

<p>1 (9.30am) Thursday, 28 June 2018</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, good morning, everyone, and</p> <p>3 welcome to today's hearing. We are going to hear</p> <p>4 further firefighter evidence today.</p> <p>5 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: Good morning, Mr Chairman. Can we now call,</p> <p>7 please, Crew Manager Charlie Batterbee.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>9 CHARLES BATTERBEE (called)</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, Mr Batterbee.</p> <p>11 THE WITNESS: Good morning, sir.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I invite you to take the oath, if</p> <p>13 you would, please, or an affirmation, whichever you</p> <p>14 prefer.</p> <p>15 (The witness was sworn)</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>17 Now, I guess, since they've taken away the lectern,</p> <p>18 you'd rather sit down?</p> <p>19 THE WITNESS: Yes, please.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, that's a very good idea. Make</p> <p>21 yourself comfortable.</p> <p>22 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, I'm sure you will be told this</p> <p>24 more than once, but we can all understand if you find it</p> <p>25 difficult dealing with some aspects of the questions you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 turn to tab 2A.</p> <p>2 For the Relativity reference, it's MET00012871.</p> <p>3 You can see, Mr Batterbee, that it's dated 21 March.</p> <p>4 Can I ask you, first of all, have you read this</p> <p>5 statement recently?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Can you please confirm that its contents are true?</p> <p>8 A. It is. Can I just point out I believe one small error?</p> <p>9 Q. Yes.</p> <p>10 A. Just an oversight. I think it's with regard to</p> <p>11 basically when I went to North Kensington from Willesden</p> <p>12 fire station. I believe I went there in 2015 as opposed</p> <p>13 to 2016.</p> <p>14 Q. Thank you. 2015. And can you remember when in 2015 you</p> <p>15 went to North Kensington?</p> <p>16 A. I think it was around early summer, June or July time.</p> <p>17 You'd have to check.</p> <p>18 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>19 Can I just read into the record -- you should find</p> <p>20 in front of you also your contemporaneous notes.</p> <p>21 A. Where would that be?</p> <p>22 Q. It should be CJB/1. The reference to that is</p> <p>23 MET00005674.</p> <p>24 A. Sorry, which folder would that be?</p> <p>25 Q. That should be in tab 2B.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 are asked, so we will have some breaks quite frequently.</p> <p>2 But if at any stage you feel you need to have an extra</p> <p>3 break, just make sure I realise that and then we'll do</p> <p>4 that. Is that all right?</p> <p>5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>7 Mr Millett.</p> <p>8 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>10 Mr Batterbee, good morning.</p> <p>11 A. Good morning.</p> <p>12 Q. First of all, can I thank you very much for coming to</p> <p>13 the inquiry to give evidence today. It is very much</p> <p>14 appreciated.</p> <p>15 My questions are intended to be short and simple,</p> <p>16 but if you have any difficulty understanding anything</p> <p>17 I'm asking you, then please just ask me to repeat the</p> <p>18 question or put the question in a different way, and if</p> <p>19 you feel you need a break at any point, just let me</p> <p>20 know.</p> <p>21 A. Okay.</p> <p>22 Q. Also, my voice isn't great, so if you can't hear me,</p> <p>23 then just tell me.</p> <p>24 Could you please take your statement, which you'll</p> <p>25 find in the bundle in front of you, the blue bundle, and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 A. Tab 2B.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do you have that?</p> <p>3 A. I do, yes. Yes, these are my notes.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much.</p> <p>5 Then if you turn to tab 2C, you should find, I hope,</p> <p>6 two exhibits, CJB/2, which is a map, and CJB/3, which is</p> <p>7 fire survival call information. Are they there?</p> <p>8 A. Yes. Yes, I've got those?</p> <p>9 Q. Thank you. And the reference to the map is MET00015732,</p> <p>10 and to the fire survival call information sheet it's</p> <p>11 MET00015731.</p> <p>12 A. Yes, I've got that.</p> <p>13 Q. They're taken as read into the record.</p> <p>14 Can I ask you this: have you discussed your</p> <p>15 statement or your evidence with anybody prior to coming</p> <p>16 here today?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>19 Can I start just by asking you to give us a summary</p> <p>20 of your career in the London Fire Brigade?</p> <p>21 A. So I joined the London Fire Brigade on 22 November 2010.</p> <p>22 I attended Southwark Training Centre for the</p> <p>23 firefighters Phase 1 course. I think that lasted</p> <p>24 approximately four months. When I passed out of</p> <p>25 training school, I was posted to White Watch, Chiswick,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 where I completed my Phase 2 firefighter development.</p> <p>2 Once I was deemed competent, I then transferred to</p> <p>3 Wembley fire station, where I then undertook a fire</p> <p>4 rescue unit course, and at the same time I'd also</p> <p>5 applied to become a crew manager.</p> <p>6 On the successful completion of my selection</p> <p>7 process, I was then posted on to Willesden, where</p> <p>8 I completed the majority of my crew manager development</p> <p>9 folder, and then moved to North Kensington, where I then</p> <p>10 finalised that folder and was then signed off as</p> <p>11 competent in the role of crew manager.</p> <p>12 And then I have been there at North Ken Red Watch up</p> <p>13 until just before Christmas this year, I detached into</p> <p>14 Fulham fire station on the command unit as an observer,</p> <p>15 so just a temporary detachment.</p> <p>16 Q. Thank you very much.</p> <p>17 Just picking up one or two features of what you've</p> <p>18 just told us, the fire risk unit course, I think in your</p> <p>19 statement you say you completed that in 2013. What</p> <p>20 expertise did that give you?</p> <p>21 A. Okay, so the fire rescue unit is essentially a dedicated</p> <p>22 rescue appliance, so it doesn't carry any water or</p> <p>23 ladders, but what it does carry is extended duration</p> <p>24 breathing apparatus, slightly more dedicated or a large</p> <p>25 amount of cutting gear for road traffic collisions,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 operationally.</p> <p>2 Q. On a job, right.</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. If you look at the top of page 2 of your statement, you</p> <p>5 say at the very top of the page:</p> <p>6 "In North Kensington we have lots of High Rise (HR)</p> <p>7 buildings so we also concentrate on HR training."</p> <p>8 What do you do especially in North Kensington to</p> <p>9 train for high-rise fires?</p> <p>10 A. Okay. So, essentially, as part of our policy DAMOP --</p> <p>11 which is the development and maintenance of operational</p> <p>12 professionalism -- we cover core skills subjects, that's</p> <p>13 set out. And then as part of DAMOP, you aim to spend</p> <p>14 the other 50 per cent of your training time on risks in</p> <p>15 your borough, as I've said.</p> <p>16 Now, high-rise training is something that we do,</p> <p>17 obviously, you know, an amount of. To facilitate that,</p> <p>18 it would generally be classroom-based. An example would</p> <p>19 be drawing up a tower on a whiteboard and then</p> <p>20 discussing sectorisation, so that's where we would deem</p> <p>21 the fire floor to be, where our bridgehead would be. So</p> <p>22 we would discuss that and basically go through the</p> <p>23 scenario of it and have a talk about on-arrival tactics,</p> <p>24 so essentially who does what. So that's one example.</p> <p>25 I think, if memory serves, the last practical</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 winching equipment, and on top of that, each fire and</p> <p>2 rescue unit has its own specialism, so that could be</p> <p>3 line operations, water rescue or even urban search and</p> <p>4 rescue, just to give you an oversight of what the</p> <p>5 vehicle is.</p> <p>6 When I did it, it was the month-long course at</p> <p>7 Southwark and, during that time, essentially the course</p> <p>8 taught you everything that was -- or is, rather -- on</p> <p>9 that rescue appliance. So I'm a standard duration</p> <p>10 breathing apparatus wearer, but then you do an upgrade</p> <p>11 course to do the extended duration, and you learn more</p> <p>12 advanced techniques to rescue people from basically</p> <p>13 situations whereby they could be trapped, so cars or</p> <p>14 trapped in buildings, et cetera.</p> <p>15 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>16 Having had the training in extended duration</p> <p>17 breathing apparatus, how experienced in the use of</p> <p>18 EDDBA -- extended duration breathing apparatus -- were</p> <p>19 you on the fire ground in terms of actual experience?</p> <p>20 A. Well, I did the EDDBA conversion course, and I can't be</p> <p>21 sure of dates, but I imagine I have worn it in drill</p> <p>22 since, but I never actually worn EDDBA operationally.</p> <p>23 The closest I've got to it is I have put it on and been</p> <p>24 briefed to be in standby mode, but I've never actually</p> <p>25 what we say used sort of on a job. I've never used it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 exercise I did regarding high-rise was at the back to</p> <p>2 basics session which was held at Hammersmith fire</p> <p>3 station in I think it was 2016, and that's where we used</p> <p>4 the drill tower there to essentially simulate</p> <p>5 a high-rise and -- so ...</p> <p>6 Q. Yes, thank you.</p> <p>7 Now, I'm going to come to the back to basics in just</p> <p>8 a moment. Just before I do, just in terms of</p> <p>9 classroom-based high-rise training, do you know -- if</p> <p>10 you don't know, you don't know -- who designs that</p> <p>11 training?</p> <p>12 A. No. Anything I ever deliver is based on what I learned</p> <p>13 at training school --</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 A. -- and also my experience.</p> <p>16 Q. So you deliver high-rise training, do you?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, like, we deliver the policy. So we'll have a look</p> <p>18 at the policy and we'll facilitate the lecture and give</p> <p>19 the training in the sense of we'll lead a discussion or</p> <p>20 a lecture, if you like, around high-rise policy, and as</p> <p>21 far as I'm aware, that policy also comes from the</p> <p>22 national incident command structure. Again, that's</p> <p>23 something I've learnt through electric-based courses, so</p> <p>24 computer-based courses.</p> <p>25 Q. Right. So when you deliver training, who do you deliver</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

1 training to?

2 **A. The watch.**

3 Q. The watch. In terms of what you deliver, am I right in

4 thinking, from what you've just told us, that what you

5 deliver comes from your personal knowledge of policy and

6 experiences?

7 **A. Yes, so it comes from the policy and our experience.**

8 Q. Right. It doesn't come from a designed pack which

9 you're asked to deliver to the watch?

10 **A. No. Generally, it will come from our knowledge of the**

11 **policy, the sectorisation and our experience.**

12 Q. And how often, prior to June 2017, were you delivering

13 classroom-based high-rise training to Red Watch?

14 **A. The last example I remember is when my fire engine was**

15 **stood by over at Northolt on a stand by, and the pumps**

16 **crew, the crew we were that day, we had a little chat**

17 **around it following an incident we'd recently been to.**

18 **But to be honest, with regard to scheduled training,**

19 **I can't remember.**

20 Q. Prior to June 2017, is dealing with a fire on the

21 exterior of a high-rise block part of the training you

22 received?

23 **A. Sorry, could you repeat the question?**

24 Q. Prior to June 2017, did you ever receive any training in

25 how to deal with a fire on the exterior of a high-rise

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1 block?

2 **A. No.**

3 Q. I suppose the answer would be no, but did you deliver

4 any training to Red Watch on how to deal with a fire on

5 the exterior of a high-rise block?

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. Going to the back to basics course, which you say is in

8 2016, do you remember roughly when in 2016?

9 **A. I believe it was summertime, perhaps.**

10 Q. Have you ever heard of a fire at Shepherds Court?

11 **A. Yes.**

12 Q. Did you attend Shepherds Court?

13 **A. I did, yes.**

14 Q. Did you attend at the same time as Mike Dowden?

15 **A. No, my fire engine was stood by at Soho, and upon**

16 **leaving Soho, on return to our base station, it got made**

17 **pumps 20, so we came on on the 20.**

18 Q. Right. Casting your mind back, at what point in the

19 development of the fire at Shepherds Court did you

20 personally arrive?

21 **A. When I arrived, I remember seeing black smoke, so the**

22 **fire was in its -- it was already developed, and I would**

23 **say probably towards the latter stages of that incident.**

24 Q. Do you remember whether the back to basics course was

25 before or after the fire at Shepherds Court?

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1 **A. It was before.**

2 Q. It was before.

3 In terms of the back to basics course content, do

4 you know -- again, if you don't, you don't -- who

5 designed it?

6 **A. No.**

7 Q. Who delivered it?

8 **A. That was delivered by our borough team, essentially, so**

9 **the -- we call them SSSOs, so service standard support**

10 **officers were present, and the senior officers in our**

11 **borough, and also other crews from our borough attended**

12 **that and sort of delivered the training.**

13 Q. Right. So am I right in thinking they would be senior

14 officers?

15 **A. Yes.**

16 Q. SSSOs, can you just help me with that. You call them

17 SSSOs, service standard support officers.

18 **A. Yes.**

19 Q. What kind of seniority would they --

20 **A. Generally station managers.**

21 Q. Station managers?

22 **A. Yes.**

23 Q. And in very brief terms, if you can, what did the back

24 to basics training actually involve?

25 **A. Okay, so the first part was the practical session, where**

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1 **the brief was to essentially set up high-rise procedure,**

2 **so set up a bridgehead and get to work on the fire**

3 **floor.**

4 **The second part was what we call a TDE, so that's**

5 **a tactical decision exercise. So we were split up in**

6 **groups in different rooms, played different roles, and**

7 **throughout that exercise were given essentially**

8 **obstacles to overcome, and that's how the second part,**

9 **sort of theory-based, was facilitated.**

10 Q. Was either part of that back to basics course directed

11 as to what to look for and do if the exterior of any

12 building, to start with, is on fire?

13 **A. I don't remember any part of that course being about**

14 **that.**

15 Q. Right. Was any part of that course directed to

16 high-rise fires in particular?

17 **A. Yes, high-rise fires. Coming back to your question**

18 **about fires on the exterior of a building, it's quite**

19 **common for windows to become involved and, you know,**

20 **fire to jump, and so that would've been discussed, but**

21 **actually on the external of the building, no.**

22 Q. Right. Okay. I'm going to come back to that in

23 a minute.

24 Was any part of the back to basics course directed

25 to what fire survival guidance advice should be given?

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<p>1 A. I don't remember, sorry.</p> <p>2 Q. Was there any part of the course directed to what</p> <p>3 happens if there are fires in multiple compartments in</p> <p>4 a high-rise?</p> <p>5 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>6 Q. Was there anything in there about stay put?</p> <p>7 A. I don't remember. What I do remember vividly is I was</p> <p>8 given some scenarios about firefighters that had gone</p> <p>9 above the fire floor and they were radioing back asking</p> <p>10 questions, but I don't remember what you just asked, no.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Finally on back to basics, was there any part of the</p> <p>13 course, theoretical or the TDE, which was directed to</p> <p>14 communications on the fire ground at an incident?</p> <p>15 A. Well, the second part was facilitated by handheld radios</p> <p>16 and to try and sort of, if I remember rightly, simulate</p> <p>17 the communication process, but -- sorry, repeat the</p> <p>18 question, sorry?</p> <p>19 Q. I'll try to.</p> <p>20 A. Sorry.</p> <p>21 Q. Yes, was any part of the back to basics course directed</p> <p>22 at communications at an incident?</p> <p>23 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 A. It was quite some time ago.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You've got this on the other screen</p> <p>2 there.</p> <p>3 A. Oh, thank you.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You haven't got to crane your neck</p> <p>5 quite so much to look at that one.</p> <p>6 A. Thank you, sir.</p> <p>7 No, I remember it was during the summer of 2016, but</p> <p>8 I don't remember the date.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: That was my next question. Summertime, right.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you go once or more than once?</p> <p>12 A. Sorry, say again?</p> <p>13 Q. Did you go once or more than once?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, once.</p> <p>15 Q. Once. Who else went with you, if anybody, on that trip?</p> <p>16 A. I honestly don't remember. But I imagine if I was there</p> <p>17 and Michael was there that both of our machines would've</p> <p>18 gone, because I would've been in charge of the pump at</p> <p>19 the time, I imagine.</p> <p>20 Q. Yes. Now, did anybody ask you to attend?</p> <p>21 A. I believe we were notified by the station manager and</p> <p>22 instructed -- all watches were instructed to get down</p> <p>23 there and have a look, have a familiarisation visit</p> <p>24 during the works.</p> <p>25 Q. Right. Who was the station manager, do you remember?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 Q. After Shepherds Court, do you remember receiving any</p> <p>2 training or intelligence or updates about lessons</p> <p>3 learned from Shepherds Court?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Do you remember receiving any training or updates more</p> <p>6 generally about lessons learnt and things to look for in</p> <p>7 terms of fire spread on the exterior of buildings?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. I'm going to turn now to a different topic,</p> <p>10 Mr Batterbee. Are you okay to continue?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. I'm going to ask you about your prior visit or</p> <p>13 visits to Grenfell Tower before June 2017.</p> <p>14 Now, you say in your statement on page 2, just to</p> <p>15 show it to you, in the middle of the page -- you see,</p> <p>16 just the fourth paragraph down?</p> <p>17 A. Ah, thank you.</p> <p>18 Q. "During the renovation works at Grenfell Tower in 2016,</p> <p>19 I attended the building. I was with Watch Manager (WM)</p> <p>20 Michael DOWDEN at the time."</p> <p>21 Just pausing there -- we'll look at the rest in</p> <p>22 a minute -- I just want to see if I can place this in</p> <p>23 time.</p> <p>24 Do you remember when in 2016 you attended the tower?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 A. Station Manager Nick Davis.</p> <p>2 Q. Nick Davis. And what were you asked to do?</p> <p>3 A. So I was just informed by Michael Dowden that we're</p> <p>4 going to go down there and do a familiarisation visit,</p> <p>5 so I then communicated that to the watch and that's what</p> <p>6 we did.</p> <p>7 Q. Were you --</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, are you all right?</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: I'm all right, but I can't be heard.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, we could have a break if your</p> <p>11 throat requires it. You indicate if you need one.</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: I'll soldier on if I can.</p> <p>13 Mr Batterbee, can you hear me?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Were you asked by Station Manager Davis to look for</p> <p>16 anything in particular on your visit?</p> <p>17 A. No, because I got that information -- it was Michael who</p> <p>18 informed me that we needed to do it and, to the best of</p> <p>19 my memory, that came from the station manager.</p> <p>20 Q. Right. Do you remember whether there was a document</p> <p>21 setting out what Station Manager Nick Davis asked you to</p> <p>22 look at?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. On page 3 of your statement in the first main paragraph,</p> <p>25 you talk about completing 7(2)(d) visits to high-rise</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

4 (Pages 13 to 16)

<p>1 builds, and then in the second sentence, you say:</p> <p>2 "If we have an existing operational database plan</p> <p>3 (ORD) following a 7(2)(d) visit that now doesn't fit the</p> <p>4 building, i.e. if there have been changes since our last</p> <p>5 visit then we would adjust the plan."</p> <p>6 Now, when you say "changes since our last visit", in</p> <p>7 your experience, what kind of changes would they be?</p> <p>8 Would they be big changes or small changes?</p> <p>9 A. Generally it will be the contact details, you know,</p> <p>10 small things like that. So just to give you</p> <p>11 an overview, the 7(2)(d), for us on the ground as</p> <p>12 firefighters or crew and watch, we get -- it's like</p> <p>13 a template you fill out called an operational risk</p> <p>14 database tactical plan, and within that it's like --</p> <p>15 I describe it like an electronic template, and in that</p> <p>16 you'll have contact details that you need to update or</p> <p>17 ensure are filled in, along with other information</p> <p>18 relating to the tactical plan.</p> <p>19 So what we'll do is we'll print off a copy of that</p> <p>20 and we'll take that with us, and then we will compare</p> <p>21 that against sort of what we found.</p> <p>22 And so just to answer your question, commonly --</p> <p>23 I'll give you an example, like a train station, we'll go</p> <p>24 down and see who the supervisor is -- it's normally</p> <p>25 minor things, more administrative.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 A. Oh, okay, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. -- what are the temporary changes?</p> <p>3 A. Okay. Perhaps I can word that a little bit more</p> <p>4 clearly. More informed of the temporary changes --</p> <p>5 I was referring to the fact that the building was now</p> <p>6 under renovation, so that is naturally a change in our</p> <p>7 information. So when I said there about the ad hoc</p> <p>8 visit, we have a premises risk assessment. Upon filling</p> <p>9 that out, on any ORD we do, that will then give you your</p> <p>10 scheduled visits. So that's why I said it was an ad hoc</p> <p>11 one, because the temporary changes I'm referring to is</p> <p>12 the fact that it's now -- we've been informed</p> <p>13 something's different, and that was the renovation</p> <p>14 works. That's what I was trying to explain.</p> <p>15 Q. Thank you very much.</p> <p>16 Just exploring that a bit more, did anybody tell you</p> <p>17 about what detailed changes had been made or give you an</p> <p>18 idea about the kinds of temporary changes that the</p> <p>19 renovation works involved?</p> <p>20 A. No, the main thing I remember is around where the dry</p> <p>21 rising inlet was going to be. So it was going to be --</p> <p>22 if memory serves, it was going to be cut off, so our</p> <p>23 normal plan of going to the base of the tower and</p> <p>24 setting into the riser there wouldn't be possible.</p> <p>25 I remember it being the third floor.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 Q. Yes.</p> <p>2 Now, you say in the next sentence that:</p> <p>3 "The visit I did during the renovations at Grenfell</p> <p>4 Tower would have been an ad-hoc visit and not a</p> <p>5 scheduled one as we attended once we were informed of</p> <p>6 the temporary changes."</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. The first question is: what were the temporary changes</p> <p>9 that you're referring to there?</p> <p>10 A. Sorry, could you repeat the question?</p> <p>11 Q. What were the temporary changes that you're referring to</p> <p>12 there?</p> <p>13 A. Before that -- so ...</p> <p>14 Sorry, could you start from the -- I know you</p> <p>15 mentioned temporary changes, but before that, just so</p> <p>16 I can understand the full context of the question?</p> <p>17 Q. Yes, of course. I'll just read the sentence back to</p> <p>18 you. It's highlighted.</p> <p>19 A. Thank you.</p> <p>20 Q. You say:</p> <p>21 "The visit I did during the renovations at Grenfell</p> <p>22 Tower would have been an ad-hoc visit and not a</p> <p>23 scheduled one as we attended once we were informed of</p> <p>24 the temporary changes."</p> <p>25 My question is --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 So that was the biggest temporary change for me. It</p> <p>2 was: okay, how are we going to get water into this</p> <p>3 building if we get a job here?</p> <p>4 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>5 If you go back to page 2 of your statement -- I'm</p> <p>6 sorry to jump around, Mr Batterbee -- and look at the</p> <p>7 last main paragraph, it starts "During the renovation</p> <p>8 works". You see in the third sentence, second line:</p> <p>9 "We looked at a variety of things relating to our</p> <p>10 response and on arrival tactics and considered the fire</p> <p>11 actions we would need to take."</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. First of all, did you talk to anybody on site?</p> <p>14 A. I don't remember meeting with anybody. I can't</p> <p>15 remember, sorry.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you remember being shown round?</p> <p>17 A. I do remember having -- I have sort of fragments of</p> <p>18 walking around, but I don't remember being shown round.</p> <p>19 Sorry.</p> <p>20 Q. Right. Who let you in?</p> <p>21 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>22 Q. I mean, I know you can't remember, but doing the best</p> <p>23 you can, would somebody have let you in and then let you</p> <p>24 go around, or did you just turn up and look around the</p> <p>25 building without accompaniment?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>

5 (Pages 17 to 20)

1 **A. I can tell you that we didn't go in the new entrance**
2 **downstairs; we went in from the walkway up on Lancaster**
3 **West. I can tell you that, commonly, if we go to do**
4 **a 7(2)(d) and there's no one there to greet us, we can**
5 **let ourselves in with a firefighter key to have a look**
6 **around, but I don't remember meeting with anyone on that**
7 **day.**
8 Q. Right. Did you go up Grenfell Tower?
9 **A. Yes.**
10 Q. How far up did you go?
11 **A. I can't remember.**
12 Q. Did you observe anything notable?
13 **A. Mainly looking at where the stairwell was and looking at**
14 **where the outlets were, and essentially going to**
15 **identify where we could put our hose into, where the**
16 **inlet was, and mainly focused around that.**
17 Q. Right. Did you form any particular views about the
18 stairwell and the lobbies and the dry riser inlet?
19 **A. Apart from the fact that we'd be going into the building**
20 **to ship into it, it's like any other -- you know, many**
21 **other high-rise buildings I've been to on a daily basis,**
22 **you know. Nothing stood out to me apart from the fact**
23 **that we would have to go into the tower, unusually, to**
24 **plug in on the third floor.**
25 Q. Right.

