm)</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, now, Mr Cook, how are you</p> <p>15 feeling?</p> <p>16 THE WITNESS: Yes, I'm fine. Thanks for that break. It's</p> <p>17 really appreciated, thank you.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett tells me he has about 30</p> <p>19 or 40 minutes' worth of questions. My question is: do</p> <p>20 you feel able to go on for that length of time as you</p> <p>21 see things at the moment? Because if you don't, we</p> <p>22 could always resume tomorrow. But you might prefer to</p> <p>23 finish tonight, I don't know.</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: Let's press on. See how we go.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll see how we go, all right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 206</p>	<p>1 <b>bridgehead. Who would've been present, I don't know.</b></p> <p>2 Q. I know you say you don't remember, but of the fire</p> <p>3 sector commanders, do you have a recollection of showing</p> <p>4 these pictures to Group Manager Welch?</p> <p>5 <b>A. No, I couldn't be exact.</b></p> <p>6 Q. What about Andy Walton?</p> <p>7 <b>A. No, I couldn't be exact.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 Now, in your statement, if you go to page 8 of your</p> <p>10 statement, in the middle of that page, you describe how</p> <p>11 Watch Manager Louisa De Silvo had been writing FSG on</p> <p>12 the wall.</p> <p>13 Then just below halfway down that paragraph, you</p> <p>14 say:</p> <p>15 "Richard Welch had instructed me to keep the</p> <p>16 information up to date and to act as his single point of</p> <p>17 contact."</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. When you say that, are you referring to the FSG</p> <p>20 information on the wall?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No. The information ... as I recall, Group Manager</b></p> <p>22 <b>Welch had a lot of things to consider that night and he</b></p> <p>23 <b>dealt with them in my opinion very well -- it's just my</b></p> <p>24 <b>opinion -- but he would've been looking for me to keep</b></p> <p>25 <b>him thoroughly appraised of what was happening, if there</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 208</p>

<p>1 was any changes. Definitely he was particularly</p> <p>2 interested in making sure -- I think I've said it</p> <p>3 somewhere else -- that the boards were 100 per cent</p> <p>4 accurate, we knew where all our firefighters were.</p> <p>5 Q. Yes. You say that at the foot of page 6?</p> <p>6 A. Yeah, I think it's -- the information up-to-date, act as</p> <p>7 a single point of contact, so making sure that I was</p> <p>8 taking in as many information streams as I could and</p> <p>9 giving him concise information for him to process</p> <p>10 through his spans of control.</p> <p>11 Q. Going on to the next sentence, as you do in your</p> <p>12 statement, you say:</p> <p>13 "Therefore when crews came back down with casualties</p> <p>14 I needed a concise debrief from them and to get them</p> <p>15 out."</p> <p>16 A. Yeah.</p> <p>17 Q. First of all, did you do that while you were on the</p> <p>18 bridgehead?</p> <p>19 A. So, again, if you look at the actual paragraph where it</p> <p>20 says:</p> <p>21 "... the situation was frantic but controlled.</p> <p>22 However, the noise levels outside the Bridgehead started</p> <p>23 to rise which was an indication that people and</p> <p>24 casualties were starting to make their way down.</p> <p>25 Emotions of people coming through were high but it was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 209</p>	<p>1 it's really important to keep that noise down.</p> <p>2 For those FSG calls that would've been coming</p> <p>3 through, whilst I can't recall the nature of any of the</p> <p>4 calls, keeping that noise down ensures that that</p> <p>5 information is exchanged easily and readily. That</p> <p>6 information is, as we know, so critical to making sure</p> <p>7 we save the lives of people that, you know, we can</p> <p>8 easily get into lots of exchanges of information, radios</p> <p>9 crackling and noise.