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1 Can I just ask you to look at policy 633, "High rise
2 firefighting", which is policy bundle 4, tab 4.
3 **A. Sorry, where is that?**
4 Q. It's tab 4. It's policy bundle --
5 **A. Volume 1 of 2?**
6 Q. It's on the screen.
7 **A. Oh, okay.**
8 **SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It is easier if you use it on the**
9 **screen.**
10 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Batterbee, it is on the screen. You
11 don't have to look at it. In fact, when I refer to
12 a document, it's to the documents manager, for him to
13 put up on the screen, so you don't have to trouble
14 yourself with the file.
15 Let me ask you, first of all: are you familiar with
16 this policy?
17 **A. Yes.**
18 Q. Can I ask you to look at appendix 1, please, which is on
19 internal page 19, and this says "Appendix 1 - 7(2)(d)":
20 "During 7(2)(d) visits personnel should ensure they
21 are familiar with the following and their impact on
22 firefighting and search and rescue operations ..."
23 Then there's a long list.
24 Are you familiar with the requirement that visiting
25 personnel should ensure that they are familiar with

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1 things in a list such as that?
2 **A. Yes. So when we gather information for our tactical**
3 **plan or tac plan, a lot of that list is encompassed into**
4 **that. That's why it's there.**
5 Q. Right.
6 I am going to spend just a minute or two just
7 showing you one or two things on the list.
8 When you did your visit in the summer of 2016 to
9 Grenfell Tower, did you look at the means of access and
10 egress from the site of the building?
11 **A. Yes.**
12 Q. You did? Did you form a particular view about it?
13 **A. Yes, so access at the end of Grenfell Road, which**
14 **essentially is below the walkway and opposite the main**
15 **tower, is really quite restricted.**
16 Q. Right.
17 **A. Also, access from the walkway from the Lancaster West**
18 **if -- basically, if you had to run water from where the**
19 **old entrance was back down that walkway back to where**
20 **Latimer Road tube station is, you know, that's a long**
21 **way. So we had discussions around how we would get**
22 **water to that and that formed part of our access**
23 **observations.**
24 Q. Right. Did you form a view about whether access and
25 egress was good or bad?

Page 23

1 **A. Well, yes, it wasn't great, but ultimately we have to**
2 **work with what we're given. So it wasn't great, but we**
3 **have to look at ways to try and overcome that, and that**
4 **was what led to our discussion around how we'd get water**
5 **there.**
6 Q. Okay. I'm not going to take you through every single
7 item on the list, you'll be pleased to know.
8 Can I just ask you to look about eight bullet points
9 down:
10 "Firefighting shafts, and protected lobby areas."
11 You told us just a little earlier that you looked at
12 the protected stair and the dry rising inlet on I think
13 the third floor.
14 Did you look more generally at firefighting shafts
15 and protected lobby areas on your visit?
16 **A. Sorry, I don't understand the question. Could you**
17 **rephrase it?**
18 Q. When you visited Grenfell Tower in the summer --
19 **A. Yes, yes.**
20 Q. -- of 2016, did you look at firefighting shafts and
21 protected lobby areas?
22 **A. Yes, so we went into the stairwell. That gives us**
23 **a feel of how big it is and where the outlets are.**
24 Q. Okay. And, again, did you form a particular opinion as
25 to whether it would help or hinder firefighting

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1 operations?
 2 **A. No, because it's nothing that we haven't seen before.**
 3 **It was, you know, quite common, the amount of room you**
 4 **had to work with and things like that.**
 5 Q. Next item down:
 6 "Location and function of firefighting lifts (noting
 7 not all lifts provide the necessary protection to meet
 8 the most recent standards) and lift machinery."
 9 Did you look at the lifts?
 10 **A. I imagine so, but I honestly can't remember, so ...**
 11 Q. Can you remember whether, coming away from
 12 Grenfell Tower on that visit, you had an impression of
 13 whether there were firefighting lifts or something else?
 14 **A. I imagine, due to the age of the building, they would be**
 15 **more fireman's lifts, so lifts that have been sort of**
 16 **potentially upgraded or converted for our use.**
 17 Q. Okay. I'm going to come back to the question of lifts
 18 later when we look at the events of the night.
 19 **A. Okay.**
 20 Q. In terms of the list, going back to it, the next bullet
 21 point down is:
 22 "The likelihood and impact of any fire spread beyond
 23 the compartment of origin and the potential for multiple
 24 rescues."
 25 When you did your visit in 2016, did you look at or

Page 25

1 assess the likelihood and impact of any fire spread
 2 beyond the compartment of origin in Grenfell Tower?
 3 **A. No more than what you would commonly expect at high-rise**
 4 **buildings similar to Shepherds Court, whereby fires, if**
 5 **they break out of the compartment, will jump floors, but**
 6 **no more than that.**
 7 Q. Right.
 8 Next one, did you look at occupancy and use profile?
 9 **A. Yes, so from that, we just gather it's a residential**
 10 **building as opposed to multi-use, and probably, again,**
 11 **it's common to acknowledge: is there a porter or isn't**
 12 **there? And I don't remember there being a porter.**
 13 Q. Right. And then this one, the next one down:
 14 "Floor layouts and any building construction
 15 features which may promote rapid or abnormal fire
 16 spread, such as sandwich panels, timber-framed
 17 construction, atria or voids."
 18 When you did your visit in July 2016, do you
 19 remember looking at those things, floor layouts,
 20 building construction features, et cetera?
 21 **A. So, yes, floor layouts would be just in the lobby of**
 22 **where the houses are. It's not common to go into a flat**
 23 **to try and identify a floor plan of a flat. So layouts**
 24 **with regard to where the entrance is in relation to the**
 25 **stairs, and then the individual -- the floors to have**

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1 **access to the front doors.**
 2 **You would consider whether they are maisonettes or**
 3 **scissor constructions.**
 4 **Building construction features, I wouldn't expect it**
 5 **to be timber-framed due to -- it was a big concrete**
 6 **building.**
 7 **As for rapid or abnormal fire spread, no, nothing**
 8 **beyond my common knowledge and an expectation that**
 9 **a fire jumps through windows. So, no.**
 10 Q. What about sandwich panels?
 11 **A. Never in a million years would we dream that there would**
 12 **be sandwich panels involved on a commercial high-rise**
 13 **building.**
 14 Q. On a commercial high-rise building?
 15 **A. Sorry, a residential. Sorry, apologies. Because my**
 16 **experience with or what was taught to me with sandwich**
 17 **panels is they're generally found in places like,**
 18 **I suppose, big shops, big DIY shops and commercial**
 19 **premises, factories and stuff like that. So, yes, I'd**
 20 **never imagine that anything like that would be on**
 21 **a residential building.**
 22 Q. Okay. Just so I'm clear, when you tell us about your
 23 experience of sandwich panels, what do you mean by
 24 a sandwich panel?
 25 **A. Okay, so a sandwich panel is essentially two sheets of**

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1 **metal with an insulation that fails suddenly and can**
 2 **give off toxic smoke, and they're dangerous but they're**
 3 **commonly found in, you know, things like sort of big DIY**
 4 **shops or, you know, big commercial premises and**
 5 **factories and stuff like that, you know. That's the**
 6 **only real input I've ever had on that.**
 7 Q. Have you heard of the expression "infill panels"?
 8 **A. No, I don't recall.**
 9 Q. Okay.
 10 Did you, when looking at the building construction
 11 features, look at the exterior of Grenfell Tower on that
 12 visit?
 13 **A. Well, yeah, because we would've looked up at the**
 14 **building, yeah.**
 15 Q. What did you note about it?
 16 **A. I'm pretty sure it had scaffolding but, again, I can't**
 17 **really remember, but nothing that would concern me.**
 18 Q. Did you note that there was cladding either on the
 19 exterior or being placed onto the exterior?
 20 **A. No. I didn't know what cladding was.**
 21 Q. You didn't notice.
 22 When you were there, did the scaffolding cover the
 23 entirety of the exterior, do you remember?
 24 **A. I can't remember. I honestly can't remember.**
 25 Q. So you don't remember whether the exterior was actually

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<p>1 capable of being inspected?</p> <p>2 A. I don't actually -- from just looking -- obviously I'm</p> <p>3 trying to do my best here --</p> <p>4 Q. Yes, I know.</p> <p>5 A. I just remember -- I remember scaffolding, but no. The</p> <p>6 answer to your question is I don't remember.</p> <p>7 Q. Again, you may not remember, but did anybody tell you at</p> <p>8 the time that one element of the refurbishment of</p> <p>9 Grenfell Tower was the construction of a cladding system</p> <p>10 on the exterior?</p> <p>11 A. I don't remember.</p> <p>12 Q. Looking down the list a bit further, you'll see, eight</p> <p>13 bullet points up off the bottom:</p> <p>14 "Means of ventilation and smoke control including</p> <p>15 location of operating switches."</p> <p>16 When you did your visit in July 2016, did you look</p> <p>17 at that means of ventilation and smoke control?</p> <p>18 A. Again, it's something we look at but, again, I don't</p> <p>19 recall. My main memory from doing that visit in 2016 is</p> <p>20 based around sort of tactically how we'd get water into</p> <p>21 that building. That's the strongest memory I have from</p> <p>22 that.</p> <p>23 Q. Next one down -- and I've only got two more to ask you</p> <p>24 about:</p> <p>25 "Evacuation arrangements which may include phased</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 notice and, again, I've never seen one that isn't stay</p> <p>2 put.</p> <p>3 Q. Right. Do you remember seeing a notice? I think they</p> <p>4 call it an FAN.</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. No.</p> <p>7 Finally, did you notice or look at any potential</p> <p>8 communication problems? That's the bullet point third</p> <p>9 from the end, if you look at the screen, "Potential</p> <p>10 communication problems". Did you look at that?</p> <p>11 A. Again, I can't remember. We would've had handheld</p> <p>12 radios with us on the day, but I don't remember any</p> <p>13 problems. I don't recall, I'm sorry.</p> <p>14 Q. Could you go, please --</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are we going to a new topic?</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: Just finishing off this last topic,</p> <p>17 Mr Chairman. It arises out of some questions that I've</p> <p>18 asked and his statement.</p> <p>19 Mr Batterbee, could you please go to page 18 of your</p> <p>20 statement.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. And if you look, please, at the third paragraph down.</p> <p>23 This is, to put it in context for you, after you say,</p> <p>24 just nearer the top of the page:</p> <p>25 "I have been asked to clarify a couple of things</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 evacuation."</p> <p>2 When you did your visit, did you enquire about or</p> <p>3 examine the evacuation arrangements for Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>4 A. Again, I don't remember, and commonly you don't have</p> <p>5 phased evacuation; it's stay put.</p> <p>6 Q. When you saw the single stairway, which I know you say</p> <p>7 is very common in high-rise buildings, at Grenfell Tower</p> <p>8 when you saw it, did you have any particular thoughts at</p> <p>9 the time about how people were going to evacuate in the</p> <p>10 event of a multi-compartment fire?</p> <p>11 A. No more or less than any other high-rise I've ever been</p> <p>12 to to perform, you know, the same visit.</p> <p>13 Q. In the usual run of things, if you were visiting</p> <p>14 a high-rise block under a 7(2)(d) visit and you wanted</p> <p>15 to know about evacuation arrangements, who would you</p> <p>16 ask? What would you do?</p> <p>17 A. Sorry, say it again?</p> <p>18 Q. In the normal, usual run of things --</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. -- if you were visiting a high-rise residential block</p> <p>21 and doing a 7(2)(d) visit, who would you normally ask</p> <p>22 about the evacuation arrangements?</p> <p>23 A. A responsible person on site, or you can often look</p> <p>24 for -- their policies will sometimes be on noticeboards,</p> <p>25 so the evacuation plan or policy will sometimes be on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 which I will now do."</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. The first of those is the stay-put policy and you</p> <p>4 explain your views about that, and we can read them</p> <p>5 there.</p> <p>6 If you don't mind, I'll read it into the record and</p> <p>7 then ask you a couple of questions about it?</p> <p>8 A. Okay.</p> <p>9 Q. "Stay Put policy -- generally, people are safer staying</p> <p>10 in their flats when there is a fire in a HR premises as</p> <p>11 long as the fire/smoke is not directly effecting them or</p> <p>12 their flat. Fires should stay within the confines of</p> <p>13 the compartment/flat. The fire floor (fire sector) is</p> <p>14 not just the floor the fire is on. It is also a minimum</p> <p>15 of one above and one below it. You have to consider</p> <p>16 that when removing people 'are we putting them into a</p> <p>17 toxic atmosphere or are they better and safer staying in</p> <p>18 their flats.' This policy works when the building is</p> <p>19 not clad in that flammable material."</p> <p>20 Just in terms of the question that you say should be</p> <p>21 asked, "Are we putting them into a toxic atmosphere or</p> <p>22 are they better and safer staying in their flats" --</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- who would ask themselves that question? Would it be</p> <p>25 the control room, the incident commander or everybody</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

8 (Pages 29 to 32)

1 involved at a high-rise incident?
 2 **A. Okay, so it's -- control will gather the information**
 3 **from the occupant and they will determine if it's fire**
 4 **survival guidance -- apologies, I've lost my train of**
 5 **thought. Would you mind repeating the question?**
 6 Q. The question you posed, "Are we putting them into
 7 a toxic atmosphere or are they better and safer staying
 8 in their flats", who involved in a high-rise incident
 9 would ask themselves that question?
 10 **A. I guess us making the decision to effect a rescue, so we**
 11 **would have to have information about what are the**
 12 **conditions like up there. And also from the control**
 13 **room staff, they would ask questions based on, okay, so**
 14 **if you've got smoke in your flat, can you escape? What**
 15 **are the conditions like outside?**
 16 **If it were the case that a person sort of said,**
 17 **"I've opened my front door and it's filled with smoke**
 18 **and I can't get down", something along them lines, you**
 19 **would expect that that information would be conveyed**
 20 **from control to us on the ground so that both those**
 21 **processes would formulate a decision as to: are you**
 22 **bringing that person into a toxic atmosphere? So you**
 23 **have to look at the risk over benefit.**
 24 Q. So in very simple terms, abandoning stay put carries its
 25 own risks, I think?

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1 **A. Again, it would depend on the situation. So to abandon**
 2 **stay put ... sorry, could you repeat the question?**
 3 Q. We'll come back to it, I think.
 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It is more of a comment, really.
 5 MR MILLETT: Perhaps it was. We'll come back to properly
 6 formulated questions by me later.
 7 Mr Batterbee, do you want a break now?
 8 THE WITNESS: Yes, please.
 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think Mr Millett's throat might
 10 like a break as well, so we'll have one anyway.
 11 There will be other breaks in the course of your
 12 evidence, so can I just say this to you now and ask you
 13 to remember it: now you've started giving your evidence,
 14 please don't discuss your evidence or anything related
 15 to it with anyone else until you've finished.
 16 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? Thanks very much. You
 18 go with the usher now.
 19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Just so that you know, we'll break
 21 for 10 minutes.
 22 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll resume at 10.35, please.
 24 (10.25 am)
 25 (A short break)

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1 (10.40 am)
 2 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman. A member of the public has
 3 given me some cough sweets, so I'm very grateful.
 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Somebody has taken pity on you!
 5 That's very kind, whoever it was.
 6 MR MILLETT: That would be a first!
 7 May we have the witness back, please?
 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think he is just on his way now.
 9 (Pause)
 10 All right, Mr Batterbee?
 11 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think what we'll do now, we'll
 13 have another break at 11.10 or possibly 11.15, as you
 14 find a convenient moment, please.
 15 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, we will. It will be
 16 convenient come what may, I think.
 17 Mr Batterbee, can I ask you please to go to page 18
 18 of your witness statement, back to where we were looking
 19 before the break. This is still under the paragraph
 20 "Stay Put policy". In the last sentence you say, having
 21 referred to the stay-put policy and when it works:
 22 "This policy works when the building is not clad in
 23 that flammable material."
 24 When you say "that flammable material", what are you
 25 referring to?

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1 **A. Okay, so my witness statement was given some time after**
 2 **the event, so I want to make it clear that at the time,**
 3 **I had no idea what I was looking at. I don't know**
 4 **a great deal about it now. I know it's called AMC**
 5 **category 3 cladding, and that's what I was referring to.**
 6 **Yes.**
 7 Q. Right. Okay.
 8 Can I then turn to the arrival on the night of the
 9 fire.
 10 On page 4 of your statement, if you go to the fourth
 11 paragraph down, you say there, after referring to Crew
 12 Manager Secrett beginning to use a key to call the lift
 13 in the previous paragraph:
 14 "Whilst this was happening we were approached by
 15 a resident; a lady who asked if it was safe to go back
 16 up to her flat on the 13th floor."
 17 **A. Yes.**
 18 Q. "I told her it was probably better to stay downstairs
 19 for now."
 20 And she asked about a relative.
 21 You told her to stay downstairs for now. Why did
 22 you tell her that?
 23 **A. Because at that time my thinking was if she's trying to**
 24 **get back up to her flat, we're going to be coming in**
 25 **with more equipment, going up the stairs, we need to do**

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1 **that at speed, so essentially just stay out the way for**
 2 **the minute so we can get our operation in place.**
 3 Q. Right. I see. So this wasn't -- or was it -- any kind
 4 of concern about the possibility of fire spread or smoke
 5 spread within the building?
 6 **A. Absolutely not because, as you can see, she also asked**
 7 **about her son, and I started to talk and my colleague**
 8 **started to talk and we gave her the same advice, as you**
 9 **can see in the statement.**
 10 Q. Now, in the previous paragraph talk about the lift. You
 11 say:
 12 "... CM SECRETT began using a key to call the lift."
 13 Do you remember, where did he get that lift key
 14 from?
 15 **A. Okay, so the lift key we're referring to is -- there's**
 16 **a multitude of lift keys. The general one we use every**
 17 **day is an express key. You get one key per pumping**
 18 **appliance, and that's carried in a bag with lots of**
 19 **other keys that we've gathered over the years, but also**
 20 **the set ones that we need to carry.**
 21 I can tell you I have a personal key which I bought
 22 myself, I imagine Chris's was a personal key, and the
 23 reason why we carry personal keys is because when it
 24 comes to being quick and, you know, leaving a building
 25 and needing to re-enter, you need it on you. So

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1 **I imagine it was either his personal key or one that he**
 2 **had got off the appliance.**
 3 Q. Right. These are standard keys, are they?
 4 **A. Standard keys you can buy from most locksmiths,**
 5 **I believe.**
 6 Q. Right.
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. Can you? You can buy an ordinary standard key which
 9 converts the lift --
 10 **A. It's called an express key, yes.**
 11 Q. Right. In the next paragraph, two down, which starts
 12 "CM SECRETT then informed us", do you see at the bottom
 13 of the page:
 14 "CM SECRETT then informed us that the fire lift mode
 15 wasn't working."
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. Do you remember, sitting here, what his words were?
 18 What did he say, can you remember?
 19 **A. I don't remember the exact words, but I remember him**
 20 **telling me it's not working.**
 21 Q. What did you understand by that, "It's not working"?
 22 **A. Okay, so when you call a lift, what you would expect is**
 23 **that sometimes you have like a little LED display and it**
 24 **will say "Firefighting lift" or "Firefighting mode", but**
 25 **the key thing you would expect is that lift would**

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1 **instantly return to the ground floor, and then you have**
 2 **control of that lift only from the buttons inside the**
 3 **lift. So the call point buttons outside the lift, you**
 4 **know, it's knocked out, you can't control them.**
 5 **So how I interpret that when he told me was we can't**
 6 **get it into firefighting mode.**
 7 Q. Right. You go on in your statement to say:
 8 "This does not mean we cannot use the lift, just
 9 that we don't have sole control of it, which could
 10 present a risk to us, however we decided to take the
 11 risk."
 12 **A. Yes.**
 13 Q. Just looking at it first of all generally, when you
 14 can't take sole control of the lift, what consequences
 15 would that normally have in a fire in a high-rise block?
 16 **A. The consequences could be deadly.**
 17 Q. Could you explain?
 18 **A. Yes. So when you take control of the lift, as I've**
 19 **mentioned, our standard practice is a firefighter will**
 20 **get into that lift, and if you imagine, people in the**
 21 **room, you're in a lift and you're pressing the lift**
 22 **button, the open and close, there's so much control over**
 23 **that lift whereby if you press the door open button and**
 24 **then release it, almost like a car window going up and**
 25 **down, the second you take it off, that door will stop.**

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1 **So we don't have control of the door, and it also**
 2 **means that somebody from a higher floor may have already**
 3 **called the lift, which means that we could end up going**
 4 **up, have no control over the door and it would open on**
 5 **essentially the fire floor, which could be fatal.**
 6 Q. You say that could be fatal; how might that be fatal?
 7 **A. So, as I've explained, the lift, if it's not in**
 8 **firefighting mode and you decide to use it, and that**
 9 **lift goes up to a floor which is compromised by smoke or**
 10 **fire even and that door opens, you're not going to stop**
 11 **it.**
 12 Q. No.
 13 **A. So now essentially you're in a fire.**
 14 Q. And from the occupants' point of view, if they can call
 15 the lift freely at will and it's not under your control,
 16 what would that mean for their safety?
 17 **A. Sorry, could you repeat the question?**
 18 Q. If an occupant could call the lift freely --
 19 **A. Yes.**
 20 Q. -- in a fire, what would that mean for their safety?
 21 **A. If an occupant could call a lift -- well, generally the**
 22 **standard advice is don't use a lift in a fire in case it**
 23 **shuts down, the power shuts down, so it would be**
 24 **dangerous to get into that lift anyway.**
 25 Q. But if you, the Fire Brigade, did not have sole control

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1 over the lift and another occupant used it --
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. -- what risks would that present to the occupant?
 4 **A. Only the risk that if they got into that lift and it**
 5 **became compromised then they could be trapped in the**
 6 **lift where there is a fire present in a building.**
 7 Q. Yes. And so was the effect of not being able to bring
 8 it under control that it was effectively useless for
 9 your firefighting operations?
 10 **A. No, so obviously we've discussed the risk; however, we**
 11 **decided to take that risk because we wanted to get our**
 12 **equipment up to the bridgehead as soon as we could, and**
 13 **in that case it did go to the second floor.**
 14 Q. Yes. And you say in your statement just beyond that,
 15 that is what you did.
 16 What equipment did you take up with you?
 17 **A. Okay, so I personally -- again, if memory serves --**
 18 **I was carrying some 45-millimetre hose, so that's**
 19 **firefighting hose we use which essentially is 23 metres**
 20 **long, but it's rolled up into -- we call it a length**
 21 **hose, but it's already rolled up, so if I remember**
 22 **rightly, I had a couple under one arm and I had**
 23 **a firefighting branch. Other members of the crews were**
 24 **bringing stuff in.**
 25 **So at that time, the equipment that had to go to the**

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1 **bridgehead was sufficient 45-millimetre hose to reach**
 2 **the scene of operations; two breathing apparatus sets;**
 3 **an entry control board; an IEC kit, so that's**
 4 **an immediate emergency care kit, so that's provisionally**
 5 **for any casualties but also protects us whilst we're in**
 6 **BA, should we become ill; a long line, which is a rope,**
 7 **essentially, but it's 30 metres long and we carry that**
 8 **in sort of a duraskin, a yellow bag; breaking-in gear,**
 9 **so breaking in gear is an enforcer, it's a handheld**
 10 **piece of equipment and we use it for bashing doors in;**
 11 **a Halligan bar, which is another firefighting tool. We**
 12 **would also take lift keys, floor plans if we had them**
 13 **available.**
 14 **Sorry, I'm just trying to note what I've already**
 15 **said and --**
 16 Q. Yes.
 17 **A. It's approximately ten items, and that's the equipment**
 18 **that we take to the bridgehead so we can set up our**
 19 **operation.**
 20 Q. Can I just pursue one thing you just said: floor plans.
 21 Do you remember on the night having floor plans?
 22 **A. No, no.**
 23 Q. Do you remember looking for them?
 24 **A. No, at that time my focus was on taking sort of my**
 25 **equipment, because I was tasked as, you know -- my focus**

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1 **that night was firefighting, so I was making sure I did**
 2 **my bit to bring my equipment with me, but I personally**
 3 **didn't look for them, no.**
 4 Q. Where would you normally expect to find a floor plan in
 5 a high-rise block?
 6 **A. Either in a premises information box, which is a red box**
 7 **on the outside of a building -- that box is only**
 8 **accessible via a girder key, so that is a secure key**
 9 **which we carry on all front line appliances -- or the**
 10 **mobile data terminal on board the appliance.**
 11 Q. Do you remember whether Grenfell Tower had a premises
 12 information box?
 13 **A. I don't.**
 14 Q. You don't. You don't remember seeing one on your
 15 7(2)(d) visit?
 16 **A. No.**
 17 Q. Would it be unusual for Grenfell or a high-rise block
 18 like Grenfell Tower not to have a premises information
 19 box?
 20 **A. Would it be unusual ... I've been to high-rise blocks**
 21 **that have them and I've also been to a vast amount that**
 22 **don't.**
 23 Q. Right. And how would you and your crew go about
 24 preparing to attack a fire in a compartment on, say, the
 25 fourth floor, as you were, without a floor plan?

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1 **A. It would be based on our general on-arrival tactic. So**
 2 **when you say -- let's scale it back to -- when you say**
 3 **prepare to attack a fire, well, we'd set up our**
 4 **procedure, our high-rise procedure, and then we would**
 5 **essentially go up and react to what we see.**
 6 Q. Right. But if you don't have a floor plan, how do you
 7 know in advance where the flat where the fire is, is in
 8 relation to the lift or the dry riser outlet?
 9 **A. You wouldn't. You would --**
 10 Q. You wouldn't, right.
 11 **A. You always hope to gather as much intel as you can and**
 12 **information as you can on scene, and, again, it comes**
 13 **back to you deal with what you get given at the time.**
 14 **If we didn't have floor plans, it wouldn't mean that we**
 15 **wouldn't make progression.**
 16 Q. And you go down to the lift on the second floor, I think
 17 you say.
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. And you entered the stairwell with Firefighter Brown.
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. And then you waited for more information. Did you wait
 22 in the stairwell or in the lobby there?
 23 **A. In the stairwell. So we entered the stairwell and my**
 24 **partner Firefighter Brown and I, we stayed together.**
 25 **When you're in BA teams, you know, you're in twos, you**

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1 **stay in twos, and we awaited more information.**
 2 Q. And what happened on the second floor?
 3 **A. Okay, so in that stairwell, my colleague Firefighter**
 4 **Alex De St Aubin entered the landing on the stairway**
 5 **with us and placed down the entry control board, and**
 6 **then from there we, again, waited for more**
 7 **information --**
 8 Q. You say --
 9 **A. -- before we --**
 10 Q. -- the landing on the stairway, can I just be a little
 11 bit more precise with you: is that the landing within
 12 the stairwell?
 13 **A. No, so --**
 14 Q. Or the lobby?
 15 **A. We were on the second floor, we opened the door --**
 16 Q. Right.
 17 **A. -- walked through that door, that door then closed,**
 18 **we're now in the stairwell and that's where the three of**
 19 **us were. So I had not gone up any stairs at that point;**
 20 **I was still on the second floor.**
 21 Q. I see. Sorry, I just need to clarify this a bit more:
 22 you come out of the lift into the lift lobby.
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. And you then open a door.
 25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. That's the door into the stairwell, is it?
 2 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 3 Q. Right. Then you wait there.
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. And where does Alex De St Aubin set up the entry control
 6 point?
 7 **A. Just there. He places it down. So Danny and I -- so**
 8 **Firefighter Brown and I -- were standing, the stairs**
 9 **were on our right, and just on our -- well, my left at**
 10 **that time, I was facing Danny, he just placed it down.**
 11 **Again, that's quite standard. You place it down and**
 12 **start preparing to set up entry control.**
 13 Q. Right. So the entry control board in the stairwell, not
 14 in the lift lobby?
 15 **A. In the stairwell, yes.**
 16 Q. What were the air conditions like in the stairwell at
 17 that point, do you remember?
 18 **A. Clear.**
 19 Q. Clear. And what were the air conditions like in the
 20 lift lobby when you got out of the lift?
 21 **A. On the second floor -- and just referring to the second**
 22 **floor here -- clear.**
 23 Q. Clear.
 24 On page 5, the top of the page, first main
 25 paragraph, you say:

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1 "Members of the Pump crew (G272) were looking for an
 2 outlet to set into and they ascended to the next floor
 3 up in order to locate the dry riser outlet."
 4 **A. Yes.**
 5 Q. To be clear, can you remember who the members of 272
 6 crew were?
 7 **A. Two members I definitely remember is Crew Manager**
 8 **Chris Secrett and Firefighter Christopher Dorgu.**
 9 Q. Dorgu and Secrett?
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. And what about Firefighter O'Beirne, do you remember
 12 what he was doing?
 13 **A. No.**
 14 Q. Okay. You then go on to say:
 15 "Eventually we were told that it was on the fire
 16 floor and that's where they were going to have to set up
 17 the first line."
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. You say "eventually"; how long did that take?
 20 **A. Not long. Not long. Within entering that section of**
 21 **the stairwell -- not long at all.**
 22 Q. Seconds or minutes?
 23 **A. I would say a matter of seconds as opposed to a matter**
 24 **of minutes.**
 25 Q. Right. And who told you that the dry riser outlet was

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1 on the fire floor, do you remember?
 2 **A. I can't remember how I received that information, but**
 3 **I do remember receiving it and then preparing myself for**
 4 **the next bit.**
 5 Q. Yes, and then I think what happens is -- is this
 6 right? -- you go up and book in at the bridgehead and
 7 then proceed to level 4?
 8 **A. Okay, so floor 2 was the agreed bridgehead, because that**
 9 **was two floors below the fire floor. We decided there**
 10 **to start up, so that means we're going from having the**
 11 **cylinder on our back and the mask hanging around our**
 12 **neck and our helmets on to now putting the mask on,**
 13 **having turned the cylinder on. So we're now under air,**
 14 **so we've started that process.**
 15 **The reason why I decided to make that decision was**
 16 **because I was conscious the team are up there setting up**
 17 **the attacking line, and they wouldn't be up there if**
 18 **they weren't able to do so. So I was satisfied at that**
 19 **point that that was the quickest and safest,**
 20 **proportionate way to say, look, let's book in here and**
 21 **go up. So that's what we did.**
 22 **We then ascended to the fourth floor once we had our**
 23 **breathing apparatus on and we were breathing through it.**
 24 Q. Who did you meet on the fourth floor?
 25 **A. When I got up there, I remember seeing Chris Secrett and**

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<p>1 I remember seeing Firefighter Dorgu.</p> <p>2 Q. What had they done?</p> <p>3 A. Okay, so they'd plugged in the length of 45-millimetre</p> <p>4 hose, I believe it was two lengths, and they had laid</p> <p>5 that hose -- so when we plug it in, it's still -- it's</p> <p>6 flat, if you like. So Danny and I, with the rest of the</p> <p>7 pumps crew, started quickly just laying that out</p> <p>8 according to, like, the room that was available to us.</p> <p>9 So the idea there is you don't just plug it in,</p> <p>10 because when water comes on, it rushes through and you</p> <p>11 don't want it to become tangled; you want a nice, quick</p> <p>12 line of water to get to the branch. You don't want the</p> <p>13 hose line to be tangled because obviously you want to</p> <p>14 get into the flat. So we laid that out and that's what</p> <p>15 they'd done for us; they'd begun setting that up for us.</p> <p>16 Q. Right. What about another line on the third floor? Had</p> <p>17 that been set up?</p> <p>18 A. Not at that time. Not to my knowledge, no.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. Stay on page 5 and look at the third paragraph</p> <p>20 down:</p> <p>21 "We then set our positions and made entry on our</p> <p>22 knees."</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. You describe entry.</p> <p>25 Now, Mr Batterbee, I'm going to be asking you to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 So who is that, do you think?</p> <p>2 A. That's Firefighter Daniel Brown.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you all right watching this?</p> <p>4 A. Can I have a break?</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: Yes, of course you can.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. I think we'll take a slightly</p> <p>7 longer mid-morning break at this point, so we'll break</p> <p>8 for 15 minutes.</p> <p>9 All right, usher, could you look after Mr Batterbee</p> <p>10 for us. Thank you.</p> <p>11 That's all right, there's nothing to be ashamed of.</p> <p>12 (Pause)</p> <p>13 I am going to say 11.20, and try to be back</p> <p>14 promptly, if you would, please. Thank you.</p> <p>15 (11.03 am)</p> <p>16 (A short break)</p> <p>17 (11.20 am)</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, I understand that</p> <p>19 Mr Batterbee is willing and able to continue, but</p> <p>20 I think we shall need to have another short break --</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- after half an hour or so.</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Certainly, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>24 I don't know whether this message got passed to you,</p> <p>25 but I've been informed that he is willing, for his own</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 look at some thermal imaging camera work. It's only</p> <p>2 that. That's all there is on the video.</p> <p>3 A. Okay.</p> <p>4 Q. Are you okay with that?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Yes. Just to be clear, there's no audio at all and</p> <p>7 there are no pictures or video of the exterior of the</p> <p>8 tower, just so everybody knows that.</p> <p>9 Now, according to the thermal imaging camera, entry</p> <p>10 into flat 16 was made at 01.07.23. I wonder if,</p> <p>11 Mr Documents Director, you could --</p> <p>12 A. Sorry, I didn't hear that.</p> <p>13 Q. Entry into the flat, flat 16 --</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. -- was first made at 01.07.23.</p> <p>16 A. Okay.</p> <p>17 Q. Now, I wonder if we can just see that. Just talk us</p> <p>18 through what we can see at that time on the thermal</p> <p>19 imaging camera.</p> <p>20 A. So do you want me to talk -- when you say talk you</p> <p>21 through, what, describe the scene?</p> <p>22 Q. Yes. So we'll go through it slowly. We'll just see</p> <p>23 a 10/15-second clip of it and just describe for us what</p> <p>24 was going on.</p> <p>25 (Video played)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 sake, to look at the thermal imaging camera work.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Which I wasn't going to ask him to look at, but</p> <p>4 I have been advised that he wants to do that. Now,</p> <p>5 obviously we will take it as it comes.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Very well, thank you.</p> <p>7 May I ask how your throat is holding out?</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Admirably, thank you.</p> <p>9 (Pause)</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Batterbee, do you feel</p> <p>11 able to carry on now? We'll have another break before</p> <p>12 too long?</p> <p>13 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right?</p> <p>15 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: Mr Batterbee, can you be shown your statement.</p> <p>17 Page 5, in the middle of the page, you describe what</p> <p>18 happens outside flat 16 on the fourth floor of</p> <p>19 Grenfell Tower. And you say:</p> <p>20 "We then set our positions and made entry on our</p> <p>21 knees. I was on the branch and FF BROWN put the door to</p> <p>22 Flat 16 in with one hit of the enforcer, whilst</p> <p>23 standing."</p> <p>24 So was he in front of you or was he -- where were</p> <p>25 you standing in relation to him?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

1 **A. I was on my knees in front of the door, slightly over to**
 2 **this position (Indicated) --**
 3 Q. Right.
 4 **A. -- to allow Firefighter Brown to hit the door. When we**
 5 **hit the door, you hit it so your body is with the door.**
 6 **So what I'm trying to explain there is I had to give him**
 7 **room to hit the door whilst making sure I had enough**
 8 **room, if any fire came at us, that I could get water --**
 9 **I could get a jet in in the time it would take him to**
 10 **drop the enforcer and get behind me. So I was on my**
 11 **knees.**
 12 Q. At that point in time, as you just described, had
 13 anybody on the ground outside told you what the fire was
 14 doing on the outside of the building?
 15 **A. No.**
 16 Q. No.
 17 Now, if you go to page 6 of your statement, you say
 18 in paragraph 2 -- now you're inside the flat, and you
 19 say at the beginning of the second main paragraph on
 20 that page:
 21 "We progressed to the end of the hallway ..."
 22 Do you see that?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. "... and found a door to our left and a door to our
 25 right."

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. "It was at this point when I noticed that this end of
 3 the hallway was warmer."
 4 How much warmer was it than when you first came into
 5 the flat, do you remember?
 6 **A. Well, as I said, it was a warm night and was getting**
 7 **warmer due to, you know, the activity we're doing. And**
 8 **the fact that our fire gear doesn't let us -- or it's**
 9 **not breathable very well, so we do tend to heat up, but**
 10 **when you say how much warmer, it was to the point where**
 11 **I noticed it. It felt warmer.**
 12 Q. Right.
 13 **A. And it was -- yeah, it was to the point where it got my**
 14 **attention and I noticed it.**
 15 Q. And you then say:
 16 "We carried out a door procedure to the door on the
 17 left but there were no signs of fire."
 18 **A. That's correct.**
 19 Q. What is a door procedure?
 20 **A. So a door procedure is a process of assessing what's in**
 21 **the compartment by using the door as an indicator and**
 22 **a form of protection. So the first thing we do when we**
 23 **get to the door, we'll confirm it's a door, so have**
 24 **a feel around using the back of our hands, and what**
 25 **we're trying to identify is if there are hinges that we'**

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1 can feel on our side of the door or not. That would
 2 normally indicate if the door opens towards us or if the
 3 door opens away from us.
 4 Q. Right.
 5 **A. Because that would dictate where we would position**
 6 **ourselves, okay? So the first process of a door**
 7 **procedure is to find the door, identify it, try and have**
 8 **a feel, try and work out, okay, which way does this door**
 9 **go?**
 10 The second part of the procedure is to wet that
 11 door. Now, the objective of this is to essentially put
 12 water on the door to see if there's any adverse effect.
 13 So if that was a hot door, you might expect to see
 14 steaming off, what we call. So when it's demonstrated
 15 to us at training school, it's facilitated in such a way
 16 that you can clearly see it steams at the top and it's
 17 cool at the bottom, so that tells us where the smoke is
 18 and potentially what's happening on the other side of
 19 the door.
 20 So we need to identify if that door is hot. We have
 21 gloves on, so the only way we can do that is, okay,
 22 let's put some water on it and let's see what happens.
 23 The other benefit to that is by spraying some water
 24 droplets -- so adjusting our branch settings to the
 25 point whereby when we turn the water on, it doesn't come

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1 out like a watering can; it is almost like an aerosol,
 2 sprays very quickly, very powerful. That will cool any
 3 hot smoke or fire gases above that door and hopefully
 4 that cooling air and that water will sort of stay in
 5 that area.
 6 So we have identified the door, we use the water to
 7 try and indicate what's going on on the other side of
 8 it. So that's the first part.
 9 When it is decided that we're now going to open that
 10 door, we don't just open it and have a look because,
 11 again, if there is any danger to us, we need to be
 12 prepared for it. We need to be able to control that
 13 door. That's our protection; that's why we open and
 14 shut the door.
 15 Now, generally the person who is armed with the
 16 firefighting branch, so they have the protection, they
 17 will be in the line of fire, if you like, in the line of
 18 anything that is going to harm us coming out of that
 19 compartment, that's where they're going to be. But
 20 that's why they've got the protection, so they're in
 21 a position to do the controlled opening and closing of
 22 a branch to combat the effects of that. Okay?
 23 The second person --
 24 Q. Yes, I see.
 25 **A. -- is controlling the door on the orders of the first**

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1 person. So, again, the second person will get into
 2 place, take control of that door, and then we have a set
 3 procedure, words of command, so clear communication
 4 could be effected between the two of us, and we go back
 5 making our first entry, or opening, have a look, have
 6 a look around, can you see anything, okay, put some
 7 water in, what does that indicate?
 8 So if the water goes in and it comes back down and
 9 hits the floor, it's cool in there because the water's
 10 come back down, and you always close the door. Go in
 11 again, have another assessment -- so you wouldn't go,
 12 "Okay, on the next one we're going to go in". You have
 13 to open that door, you have to carry out the procedure
 14 and you have to make your assessment.
 15 So that essentially is what a door procedure is.
 16 Q. Thank you.
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.
 18 MR MILLETT: And in your statement, just continuing, you
 19 say, "I was controlling the door."
 20 Does that mean that Firefighter Brown had the branch
 21 or --
 22 A. That's correct.
 23 Q. So on that door procedure, he had the branch and you
 24 were controlling the door?
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Okay. Now, who had the thermal imaging camera, do you
 2 remember?
 3 A. I did.
 4 Q. You did?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. So does it work that -- is it because you need two hands
 7 for the branch?
 8 A. Sorry, can you clarify?
 9 Q. In order to operate the branch, do you need two hands?
 10 A. Yes, yes.
 11 Q. Right. So you have a branch crew member --
 12 A. Yes, so the branch itself will have a handle, a pistol
 13 grip, so you're controlling it. Now, you have to
 14 imagine, the amount of force of water going through that
 15 branch, unless you have a good grip of that -- and also
 16 the opening and closing of the branch is with the left
 17 hand or the other hand, so there's no way someone would
 18 be able to use a branch and a TIC at the same time.
 19 Q. I wonder if we can continue this by looking at a picture
 20 of a branch. It might help me and the chairman and
 21 others, perhaps.
 22 If you could be shown the operational response
 23 report, please. I think it is the first time we've
 24 actually gone to the document, but you'll find it at
 25 tab 8, and it's LFB00001914. Turn internally to

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1 page 94.
 2 If you could just enlarge that where it says
 3 "Branch", that's described as the nozzle at the end of
 4 any fire hose which is used to direct and control water
 5 flow onto a fire, and there's a photograph. You can see
 6 there's a red handle at the bottom and a black
 7 two-hinged lever over that. Is that what you're
 8 referring to?
 9 A. Yes, that's the -- I recognise that as the Rosenbauer
 10 compartment firefighting branch that we have in the
 11 London Fire Brigade. That's what I had at the time --
 12 or we had, rather.
 13 Q. So in which hand would you hold the red handle?
 14 A. I imagine it depends which -- for me, I hold it with the
 15 right hand. So the pistol grip I hold with the right
 16 hand and I can do the controlling with my left hand.
 17 But it may be different for somebody that's left-handed,
 18 but that's the way I do it.
 19 Q. Right, okay, I've got it.
 20 So at that point, you had the thermal imaging camera
 21 and Firefighter Brown had the hose.
 22 Just continuing on you say:
 23 "... I was kneeling up higher in order to reach over
 24 to open the door and check the room using the camera."
 25 So just trying to get a picture in our minds of how

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1 you were standing or squatting, where was
 2 Firefighter Brown?
 3 A. Okay, so the door procedure I just described would be
 4 our correct door procedure or our default one. In this
 5 instance, we had to adapt our door procedure due to the
 6 fact that we had very limited space in that hallway. If
 7 you imagine, we've got our breathing apparatus cylinders
 8 on our backs.
 9 Q. Yes, of course.
 10 A. The branch and the hose is not an easy thing to
 11 manoeuvre, okay?
 12 The way we got to the -- because Firefighter Brown
 13 at that time was leading. When we got to the end, he
 14 was naturally in a position where he was in front of me,
 15 so if the door to the kitchen is here and the door to
 16 the living room is here, Firefighter Brown is here
 17 (Indicated), up against the wall, okay?
 18 Now, the time it would've taken to try and reshuffle
 19 our positions, manipulate the branch into the right --
 20 well, into a manageable position, we would potentially
 21 have had to stand up into a flammable and toxic -- well,
 22 flammable atmosphere -- it won't be toxic because we had
 23 BA on, but a flammable atmosphere -- and that would've
 24 taken a lot of -- well, in my opinion, that would've
 25 taken too much time, because we want to make a quick

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1 **attack on this fire.**
 2 Q. Right.
 3 **A. So as a result of that, I put myself in the way of**
 4 **danger, in the sense that when I opened that door,**
 5 **I placed myself where I was at greatest risk, because**
 6 **I didn't have the branch. So I opened the door -- we're**
 7 **talking about the first room, sorry, so ... So, yeah,**
 8 **on the first room -- sorry, apologies, I was talking**
 9 **about the second room then. On the first room, I think**
 10 **is was in the right position because I was able to**
 11 **standing here with cover against the wall and use my**
 12 **hand to open the door.**
 13 **But still, due to the position of the door and the**
 14 **lack of room, I was still in a position whereby I'd get**
 15 **the effects of heat, if there were some.**
 16 Q. Right.
 17 **A. So ...**
 18 Q. But when you come to the door on the right, the kitchen
 19 door --
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. -- Firefighter Brown, is he kneeling?
 22 **A. We're both on our knees at this time. So your objective**
 23 **is to stay as low as you can.**
 24 Q. Right. So he's on his knees but you're, as it were, on
 25 your knees but above him?