</p> <p>10 So that paragraph there, if you like, or that</p> <p>11 passage is kind of more what that's intended to mean.</p> <p>12 Q. What I want to explore with you is your debriefing the</p> <p>13 crews.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. So, first of all, when a crew came down, whether with or</p> <p>16 without a casualty --</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. -- were you able effectively to debrief them?</p> <p>19 A. So what would've been happening, where I've said</p> <p>20 debrief, I wouldn't have been doing that personally; the</p> <p>21 entry control officer would be doing the briefs and</p> <p>22 debriefs. So as they come through, they'll know where</p> <p>23 they've been by the nature of what was logged on the</p> <p>24 board.</p> <p>25 The FSG calls that Louisa would've been dealing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 211</p>
<p>1 imperative that we stay focussed and forthright,</p> <p>2 concentrating on the job in hand."</p> <p>3 That's more what that paragraph is about. Where it</p> <p>4 says:</p> <p>5 "... when crews came back down with casualties</p> <p>6 I needed a concise debrief from them and to get them</p> <p>7 out."</p> <p>8 So there was -- when firefighters report to</p> <p>9 a bridgehead and they walk into a building that's doing</p> <p>10 that, their adrenaline is naturally high, they're ready</p> <p>11 to go in and do a job which many other people couldn't</p> <p>12 do, and they're charged and ready.</p> <p>13 So part of my job to support those officers on the</p> <p>14 bridgehead that were already carrying on those</p> <p>15 operations that started was to keep that bridgehead</p> <p>16 calm, controlled, make sure that the information flow</p> <p>17 was concise, and that people that didn't or shouldn't be</p> <p>18 there anymore were out and into the safe area.</p> <p>19 One of the things that I did as well was to break</p> <p>20 into one of the flats -- I couldn't tell you which</p> <p>21 number it was -- and to get breathing apparatus crews</p> <p>22 to -- I described it as stacking up, but to assemble</p> <p>23 within those flats, and we would call them out, brief</p> <p>24 them and send them on their way. Because it's a very</p> <p>25 small area, very tight, compact in those lobbies, and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 210</p>	<p>1 with, she would have known whether they've been</p> <p>2 dispatched and that would be noticed on the board as</p> <p>3 well. So they will give you a much clearer picture of</p> <p>4 that.</p> <p>5 The entry control officer debriefs makes sure the</p> <p>6 information is relayed to the people dealing with the</p> <p>7 FSG and that the information goes where it needs to go.</p> <p>8 One of the problems that we had is that fire</p> <p>9 survival guidance calls of this scale was really</p> <p>10 difficult to deal with, and the constant flows of crews</p> <p>11 in and out, in and out, in and out, with a really</p> <p>12 rapidly deteriorating situation and the sheer volume of</p> <p>13 fire survival guidance, it was a really difficult</p> <p>14 situation to manage and support people and all that.</p> <p>15 It's very hard for me to relay that or portray that</p> <p>16 to people, but it was hard, and we did the very best we</p> <p>17 could to keep it as controlled as we could on the night,</p> <p>18 and the crews that were there doing it were just</p> <p>19 fantastic.</p> <p>20 Q. Just breaking that up a little bit, when a crew came</p> <p>21 down while you were at the bridgehead, while it was on</p> <p>22 the third floor --</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- who did the debriefing with the crews? Was it you or</p> <p>25 Louisa De Silvo?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 212</p>