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1 **A. Yes, because I had to kind of lean over and around**
 2 **Firefighter Brown --**
 3 Q. Right.
 4 **A. -- because he's in this position with the branch,**
 5 **because I want the fullest -- the best extension of my**
 6 **arm I can get to get that door open -- controlled, but**
 7 **as much as we can, to get a good look inside the**
 8 **compartment, and also I was conscious, because I had the**
 9 **camera, I wanted to see if I could see anything with the**
 10 **camera.**
 11 Q. Absolutely.
 12 Okay, now what I am going to do is just ask you one
 13 or two questions on the rest of this paragraph in your
 14 statement, and then --
 15 **A. Can I just point one thing out at that stage? It was**
 16 **pitch black, so my visibility was zero.**
 17 Q. Right. And --
 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So you're working entirely by feel
 19 really, are you?
 20 **A. Feel and close personal contact. So I'm referring to**
 21 **the point when I open the door and obviously I'm trying**
 22 **to use the TIC, but you can just about make out what's**
 23 **in front of you if you're on top of it, but generally**
 24 **zero to -- well, low to zero visibility.**
 25 MR MILLETT: Did you have a torch of some kind?

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1 **A. Yes, I had a torch, but it's not much good.**
 2 Q. Right.
 3 **A. Because it's thick, oily black smoke.**
 4 Q. So my next question is: before you made the first entry
 5 into the kitchen in flat 16 --
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. -- you were in the hall at the end. What was the
 8 condition of the smoke at that point?
 9 **A. It was thick black smoke.**
 10 Q. Thick black smoke.
 11 **A. So I couldn't see.**
 12 Q. So what I'm going to do is just show you the rest of
 13 this paragraph in your statement and then perhaps we'll
 14 look at the thermal imaging camera as we go in.
 15 You say, in the middle of the paragraph:
 16 "When he put a pulse in I thought 'Wow'. It was hot
 17 and the steam cut through my PPE ..."
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. Personal protective equipment:
 20 "I felt a burning sensation on my arms from my elbow
 21 to my wrists, around the back of my neck and head."
 22 **A. That's correct.**
 23 Q. That great heat that you felt, was that after the door
 24 was opened or while you were in the hall before you went
 25 in?

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1 **A. That was after that door was open.**
 2 Q. Right.
 3 Now, can I ask you to be shown, please,
 4 Mr Batterbee, the thermal imaging camera at time point
 5 01.14.16.
 6 Can I just say this before the image is shown,
 7 I know you want to look at it, but if at any point you
 8 feel you can't or can't answer any questions on it, all
 9 you have to do is just put up a hand and we'll stop.
 10 **A. Thank you.**
 11 Q. Okay? All right.
 12 So we're going to play it slowly and I am just going
 13 to ask you what we can see. Before we go, this is timed
 14 at 01.14.16, okay? It's what we think is the first door
 15 opening, and I just want you to explain to us what we
 16 can see through the thermal imaging camera that you were
 17 holding.
 18 (Video played)
 19 So there, just pause there. That's not ideal.
 20 Could you just go back a bit, please? So let's just run
 21 this slowly.
 22 What are we seeing there, do you think? A second or
 23 two after the door has been opened.
 24 **A. That exact moment?**
 25 Q. Yes.

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1 **A. Okay, so would you like me to describe what's on the**
 2 **screen?**
 3 Q. Yes, please.
 4 **A. Okay, so I believe the black line you can see from the**
 5 **middle top of the screen coming down is the door.**
 6 Q. Right.
 7 **A. The four arrows in the centre, that's the direct**
 8 **temperature measurement.**
 9 **The battery power shows, you know, it's full**
 10 **battery.**
 11 **The colour indicator on the bar on the right is**
 12 **reference to the colour on the screen. So the grey you**
 13 **can see -- if you look at the colour indicator on the**
 14 **right that goes 150, 170, 200, that indicates to that,**
 15 **so the grey at the bottom is obviously of a lower**
 16 **temperature.**
 17 **The 61 is referring to what that direct**
 18 **temperature -- so what the camera is aiming at at that**
 19 **exact time.**
 20 **In the top-left corner you can see yellow. So come**
 21 **back to the colour indicator, and that's indicating that**
 22 **there's something there that's 150 degrees in**
 23 **temperature.**
 24 Q. Right.
 25 **A. And the top H in the top bit is telling us that it's in**

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1 **high-sensitivity mode.**
 2 Q. Right, okay.
 3 When you say high-sensitivity mode, can you just
 4 explain what that is?
 5 **A. High-sensitivity mode is -- when you first switch it on**
 6 **in a cool ambient temperature like this, it is what it**
 7 **operates in.**
 8 Q. I know it's difficult to tell, but on the basis that the
 9 door is opened at 01.14.16 -- so this is a second or so
 10 afterwards -- how far open was the door, do you think?
 11 It's hard to tell, but --
 12 **A. It wasn't fully open. Probably the extension of my arm.**
 13 Q. Okay. So how far down the room, the kitchen in flat 16,
 14 do you think the hot-spot was at that point, that we can
 15 see?
 16 **A. Looking at that?**
 17 Q. Yes.
 18 **A. Well, you can clearly see it's to the left, but I'd have**
 19 **to see more of it.**
 20 Q. Right.
 21 **A. I just want to point out, at the time, I didn't see any**
 22 **of this.**
 23 Q. No, no.
 24 **A. Okay. Like I just saw a bright, blurry white light.**
 25 Q. Okay. Can I just ask you a question about that.

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1 When you open the door, you open it with your -- you
 2 are right-handed?
 3 **A. My right hand, and I had my TIC here.**
 4 Q. And the door opened which way, from left to right?
 5 **A. So the door opened -- the hinges were next to my**
 6 **shoulder.**
 7 Q. Right to left.
 8 **A. And it opened -- if you are facing the door it opened**
 9 **from left to right, yes, it opened that way.**
 10 Q. Left to right, so into the room?
 11 **A. Yes, opening up into the room.**
 12 Q. So you use your right hand to open the door, and which
 13 hand are you holding your thermal imaging camera in?
 14 **A. In my left hand.**
 15 Q. How do you hold it? Where do you hold it?
 16 **A. Again, it's got a grip similar to a firefighting branch**
 17 **on it. You can hold it up and look at it.**
 18 Q. Has it got a viewer that you look through?
 19 **A. It's got a screen.**
 20 Q. I see. Was your screen at eye level or were you holding
 21 it --
 22 **A. I had my screen --**
 23 Q. Below.
 24 **A. At first, I kind of held it up to look into the room and**
 25 **then I brought it closer to get a better look and**

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1 **I couldn't make out the image.**
 2 Q. I see. Okay, that's helpful.
 3 I wonder if we can just move on a little bit and see
 4 what happens in the next sequence as we go. We'll take
 5 it as slowly as we can.
 6 So you've got the door open. Keep going. What's
 7 happening here?
 8 **A. So that there looks to me like Firefighter Brown has**
 9 **advanced to put water in.**
 10 Q. Okay. We're going very slowly. At that point there,
 11 you can see -- just pause -- it's disappeared. There
 12 was a hot yellow spot there.
 13 Whereabouts in the room do you think
 14 Firefighter Brown was aiming?
 15 Sorry, that's a bad question, let me start that
 16 again.
 17 Whereabouts in the room do you think that hot-spot
 18 was?
 19 **A. Can you play it again?**
 20 Q. Yes, can we play it again.
 21 (Video played)
 22 So you can see his right shoulder, I think, and the
 23 yellow --
 24 **A. So, I mean, based on what I can see there and based on**
 25 **my knowledge of the room now, because obviously I was in**

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<p>1 it after the smoke had cleared, I think it's -- so in 2 the top left-hand corner from the position I'm in in the 3 door. 4 Q. Right. If we just watch the end of the sequence, I want 5 to ask you what Firefighter Brown is doing in the images 6 we can see. 7 (Video played) 8 A. So if you pause it there. 9 Q. Yes. 10 A. From looking at it, it looks as though that strip at the 11 top might be a light in the kitchen, and obviously over 12 in the left-hand side there is obviously where that heat 13 was. If you're asking what he was doing, I believe at 14 that point he was putting in a pulse spray. 15 Q. So the dark shadow in the middle of the picture running 16 from the bottom to the top is, you think, a spray, do 17 you? It's hard to tell. 18 A. I can't be sure. 19 Q. Keep going and see what happens next. 20 (Video played) 21 So what do we think is happening there? 22 A. So I can see my hand. 23 Q. Yes. 24 A. So I think what's happened there is Danny's gone in, put 25 in the spray and now we're shutting the door.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 at about that time? 2 A. Can you play it through the way it was before so I can 3 see it in full? 4 Q. Yes, perhaps a little bit more slowly. 5 (Video played) 6 Okay. 1.14.16, no green triangle. Moving 7 forwards -- 8 A. So door is open. You can see my hand, door is open. 9 Q. Yes. 10 A. Okay, so -- 11 Q. Can you interpret that for us? 12 A. Only that the water's gone in and it's created steam. 13 Q. It's created steam? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Would that account for the green triangle coming on? 16 A. Potentially the raise in temperature, yeah. To the best 17 of my knowledge, yes, there was -- water's -- steam must 18 have been created because the temperature's gone up and 19 that's the effect I felt. When that initial water went 20 in, the change in temperature that hit me, I've never 21 experienced any heat like that in training or 22 operationally. 23 Q. Really? 24 A. Yeah. 25 Q. What does that mean to you?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 Can you just go back a few clips? I just want to 2 point something out. 3 Q. Yes, please. 4 A. Just hold it there for a second. So you see we're 5 talking about the arrows that -- the target, if you 6 like, in the middle. If you notice, the temperature has 7 gone up. But in the top left-hand corner you can see 8 a triangle. That indicates to me that the camera is 9 going into -- basically it's called 1,000 plus mode, but 10 a low sensitivity mode, so that there is -- on this 11 camera, if the overall field of vision is 240 degrees or 12 plus, to protect itself and its internal working parts 13 it will drop down into a low sensitivity mode. So that 14 indicated to me that there's a significant change of 15 temperature in that room. 16 Q. Downwards or upwards? 17 A. Upwards. 18 Q. Right. Okay. Perhaps we should run this sequence again 19 to see when the little triangle comes on. 20 Mr Documents Director, could you do that from 21 1.14.16. It's not there now at 1.14.17, so just run it 22 at normal speed. Let's see if we can look at this 23 together. 24 (Video played) 25 There. Now, it's about 1.14.19. What's happening</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 A. Because at that time I hadn't seen any flame or any 2 glowing, so it meant we're close to finding the fire and 3 it's hot. 4 Q. Right. 5 A. It's hot. 6 Q. Okay. 7 Now, in your statement, if you go back to it, just 8 towards the bottom of the main paragraph in the middle 9 of the page on page 6, you say: 10 "I tried to use the TIC but every time the door was 11 opened to put in a pulse, it was pitch black and 12 visibility was zero. I had the TIC pressed against my 13 visor on my BA mask but all I saw was a blurry white 14 light in the shape of the screen." 15 A. That's correct. 16 Q. From recollection, how many times did you do a door 17 opening before you eventually got into the compartment 18 to put the fire out? 19 A. Definitely more than -- I remember it was definitely 20 more than three before I actually saw the fire, and 21 definitely multiple times after that as well. 22 Q. Then towards the bottom of the page, you say: 23 "We did multiple door procedures on the door to the 24 right, I believe it was more than three. By this stage 25 I had seen the fire in the room, in the top left corner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>

1 if you were looking from the doorway, but it was too hot
 2 to get in there."
 3 At what point was that? Was that on the first door
 4 procedure or later door openings?
 5 **A. That was after the first door procedures, and as my**
 6 **statement says, my interpretation of what was happening**
 7 **at that time was -- like, I could see the fire in the**
 8 **room -- yeah.**
 9 Q. Yes.
 10 **A. But it was still very hot.**
 11 Q. Okay. At the top of page 7 you say:
 12 "I remember telling FF BROWN that I could see what I
 13 thought was the fridge and cupboards alight."
 14 **A. That's correct.**
 15 Q. "There was a line of fire that stayed at ceiling height
 16 above the window. It went from right to left; to the
 17 point where by I couldn't see where it ended (this was
 18 due to my position in the doorway, behind FF BROWN)."
 19 So at this stage, when you're telling
 20 Firefighter Brown what you could see, did he still have
 21 the branch and you had the thermal imaging camera?
 22 **A. That's correct.**
 23 Q. Right.
 24 Did you see anything burning there?
 25 **A. I did. I could see orange flame. I could see the fire.**

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1 **It was hard to make out because the room was still**
 2 **filled with lots of black smoke, but I could see the**
 3 **fire where I've described it.**
 4 Q. Right. You told Firefighter Brown, you say here, that
 5 you could see what you thought was the fridge alight.
 6 **A. Yes.**
 7 Q. When you said that, do you remember what your exact
 8 position was?
 9 **A. If memory serves, we didn't move from that position from**
 10 **when we were doing our door procedure, so I imagine it**
 11 **was still at the point where I was still where I was**
 12 **when we first attempted the door.**
 13 Q. Right. So you're in the doorway with the door --
 14 **A. Yeah, we weren't in the room at that stage.**
 15 Q. Okay. What made you think it was a fridge that was
 16 alight?
 17 **A. So we got information that it was a fridge believed**
 18 **involved when we first turned up, and it sort of looked**
 19 **like either a cupboard or a fridge in the shape -- you**
 20 **know, a layout that you would expect to see, you know,**
 21 **in a kitchen.**
 22 Q. I see. Okay, so would it be right to say --
 23 **A. I couldn't have been 100 per cent sure, but that's why**
 24 **I say what I thought was the fridge and the kitchen**
 25 **cupboards, yes.**

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1 Q. Right. So is it that you saw a fridge on fire or just
 2 that what you saw confirmed the information you had
 3 about a fridge?
 4 **A. It sort of built the picture. What I saw, I couldn't**
 5 **confirm categorically: that's a fridge, and I didn't see**
 6 **something that -- you know, it was more information to**
 7 **the picture. I thought it could've been the fridge.**
 8 Q. Okay. You say in the next paragraph of your statement:
 9 "All I can think now is that this must have been
 10 because it was inventing ..."
 11 I'm sorry, I should have put to you the last
 12 sentence of the paragraph before:
 13 "From what I can remember it stayed in the same area
 14 and did not move towards us."
 15 Then you say in this paragraph:
 16 "All I can think now is that this must have been
 17 because it was venting, otherwise I would have expected
 18 it to move along the ceiling towards the doorway and
 19 us."
 20 **A. Yes.**
 21 Q. My question is: why did you think it had vented?
 22 **A. Okay, so just to put this into context, this piece of**
 23 **information was taken from my contemporaneous notes and**
 24 **incorporated into my statement to try and build**
 25 **a picture, okay? So it might be more useful if you want**

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1 **to read my contemporaneous notes to see what I was**
 2 **talking about.**
 3 **But just to answer your question, generally, if you**
 4 **have a ventilated compartment, when you first open it,**
 5 **you wouldn't expect it to be pitch black, super hot,**
 6 **essentially back draft conditions. If it was venting,**
 7 **you would expect that you'd be able to see the fire and**
 8 **some of that smoke would've already escaped, okay?**
 9 **However, if it was a case that it wasn't vented,**
 10 **eventually, that line of fire I'm talking about, again,**
 11 **you would expect, if it wasn't a ventilated compartment,**
 12 **you would -- or my training has prepared me to expect**
 13 **that that fire would slowly start following the fire**
 14 **gases coming towards you if you didn't knock it back.**
 15 **So I think it's probably better -- what I'm trying**
 16 **to get at there is probably better explained by going to**
 17 **my contemporaneous notes.**
 18 Q. Shall we go to those so, in fairness, we can see what
 19 you are telling us. If you go to your contemporaneous
 20 notes, which should be in tab 2B -- they'll be on the
 21 screen, but if you're happy looking at them in paper
 22 form, Mr Batterbee, we can do that. If you can be shown
 23 those. The reference to that is MET00005674, this is
 24 CJB/1.
 25 I'd like you, I think, to look at the last page of

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<p>1 that. It will be on the screen. In the second 2 paragraph on that page, you say: 3 "Once I got inside I could see what was alight, it 4 looked like a fridge and cupboards in the right hand 5 corner. The fire was ventilated making visibility 6 better, I believe that the fact that it had vented made 7 conditions slightly better inside, thus making it 8 possible for us to get in there." 9 Now, my first question is that at this point, when 10 you could first see what you thought was a fridge alight 11 and cupboards, was that still in the door procedure or 12 was that when you actually entered the compartment to 13 fight the fire? 14 A. So just to be sure what I was just referring to, if you 15 turn to the contemporaneous notes that I was referring 16 to where there's more information built around that 17 statement, that's MET00005675-1, and it says at the top 18 there, "Added to info in flat 16". So this was 19 post-incident, I just put more of my thoughts, you know, 20 down on paper and I sent that off to our fire 21 investigation team. Just more information that I could 22 give them at that time. 23 Q. Okay. Yes. 24 In overall terms at this point -- and I think we are 25 at some point in the door opening procedures -- you say</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good. All right? 2 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good. Thank you. 4 Mr Millett. 5 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much. I would like to show you 6 another bit of the thermal imaging camera. 7 A. I'll try. 8 Q. Can we please look at the sequence at 01.14.31. 9 Now, do you think that this is a second door opening 10 that you did? 11 A. It's hard to tell without seeing the full picture. 12 Q. Yes, okay, I'm not sure that's possible. 13 A. Okay. 14 Q. Let's back up a little bit. Let's go back to 01.14.25. 15 If you just run it from there. 16 (Video played) 17 Just pause it there, perhaps. 18 You've seen the run-up to that, Mr Batterbee. 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. What could we see? 21 A. That was a door opening into the kitchen compartment. 22 Q. Do you think that was by you, at that stage? 23 A. I don't know. I don't know. 24 Q. Do you remember roughly -- did you swap roles with -- 25 A. We did. We did swap roles.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 that you could see the fridge on fire. 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. You could actually see the object on fire, could you? 4 A. As I said before, I saw what I thought could've been the 5 fridge. So I couldn't confirm it at that time, but what 6 I was seeing was kind of building up to that picture. 7 Or just supporting the information I already had, which 8 was we believed it was a fridge involved. 9 Q. Okay. 10 Now, if we could just move on in the TIC imagery, 11 we've counted I think four, in total, door openings. 12 A. Okay. 13 Q. My first question is: are we right? Is it four or was 14 it fewer than that, do you think? 15 A. As I say, it's definitely more than three but I can't be 16 sure of the overall number because I don't remember. 17 Q. I am going to show you another thermal imaging camera 18 image. Would you like a break? 19 A. Only quickly to run to the toilet, if that's possible. 20 MR MILLETT: That's absolutely fine. 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course it is. Very good reason 22 to. Yes, you go with the usher now. 23 (11.57 am) 24 (A short break) 25 (12.01 pm)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you remember at what point? 2 A. So the thing is, I can't -- I know we did multiple door 3 procedures, then we did a gauge check and we swapped 4 round. So I can't tell you which door procedure number 5 that is, so therefore I can't clarify if it was me or 6 not, but I can confirm to you that we did swap roles. 7 Q. Okay. 8 What can we see in this image here? 9 A. It looks to me like the kitchen. Looks to me like the 10 TIC is angled up into the far corner of the room. 11 Q. Right. And then if we could move on in the thermal 12 imaging camera to about 01.12 -- or maybe it's the next 13 one down. 01.15, actually, is what we have. These are 14 sections, Mr Batterbee, we don't have the whole reel for 15 you here. 16 Just on that screen there, that still, what can we 17 see? This is a minute or so after -- 18 A. Again, just looking at that and trying to interpret what 19 I'm seeing now, that looks like, again, potentially 20 a doorway and, again, looking into the kitchen. 21 Q. Right. And if you could just run the film on a little 22 bit, could you just tell us what we're seeing. 23 (Video played) 24 A. Again, doorframe on the left. 25 Q. What's happening now, at 01.15.34? (Pause)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 A. That looks like a door again that's been closed or -- 2 a door.</p> <p>3 Q. Right. (Pause)</p> <p>4 A. That looks like a door and a branch there at some stage.</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 A. Again, this is just my interpretation of what I'm seeing 7 now; at the time, I didn't see any of this.</p> <p>8 Q. No, I understand. Okay. If we could stop that.</p> <p>9 After a door opening -- we think this is the third 10 door opening, but just to get your recollection -- was 11 there a gap, a period of time, before you opened the 12 kitchen door a further time?</p> <p>13 A. Again, I can't be sure as to -- in relation to the 14 number of door procedures or openings we did, but there 15 was a gap when we swapped over.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 Could we have the thermal imaging camera at 18 01.20.46. As we run this, could you just tell us what 19 we see here.</p> <p>20 (Video played)</p> <p>21 A. It looks like it's upside down. The door is open. You 22 can clearly see there -- you can clearly see one of us.</p> <p>23 Q. Yes.</p> <p>24 A. I can't confirm which one it is, but just on that 25 picture there, you can see the back of either Danny or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 A. So what I remember is that when we swapped back round -- 2 because then obviously the branch then went to Danny and 3 I've got the branch again now.</p> <p>4 Q. So it goes you branch, Danny branch, you branch?</p> <p>5 A. Me branch, yeah.</p> <p>6 Q. So at this point you've got the branch, and then you 7 say: 8 "I then thought to myself, this plan isn't working." 9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. What plan?</p> <p>11 A. Okay, so the plan to enter a compartment using door 12 procedure with a 45-millimetre jet.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 A. That was our plan at that time, to use that procedure, 15 that piece of equipment and that technique to enter the 16 room.</p> <p>17 Q. And what was it about the plan that wasn't working?</p> <p>18 A. Because for me it was -- it wasn't -- the conditions 19 weren't getting better, and what I mean by that is, for 20 me, I still thought it was too hot to go into that 21 compartment, and I would have -- again, in training and 22 operationally, I'd have expected, after the amount of 23 efforts we made on that compartment, we'd be in a better 24 position to make progression and that the conditions 25 would've been better for us.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 myself, the cylinder and the helmet.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 Keep going, Mr Documents Director, please. Thank 4 you.</p> <p>5 A. The spot track is on.</p> <p>6 Q. So the thermal imaging camera at this point is upside 7 down; is that right?</p> <p>8 A. It appears to be so. 9 (Pause)</p> <p>10 Q. What do we see there?</p> <p>11 A. I couldn't comment. I can't interpret that picture.</p> <p>12 Q. All right. Okay.</p> <p>13 Now, I think we'll go back to your statement, 14 page 7.</p> <p>15 In the middle of the page you see a paragraph: 16 "We took a gauge check ..."</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. "... to see how much air we had left in our sets, we 19 then swapped back round. I started again with our 20 attempts to get in there."</p> <p>21 When you say "we then swapped back around", what do 22 you mean?</p> <p>23 A. Because when we first entered flat 16, I was on the 24 branch.</p> <p>25 Q. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 Q. Okay. And then you go on a little bit lower down and 2 say you carried out another door procedure to the left, 3 and that's the living room door, is it?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. No signs of fire, didn't make sense, and it felt like 6 there was something else going on.</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. And then you go on to describe how you thought you could 9 get in there. And then you say: 10 "Once I got inside I could see what was alright." 11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. So is what you are describing there the first time that 13 you actually enter the kitchen at flat 16?</p> <p>14 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. And what made you decide that you could go in at that 16 point?</p> <p>17 A. After carrying out yet another door procedure, so if 18 you -- obviously where you've got the yellow highlight, 19 if you look above in that same paragraph, I explain 20 that.</p> <p>21 Q. Yes.</p> <p>22 A. Maybe my thinking at the time was that both doors are 23 potentially leading to an open-plan compartment, so 24 every time we're hitting it from the right, we're 25 getting the effects from the left, but then when ...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 yeah, and based on that, we did another door procedure</p> <p>2 to the front room and, again, no signs of fire.</p> <p>3 So up until that point, it didn't add up. We were</p> <p>4 doing all the right things, as I've said, and it wasn't</p> <p>5 getting better.</p> <p>6 But then when we did -- directly after that one,</p> <p>7 where we done it to the left and nothing, I did another</p> <p>8 one, and it was at that point I felt the heat had</p> <p>9 stabilised enough where it was safe for me to make</p> <p>10 progression into that compartment. So that's the first</p> <p>11 time we got right the way in. And I was still on my</p> <p>12 knees at that stage; I was on my knees, making my way</p> <p>13 towards it, whilst using as little water as I can, to</p> <p>14 try and, you know, knock it down but not steam us.</p> <p>15 Firefighter Brown was right behind me, we were</p> <p>16 communicating the whole time, and he followed me in and</p> <p>17 we got in there and we put that fire out.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. Just taking it slightly more slowly, you say in</p> <p>19 the next paragraph:</p> <p>20 "Once inside the room I could see the fire had</p> <p>21 vented because the window had gone."</p> <p>22 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Can you just help me with what you mean or what you saw</p> <p>24 when you say the window had gone?</p> <p>25 A. So I could make out the window frame, the blackened</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 Q. -- of flat 16, where exactly was the fire that you</p> <p>2 extinguished?</p> <p>3 A. Okay, so progressing forward, it was in front of me in</p> <p>4 the corner of the room on the right. So the right-hand</p> <p>5 corner of the room. So you had the -- if I turn this</p> <p>6 way, you might be -- so the window frame here, and it</p> <p>7 was in this corner, it was this area of the room which</p> <p>8 was alight (Indicated).</p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 A. And that's what I progressed forward on and was putting</p> <p>11 water on and that's what I put out.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay.</p> <p>13 You say the area was alight; could you see anything</p> <p>14 that was alight?</p> <p>15 A. The only memory, the only vision I've still got in my</p> <p>16 head was what looked like just kitchen furniture and the</p> <p>17 fridge.</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 Then you say:</p> <p>20 "I then aimed the jet out of the window and used it</p> <p>21 to draw the smoke out ..."</p> <p>22 A. That's correct.</p> <p>23 Q. "... this worked well and we could then see clearly and</p> <p>24 it was cool enough for us to be stand up."</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 window frame, but there was no glass.</p> <p>2 Q. No glass. So the frame was there but no glass?</p> <p>3 A. When I say the frame was there, the shape of -- you</p> <p>4 know, the rectangle shape of a window was there, but</p> <p>5 there was -- it was all burnt away. There was no glass</p> <p>6 in place.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So was there just a window opening?</p> <p>8 A. Just a window opening, yes.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>10 A. If you imagine a building with just a square opening</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: Right, that's helpful.</p> <p>15 And you say:</p> <p>16 "I started to extinguish the fire and knocked it</p> <p>17 right out."</p> <p>18 How did you do that?</p> <p>19 A. As I just mentioned, I was putting water onto it, using</p> <p>20 as little water as I could. The objective there is to</p> <p>21 put the fire out without creating too much steam, and</p> <p>22 I applied enough to put that fire out. And that's what</p> <p>23 we did.</p> <p>24 Q. So within the kitchen --</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 Q. At that point, did you look to see what it was that had</p> <p>2 been burning?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, so at that point it was just a standard -- forgive</p> <p>4 me for a lack of better -- a bread and butter job. It</p> <p>5 was no different to any other compartment fire.</p> <p>6 Obviously the obstacles leading up to it didn't make</p> <p>7 sense, but at that point, once we'd put that fire out,</p> <p>8 it was just a question of, okay, let's stand up and</p> <p>9 let's make an assessment of what have we got here and</p> <p>10 what have we put out, and it looked to me as though I'd</p> <p>11 put out a fridge and some kitchen furniture and, you</p> <p>12 know, just what you'd expect to see in a kitchen.</p> <p>13 Q. Once the air had cleared, did you see what was going on</p> <p>14 outside the window space?</p> <p>15 A. Okay, yeah, so once we stood up, I gave, as my notes</p> <p>16 say, the branch back to Danny, and I remember getting on</p> <p>17 my radio on my BA set. I wanted to update entry control</p> <p>18 that we'd done our job; we'd put the fire out.</p> <p>19 And if you look here --</p> <p>20 Q. Yes.</p> <p>21 A. It may be further down.</p> <p>22 Q. In your statement?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, so -- and I remember the room wasn't 100 per cent</p> <p>24 damaged. It was, you know, just in that corner. There</p> <p>25 were burn patterns -- I remember burn patterns sort of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

22 (Pages 85 to 88)

1 above on the ceiling but, you know, we'd put that
 2 compartment out. And then I noticed outside the window,
 3 up to the right-hand side --
 4 Q. Yes.
 5 A. -- I noticed, like, flame. Something was alight.
 6 Q. Right. Can we just go a little bit more slowly for me.
 7 You noticed burn patterns.
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Can you just describe as best you can exactly where the
 10 burn patterns were?
 11 A. I can't remember exactly, but there were -- again, this
 12 is just if memory serves -- well, just above the fire --
 13 where you would expect to see it, you know.
 14 Q. Where in relation to the window were the burn patterns?
 15 A. Above the window in this corner and then a little bit
 16 over here (Indicates).
 17 Q. And was there any fire still burning where you just
 18 indicated around the window?
 19 A. No, we put it out.
 20 Q. No, you put it out. Okay.
 21 Then you go on to say in your statement, at the end
 22 of the paragraph:
 23 "We took a quick gauge reading and I handed the
 24 branch to FF BROWN so I could get a message to Alpha
 25 control to update them."

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1 A. Yes.
 2 Q. "I remember the room wasn't 100% damaged."
 3 Then you go on to say:
 4 "I then noticed outside the window, up to right hand
 5 side (just above ceiling level) I saw what looked like
 6 or could have been a large extractor fan box which was
 7 alight."
 8 A. Yes.
 9 Q. Now, what I want to get a handle on is timing.
 10 Did you send a message to alpha control to update
 11 them before or after you noticed what you thought might
 12 be this large extractor fan alight?
 13 A. It was almost instantaneous. It was a question of pass
 14 the branch -- you're constantly still assessing the
 15 area, going through to alpha control.
 16 I cannot categorically remember if it was before or
 17 after or even at the same time, but I know it was -- it
 18 was all pretty quick on top of each other.
 19 Q. Right. And alpha control, what is that?
 20 A. Okay, so the entry control point, which is part of our
 21 command and control for breathing apparatus procedures,
 22 is where do you remember earlier on in the incident we
 23 said we started up and booked in? So that's where we
 24 have a dedicated operator to take our BA tallies and,
 25 you know, that's the person we relay information back

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1 to, and that's on a dedicated channel; that's channel 6.
 2 Alpha control is the call sign for that person or that
 3 control point.
 4 Q. I see. So this is you speaking to the bridgehead,
 5 effectively?
 6 A. Yes, yes.
 7 Q. Right. So not the incident commander?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. Right. And do you remember what your message was that
 10 you sent?
 11 A. I'll have to refer to my notes.
 12 Q. Sorry, I should ask you, first of all: when you say "so
 13 I could get a message to Alpha control to update them",
 14 did you send a message?
 15 A. As I said before, I did get a message to them. But
 16 I can't remember if that message was just a, "Yeah,
 17 we're here and we've put the fire out" or "Priority,
 18 priority", which -- a priority message is completely
 19 different, it's a much higher sense of urgency because
 20 I now want to immediately report on what we're seeing
 21 outside the building. I can't remember exactly, but
 22 I remember going for my BARIE and trying to communicate
 23 a message out.
 24 I mean, it might be that I read my contemporaneous
 25 notes because obviously I'm trying to go off memory.

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1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, don't worry for the moment.
 2 MR MILLETT: Okay. We may come back to that in a moment,
 3 but in the last --
 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you all right?
 5 A. Yeah, I'm good. Yeah, I'm good.
 6 MR MILLETT: Yes?
 7 A. Yes. I'd like to continue if possible.
 8 MR MILLETT: Fine. In the last paragraph, you say:
 9 "I then noticed outside the window, up to right hand
 10 side (just above ceiling level) I saw what looked like
 11 or could have been a large extractor fan box which was
 12 alight."
 13 A. Yes.
 14 Q. You describe it, you say:
 15 "Essentially it was a large object that was alight
 16 and it was this which first drew my attention to the
 17 fire outside the building/window."
 18 Just looking at that and casting your mind back, can
 19 you describe for us what it was you could see?
 20 A. Exactly as I've said there. It was a large object. At
 21 the time, I'm trying to make sense of what I'm seeing.
 22 There are no balconies at Grenfell Tower, but I can see
 23 something outside the window which is alight and I'm
 24 trying to, you know, make sense of it, I'm trying to
 25 rationalise: what is that? So that's why I said

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<p>1 essentially -- essentially it was a large object, it was 2 on fire, and that's what drew my attention to it. 3 I couldn't say categorically what it was, I was just 4 trying to work out what it was, but that was my thought 5 process at the time.</p> <p>6 Q. This large object, as you describe it, in relation to 7 the window, looking outwards, where was it, do you 8 think?</p> <p>9 A. So if this is the window here, it was -- go to the top 10 right-hand corner, look out, and it was just up here, 11 just outside, so outside of the top right-hand corner of 12 the window. (Indicated)</p> <p>13 Q. How good was the visibility?</p> <p>14 A. The visibility -- well, the smoke had cleared from the 15 room and obviously it's nighttime, and you're looking 16 out and, you know, you can see fire. The visibility was 17 good enough for me to look outside and know something 18 was wrong.</p> <p>19 Q. In relation to the top of the window space.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. In relation to that, where was the fire that you could 22 see? Was it above it?</p> <p>23 A. At least a few feet above it.</p> <p>24 Q. A few feet above it.</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 A. Yeah, so BARIE stands for breathing apparatus radio 2 interface equipment. So it essentially works on the 3 same technology as our handheld radios. It's attached 4 to the BA set and has a press to talk button, so you 5 don't have to hold the radio and, you know, you're in 6 a mask, you can just press it. It's got a bone 7 conduction microphone which sits on the top of your 8 head, which picks up when you speak, and it's got 9 an earpiece which sits just here (Indicated).</p> <p>10 Q. Right. You say that you didn't get anything back as 11 your earpiece was dislodged.</p> <p>12 A. That's correct.</p> <p>13 Q. Is that a common experience in your experience?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, as I mentioned, it can happen when you're working. 15 The way in which that piece of equipment clips on to 16 the -- it can move. There can be movement, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. You then say, "I then used my personal radio". Is that 18 the handheld radio?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, that's the radio that's mounted to my tunic here 20 (Indicated).</p> <p>21 Q. How do you use that if you are wearing a breathing 22 apparatus mask?</p> <p>23 A. You control your breathing, because when you breathe 24 through a breathing apparatus set, you hear the air 25 gushing through, so you have to control your breathing,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 Q. Okay. And in relation to the window space itself, was 2 it far out from the building or immediately above the 3 window space or where?</p> <p>4 A. Just enough far out to catch my attention. So 5 I didn't -- when I saw it, I was kind of in the centre 6 of the room, facing towards the window. It wasn't 7 a question of having to get right out that window and 8 look up to see it; I could visibly see there was fire 9 outside that compartment.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay, that's very clear.</p> <p>11 Then you say in your statement, four lines down from 12 the start of that paragraph:</p> <p>13 "It was at this point we were both assessing what we 14 were seeing and I thought the fire had jumped a floor."</p> <p>15 A. That's correct.</p> <p>16 Q. "I then sent priority messages to Alpha Control via my 17 Barie radio."</p> <p>18 What was your priority message, or what were these 19 priority messages?</p> <p>20 A. Exactly that, that I wanted to get a message out that -- 21 because at that time I believed it had jumped a floor -- 22 that the fire was still going and that it had jumped 23 a floor. So that was the priority message, exactly 24 that.</p> <p>25 Q. And your BARIE radio, can you just explain what that is?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 be very clear and hold it as close to the -- you know, 2 by the diaphragm on the mask as you can.</p> <p>3 Q. You then say:</p> <p>4 "FF BROWN climbed onto a counter in front of the 5 window ..."</p> <p>6 A. That's correct.</p> <p>7 Q. "... whilst he attempted to fight the fire."</p> <p>8 Do you remember where exactly in front of the window 9 this counter that you refer to was?</p> <p>10 A. It was pretty much directly in front of it.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. Do you remember what it looked like? What colour 12 was it?</p> <p>13 A. I couldn't tell you. You know, from memory I want to 14 say, you know, just a normal worktop, which is obviously 15 smoke-stained at this stage, but yeah. It looked like 16 an MDF -- just like a normal kitchen counter worktop.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay. Can I just show you a photograph and see if this 18 will help your recollection. It's in master docs 19 bundle, tab 38. Just so you know what it is, it's 20 a fire investigation photograph of the kitchen after the 21 fire, but after there had been, it is thought, a second 22 fire in the flat.</p> <p>23 Now, before I show you that, are you all right to 24 look at a picture?</p> <p>25 A. I'll try. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

24 (Pages 93 to 96)

<p>1 Q. Yes? I mean, if there's any problem, just say and we 2 won't look at it. 3 Okay, can we please have a look at tab 38. Thank 4 you. 5 Now, I just want to look at the second page of that. 6 If you look at the bottom photograph there, 7 Mr Batterbee -- 8 A. You see the window on the left. 9 Q. -- you can see the window on the left, and you can see 10 a lot of metallic material in the foreground on the left 11 of the photograph. 12 Does anything there look like anything on which you 13 remember Firefighter Brown perching? 14 A. No. 15 Q. Is the position of those metallic objects roughly where 16 you remember him perching? 17 A. Yes, so from this photograph, if you -- just in front of 18 the window, there was something like a kitchen counter 19 or board across there which he climbed up onto, which 20 obviously you cannot see now, but it was there. 21 Q. Right. Okay, we can close that down. 22 If you go to page 8 of your witness statement and 23 look at paragraph 2 -- I'm sorry, Mr Batterbee, it's my 24 fault, can I just go back to the first paragraph on that 25 page, where you explain what he's kneeling on, and then</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 on channel 1. 2 MR MILLETT: Okay. 3 Mr Chairman, I wonder whether now may be 4 an appropriate time for another break. 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Can you tell me how you are 6 getting on? 7 MR MILLETT: I'm in the middle of a topic, really, and there 8 is some further way to go, but it's up to the witness. 9 Mr Batterbee, how long would you like to break? 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, first question: do you feel 11 you'd like a break now? I ask the question because 12 I was hoping Mr Millett would tell me how much longer 13 he's likely to require you, because if we're going to go 14 over lunch then we can -- 15 MR MILLETT: I think we are. 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We are? 17 MR MILLETT: I think we're likely to. There are some other 18 topics to cover. 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, we could have a break now or 20 we could go on for 10 minutes or so until about 12.40/45 21 and then have a longer lunch hour. 22 A. Carry on for a bit. 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: What would you prefer? 24 A. Just carry on for a bit. I feel comfortable to carry 25 on.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 you say: 2 "FF BROWN started hitting it with the jet but it was 3 having no effect." 4 What was he aiming at, do you remember? 5 A. At the time, he was leaning right out of the window on 6 the fourth floor. 7 Q. Was he -- 8 A. I couldn't see what he was aiming for, but I imagine it 9 was the fire. 10 Q. Right. And then you say: 11 "Eventually I received a message back via my 12 personal radio saying that they were aware it was alright 13 outside." 14 A. That's correct, yes. 15 Q. First of all, you say "eventually"; how long was that, 16 do you think? 17 A. I couldn't say for sure. 18 Q. Long, short, minutes, seconds? 19 A. It wasn't a long time, but it wasn't a matter of 20 seconds. It wasn't an overly long time. Less than 21 a minute. 22 Q. And who was it, do you remember? 23 A. I don't. 24 Q. Who contacted you? 25 A. I don't remember, no. I imagine I would've gone through</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Okay. Shall we do that then? 2 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much. 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll aim to break around about 4 12.45. 5 MR MILLETT: That's excellent, thank you very much. 6 And thank you very much, Mr Batterbee, that's very 7 helpful. 8 Looking at page 8 of your statement, paragraph 2: 9 "FF BROWN continued to hit it and from what I could 10 see, it wasn't having any effect." 11 And then you say: 12 "It then became clear that it was going up the 13 building or at least higher than just the flat above." 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Do you see that in the second sentence of that 16 paragraph? 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. What did you see that made it clear to you that it was 19 going up the building? 20 A. Because of the amount of debris and the noise and how 21 rapid -- and when I say violent, I mean it was -- it 22 just rained fire. 23 Q. Right. 24 A. That, to me, at that time, I was thinking it's -- coming 25 back to like Shepherds Court. It's jumping multiple</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 100</p>

25 (Pages 97 to 100)

1 floors. This isn't just one or two windows and frames
 2 that have failed and have come down; this is lots, and
 3 it was getting worse. It didn't slow; it just got
 4 worse, if anything. So that's why for me, at that
 5 time -- so you have to imagine, I'm hanging on to Danny
 6 by the BA strap.
 7 Q. Yes.
 8 A. He's got a hose, which weighs a lot, and he's got that
 9 hose outside the window. He's lent right outside that
 10 window, you know, I'm holding on to him for dear life,
 11 I'm digging my hips into the counter so that we don't
 12 both go together, and I've got my left hand on my radio
 13 obviously or trying to communicate priority messages,
 14 and whilst looking at -- whilst he was hitting it, it
 15 was just getting worse and worse.
 16 So that, for me, I interpreted it at that time that
 17 it was obviously going higher.
 18 Q. Right, and higher --
 19 A. What else would be burning? That's -- you know, for me,
 20 I thought it was windows, yes.
 21 Q. You thought it was windows?
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Okay, let's see if we can get a time on this, because
 24 I think we can with the thermal imaging camera, if
 25 that's all right.

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1 Are you all right to look at some thermal imaging?
 2 A. (Nodded assent).
 3 Q. Okay. If we look at the TIC image at 01.21.24, can you
 4 just help us to see what we can see here?
 5 (Video played)
 6 If you run it ... just go slowly there.
 7 What can we see there, Mr Batterbee, do you think?
 8 A. The spot tracker -- so you see the little blue cross
 9 here?
 10 Q. Yes.
 11 A. That's pretty much landed on one of the bright spots
 12 that's come down. It's shown up 111 degrees. So
 13 I imagine that's indicating there's something hot
 14 falling outside. And it looks to me like there's --
 15 like I say, it's raining sort of objects that are on
 16 fire and they're coming down. That's what it looks to
 17 me.
 18 Q. Let's continue a little bit more.
 19 Again, what can we see there? Looking outside what
 20 we think is the window space.
 21 A. So in the top-left corner, you can see still some
 22 hot-spots.
 23 Q. Yes.
 24 A. Outside that could be a combination of fire and
 25 potentially even water, because those other droplets

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1 that came down were grey, so that might be water.
 2 Again, I'm just trying to interpret what I'm seeing
 3 here.
 4 Q. I understand.
 5 Can we just pick up on that answer and go back
 6 a bit, if we can. You say water. That's interesting.
 7 Can we just go back to the bit where you think you might
 8 have seen water.
 9 (Video played)
 10 A. You can see bright objects which, if you look -- what
 11 I'm doing is I'm comparing what I am seeing here across
 12 to the indication bar, and where it goes from dark grey
 13 to kind of that light white before you encroach into the
 14 yellow, that's what those bits are, so that looks to me
 15 like it could be fire.
 16 Q. Right. Okay, just carry on for a bit.
 17 (Video played)
 18 So what are we seeing there?
 19 A. I guess it's the same thing.
 20 Q. Same thing.
 21 A. Yes.
 22 Q. Then stopping there, we saw downward movement of
 23 material in the top left-hand corner, yellow spots. Do
 24 you remember what was happening there?
 25 A. No. Obviously I can see on the screen it's been

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1 identified as being hot but ...
 2 Q. Just getting a time on this then, when you talk in your
 3 statement, as you do, about the fire going up the
 4 building in the second paragraph on page 8, is what
 5 we've just been looking at something you recognise as
 6 that experience?
 7 A. Like I say, from what I've seen here, it looks like
 8 there's droplets of something hot coming down, and when
 9 I saw it from my own eyes, there was droplets of hot
 10 stuff coming down, so ...
 11 Q. If you go back to your paragraph 2 on page 8, you go on
 12 to say, the third line:
 13 "I can only describe it as huge balls of flame
 14 falling down along with debris; it didn't stop; it was
 15 violent."
 16 The thermal imaging camera sequence that I've just
 17 shown you, does that help describe what you're saying
 18 there?
 19 A. I can't confirm if that picture you just showed me was
 20 at the time when I'm describing what I'm seeing here.
 21 Q. Okay.
 22 I think you said earlier on that you thought that it
 23 had jumped more than one floor.
 24 A. Yes.
 25 Q. Is that something that you told the bridgehead?