53 (Pages 209 to 212)

<p>1 <b>A. It would have been the entry control officer. Sometimes</b>  2 <b>Brien O'Keeffe would've been involved to get that</b>  3 <b>overview. Often the crew would report. Before they got</b>  4 <b>anywhere near the doorway, they may have come down</b>  5 <b>shouting that they had a casualty. That would've been</b>  6 <b>intercepted by the crews and take that person to safe</b>  7 <b>air as quickly as possible, get them to medical</b>  8 <b>treatment, et cetera.</b>  9 <b>So it was very, very, very frantic.</b>  10 Q. In terms of gathering information about the mission, the  11 rescue mission, from the firefighters, was the result of  12 that recorded then by anybody on the bridgehead?  13 <b>A. So the entry control board has a comments box, if you</b>  14 <b>like, and the entry control officers would be saying</b>  15 <b>that this crew of two, this crew of three, bracket them</b>  16 <b>off and say "will be going to the 10th floor to flat</b>  17 <b>169" or wherever it may be -- I've obviously just made</b>  18 <b>that number up -- so, yeah, they would go to there.</b>  19 <b>That would also be recorded -- the FSG information would</b>  20 <b>be going through the entry control and they would be</b>  21 <b>directing from there sort of thing.</b>  22 <b>Does that make sense?</b>  23 Q. Yes.  24 Did you see anybody on the bridgehead recording in  25 any way the results of a particular deployment? Did you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 213</p>	<p>1 management of the bridgehead.  2 Where was the bridgehead when he arrived, do you  3 remember?  4 <b>A. That was on the third floor when Pat arrived.</b>  5 Q. How soon before it moved down to the ground floor did  6 Pat Goulbourne arrive and take over?  7 <b>A. I couldn't tell you.</b>  8 Q. Did he actually take over?  9 <b>A. Yes, he did.</b>  10 Q. He did, right.  11 <b>A. Yes.</b>  12 Q. Then you go on to say:  13 "Andy Walton returned and said that there had been a  14 breach, the fire had moved beneath us and that the  15 Bridgehead needed to be moved to the ground floor."  16 <b>A. Sorry, it wasn't Andy Walton; that was Richard Welch.</b>  17 Q. That was my next question: that was Welch, was it?  18 <b>A. Yeah.</b>  19 Q. Right, okay.  20 At that stage -- I said I would come back to it, I'm  21 now doing so -- you refer to a photograph you took of  22 the FSG information.  23 <b>A. Yes.</b>  24 Q. That you say in the last sentence of this very  25 paragraph, and that's figure 14, and we've seen this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 215</p>
<p>1 see it?  2 <b>A. When you say a particular deployment, do you -- sorry.</b>  3 Q. Of a firefighter deployment, a BA deployment into the  4 building, when they came down and got their debrief from  5 or with somebody on the bridgehead, did you observe with  6 your eyes and ears yourself anybody on the bridgehead  7 recording the results, so whether it was successful or  8 unsuccessful, for example?  9 <b>A. So once flats were cleared or we knew that we'd rescued</b>  10 <b>somebody, I think that the FSG calls on the wall</b>  11 <b>would've been marked off on there.</b>  12 Q. Right. How were they marked?  13 <b>A. I don't know, you'd have to ask Louisa De Silvo.</b>  14 <b>I would say they would've been ticked or crossed out,</b>  15 <b>but I can't be sure.</b>  16 Q. Did you see that happening?  17 <b>A. I can't be sure. I really can't recall that.</b>  18 Q. The next question is: once a result of a deployment of  19 a particular BA group was known, was it then  20 communicated to anybody outside the bridgehead?  21 <b>A. I don't know. I can't recall, I'm sorry.</b>  22 Q. Right, okay.  23 Now, in your statement on page 10, in the third  24 paragraph you refer to the fact that at some point  25 Pat Goulbourne, a group manager, arrived and took over</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 214</p>	<p>1 before. I've shown you this already. That's at 03.08.  2 You said, I think, that this was in order to take  3 the information down to the ground floor.  4 <b>A. Mm.</b>  5 Q. Can I just show you another picture, going back to it,  6 MET00015625.  7 Can you identify the individual we see in that  8 picture?  9 <b>A. Looks like Justin O'Beirne, yeah.</b>  10 Q. Okay.  11 So can we time the move of the bridgehead to the  12 ground floor to about this time, 03.08?  13 <b>A. Yeah, he seems to be moving the entry control board with</b>  14 <b>him, so, yeah, I would say.</b>  15 Q. I mean, you and I can look at the picture and speculate,  16 but do you have a recollection of taking this photograph  17 for the purposes of moving it downstairs?  18 <b>A. Myself?</b>  19 Q. Yes.  20 <b>A. Yes. Yeah, that was the purpose. So, again, the</b>  21 <b>evacuation was -- wasn't -- sorry, not the evacuation,</b>  22 <b>but the moving down of the bridgehead wasn't entirely</b>  23 <b>straightforward. We'd received -- and I can't remember</b>  24 <b>how, but I intercepted a fire survival guidance report</b>  25 <b>on the floor that we were on, and because the crews were</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 216</p>

<p>1 moving out, myself and Group Manager Goulbourne broke</p> <p>2 into the flat and searched it ourselves so as not to</p> <p>3 impede the moving down of the bridgehead.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. Right.</p> <p>5 A. So there's lots -- I suppose the point I'm trying to</p> <p>6 make is there was a lot going on still, you know?</p> <p>7 Q. Can I just then ask you: do you know what happened to</p> <p>8 the FSG information that you'd photographed that we see</p> <p>9 in this photograph?</p> <p>10 A. I believe that it was all communicated back down to the</p> <p>11 ground floor. However, later in the incident I noticed</p> <p>12 that there was FSG being written near the entrance, the</p> <p>13 main entrance, by, I believe, Glynn Williams and</p> <p>14 Pete Wolfenden, and the boards themselves were at the</p> <p>15 base of the stairs. I can't recall if the FSGs were at</p> <p>16 the base of the stairs as well at that point. I just</p> <p>17 can't remember.</p> <p>18 Q. Just to be clear, the base of the stairs -- are you</p> <p>19 talking about the wall there, the wall being used to</p> <p>20 record information?</p> <p>21 A. When you go into the lobby area and you went through the</p> <p>22 main doors into Grenfell Tower, on the left, on the</p> <p>23 wall, I believe, was where there was some FSGs.</p> <p>24 I definitely saw them. But at the point of coming down,</p> <p>25 where the information was transposed to, I don't know.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 217</p>	<p>1 Q. But we had some evidence this morning. You don't know</p> <p>2 who the other one was, do you?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. The other photograph would be at -- it's about the same</p> <p>5 time -- photograph INQ00000242. This is at 03.17.22,</p> <p>6 adjusted.</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Is that the foot of the stairs that you're referring to?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 You see a green wall there. Do you remember seeing</p> <p>12 any FSG information recorded on the green wall?</p> <p>13 A. I couldn't recall and be, you know, truthful.</p> <p>14 I wouldn't be able to tell you.</p> <p>15 Q. All right.</p> <p>16 Were you aware of the FSG system that had been set</p> <p>17 up in the lobby once the bridgehead had moved down to</p> <p>18 the ground floor?</p> <p>19 A. No, not exactly.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 Right, I have a few more separate topics just to</p> <p>22 cover with you.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you all right to keep going?</p> <p>25 A. I'm fine, thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 219</p>
<p>1 Again, maybe Watch Manager De Silvo would remember.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 A. Yeah.</p> <p>4 Q. Let me put a couple of pictures to you. The timing</p> <p>5 isn't -- well, perhaps we can do this.</p> <p>6 If you can be shown INQ00000253, which is a</p> <p>7 photograph of the lobby taken at 03.16.29, adjusted.</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. Can you help us with where you think on that picture you</p> <p>10 saw FSG information recorded that had come down from the</p> <p>11 third floor.</p> <p>12 A. Yeah, so can you see, top-right, someone without</p> <p>13 a helmet pointing at the wall?</p> <p>14 Q. Yes.</p> <p>15 A. That's Glynn Williams, I believe. I might not be right.</p> <p>16 It looks like Glynn, but I can't quite make out. So if</p> <p>17 it's not you, Glynn, I'm sorry. But that looks like</p> <p>18 where it was written.</p> <p>19 Q. There are two senior officers with him. One of them</p> <p>20 I think is --</p> <p>21 A. There's a watch manager --</p> <p>22 Q. -- Watson.</p> <p>23 A. Quite likely.</p> <p>24 Q. Sorry, I said it.</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 218</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: In your statement at page 16, you say -- this</p> <p>2 is still on the subject of FSG, I'm sorry, I'm not quite</p> <p>3 changing yet -- a quarter of the way down that page:</p> <p>4 "Frustration was generally building and building.</p> <p>5 Another example of this was Pete Wolfenden and Glyn[sic]</p> <p>6 Williams starting their information wall for FSGs near</p> <p>7 the front door away from the Bridgehead. This was</p> <p>8 contrary to the system that was already in place and</p> <p>9 being managed by the Bridgehead commander."</p> <p>10 Can you explain what you mean --</p> <p>11 A. No, I can't. I'm terribly sorry, but that part of the</p> <p>12 statement, that seems like a -- no. There were</p> <p>13 frustrations building because everybody was trying their</p> <p>14 hardest to do the most that we could, and those</p> <p>15 frustrations are -- I would say are natural for</p> <p>16 firefighters that want to do the best to help everybody.</p> <p>17 The information of the FSGs near the front door away</p> <p>18 from the bridgehead, correct, that's what I remember.</p> <p>19 "... contrary to the system that was already in</p> <p>20 place and being managed by the Bridgehead commander."</p> <p>21 No, I don't even recall saying that, so I'm really</p> <p>22 sorry.</p> <p>23 Q. That's all right.</p> <p>24 Now, can I then turn to the subject of smoke</p> <p>25 extraction?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 220</p>