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<p>1 A. Yes. So as I said, you know, it was jumping. Again, 2 this is the coanda effect. This is something that we're 3 not -- you know, it's not unusual. Look at Shepherds 4 Court. This is something that we identify as a hazard 5 of what can happen with high-rise fires. 6 Q. You refer to Shepherds Court, but at the time you saw 7 these huge balls of flame falling down along with the 8 debris, did you think, in your mind: Shepherds Court? 9 Did it come back to you? 10 A. No, I just thought it was the coanda effect, that it had 11 jumped. So at some stage, the windows above had heated 12 up and become involved, and that process was carrying on 13 that -- that was my thought at the time. 14 Q. Yes. 15 And you say in the next sentence in the second 16 paragraph of page 8: 17 "I thought the fire was jumping quick and the debris 18 were windows falling and window frames." 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. So what did that tell you about whether it was possible 21 that it could have been the cladding that was alight? 22 A. I didn't think that at the time because I didn't think 23 that was possible. That's why I've said, you know, what 24 else could it be? Like I said earlier, I thought it was 25 windows because I had no idea what it was.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 A. In the kitchen. 2 Q. In the kitchen? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Would that be normal, to do a handover in the 5 compartment? 6 A. Well, at that time the fire in flat 16 was extinguished. 7 So to do a handover at scene of operations -- because 8 where we were in that compartment, the fire was out, so 9 that is normal to do that there, yes. 10 Q. Did you have any discussion with the incoming BA crew 11 about what you'd seen on the exterior? 12 A. Yeah, because they came into the kitchen; they would've 13 seen it for themselves, I imagine. I'm pretty sure they 14 were in the kitchen with us. 15 Q. Did you talk about what you could see coming down 16 outside? 17 A. Yeah. I remember telling them it's going on the 18 outside, and obviously handing responsibility of the 19 flat over to them, which again is all standard practice. 20 Q. Okay. And could you just explain how you then retreated 21 from the kitchen? 22 A. Yeah. We walked back without the firefighting branch 23 and we reported back to the entry control point. 24 Q. Right. Just to trace your steps a little, you came back 25 out of the flat, did you?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 Q. Right. 2 Now, you sent a message at 01.21.15 -- and this is 3 what we have in the operational response report -- to 4 the bridgehead confirming that the fire was out in 5 flat 16. When I say "you", I mean you, the BA crew. 6 Do you know who sent that message? 7 A. That the fire was out in the flat in 16? Yes, it was me 8 who said the fire was out in the flat, flat 16. 9 Q. Did you stay in flat 16 after that message? 10 A. Yes, because -- so I confirmed the fire was out and then 11 we was now concentrating on trying to deal with what was 12 going on outside from internally. 13 Q. Right. 14 Were you joined at any point in the flat by the 15 second BA crew? 16 A. Yes. Yes, they came into the flat and they came into 17 the kitchen, and then it was at that point -- obviously 18 we're communicating amongst ourselves. I can imagine, 19 you know, they could see what was going on, so at that 20 time, me and Danny -- we were close to the end of our 21 wear, so near to time of whistle or -- I don't remember 22 a whistle going off, but we were near to the end of our 23 wear, so as normal practice, we hand over to the backup 24 crew. That's standard. 25 Q. Where did the handover take place?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 A. Out of the flat, across the lobby, into the stairwell, 2 descended the stairs in the -- going back to the entry 3 control, which was still on the bridgehead at the second 4 floor. 5 Q. What were the conditions in the lobby outside flat 16 6 when you retreated? 7 A. I don't remember, but I was under air, so it's not like 8 I could smell anything, but ... 9 Q. What could you see? 10 A. It was hazy, it was -- it was basically common to what 11 you would expect to see after you've just put a flat 12 out, you know, a fire out. There was obviously some 13 smoke, but the visibility was clear. 14 Q. And then you went into the stairwell. What were the 15 conditions like in the stairwell? 16 A. Well, there was nothing at that time which alarmed me. 17 MR MILLETT: Yes, thank you very much. 18 Mr Chairman, I am going to turn to a different 19 topic, and the topic, so that you know where we're going 20 next, Mr Batterbee, is what happens after you leave 21 flat 16. 22 THE WITNESS: Okay. 23 MR MILLETT: Okay? I'm afraid I was hoping to finish by 24 lunchtime but I haven't quite got there, so it won't be 25 a great long time after lunch, if that's all right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Is this going to be the last topic?</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: In general terms, it's the last topic.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. I just wondered -- it's</p> <p>4 slightly earlier than we would normally break for lunch.</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: I am happy to continue. I'm happy to break</p> <p>6 whenever is convenient.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: How are you feeling at the moment,</p> <p>8 Mr Batterbee?</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: Can I have a break, please?</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You'd like to have a break now?</p> <p>11 Okay. Then we will stop now for lunch and we'll have</p> <p>12 a longer break than usual. I hope that's not going to</p> <p>13 disrupt the programme too much.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: No, not at all.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So can I ask you to be back at</p> <p>16 2 o'clock? Give you a decent break.</p> <p>17 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And please don't talk to anyone</p> <p>19 about your evidence over the break. All right? Thank</p> <p>20 you very much.</p> <p>21 Thank you. 2 o'clock, please.</p> <p>22 (12.45 pm)</p> <p>23 (The short adjournment)</p> <p>24 (2.00 pm)</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, I think Mr Batterbee --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 hit the fire.</p> <p>2 If I remember, Dan had to kind of bend down to get</p> <p>3 to here so, you know, I imagine that it was, you know,</p> <p>4 not really low but not really tall. It was -- yes, next</p> <p>5 to the window.</p> <p>6 Q. And how wide was it coming out from the window, do you</p> <p>7 think? Use the table in front of you to make</p> <p>8 a comparison, if you like.</p> <p>9 A. Probably say this much (Indicated).</p> <p>10 Q. I see, so slightly shallower than the desk.</p> <p>11 A. Again, what I would imagine is just a standard size,</p> <p>12 I don't know, but it was big enough to climb onto and it</p> <p>13 supported his weight.</p> <p>14 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>15 Secondly, we discussed before lunch and you told us</p> <p>16 that there was a discussion between the BA team that was</p> <p>17 arriving, BA team 2, and the BA team that was departing,</p> <p>18 that was you.</p> <p>19 How easy was it to have a conversation with the</p> <p>20 arriving second BA team, given that you were wearing BA</p> <p>21 masks?</p> <p>22 A. Similar to when you asked about communicating with the</p> <p>23 handheld radio: you have to compose yourself, you have</p> <p>24 to speak clearly, because when you breathe, it makes</p> <p>25 a noise and that kind of -- that's an obstruction, you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 here he is.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Here he is.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good.</p> <p>4 All right, Mr Batterbee?</p> <p>5 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>7 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Mr Batterbee, can I just go back to one or two</p> <p>9 things we were talking about together before the lunch</p> <p>10 break.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. The first is the counter on which you say</p> <p>13 Firefighter Brown was kneeling and you were supporting</p> <p>14 him by holding onto his BA kit, his straps, and he was</p> <p>15 aiming the jet out of the window.</p> <p>16 Can you describe that counter for us in terms of its</p> <p>17 length and width?</p> <p>18 A. Yes. It seemed to be a worktop, a standard kitchen</p> <p>19 worktop, which was essentially in front of the window.</p> <p>20 Q. And how high was it? Let's start with how you think</p> <p>21 Firefighter Brown got onto it.</p> <p>22 A. I think it was below the window, and when you just said</p> <p>23 aiming the jet out the window, he was on his knees, he</p> <p>24 was crouched down, he was out the window, I was holding</p> <p>25 onto him, and the jet was aimed up, you know, to try and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 know, it's an obstacle you have to overcome, and you</p> <p>2 have to raise your voice and just try and be as clear as</p> <p>3 you can. But it is muffled.</p> <p>4 Q. It's muffled.</p> <p>5 Now, we talked also before the lunch break about</p> <p>6 communications that you had from within flat 16: one on</p> <p>7 your BARIE radio and one, I think, on your handheld.</p> <p>8 Just remind me if that's correct.</p> <p>9 A. Yes, I remember we discussed it, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. So you remember sending two messages by radio; yes?</p> <p>11 A. At least two.</p> <p>12 Q. At least two?</p> <p>13 A. At least two.</p> <p>14 Q. So taking the BARIE radio to start with, that</p> <p>15 communicates you with the bridgehead, doesn't it?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you remember getting a confirmation back from the</p> <p>18 bridgehead about what you were telling them?</p> <p>19 A. I could hear, but I couldn't make it out because --</p> <p>20 I could hear there was something coming back, but it was</p> <p>21 slightly pushed back, and I was hitting my helmet and</p> <p>22 trying to get my glove up inside to manipulate it, but</p> <p>23 it wasn't working.</p> <p>24 So I assumed they'd got the information and that it</p> <p>25 was coming back to me because it was -- it sounded like,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 you know, the length made sense that they were -- 2 because that's a common procedure: you communicate 3 something to ECO, they will repeat back to you. But 4 I couldn't make it out because it was dislodged. 5 Q. So, to see if I've got this, you could hear something -- 6 A. Something, yes. 7 Q. -- but not what it was? 8 A. No. 9 Q. Right. 10 Is this right, just to summarise your evidence 11 before the lunch break: you also made a second radio 12 message using your handheld? 13 A. That's correct, yes. 14 Q. Again, just to be clear, was that with the bridgehead or 15 was that down to -- 16 A. As I said, I am pretty sure I went through to channel 1 17 at that stage, because initially my handheld radio 18 wasn't on because they're not intrinsically safe, so you 19 wouldn't go into a potentially explosive atmosphere with 20 that on. So when I couldn't get the BARIE 21 communications, I was in the compartment where I know 22 now it's not an explosive atmosphere because we've dealt 23 with it, and that's when I turned my radio on and I'm 24 pretty sure I went on channel 1, and then, as I said in 25 my statement, eventually it came back to us that they</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 before, is a London Fire Brigade operational response 2 report for the first hour of the fire, which has been 3 put together as a result of investigation of a lot of 4 information. 5 The reason the time there is in italics is because 6 it is what they call a soft time; it hasn't been 7 confirmed. 8 I just want to ask you, it says: 9 "01:21:15* -- At around this time BA Team Two enter 10 the kitchen and join BA Team One [that's you and 11 Mr Browne]. BA Team One confirm with BA Team Two that 12 the fire in the kitchen is out." 13 Then is says: 14 "BA Team One confirm the fire is extinguished in 15 flat 16 and they send a message to Breathing Apparatus 16 Entry Control Officer (BAECO) confirming the fire is 17 out." 18 Is that, to the best of your recollection, the first 19 message you send about the fire being out or is it the 20 second or subsequent? 21 A. I don't know. 22 Q. You don't know. 23 A. I can't confirm that. 24 Q. And did you give BAECO any other information during that 25 message?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 were aware it was going on the outside. 2 Q. Who were you communicating with at that point? 3 A. I can't even remember. 4 Q. Was it bridgehead or was -- 5 A. I imagine it would either be Chris or Mike, but I can't 6 remember. 7 Q. Right. 8 A. But I would've gone through to an officer -- 9 Q. Okay. 10 A. -- outside. 11 Q. Do you remember whether you did in fact have radio 12 contact with Mike Dowden when you were inside flat 16? 13 A. When I was on my handheld on channel 1, I can confirm 14 that I got a priority message out and I received 15 information back that they got that message, that they 16 were aware it was alright. I can't confirm who that was 17 because I simply don't remember. 18 Q. Okay, right. 19 Could you please be shown the operational response 20 report, which is at tab 8 of the documents bundle. 21 I just want to see if I can clarify a time with you. 22 If you could go, please, to page 30, Mr Documents 23 Director, thank you, and there we see 01.21.15, and just 24 so you know, Mr Batterbee, and to tell you what this is, 25 this document, which I don't expect you to have seen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 A. The message that I broadcast out was that the fire was 2 out in flat 16 but it was jumping, or something along 3 them lines, it was going on the outside. So my 4 objective was to tell them that we had done our job in 5 the flat but, you know, it's not over; we've got this 6 situation going on. But that would be impossible for me 7 to know the time of when that was. 8 Q. I've asked you this before but I want to be absolutely 9 crystal clear: that message -- 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. -- that it is jumping that you sent, did you get 12 a confirmation back that that had been received and 13 understood? 14 A. Again, I got something back, but it wasn't -- 15 Q. Something back? 16 A. Yes, but I couldn't make it out. So that's why I then 17 went to the my handheld radio. 18 Q. Did you get a confirmation back of that message on your 19 handheld radio? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. You did? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Thank you. That's very clear. 24 Right, after you left flat 16, Mr Batterbee, where 25 did you go next?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

1 **A. So I went back to the bridgehead, where I booked out and**
 2 **I met with Watch Manager Brian O'Keefe, who's Golf 33**
 3 **Kensington, and we did our debrief. So I explained to**
 4 **him that the fire in the flat was out and it was going**
 5 **on the outside.**
 6 **His brief to me was to immediately go downstairs and**
 7 **carry out what we call a fire ground A test, so that's**
 8 **the process of putting a new cylinder onto our BA set,**
 9 **testing it, which is -- an A test is a standard test you**
 10 **do when you take over that piece of equipment to check**
 11 **it is indeed operational and safe, and to get straight**
 12 **back up there.**
 13 **So that was my brief and that was very clearly**
 14 **communicated to me from Brian O'Keefe, and at that time**
 15 **there was, you know, still a massive sense of urgency**
 16 **that, you know, we need to get downstairs and get**
 17 **straight back up.**
 18 **Q. Right.**
 19 I just want to unpack that a little bit more because
 20 you've given us a lot of information there, which is
 21 very helpful. I just want to focus on your debrief with
 22 Watch Manager O'Keefe.
 23 How soon after tallying in was that conversation?
 24 **A. Booking out -- so booking out, so receiving my tally**
 25 **back --**

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1 **Q. Yes. Tally in, booking out.**
 2 **A. Probably within seconds.**
 3 **Q. Right.**
 4 You did a debrief with him. Can you remember as
 5 much as you can of what you told him?
 6 **A. As I've just said, the fire in the flat is out, it's**
 7 **going on the outside, and at that stage, again, from**
 8 **what I recall of that conversation -- it was very fast**
 9 **paced and it was just after I came out of a very hot**
 10 **wear -- I remember him vividly saying, "The plan is to**
 11 **go downstairs, we need all the BA we have back up here".**
 12 **It was very clear what I needed to go and do next.**
 13 **Q. Did you tell him that you had seen balls of flame on the**
 14 **outside falling down?**
 15 **A. No, I told him it was going on the outside and that it**
 16 **was jumping up the building.**
 17 **Q. Was your impression at the time that he already knew**
 18 **that or was it your impression that you were telling him**
 19 **something that he didn't know?**
 20 **A. My impression was that he was probably conscious of it**
 21 **because I imagine he would've had contact with outside**
 22 **the building, because I remember him saying -- I can't**
 23 **remember -- it's difficult because I'm trying to recall**
 24 **a very fragmented memory, but at the time, I would**
 25 **expect that, you know, what's happening outside is being**

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1 **communicated inside. But then I agree it's a very**
 2 **dynamic incident; for example, I didn't know what was**
 3 **going on on the outside. But all I remember is I told**
 4 **him and he told me the plan and the plan was agreed, and**
 5 **that's what we were going to do.**
 6 **Q. In your statement at page 8, if you could please go to**
 7 **that, you cover your debrief in the third paragraph on**
 8 **page 8 when you say, "We did our debrief with Watch**
 9 **Manager O'KEEFE".**
 10 In the second line there, after "collect our
 11 tall[ies]", you say:
 12 "He seemed quite alarmed and told us that the plan
 13 was for us to carry out a fire ground A-test and get
 14 straight back up the Tower."
 15 When you say "He seemed quite alarmed", was it that
 16 he was already in a state of alarm or was he alarmed by
 17 what you told him?
 18 **A. Again, I'm trying to remember back to the moment.**
 19 **From what I know, Brian is a very, very experienced**
 20 **officer and, on receiving that information, he was very**
 21 **clear and had a very clear sense of urgency: "Okay,**
 22 **right, well, you need to get your BA set A tested" --**
 23 **which is quite unusual, okay. So normally after a hot**
 24 **wear, as we call it, as per procedure you should have**
 25 **time to rest and recuperate before going for another**

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1 **wear. To go straight from coming out of a compartment**
 2 **to, "Right, you have to get your BA set tested and get**
 3 **straight back up", that's quite -- that sense of urgency**
 4 **suggests to me that, you know, we need to get back up**
 5 **here because we've, you know, I imagine there's**
 6 **resources coming on, but the job's not finished.**
 7 **Q. I understand. I'm sorry to in a sense repeat the**
 8 **question and push the point just a little bit more, but**
 9 **what I'm trying to get a feel for is whether his state**
 10 **of alarm was created by something you told him or**
 11 **whether he was already alarmed. Do you remember?**
 12 **A. No, I'm sorry.**
 13 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
 14 Now, at that moment, during your debrief with Watch
 15 Manager O'Keefe, what were the conditions at the
 16 bridgehead like?
 17 **A. Clear. Yes. Again, nothing there that would alarm me**
 18 **or lead -- you know, it was just -- again, it's still at**
 19 **that point pretty normal.**
 20 **Q. What about the stairs coming down from floor 4 to the**
 21 **bridgehead?**
 22 **A. Apart from how busy it was with personnel coming onto**
 23 **the job, again, clear, conditions were clear, and at**
 24 **that point I didn't have my breathing apparatus on so**
 25 **I could smell the air, and it wasn't smokey.**

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1 Q. Right. And what about people in the stair? You've got
 2 the BA people coming in, but what about residents coming
 3 down?
 4 **A. I don't actually recall vividly seeing anybody --**
 5 **obviously it was a very busy scene, but what I was**
 6 **looking at and focusing on was what was coming onto the**
 7 **job and preparing myself to go and conduct my brief,**
 8 **carry out the A test.**
 9 Q. Did Watch Manager O'Keefe tell you anything about
 10 conditions higher up the building?
 11 **A. I don't remember, no. Not no, but I don't remember.**
 12 Q. Okay. Did anybody else tell you about the conditions
 13 higher up the building at that time?
 14 **A. No. I remember going down the stairs and ...**
 15 Q. Now, you say at the foot of page 8 of your statement in
 16 the last paragraph:
 17 "When I got outside I walked over to WM DOWDEN to
 18 update him."
 19 Where were you physically when you did that?
 20 **A. I come out the main entrance. I turned left, you know,**
 21 **facing east, and I walked towards Michael. He was**
 22 **outside. And the statement says what I saw.**
 23 Q. Can I just ask you what you said to him?
 24 **A. Well, I went over to him to let him know that we had**
 25 **done our job, we'd gone and put the flat -- so**

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1 **basically, he's incident commander, so it follows suit**
 2 **that you would go and have your debrief with the**
 3 **incident commander. And I looked up at the side of the**
 4 **tower and ... I'll never get over that shock.**
 5 Q. Just take a breather.
 6 **A. Is that all right?**
 7 Q. Do you need a break? Just have a minute. Just have
 8 a few seconds' pause?
 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We could easily stop for
 10 a few minutes if you'd like to.
 11 MR MILLETT: I think we should break, Mr Chairman.
 12 THE WITNESS: Just a few minutes, is that all right? Just
 13 to --
 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll break for 5 minutes. 2.25.
 15 Would you like to go with the usher?
 16 (2.17 pm)
 17 (A short break)
 18 (2.25 pm)
 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You okay to go on?
 20 THE WITNESS: Yes.
 21 MR MILLETT: Mr Batterbee, I've only got a couple of
 22 questions on this, which I think I do have to ask you.
 23 When you came out and did your debrief or update
 24 with Mike Dowden, as you say in your statement, can you
 25 tell us what discussion you had with him?