<p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. On page 12 of your statement, if you look at the --</p> <p>3 well, it's the really long paragraph, six lines up from</p> <p>4 the bottom of the paragraph.</p> <p>5 You say:</p> <p>6 "It was at the point that we moved the Bridgehead to</p> <p>7 the ground floor that I had noticed that the smoke</p> <p>8 extraction system was not working, properly. This was</p> <p>9 situated on the ground floor and visible from the new</p> <p>10 location of the Bridgehead. I knew it was not working</p> <p>11 properly because lights were flashing, but there was no</p> <p>12 time to deal with it."</p> <p>13 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Can you just tell us where the lights were that you saw</p> <p>15 flashing?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No, sorry.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Were they in a panel or unit?</p> <p>18 <b>A. No, I couldn't tell you. I just remember the smoke</b></p> <p>19 <b>extraction system being there and it looked like it was</b></p> <p>20 <b>near the lift doors, if I remember rightly, and it was</b></p> <p>21 <b>flashing as if to say, I would assume, thinking back,</b></p> <p>22 <b>a fault, something like that. And it wasn't working,</b></p> <p>23 <b>I knew it wasn't working, I could see it wasn't working,</b></p> <p>24 <b>and there's no time to deal with it.</b></p> <p>25 <b>So I saw that there was one present because we're</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 221</p>	<p>1 there looks like there was some smoke in the lobby at</p> <p>2 the time the bridgehead moved down to the ground floor.</p> <p>3 Did that indicate anything to you about whether the</p> <p>4 smoke extraction system was working properly or not?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I didn't feel that the smoke extraction system was</b></p> <p>6 <b>working, and I remember at the time, yes, there was</b></p> <p>7 <b>smoke in the lobby and it did make things more</b></p> <p>8 <b>difficult.</b></p> <p>9 <b>As I said earlier, crews need to start in what we</b></p> <p>10 <b>call safe air, so clean, clear air. We weren't able to</b></p> <p>11 <b>do that, and I think that's an indicator of the fact</b></p> <p>12 <b>that we were in the building when actually we probably</b></p> <p>13 <b>shouldn't have been, and we were doing everything we</b></p> <p>14 <b>could to carry on from there, you know.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Yes.</p> <p>16 Now, at the bottom of page 12, just below the bit</p> <p>17 I've been showing you -- well, at the end of that</p> <p>18 paragraph, in the last sentence -- you say:</p> <p>19 "The purpose of it [that's the system] is to actuate</p> <p>20 and draw smoke out of a building and it should have kept</p> <p>21 the stairwell clear. It failed."</p> <p>22 When you say it failed, are you drawing a conclusion</p> <p>23 or do you know why it failed?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No, no, no, again, I think that's just the wording of</b></p> <p>25 <b>the statement. I mean, I've got no ability to tell you</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 223</p>
<p>1 always looking for fixed firefighting installations, and</p> <p>2 obviously if a smoke extraction system had been working</p> <p>3 in the -- if it was -- well, I'm not even sure what it</p> <p>4 was designed for, but if it had been working, I'm sure</p> <p>5 it would have been of assistance, or could have been.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you know whether anybody tried to operate the smoke</p> <p>7 extractor system?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I know that somebody tried to operate the smoke</b></p> <p>9 <b>extraction system, but it's not from memory; that's from</b></p> <p>10 <b>knowing what's gone on in the inquiry.</b></p> <p>11 Q. No, that's not --</p> <p>12 <b>A. So, no, I didn't know.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Okay.</p> <p>14 Would you, in a normal case, expect somebody at</p> <p>15 an incident -- someone from the Fire Brigade, LFB, at</p> <p>16 an incident -- to know how to operate the smoke</p> <p>17 extraction system?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Well, there would be some things to take into</b></p> <p>19 <b>consideration, if a smoke extraction system could be</b></p> <p>20 <b>automatic and would've been triggered with an automatic</b></p> <p>21 <b>fire alarm or automatic panel, but we do need to manage</b></p> <p>22 <b>it because, again, it can affect our conditions within</b></p> <p>23 <b>there and could potentially make things worse, or could</b></p> <p>24 <b>make things -- but they need to be managed, yeah.</b></p> <p>25 Q. We've seen from some of the pictures I showed you that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 222</p>	<p>1 <b>if it failed or not, I can just tell you that it wasn't</b></p> <p>2 <b>working.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Now, immediately below that you then turn to the subject</p> <p>4 of a special entry response team vehicle with a piece of</p> <p>5 equipment called a positive pressure ventilation fan.</p> <p>6 You discussed calling one up with Pat Goulbourne,</p> <p>7 Richard Welch and yourself -- I'm assuming that's who</p> <p>8 the Pat and Richard are.</p> <p>9 Do you remember actually calling for a PPV?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I'm really sorry, but I need to take some advice before</b></p> <p>11 <b>I comment on this. There's a security classification on</b></p> <p>12 <b>the things that we do, so I'm terribly sorry.</b></p> <p>13 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, you've referred to it in the</b></p> <p>14 <b>statement. I think Mr Millett's question is: do you</b></p> <p>15 <b>remember thinking about calling for it? That can't be</b></p> <p>16 <b>a classified question, can it?</b></p> <p>17 <b>A. Erm ...</b></p> <p>18 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And that's in your statement.</b></p> <p>19 <b>A. No, I understand that, sir, yes.</b></p> <p>20 <b>Right. But I do need some advice, sir, I apologise.</b></p> <p>21 <b>MR MILLETT: All right. Let me see if I can get to it</b></p> <p>22 <b>a different way.</b></p> <p>23 Can I ask you to look at the short incident log, and</p> <p>24 can I take you to the timed entry at 03.07.56. I'm not</p> <p>25 going to ask you that many questions about it, I just</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 224</p>



<p>1 want to see what you know about it. It's 03.07.56, the  2 top of page 24, where the message is a turning out  3 message:  4 "SERT TO PROCEED WITH PPV TO INCIDENT."  5 This is in the LFB's short incident log. It's been  6 provided to the inquiry. We've had it for a number of  7 weeks.  8 <b>A. Yes.</b>  9 Q. I'm assuming this is something you would be able to help  10 us with.  11 Do you know anything about that message?  12 <b>A. No, no.</b>  13 Q. Does this prompt a recollection of calling for a PPV and  14 its timing?  15 <b>A. No.</b>  16 Q. Do you know whether the PPV arrived?  17 I'm not going to ask you about the SERT, I just want  18 to know about this piece of equipment.  19 <b>A. Yeah, the PPV did arrive, yeah.</b>  20 Q. Do you remember when?  21 <b>A. No.</b>  22 Q. Do you remember where it was put?  23 <b>A. Yes.</b>  24 Q. Where?  25 <b>A. I think they tried to use it to clear the ground floor.</b></p> <p>Page 225</p>	<p>1 <b>I was sort of group briefing people to explain to the</b>  2 <b>firefighters that the conditions were unlike anything</b>  3 <b>we'd have experienced before and that they were to be</b>  4 <b>asked to potentially step into operational discretion,</b>  5 <b>which means outside of policy, and so therefore they</b>  6 <b>needed to really focus.</b>  7 Q. Right.  8 Did you give them fire survival guidance details, in  9 other words flats, persons --  10 <b>A. I didn't, no.</b>  11 Q. Who did, do you remember?  12 <b>A. No.</b>  13 Q. So what was the briefing to the crews that you gave  14 them?  15 <b>A. Again, I think when we talk about briefings, as I say,</b>  16 <b>it's more about telling the crews almost as a group as</b>  17 <b>opposed to individually. So the entry control officer</b>  18 <b>would still commit the briefs, "I want you to do this,</b>  19 <b>I want you to do that", with the incident commander and</b>  20 <b>the bridgehead commander, the fire sector commander.</b>  21 <b>I wasn't doing that; I was ensuring that the crews were</b>  22 <b>well aware of the circumstances that they were about to</b>  23 <b>walk into because they were going into extreme danger.</b>  24 Q. So to summarise your evidence just now, are you saying  25 that your briefs were really generic rather than</p> <p>Page 227</p>
<p>1 Q. Right.  2 <b>A. But it wasn't successful.</b>  3 Q. I was going to ask you: was it effective?  4 <b>A. No.</b>  5 Q. Would more PPVs have helped?  6 <b>A. No, I don't think they would, but then I wouldn't really</b>  7 <b>be qualified to comment.</b>  8 Q. Who would be qualified to assist us with this question  9 of PPV, subject to any --  10 <b>A. I'm not sure.</b>  11 Q. Right.  12 <b>A. I'm sure that somebody would be able to point the</b>  13 <b>inquiry in the correct direction.</b>  14 Q. Okay.  15 Now, moving to a different topic, page 13. You say  16 in the second paragraph:  17 "At the same time [as the discussion of the PPV],  18 from the new Bridgehead I began to brief the oncoming  19 crews who were about to start the new wave of rescues  20 and flat clearances. We knew at this point that we  21 would have to start working 'out of policy' ..."  22 Now, where were you physically positioned to start  23 briefing those crews, do you remember?  24 <b>A. Yes, so when crews were coming through the entry control</b>  25 <b>at the base of the stairs, I would assist in briefing --</b></p> <p>Page 226</p>	<p>1 FSG-specific?  2 <b>A. Yeah, they weren't specific briefings, yeah.</b>  3 Q. Do you know where at that stage the BA entry control  4 officer was getting the specific fire survival guidance  5 details from?  6 <b>A. No, no, sorry.</b>  7 Q. You don't. Okay.  8 Do you know or do you remember how at the time the  9 decision was made as to who should be deployed wearing  10 SDBA and who should be deployed wearing EDDBA?  11 <b>A. That's something that the fire sector commander or</b>  12 <b>bridgehead commander would've devised that plan</b>  13 <b>themselves. I can't recall what it was.</b>  14 Q. Who was that person?  15 <b>A. That would've been Richard Welch and Pat Goulbourne that</b>  16 <b>would've come up with that.</b>  17 Q. Okay, right. Can I show you a picture, which is  18 MET00015815, which is exhibited to Louisa De Silvo's  19 witness statement as LDS/4.  20 This is a picture taken on, it is believed at the  21 moment, the ground floor, but we'll have to explore that  22 further, and you can see on the wall someone has  23 written, "Above 10 EDDBA, Below 10 SDBA".  24 First of all, do you know who wrote that there?  25 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>Page 228</p>