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1 **A. Okay, so I came out, saw what I saw. Mike pointed up**
 2 **at, you know, what we were looking at. And I was trying**
 3 **to take it in. And I looked directly at him and**
 4 **I grabbed his arms like this and he grabbed my arms.**
 5 **I said, "Mike, what have you made it?" And he said,**
 6 **"I've made it 25". And I thought that was a good call.**
 7 **So when I say 25, he'd made pumps 25.**
 8 **Then I looked at him and I said, "Okay, what do you**
 9 **need from me?" And he said -- he pointed to the**
 10 **bollards, which were on -- kind of positioned on the**
 11 **corner of the east and the south face that were locked**
 12 **up and he said, "Get those bollards and get those cars**
 13 **out the way to get the TL in", and I said, "Okay, I'm**
 14 **going to do that". I still had my BA set on at this**
 15 **stage. So that's what we discussed.**
 16 Q. Did you have the bollard keys with you?
 17 **A. I had my, again, personal set of keys which I purchased**
 18 **when I joined the Fire Brigade, I just went into the**
 19 **local locksmiths and bought the -- they are called FB**
 20 **keys, Fire Brigade keys, and I bought a set of those,**
 21 **and I always keep those in my pocket. That worked well**
 22 **because I didn't have to go looking for a set.**
 23 **If memory serves, it was an FB14, which is quite**
 24 **a standard padlock, which was holding that bollard in**
 25 **place, so I undid it and I launched it, threw it right**

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1 **out the way and -- because I looked at the cars and**
 2 **there was no way -- I considered, could we flip the cars**
 3 **over in a fashion to make more space, and I can't**
 4 **remember much of it now, but I remember my assessment at**
 5 **the time was there is nowhere I can get them cars to go.**
 6 **And, again, the flipping of the cars would've been**
 7 **facilitated by us -- a few of us getting them and**
 8 **picking them up and turning them over to try and make**
 9 **room, but I remember thinking -- or even breaking the**
 10 **window, releasing the handbrake and pushing it out the**
 11 **way, but I thought: there's nothing I can do with those**
 12 **cars, so it's going to have to be the bollards, so**
 13 **that's what I did.**
 14 **I remember at one stage I just looked up and the TL**
 15 **was coming towards -- it was in front of me, it was**
 16 **coming right at me, so we'd made enough space to get the**
 17 **TL in. The turntable ladder.**
 18 **SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.**
 19 **MR MILLETT: Can I just go back to your conversation with**
 20 **Mike Dowden.**
 21 **At that time, could you see people coming out of the**
 22 **building?**
 23 **A. At that time, I was so task-focused on what I was**
 24 **doing -- now, let me just try and describe the scene.**
 25 **It was chaos, but organised chaos. So when I say**

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<p>1 organised, we were trying to -- you know, we were 2 getting the TL in, we were doing the best we could on 3 the ground, but the noise -- I could never describe that 4 noise. There are no words to describe the noise of the 5 debris coming down, the pump revving, everything going 6 on, it was ... yeah, it was -- it was hell. 7 But I don't remember vividly having memories of 8 seeing individuals, because at that time I was getting 9 on with my brief. 10 Q. Thank you. 11 Can I just ask you about hydrants. If you go to 12 page 9 of your statement -- and this is a little bit 13 further on, I think, in time -- you are talking about 14 the jet on the outside of the building, and you say at 15 the very bottom of the page: 16 "I then heard from other crews that the hydrant on 17 the junction of Bomore Road and Grenfell Road was 18 defective." 19 So you can see on the screen, Mr Batterbee, those 20 two sentences or those two parts of that sentence 21 together: 22 "I then heard from other crews that the hydrant on 23 the junction of Bomore Road and Grenfell Road was 24 defective. I heard this more than once from different 25 people."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 I can confirm that it was after. I don't know the time, 2 I'm sorry. 3 Q. All right, okay. 4 Now, did you have any of your own experiences about 5 defective hydrants? Did you have problems with hydrants 6 on the night? 7 A. Yes, in my career. 8 Q. No, on the night. 9 A. Oh, on the night? Can you perhaps ask that in 10 a different way? 11 Q. Yes, of course. 12 So on the night of the Grenfell Tower fire, did you 13 yourself personally experience any problems with the 14 fire hydrants? 15 A. No, because on that night, I didn't ship a hydrant. 16 Q. You didn't -- 17 A. Ship, so I didn't -- our hydrant gear, our method of 18 plugging into that main, I didn't do that on the night. 19 So no is the answer. 20 Q. You used the word "shipping"; is that an expression? 21 A. A Fire Brigade term. Sorry, forgive me. 22 Q. Did you ever learn what the problem with the hydrant 23 that you'd heard about was? 24 A. No, but they did get it to work, as my statement says. 25 Q. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 My question, having shown you that, is: do you 2 remember who you heard that from? 3 A. Firefighters. 4 Q. Can you be specific about names? 5 A. No. 6 Q. Stations they came from? 7 A. No. 8 Q. Roughly what time of the night did you hear that? 9 A. Well, to put this into context, that hydrant we were 10 looking for, for those we'd have to read back and have 11 a look, but it was after Danny and I had made an attack 12 with an individual firefighting jet, and it was after 13 I'd met up with Steve Collins to try and get the monitor 14 to work. So I imagine it was a good few -- you know, it 15 was a few minutes after I'd, you know, got the bollards 16 out the way and stuff like that. 17 Q. Right. 18 A. But I couldn't tell you the time. I don't know. 19 Q. No. 20 How soon do you think after the arrival of the 21 turntable ladder? 22 A. Well, again, I don't know what time the turntable ladder 23 got on scene. The first time I saw it was when I was 24 moving the bollards out of the way. But after 25 performing that task, I would say, I don't know -- well,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 A. I don't know what the holdup was. 2 Q. Now, I want to ask you, if you would turn on in your 3 statement to page 10, about fire survival guidance calls 4 and the system of communication. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Pick this up at the very bottom of that page. You 7 referred to doing a fire ground test. 8 Sorry, I just noticed something I should ask you -- 9 perhaps I should -- a little higher up that page. 10 Forgive me, Mr Batterbee. 11 If you go up and look at the second last paragraph 12 where you say: 13 "I sat for a few minutes recuperating." 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. Then you say: 16 "I was so shocked at the way the fire was 17 escalating. I remember looking over to the base of the 18 Tower and seeing WM DOWDEN. He was still wearing the 19 Incident Commander (IC) tabard, I remember thinking 'why 20 was he still in charge?'" 21 Can I just ask you, what prompted that thought? Do 22 you remember? 23 A. Well, when I came downstairs from -- as we've discussed, 24 I spoke with Michael and he had confirmed that it was 25 now a 25-pump fire.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

32 (Pages 125 to 128)

1 And also -- because remember, I had done tasks on
 2 the fire ground, I'd completed my A test, and then
 3 I tried to get back up there, and I was ordered by
 4 Watch Manager Brown from Battersea -- and I'd mentioned
 5 in my statement that he had a large number of wearers
 6 under his command, and he ordered me to go and sit down.
 7 So what prompted that thought was: there are lots of
 8 resources here. Now, a watch manager will generally be
 9 in charge up to a four, station manager from a six,
 10 group manager from an eight and a ten and above, as I've
 11 said in my statement, would be a much higher level rank.
 12 So that's what prompted that thought.
 13 Q. Yes. Thank you.
 14 So coming back to where I wanted to direct you,
 15 which is the last paragraph on page 10, you say:
 16 "After staying there for what felt like a very short
 17 time ..."
 18 And that's outside the building, you say:
 19 "... a WM came running over asking for volunteers to
 20 help with FSG information."
 21 A. That's correct.
 22 Q. "WM was Paul SADLER (H22 Lambeth)."
 23 A. Yes.
 24 Q. You say you went along with him and Firefighter Brodrick
 25 from G36 Hammersmith.

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1 Then you say:
 2 "WM SADLER explained that we were receiving a high
 3 number of FSG calls. These were coming through CU7."
 4 Do you see that?
 5 A. Yes.
 6 Q. Do you remember when CU7 arrived?
 7 A. No.
 8 Q. Okay.
 9 Do you remember that any fire survival guidance
 10 calls had come to the incident ground through the
 11 initial command pump?
 12 A. Not that I was aware of.
 13 Q. Right. Then you go on to say:
 14 "He [Sadler] explained that we needed to record and
 15 deliver this information to the bridgehead."
 16 Now, can you just explain to us, because you go on
 17 in your statement to do so, but can you summarise for us
 18 the system that then operated which you were involved
 19 with, in terms of --
 20 A. Okay, just to confirm, so not to describe the FSG policy
 21 but to discuss the system that we were running with on
 22 the night?
 23 Q. Yes.
 24 A. Okay. Well, exactly that. So he explained we'd record
 25 and deliver this information to the bridgehead, as my

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1 statement says. My understanding of the brief at that
 2 time was CU7, command unit, were probably quite
 3 overwhelmed, that was my thinking, and we were going to
 4 support their efforts and do exactly what we said:
 5 record that information and get it to where it needs to
 6 go.
 7 Q. Did you speak to anyone on CU7?
 8 A. No.
 9 Q. How does the information go from CU7 -- well, let's
 10 start with the control room. Just run me through what
 11 was happening at the time.
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. So fire survival guidance calls are in progress between
 14 the caller and the control room.
 15 A. Yes.
 16 Q. And then the control room sends a message to CU7.
 17 A. Yes.
 18 Q. Is that right?
 19 A. Yes. That would be the standard procedure, would be
 20 to -- that risk critical information would go to the
 21 command unit designated to deal with fire survival
 22 guidance calls, which on the night I believe was CU7,
 23 because that's where we were told we were getting that
 24 information.
 25 Q. Right. And did you know what was happening inside CU7?

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1 A. No.
 2 Q. Okay. So how does the fire survival guidance call
 3 information then come out of CU7 on the fire ground?
 4 A. Well, at the time, as I said, we were sat up on the
 5 bonnet of a car with a forward information board, and
 6 I can only guess that that was being communicated to
 7 Paul Sadler from CU7 by means of a handheld radio,
 8 because we went on to channel 3 to do the FSG stuff.
 9 Q. You went on to channel 3 to do the FSG stuff, so does
 10 that mean that you were communicating with CU7 from the
 11 place where you were with the forward information board
 12 by radio on channel 3?
 13 A. Well, at that time I had just come over and joined them,
 14 so I wouldn't be able to say that for sure, but that's
 15 certainly how we progressed throughout the incident.
 16 Q. Where was the forward information board physically
 17 located at that time?
 18 A. We were on the bonnet of a car.
 19 Q. Where was the car?
 20 A. Okay, so -- can I grab my map?
 21 Q. Absolutely. Now, the map you'll find --
 22 A. If you pull the map up on the screen, I'll tell you.
 23 Q. Exactly. It's CJB/2, or it should be, in tab 2B. Yes.
 24 A. Is it possible to zoom in? Zoom in again. Okay, so you
 25 see the corner bend of the road, which is slightly

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1 obscured by Grenfell Walk or the Lancaster West Estate,
 2 it was kind of -- it was parked on the same side of the
 3 road that was next to the grass area, on that bend.
 4 Q. So Grenfell Road --
 5 A. Somewhere on Grenfell Road on the same side as -- so,
 6 yeah, on the same side of the road where the grass park
 7 was. It was parked up there.
 8 Q. Okay.
 9 A. That's, I imagine, the best description I can give of
 10 where it was.
 11 Q. If the Trial Director can move the cursor around and go
 12 to the corner of the walkway to the east side.
 13 A. Okay, so go to the right. Keep going, keep going, keep
 14 going, keep going, keep going. Drop down -- yes. If
 15 that is Grenfell Road --
 16 Q. Yes.
 17 A. -- somewhere around there. It was parked -- so there
 18 was a line of cars parked up and it was just one of
 19 those cars.
 20 Q. Right. And where was CU7, do you remember?
 21 A. CU7 was on Grenfell Road, parked up on the same side
 22 as -- I think it's Barandon Walk, so one of the finger
 23 blocks.
 24 Q. So a little further to the south, under where you've
 25 written "Garage area"?

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1 A. If you zoom out again. Yeah, just kind of the -- where
 2 I've written "Garage area", that block there, which is
 3 Barandon Walk, it was just opposite -- yeah, just next
 4 to the fingers blocks on Grenfell Road.
 5 Q. Yes, I see. On the left or the right side?
 6 A. On the left side, so on the same -- so you had the
 7 pavement here and you had -- oh, no, hold on a minute.
 8 No, it couldn't have been because -- no, it was on the
 9 opposite side, but it was on Grenfell Road and the crew
 10 cab was facing towards -- like, down Grenfell Road,
 11 towards the tower.
 12 Q. Right. So it was parked on effectively the wrong side
 13 of the road?
 14 A. Yeah.
 15 Q. Okay. And how far from the bonnet of the car that you
 16 were working on the forward information board on?
 17 A. Well, as you can see on the screen, not a great
 18 distance, but ...
 19 Q. Could I just ask you a question: would it be normal to
 20 have a command unit that distance from a high-rise
 21 building with a fire in it?
 22 A. I mean, as we discussed earlier, the access and egress
 23 to Grenfell Tower was not great. A command unit will
 24 generally park slightly further back from the scene of
 25 op so that basically TLs and other appliances can get

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1 that little bit closer. So to answer your question:
 2 yes, it would follow suit that it wouldn't park right at
 3 the base of the tower.
 4 Q. Okay.
 5 So you join -- is this right? -- Watch Manager
 6 Sadler at the car?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. He's got the forward information board.
 9 A. Yes.
 10 Q. Then what do you start doing?
 11 A. Well, like I said, the next key thing I remember is he
 12 detailed me, as per my contemporaneous notes and my
 13 statement, to report to the bridgehead, report to Watch
 14 Manager Louisa De Silvo of Golf 84 Chelsea, and to
 15 record and make a note of all the information they had
 16 at the bridge and to bring that back.
 17 Q. And you bring that back to, where, the forward
 18 information board or --
 19 A. To Watch Manager Sadler.
 20 Q. Right, and what would he do with it?
 21 A. Would you mind if I just refer to my notes, just so --
 22 Q. Of course.
 23 A. Just timeline-wise, because we've jumped about a bit.
 24 (Pause)
 25 Yes, so go up to Louisa, get the -- or the bridge,

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1 rather, get the information, come back, and
 2 cross-reference it to make sure that we -- you know, see
 3 if there were any differences, if we needed to add more
 4 information, and just check that, you know, we're both
 5 seeing the same thing.
 6 Q. What were you taking to Louisa at the bridgehead?
 7 A. I didn't take anything to Louisa; I went up to her -- or
 8 I don't remember taking anything to her. I went up to
 9 her and I saw her information board, if memory serves,
 10 and, as you can see in one of my exhibits, a notebook.
 11 Q. Yes, I am going to ask you about that. That is CJB/3.
 12 A. Yes.
 13 Q. Well, let me go straight to that then.
 14 A. Okay.
 15 Q. If you could look at that. It looks like a piece of
 16 paper torn from an ordinary pad.
 17 A. Yes, so we carry notebooks on the fire ground.
 18 Q. Where did you fill in this page as a blank piece of
 19 paper to start with?
 20 A. Sorry, what's the question?
 21 Q. Let me ask you this way: did you write down this list?
 22 A. This is my writing and I wrote this list.
 23 Q. Where were you when you wrote this list?
 24 A. I was at the bridgehead, which I think was still on the
 25 second floor, and I was kneeling down next to Watch

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1 **Manager De Silvo, looking at the information that they**
 2 **had.**
 3 Q. Okay. So you were copying this from something?
 4 **A. Yes, from I believe it was a forward information board.**
 5 Q. At the bridgehead?
 6 **A. At the bridgehead, yes.**
 7 Q. Right.
 8 And just helping me with what it contains, you've
 9 got flat, number of people and then the floor; is that
 10 right?
 11 **A. Okay, so on the first one, flat -- I believe that's**
 12 **either flat -- yes, flat 113, eight people, 14th floor.**
 13 Q. Mr Batterbee, can you just wait a moment?
 14 Mr Trial Director, it's CBJ/3 -- we need to have it
 15 on the screen so everyone can see -- and it's
 16 MET00015731.
 17 So perhaps we could just go over this again.
 18 This is your writing. You say this represents
 19 information that you copied down onto a blank piece of
 20 paper in your notebook at the bridgehead --
 21 **A. Yes.**
 22 Q. -- while it was manned by Watch Manager De Silvo, and
 23 you've got "Flat", and it looks like "113", "8 people",
 24 "14F", 14th floor.
 25 Can you just confirm, this information comes from,

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1 I think you said, the bridgehead, but what is it on the
 2 bridgehead that you saw from which you copied this?
 3 **A. It was a forward information board with the list of the**
 4 **information that I have on here on that board. So my**
 5 **objective was to simply take a note of what they had, go**
 6 **back to Watch Manager Sadler and show him this to make**
 7 **sure that what we had was indeed corresponding with what**
 8 **they had.**
 9 Q. Right. Okay. So starting with what's at the
 10 bridgehead, forward information board, could you just
 11 describe it for us?
 12 **A. Yes, so a forward information board is, if you imagine,**
 13 **just this big (Indicated), an acrylic piece of plastic**
 14 **with some posters on it, and it's used for -- you can**
 15 **sketch out an incident, but it's also got a casualty**
 16 **information poster on it which you can use or utilise if**
 17 **you like for FSG, to do the FSG recording on it.**
 18 Q. Do you know who had written the FSG information that you
 19 saw on the forward information board onto it?
 20 **A. No.**
 21 Q. Do you know where the information had come from that had
 22 been written onto it?
 23 **A. No.**
 24 Q. Did you ask anybody at the bridgehead where they were
 25 getting that FSG information from that you were copying

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1 down?
 2 **A. No.**
 3 Q. Okay. So then you copy it down as we see here.
 4 We can see ticks. Are those ticks your ticks?
 5 **A. They're my ticks.**
 6 Q. When did you add the ticks?
 7 **A. Okay, so I copied down the flat and then on the other**
 8 **side the floor, and I placed the tick against the ones**
 9 **which she informed me she had directed a crew to.**
 10 Q. Right. Okay. I'll come back to that in a moment.
 11 So what happened next with this piece of paper? Did
 12 you leave the bridgehead?
 13 **A. I then returned to Watch Manager Sadler.**
 14 Q. At the car?
 15 **A. I think we were still at the car at this point. I can't**
 16 **be entirely sure.**
 17 Q. I should ask it differently, I don't want to suggest the
 18 answer. The question should be: where was Watch Manager
 19 Sadler when you went back to him?
 20 **A. I think -- again, I'm going on a very broken, fragmented**
 21 **piece of memory, but I'm pretty sure it was at the car.**
 22 Q. Okay.
 23 **A. Because as I've gone on to explain, we then -- we did**
 24 **move to a more sheltered area later on, but I can**
 25 **confirm I went back to Paul Sadler.**

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1 Q. You went back to Paul Sadler. And what happened to this
 2 piece of paper at that point?
 3 **A. I got it out and we started doing exactly**
 4 **that: cross-referencing.**
 5 Q. Cross-referencing to what?
 6 **A. The information he held.**
 7 Q. And what did he have?
 8 **A. Well, he had information on a forward information board,**
 9 **sort of flat numbers and floors. I don't remember**
 10 **entirely, but that's the role we were performing.**
 11 Q. And do you know where the information on that forward
 12 information board came from?
 13 **A. Again, I would just presume Charlie Uniform 7, CU7.**
 14 Q. CU7.
 15 Do you know who had written that FSG information
 16 onto that forward information board? Was it Sadler or
 17 was it somebody else?
 18 **A. I don't know.**
 19 Q. Is there any reason why you had that forward information
 20 board on the bonnet of a car as opposed to being in or
 21 right outside CU7?
 22 **A. Could you please repeat the question?**
 23 Q. Yes. Is there any reason why Watch Manager Sadler was
 24 running a forward information board on the bonnet of
 25 a car and not at or just outside CU7?

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1 **A. I don't know the answer to that. I don't know.**
 2 Q. I know not a lot was normal on that night, but would
 3 that be normal procedure, to have CU7 forward
 4 information board, bridgehead?
 5 **A. At the time I was so task-focused on what I was doing**
 6 **and trying to help that I didn't really question it.**
 7 **And I have to say, I've never had to deal with fire**
 8 **survival guidance information before in my career, so**
 9 **that was the first time I'd ever done it.**
 10 Q. I understand.
 11 When you went back to Watch Manager Sadler at his
 12 forward information board and gave him this information,
 13 what did he do with it?
 14 **A. Okay, so again I'm -- we've jumped forward a bit, so I'm**
 15 **just trying to memorise it.**
 16 **So I got back to Paul Sadler, cross-referenced the**
 17 **information, and then as I go on to say in my statement,**
 18 **the decision was made that we needed to move to a more**
 19 **sheltered area that was quiet, and then the decision was**
 20 **made to -- we needed to start recording that information**
 21 **individually on the correct forms, the control**
 22 **information pad, and then at that point any --**
 23 **I imagine -- because it didn't stop coming, the**
 24 **information kept coming, so we got those and then we**
 25 **were running those into the bridgehead.**

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1 Q. Okay. There's a lot in what you've just said and it's
 2 extremely useful. Would you need another break or can
 3 I ask a few more questions about what you've just
 4 explained to me?
 5 **A. I'm okay.**
 6 Q. You're all right, okay.
 7 You said you were cross-referring the information on
 8 your list at CJB/3 here, which is on the screen, to what
 9 Watch Manager Sadler had on his forward information
 10 board.
 11 What did that involve? You have you list of flat
 12 numbers, people and floors and ticks. What does the
 13 cross-referring involve?
 14 **A. Comparing what I had gathered from what the bridge**
 15 **already had to what we had outside, and to try and**
 16 **identify if there are any differences and if there were**
 17 **or where there were, record as necessary.**
 18 **So that was the objective, to make sure that we had**
 19 **the same information. Because I'm conscious that inside**
 20 **the tower, maybe they had gathered more information**
 21 **through perhaps people coming down, information they've**
 22 **got from crews. So we needed to -- my understanding of**
 23 **the objective at that time was to simply make sure we**
 24 **knew what we had.**
 25 **Then we moved to a calmer area and we start**

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1 **collating that information onto the FSG forms and get**
 2 **them into the bridge to make sure they get dealt with.**
 3 Q. Right.
 4 Just before we move to those forms -- I am going to
 5 ask you about it in just a second -- can I just ask you
 6 about what information was then fed back from the
 7 forward information board you were running with Watch
 8 Manager Sadler.
 9 Did you inform CU7 of the fact that BA crews had
 10 been dispatched by the bridgehead to all those flats
 11 which you'd ticked?
 12 **A. That's not a task I perform. So Watch Manager Sadler**
 13 **was running it and I was basically running around for**
 14 **him, for lack of a better expression. So at that stage,**
 15 **the watch manager is in charge of that and I'm**
 16 **assisting, and an example of that is when I went off to**
 17 **go and find the forms, an example of that is when I ran**
 18 **back up to the bridge initially to get the -- so**
 19 **I personally didn't relay any of that information.**
 20 Q. Okay. Do you know whether Watch Manager Sadler relayed
 21 any of that information?
 22 **A. I don't know, you'd have to ask him.**
 23 Q. Okay.
 24 Then moving on to the forms that you were referring
 25 to, in your statement you refer to them as, I think,

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1 6178s. Just so I've got an idea and we can all
 2 understand the form you're talking about, is this the
 3 form that's a --
 4 **A. Sorry, can I just pause you there? Apologies. I'm just**
 5 **trying to -- I'm looking at this statement here. I'm**
 6 **not recognising it. It says it's the statement of**
 7 **Michael Dowden. I don't know how that ...**
 8 MR MILLETT: Yes, I don't know what you have there. That
 9 looks like Michael Dowden's statement, which you
 10 shouldn't have in front of you.
 11 **A. It's on the table. I was referring to it because I was**
 12 **trying to --**
 13 **SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Don't worry, you are not going to**
 14 **need it.**
 15 **A. No, no, no, no, I just thought I'd make you aware that**
 16 **that was on the table.**
 17 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much. Your file is the blue
 18 one, I think.
 19 Can I just ask you to be shown on the screen the
 20 policy 790, FSG.
 21 The first question: is this a policy you're familiar
 22 with?
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. Okay. Second question, could you please be shown
 25 appendix 2 --

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1 **A. Yes.**
 2 Q. -- which is on internal page 8.
 3 **A. Yes, I recognise that form.**
 4 Q. Is that the form that you're referring to in your
 5 statement when you call it a 6178?
 6 **A. Yes, so the control information, we call it FSG pad.**
 7 Q. FSG pad.
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. Now, from your experience -- let's just understand this
 10 form -- where are they kept, in terms --
 11 **A. They're kept on all front line appliances in the crew**
 12 **cab. Between where the driver sits and the officer in**
 13 **charge sits, there's a small sort of cubbyhole which we**
 14 **keep all our forms and folders in, and that's one that**
 15 **we generally keep near the top and well marked because**
 16 **en route to incidents we can be contacted by control to**
 17 **relay information to us. So that's where it's kept,**
 18 **yes.**
 19 Q. Okay.
 20 **A. They're also carried on the command unit.**
 21 Q. Right. Okay. And they are in quadruplicate, I believe.
 22 **A. Yes.**
 23 Q. Can you then explain what you did with these forms?
 24 **A. Yes.**
 25 **So when the first -- I think it was the first three**

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1 **were written out, by this point, just getting in and out**
 2 **of the tower wasn't an easy task. It wasn't a question**
 3 **of walking from here to the door. When I said it kept**
 4 **getting worse, words don't do it justice, how crazy the**
 5 **scene was.**
 6 **So I got those forms, I tucked it into my tunic, and**
 7 **I was on the way to drop them off to the bridgehead --**
 8 Q. Right. Just pause there. Sorry, I'm going to allow you
 9 to carry on because I want to know, but the forms that
 10 you were carrying, were they filled in with information?
 11 **A. Yes, yes.**
 12 Q. What --
 13 **A. Transferred off of the information board we had.**
 14 Q. I see.
 15 **A. Yes.**
 16 Q. And that information was new information, was it, that
 17 had come from the command unit?
 18 **A. I can't confirm that but it was -- again, just to**
 19 **contextualise it, lots of information is coming in, we**
 20 **utilise the FIB to capture that quickly. Now it's**
 21 **a process of getting those individual forms filled out,**
 22 **and that information came off that FIB, but I can't**
 23 **confirm if that was information we had had there for**
 24 **5 minutes, 10 minutes or knew -- it was just information**
 25 **off the FIB.**