<p>1 Q. Secondly, do you remember a discussion about splitting</p> <p>2 the deployment of EDDBA to above floor 10 and below floor</p> <p>3 10 SDBA? Do you remember that discussion at all?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>5 Q. On page 13, in your second paragraph, you do go on to</p> <p>6 say in the sixth line down from the start of that</p> <p>7 paragraph:</p> <p>8 "At that stage [I think this is when you're starting</p> <p>9 to brief crews] the crews were only carrying the</p> <p>10 Standard Duration Breathing Apparatus (SDBA) which meant</p> <p>11 they could not go beyond the 6 floor, dependent on how</p> <p>12 well it was being used ..."</p> <p>13 So at that stage, which is I think -- am I right? --</p> <p>14 when the bridgehead on the ground floor is starting to</p> <p>15 operate, how much availability of EDDBA did you have, do</p> <p>16 you think?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I can't remember.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 Was there a time when you suddenly had good</p> <p>20 availability for EDDBA?</p> <p>21 <b>A. EDDBA is carried on fire and rescue units, so as the fire</b></p> <p>22 <b>and rescue units started to become available, then the</b></p> <p>23 <b>EDDBA would've come into the lobby area and then they</b></p> <p>24 <b>would've been able to work that out from there.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Now, at one point you decide that you and Pat Goulbourne</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 229</p>	<p>1 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>2 Q. What were the conditions in the stairwell like, do you</p> <p>3 remember?</p> <p>4 <b>A. So, again, to put some context around it, the reason</b></p> <p>5 <b>that I wore breathing apparatus was to help the</b></p> <p>6 <b>bridgehead and fire sector commander by going up and</b></p> <p>7 <b>giving them a thorough appraisal of how conditions had</b></p> <p>8 <b>deteriorated inside, so that was really clearly -- my</b></p> <p>9 <b>brief was to go up and try and see what was going on to</b></p> <p>10 <b>try and get a clearer picture. Crews that were coming</b></p> <p>11 <b>down were thoroughly exhausted and they made a decision,</b></p> <p>12 <b>because I've got a little bit more incident command</b></p> <p>13 <b>experience, that I could give a clear picture, if that</b></p> <p>14 <b>was my only duty.</b></p> <p>15 <b>Conditions were poor. They'd really, really</b></p> <p>16 <b>degenerated. Really degenerated. And very, very</b></p> <p>17 <b>quickly.</b></p> <p>18 <b>On the stairwell, it's hard to tell, because once</b></p> <p>19 <b>you're wearing BA or respiratory protective equipment,</b></p> <p>20 <b>you have got some protection. Would it have been</b></p> <p>21 <b>respirable? I'm not sure. I'm genuinely not sure.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Then you say:</p> <p>23 "On the sixth floor we were told there was a flat</p> <p>24 that had somebody in it."</p> <p>25 How were you told that? Was there radio</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 231</p>
<p>1 and Richard Welch should don BA and go into the tower.</p> <p>2 <b>A. No, no, just me.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Just you?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yeah.</b></p> <p>5 Q. On your own?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No, with Crew Manager Ben Gallagher from Paddington.</b></p> <p>7 Q. You crewed up with Crew Manager Ben Gallagher. Did you</p> <p>8 pick him or did someone else pick him?</p> <p>9 <b>A. No, he volunteered. I know Ben.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Now, we have your tally-out time in the telemetry data</p> <p>11 as 04.04.27. Does that sound about right to you?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Couldn't tell you, sorry. When you say tally out --</b></p> <p>13 Q. Well, taking your tally out of your BA kit and --</p> <p>14 <b>A. Oh, okay, so booking in?</b></p> <p>15 Q. If you like.</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yeah. No, sorry, I wouldn't be sure.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Now, in your statement -- or rather in your exhibit,</p> <p>18 I should say -- at page 18, if I can just go back to</p> <p>19 that with you, you describe going up to the fifth floor</p> <p>20 in the second paragraph.</p> <p>21 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>22 Q. And you say:</p> <p>23 "Conditions were hot and fire seemed apparent all</p> <p>24 around. We saw another crew I believe and it was clear</p> <p>25 that this floor had been cleared."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 230</p>	<p>1 communication?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I can't recall but it -- I would think it would've come</b></p> <p>3 <b>through on the radio at that point, or it could've been</b></p> <p>4 <b>another crew that had come out and said "We've been</b></p> <p>5 <b>trying to get in".</b></p> <p>6 <b>One of the issues that we had was we couldn't --</b></p> <p>7 <b>I mean, we tried really, really hard to gain access to</b></p> <p>8 <b>the flat, but the conditions -- it was very tight, we</b></p> <p>9 <b>were using an enforcer. The conditions were so</b></p> <p>10 <b>difficult that it didn't take very long before you were</b></p> <p>11 <b>pretty exhausted.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Okay.</p> <p>13 I think my question was really about communications</p> <p>14 and how you got that message. Do you remember how --</p> <p>15 <b>A. I cannot recall it, no, sorry.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 You say at the bottom of page 13 that there were</p> <p>18 other problems -- this in your statement, I'm sorry --</p> <p>19 arising, namely issues with the dry riser. You go on to</p> <p>20 say in the third line:</p> <p>21 "The massive problem at Grenfell was that all the</p> <p>22 floors were compromised so there was no safe place to</p> <p>23 set it up."</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yeah.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Was there a particular problem with water pressure</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 232</p>

1        though that you had?

2        **A. I experienced low water pressure when I was on the sixth**

3        **floor.**

4        Q. You experienced -- what, you didn't have any?

5        **A. Low water pressure, so not what I wanted. There was**

6        **some water, but not much in terms of pressure.**

7        **Because the dry riser outlets were within the lobby**

8        **area, so not in the stairwell but in the lobby itself,**

9        **and the lobbies were consumed by fire quite often, you**

10       **were asking crews to go in to potentially try and plug**

11       **into a dry riser outlet in a compartment that's alight.**

12       **So that compromised us quite dramatically.**

13       **Also, dry riser systems -- and I'm not a fire**

14       **engineer, but my understanding of dry riser systems is**

15       **that we use a couple of outlets and they'll be**

16       **sufficient. When you're trying to use outlets on every**

17       **floor, they wouldn't possibly be sufficient.**

18       Q. I see. Okay.

19       Did you have any particular problems with the mains

20       pressure?

21       **A. Not that I can recall.**

22       Q. Okay. Okay.

23       Now, you say you know Ben Gallagher.

24       **A. Yes.**

25       Q. Do you remember him ever discussing anything with you

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1        about a task to go to the roof with ropes?

2        **A. No, no. No, not at all, no.**

3        Q. You didn't have that conversation with him?

4        **A. No.**

5        Q. Then finally, just a timing point, I think.

6        If you go to page 18 of your statement, you say --

7        this is after fixing some hoses:

8        "Once it was fixed again, we were in a position to

9        move the Bridgehead up again to the 3 floor — where is

10       was based initially."

11       **A. Yes.**

12       Q. "The water was restored and there was a new Bridgehead

13       command team of Group Managers — John Graham, Julian

14       Spooner and Dan Alie. By this point the time was

15       roughly between 8.30am-9am."

16       Do you remember who manned the bridgehead at that

17       point?

18       **A. I couldn't remember who was crewing the bridgehead, no.**

19       Q. Do you remember who made the decision to go up to the

20       bridgehead at that point?

21       **A. No, sorry.**

22       Q. Do you remember who the incident commander was at that

23       point?

24       **A. No, sorry.**

25       Q. Okay.

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1        Do you know whether you were still carrying out

2        rescues at that point?

3        **A. No.**

4        MR MILLETT: All right. Okay.

5        Mr Cook, you'll be glad to know I have no further

6        questions for you. Can I just say how grateful I am to

7        you for your assistance coming today and answering my

8        questions. It's been most helpful. Thank you very

9        much.

10       THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11       SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I have to add my thanks to you as

12       well. I'm sorry if it's been a disagreeable experience

13       at times, but we really do benefit from having your

14       recollection and your account of that evening and we're

15       very grateful to you for coming. Thank you very much.

16       THE WITNESS: I hope it helps.

17       SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right. Would you like to go with

18       the usher?

19       THE WITNESS: Thank you.

20       SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much indeed. Sorry

21       we kept you rather late.

22       (The witness was released)

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

24       MR MILLETT: Now, Mr Chairman, that is the witness evidence

25       for today. Tomorrow we have two new witnesses.

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1        SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.

2        MR MILLETT: We have Watch Manager Sadler and Watch Manager

3        De Silvo, morning and afternoon respectively. It would

4        I think assist if we took the safe step of starting at

5        9.30 tomorrow morning, if that's not inconvenient to you

6        or the witnesses.

7        SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Does that give us a reasonable

8        prospect of finishing both of them within the day?

9        MR MILLETT: Yes.

10       SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: In that case, I think it would be

11       wise to do that.

12       MR MILLETT: Thank you very much.

13       SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I don't suppose a 9.30 start is very

14       congenial, but if it helps the witness, as we saw with

15       Mr Cook, get through during the day, I think it's a good

16       way of doing it.

17       MR MILLETT: I'm very grateful. Thank you.

18       SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So we'll sit at 9.30 tomorrow.

19       Thank you very much.

20       (4.40 pm)

21       (The hearing adjourned until Wednesday, 25 July 2018 at

22       9.30 am)

23

24

25

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