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1 Q. Right, okay. Information off the FIB. Then you went to
 2 the bridgehead, you just explained, with some difficulty
 3 with it?
 4 **A. Yes, I was assisted by a member of the police.**
 5 Q. Right.
 6 How many runs do you think you made to the
 7 bridgehead with information forms like this?
 8 **A. Throughout that night?**
 9 Q. Yes.
 10 **A. I'd love to know. I'd never know. But it was -- it**
 11 **never stopped. It was continuous until the daylight**
 12 **hours, where I go on to explain other tasks I performed.**
 13 Q. So just in general terms, the basic features of your
 14 movements, you go from the place you were filling these
 15 forms in, the forward information board --
 16 **A. Yes, into the lobby.**
 17 Q. Into the lobby.
 18 **A. Now, at times that was through the original door, and**
 19 **not long after it was then through, as I explained in**
 20 **the statement, improvised openings that we had to make**
 21 **because it became too dangerous on the south side of the**
 22 **tower to get in and out.**
 23 Q. Then you'd go to the bridgehead?
 24 **A. Yes. Can I just refer back to my contemporaneous notes**
 25 **just to help me with my timeline in my head?**

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1 Q. Yes, of course.
 2 **A. So, yeah, to answer your question, taking them from the**
 3 **bin area where we were sheltering from the commotion and**
 4 **also the water coming down and the debris, we were**
 5 **taking those forms into the tower.**
 6 Q. Right, the bin area?
 7 **A. Yes.**
 8 Q. So I might have to ask you to go back to your map. Do
 9 you remember where the bin area was?
 10 **A. Yes, I can describe it to you. It was basically under**
 11 **the walkway of the Lancaster West Estate.**
 12 Q. Right.
 13 **A. And we were improvising -- there was sort of Biffa bins,**
 14 **big wheelie bins, and we were in that area there,**
 15 **working in that area there.**
 16 Q. Right. And the information that had come to you in the
 17 bin area --
 18 **A. Yes.**
 19 Q. -- had come from where?
 20 **A. I believe Charlie Uniform 7, command unit 7.**
 21 Q. Okay, how had it been communicated from CU7 to you in
 22 the bin area, by radio or by these pieces of paper?
 23 **A. I can't be entirely sure, but I would imagine both.**
 24 Q. Both.
 25 **A. But I guess the answer -- I can't confirm. I can't**

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1 **confirm that.**
 2 Q. Do you remember receiving these control information
 3 forms from CU7 at the bin area?
 4 **A. I don't remember that specifically, the only handling of**
 5 **the forms I remember is once they were written out,**
 6 **I would take them into the tower.**
 7 Q. Right. Who was involved in this exercise at the bin
 8 area?
 9 **A. So Firefighter Brodrick from Hammersmith, myself --**
 10 **these are just the people I remember, there were more**
 11 **people there but I can't remember who it was -- Watch**
 12 **Manager Sadler, Watch Manager Coltress, now Station**
 13 **Manager Coltress, and I remember at times people sort of**
 14 **being very careful to make sure this process was done**
 15 **properly and calmly but, you know, with a sense of**
 16 **urgency, even to the point whereby, you know -- we're**
 17 **just -- we're on our knees and at one point sort of very**
 18 **close to the ground, and everyone got handed the sheet,**
 19 **and I said I'll take the first three, and everyone**
 20 **started filling it out. So, yeah.**
 21 Q. All right.
 22 **A. That's what that -- I'm just trying to paint a picture**
 23 **of what that scene looked like.**
 24 Q. Your involvement was at that stage to run control
 25 information --

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1 **A. Essentially a runner, yes.**
 2 Q. -- to the bridgehead. At the bridgehead, when you
 3 arrived at the bridgehead on each occasion, what did you
 4 do with the control information form?
 5 **A. Okay, so I have no recollection of getting to the**
 6 **bridgehead with any of them forms. The first -- the**
 7 **next key thing I remember is being stopped by a watch**
 8 **manager Glynn Williams, who stopped me, I said, "No, no,**
 9 **I'm taking them up to the bridge", and he explained,**
 10 **"No, what we're going to do is we're going to record the**
 11 **information here in the lobby area", and we utilised the**
 12 **wall, and he was writing up -- he had already gathered**
 13 **a lot of information on that wall. Now, I don't know**
 14 **where that information came from, but he'd gathered**
 15 **a lot on the wall.**
 16 **And as I've said in my statement, this worked well**
 17 **because the traffic on the stairs was very, very busy,**
 18 **and it was -- again, I'm trying to paint the picture --**
 19 **it was a very dynamic and chaotic scene, and also it**
 20 **afforded us lots and lots of room to record the**
 21 **information. And he explained that we'd come there,**
 22 **record it there, and then the information would go from**
 23 **there up to the bridgehead.**
 24 Q. I see, so you essentially were communicating between the
 25 bin area with the information coming in from CU7

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1 there --
 2 **A. Yes.**
 3 Q. -- to essentially the lobby, where the information on
 4 these forms was being written up on the wall?
 5 **A. Yes, and as I said, just to build on that, why I feel**
 6 **the bin area worked well in some respects is because it**
 7 **was very close and it cut down our travel time to get**
 8 **in, which, again, wasn't a travel time of just being**
 9 **able to walk into a building.**
 10 Q. No.
 11 **A. It was difficult to even get into the building. So**
 12 **then, yeah, get into the building, record it there, and**
 13 **then, as I said, from there it would go up to the**
 14 **bridge, which I believe at that stage was still on the**
 15 **second floor.**
 16 Q. How would it go from the ground floor, where it was
 17 written I think you say on the wall, up to the
 18 bridgehead?
 19 **A. I think there were runners. I think there were runners.**
 20 **But again, I can't be 100 per cent sure.**
 21 Q. Do you remember who they might have been, any names?
 22 **A. No.**
 23 Q. And moving the forward information board that you were
 24 operating by the bin area, to the bin area, did that
 25 make it further away from CU7? Closer to the tower --

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1 **A. I'd say relatively equal distance but closer to the**
 2 **tower in shelter from all the water and the debris and**
 3 **in a place where we could even hear ourselves talk. And**
 4 **that -- you know, it helped us to go to that quiet area.**
 5 Q. Were there any radio operators in CU7 that you knew of
 6 who were receiving fire survival guidance call
 7 information from the control room?
 8 **A. I don't know.**
 9 Q. Do you know of any reason why CU7 couldn't communicate
 10 directly with the bridgehead by radio?
 11 **A. Again, I don't have that information. I don't know.**
 12 Q. You don't know.
 13 Is there any reason why CU7 couldn't communicate
 14 directly with someone with a fire ground radio in the
 15 lobby at that stage?
 16 **A. Again, I don't know. You'd have to ask the crew.**
 17 Q. What was your general experience of radio communications
 18 at Grenfell?
 19 **A. Channel 3 was very busy. So I went onto channel 3 quite**
 20 **early in the incident, which was a dedicated channel for**
 21 **fire survival guidance, and it was busy.**
 22 Q. Right. What about using other channels? Did you
 23 experience difficulties using other channels?
 24 **A. With respect to the amount of traffic or how well they**
 25 **worked?**

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1 Q. How well they worked.
 2 **A. How well they worked. Again, as I've described,**
 3 **I didn't go above the fourth floor, and I described,**
 4 **when questioned in my statement, you know, sort of**
 5 **issues we commonly have with radios. But on the night,**
 6 **the key thing was the amount of traffic.**
 7 Q. Right. Just going back, then -- just one or two more
 8 questions on this topic -- to your exhibit CJB/3.
 9 **A. Can I take a break, please?**
 10 MR MILLETT: Of course you can. I got so interested in what
 11 you were saying I had forgotten to ask you.
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, how much longer do you
 13 think you may be with this witness?
 14 MR MILLETT: Probably another 10 or so minutes.
 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.
 16 MR MILLETT: I have, I'm afraid, overstayed my welcome.
 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No, no, it's not that, it's just
 18 that I think we've all been sitting here for over
 19 an hour; it might be a good idea to have just over
 20 a 10-minute break for everyone.
 21 MR MILLETT: A good idea. Very good.
 22 THE WITNESS: We've been here for an hour already?
 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, I know, time flies.
 24 You go with the usher, and we'll come back at 3.20,
 25 so you have just over 10 minutes.

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1 (3.08 pm)
 2 (A short break)
 3 (3.20 pm)
 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Batterbee? I think
 5 this is the last lap.
 6 Yes, Mr Millett.
 7 MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.
 8 Mr Batterbee, can I just ask you to look at CJB/3,
 9 please, in your statement bundle, which is your list.
 10 I want to ask you about the ticks.
 11 Now, you said that those were ticks you put on there
 12 recording the information you got from the bridgehead --
 13 **A. Yes.**
 14 Q. -- Watch Manager De Silvo, that crews had been
 15 dispatched to those flats and floors.
 16 **A. Yes.**
 17 Q. My question is: based on that information, how would CU7
 18 know that crews deployed to a number of these flats have
 19 come back?
 20 **A. I don't know how that information was passed or if it**
 21 **was. I don't know.**
 22 Q. Similar question: how would CU7 know that crews
 23 dispatched to those floors had left residents on those
 24 floors and not managed to rescue them?
 25 **A. I don't know the answer to that.**

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1 Q. Was there a system to establish the result of the
 2 deployments that you ticked on that document?
 3 **A. I don't know.**
 4 Q. Who would know the answer to that, do you know?
 5 **A. I would suggest the command unit crew might be, you**
 6 **know -- they will have the information.**
 7 Q. Do you know who they were? I mean, we could find out
 8 from the documents, but from your recollection, who were
 9 the individuals you were dealing with in CU7?
 10 **A. I don't have a recollection on the night of who was on**
 11 **that machine. You'd have to look.**
 12 Q. Okay. Did you have any personal interaction with
 13 anybody on that machine during the night?
 14 **A. I'm trying to think.**
 15 **Not until the very -- or the one I remember is**
 16 **I remember seeing I think it was Tony Peckham outside of**
 17 **CU7, but this is -- when I say the following day, you**
 18 **know, the following morning, but -- and I remember at**
 19 **one stage, as I've explained in my statement, I went to**
 20 **CU7 to speak with somebody, as I've said in my**
 21 **statement, to get the SM, but I don't remember who those**
 22 **people are.**
 23 Q. And if deployments of BA crews to these flats and floors
 24 did not result in successful evacuation, how would
 25 further deployments take place to residents who still

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1 remained in those flats and on those floors, do you
 2 know?
 3 **A. Can you repeat that question again? It's quite a long**
 4 **question.**
 5 Q. It was a bit.
 6 You tick these flats and floors on this piece of
 7 paper --
 8 **A. Yes.**
 9 Q. -- indicating that BA crews had gone up there. How
 10 would further deployments take place to residents who
 11 had been left behind in the event that those
 12 deployments --
 13 **A. How would it or how did it?**
 14 Q. How did it?
 15 **A. I don't know.**
 16 Q. How should it?
 17 **A. I would imagine that like -- if any team goes to perform**
 18 **a task, if that task isn't complete then another team**
 19 **would be allocated and briefed to carry out that task.**
 20 Q. Do you know whether that happened?
 21 **A. I didn't witness that. I didn't see any -- see that**
 22 **happen.**
 23 Q. Do you know whether there was a system at the bridgehead
 24 for redeploying crews to flats and floors where there
 25 had been an initial failure of evacuation?

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1 **A. Not that I know of, no. Not that I know of.**
 2 Q. Okay.
 3 I am on the last topic here, Mr Batterbee.
 4 Can I ask you to look at your witness statement,
 5 page 13. On page 13, near the bottom of the page in the
 6 last but one paragraph, you say:
 7 "I remember when I had just finished passing some
 8 forms to WM WILLIAMS in the lobby, we were met by FF
 9 LAWSON (G28) ..."
 10 **A. Yes.**
 11 Q. "... who had just come down from the Tower. He passed
 12 us two flat numbers that I believe were on the 18th
 13 floor ..."
 14 **A. That's correct.**
 15 Q. "... and informed us there were people inside. I wrote
 16 this down on a piece of paper and WM WILLIAMS wrote this
 17 information up on the wall. We passed that information
 18 straight to WM WATSON (G36) who I believe took it
 19 upstairs to give it to the bridge."
 20 **A. That's correct.**
 21 Q. I've read you that in full because I just want to ask
 22 you one or two questions about that whole paragraph.
 23 **A. Yes.**
 24 Q. Do you remember which flat numbers you were passed?
 25 **A. No.**

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1 Q. Do you remember the names of any residents?
 2 **A. No.**
 3 Q. Do you remember what Firefighter Lawson told you about
 4 the 18th floor?
 5 **A. My two vivid memories of that is -- I remember Greg**
 6 **coming to me and telling me, and then the next key thing**
 7 **I remember is I remember passing that information to**
 8 **Paul Watson, and I remember him walking away from me,**
 9 **back towards the stairs to the bridge. That's what**
 10 **I remember of that.**
 11 Q. And who is Greg?
 12 **A. Sorry, apologies, Firefighter Greg Lawson.**
 13 Q. Greg Lawson.
 14 **A. Golf 28 Willesden.**
 15 Q. Do you remember whether there was any discussion about
 16 whether to deploy further firefighters to the 18th
 17 floor?
 18 **A. I don't remember any discussion, but as I've said,**
 19 **I remember Greg coming to me and I remember getting that**
 20 **information to Paul.**
 21 Q. Do you remember what Watch Manager Watson was going to
 22 say to the bridgehead? Did you find that out?
 23 **A. I didn't find out what the result of that was, because**
 24 **I'd passed that information to them and I was confident**
 25 **that would go to the bridge.**

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1 Q. You were running messages, I think, from the bin area
 2 into the building, I think you said earlier, for most of
 3 the night, if not all of the night.
 4 Two questions.
 5 First of all, do you remember whether the bridgehead
 6 moved at any time during the time you were doing that
 7 from the second floor?
 8 **A. As I said in my statement, I remember at one time it**
 9 **seemed like they were pulling wearers down and everyone**
 10 **was coming down to the lobby area. I mean, we kept on**
 11 **going with what we were doing, but I remember that**
 12 **happening.**
 13 **That's it.**
 14 Q. And do you remember whether there came a time when the
 15 fire survival guidance calls that you were involved with
 16 running into the tower stopped?
 17 **A. Sorry, the fire survival guidance calls of our efforts**
 18 **going into the tower?**
 19 Q. Yes.
 20 **A. We never stopped. When that sort of task came to an end**
 21 **was -- the reason why I say that -- again, trying to**
 22 **contextualise it -- I was informed ... I was informed at**
 23 **one stage during the night, and it was still dark, by**
 24 **Firefighter Ferguson from Chelsea that callers were now**
 25 **being advised to make a run -- you know, to get out if**

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1 **they could. But we didn't stop. We kept on going with**
 2 **our efforts.**
 3 **Yes, sorry. We kept going until, like I said in my**
 4 **statement, I got to the point where, you know, I moved**
 5 **on to a different task.**
 6 MR MILLETT: Thank you.
 7 Mr Chairman, would you give me just a moment?
 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course.
 9 (Pause)
 10 Are you all right?
 11 THE WITNESS: Yes. I'm okay.
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.
 13 MR MILLETT: I only have one more question, literally one
 14 more question, which I've been asked to ask.
 15 **A. That's fine. That's fine. I want to keep going.**
 16 MR MILLETT: Is that all right? Just one more question.
 17 If you can have a look at your statement, page 13,
 18 second-last paragraph, you refer to meeting
 19 Firefighter Lawson, who had just come down from the
 20 tower.
 21 Do you remember what discussion, if any, you had
 22 with Firefighter Lawson?
 23 **A. I remember he came down and he explained that there was**
 24 **still people up there and that he couldn't -- he**
 25 **couldn't bring them down. And I remember -- I remember**

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<p>1 him vividly coming up to me and telling me that</p> <p>2 information, that, you know, there were still people up</p> <p>3 there, and then, again, like I say, the next key thing</p> <p>4 I remember is handing that piece of paper to Watch</p> <p>5 Manager Watson and seeing him walk away.</p> <p>6 Q. The piece of paper. Now, can I just see if this works.</p> <p>7 Could you go back to CJB/3, your list.</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. It should be put up on the screen. It's on the screen</p> <p>10 if you want to see it.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. There at the bottom it says: 18th, 153, 154.</p> <p>13 A. I can see that.</p> <p>14 Q. Was it you who added that information or put that</p> <p>15 information onto that piece of paper?</p> <p>16 A. That's my handwriting. Yes, only I would've wrote on</p> <p>17 that.</p> <p>18 Q. When did you put that information onto that piece of</p> <p>19 paper?</p> <p>20 A. I can't even recall what that there refers to.</p> <p>21 Q. Does that --</p> <p>22 A. It would've been after all the cross-referencing</p> <p>23 initially would've taken place with Louisa De Silvo,</p> <p>24 because looking at it, you can see it's not in the</p> <p>25 same -- but I couldn't be certain as to what that refers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 Manager Batterbee.</p> <p>2 Crew Manager Batterbee, thank you very much for your</p> <p>3 evidence today. I just want to say how grateful I am to</p> <p>4 you.</p> <p>5 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I reiterate that. We're really</p> <p>7 grateful to you for coming to tell us what you can about</p> <p>8 what was obviously a really distressing experience, and</p> <p>9 I think everybody in the room will understand how</p> <p>10 difficult it has been for you to describe some rather</p> <p>11 painful memories.</p> <p>12 So thank you very much. Your evidence will be very</p> <p>13 useful to us.</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>16 All right, well, when you're ready, you can go with</p> <p>17 the usher.</p> <p>18 (The witness was released)</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, Mr Millett, what's next?</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: Who is next is Mr Brown, Firefighter</p> <p>21 Daniel Brown.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: I am told that he is keen to start and I am</p> <p>24 equally keen not to lose an afternoon.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I agree.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 to. I don't remember.</p> <p>2 Q. Does that addition to your list have anything to do with</p> <p>3 the conversation that you had with Firefighter Lawson</p> <p>4 about the 18th floor?</p> <p>5 A. It could've been, but I remember that I didn't show him</p> <p>6 my notebook or clearly didn't give him that because</p> <p>7 I still had that piece of paper. I remember giving him</p> <p>8 a separate piece of paper with information on it.</p> <p>9 Q. Right. Would that have been in the form of the 6178</p> <p>10 form?</p> <p>11 A. I don't think it was. I don't think it was. Or it</p> <p>12 might have been -- again, I can't be sure, but</p> <p>13 I remember giving him that information.</p> <p>14 Q. Have you any idea what Greg Lawson did with that</p> <p>15 information?</p> <p>16 A. Well, he passed it to me and then I passed it to Watch</p> <p>17 Manager Paul Watson with the objective that it would go</p> <p>18 back up to the bridge.</p> <p>19 Q. I meant Watson.</p> <p>20 A. Sorry, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. My fault.</p> <p>22 A. I don't know what happened to that information after</p> <p>23 that, no.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: Right.</p> <p>25 Mr Chairman, I have no further questions for Crew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 MR MILLETT: It may be we would benefit from a very short</p> <p>2 break just to make sure that he's ready.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Everything is settled down.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: Can I ask the chairman how long we would sit</p> <p>5 for this evening?</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well --</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: It's been a long day.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I would normally not want to sit</p> <p>9 beyond about 4.15 --</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Very good.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- because although the witness</p> <p>12 won't have been giving evidence for very long, everybody</p> <p>13 else in the room will have been sitting here for quite</p> <p>14 a long day. So I would like to try and rise by 4.15;</p> <p>15 I'm willing to go beyond that in order to finish</p> <p>16 a topic, but we all ought to regard 4.30 as being a hard</p> <p>17 deadline.</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: I may be able to get through quite a bit in</p> <p>19 even that short --</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: See how we go.</p> <p>21 So I'll rise now. 5 minutes?</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: Can I say 10, 3.45? Not for me, but there may</p> <p>23 be other people who may need longer.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: I sense resistance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Only because the witness is waiting 2 to come on, presumably, and doesn't need a break. 3 MR MILLETT: Okay, 5 minutes. 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So let's say 5 minutes and then if 5 it needs to be longer, just tell the usher and I'll 6 wait. 7 MR MILLETT: Very good. 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Otherwise, 3.40, please. Thank you. 9 (3.35 pm) 10 (A short break) 11 (3.40 pm) 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett. I think Mr Brown, 13 is it? 14 MR MILLETT: Mr Brown. 15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: He is just about ready, I believe. 16 MR MILLETT: Yes. 17 DANIEL BROWN (affirmed) 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Brown, I gather you've been 19 waiting all day to give your evidence. I'm sorry we 20 have kept you waiting so long. 21 THE WITNESS: That's okay. 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You obviously prefer to stand. 23 THE WITNESS: Yes, please. 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If at any stage you would like to 25 change your mind, of course you're free to do so.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 reference is MET00010867. You should also have some 2 contemporaneous notes in there at tab 3B, which are 3 DRB/1. 4 Yes? 5 A. Correct. 6 Q. And those are MET00005251. 7 There are two further exhibits to your witness 8 statement. Exhibit 2 should be a map in tab C. 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. The reference to that is MET00015746. DRB/3 is a plan, 11 which is MET00015745. Is that there? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. Have you read your statement recently? 14 A. No, I haven't. 15 Q. Right. Did you read it when you completed it? 16 A. Yes, I did, yes. 17 Q. Right. At that time, were you satisfied that its 18 contents were true? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Thank you. 21 Have you discussed your statement or your evidence 22 with anybody before coming to the inquiry today to give 23 your evidence? 24 A. No, I haven't, no. 25 Q. Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? 3 Yes, Mr Millett. 4 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY 5 MR MILLETT: Good afternoon, Mr Brown. 6 A. Good afternoon. 7 Q. Could you please give us your full name. 8 A. My name is Daniel Richard Brown. 9 Q. Thank you. 10 First, can I thank you very much for coming to give 11 evidence to the inquiry. It is very much appreciated by 12 the inquiry team. 13 My questions -- and I say this to all the 14 witnesses -- are intended to be short and simple, but if 15 you have any difficulty understanding them or hearing 16 me, then don't hesitate, please, to ask me to repeat the 17 question or put it in a different way. 18 A. Okay. 19 Q. If you feel you need a break at any point, please just 20 let us know. 21 A. Okay. 22 Q. Although this afternoon, I think, will be a short 23 afternoon. 24 Could you please take your statement, which should 25 be in the bundle in front of you at tab 3A. Its</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 You say in your statement that you joined the London 2 Fire Brigade in 1990. 3 A. 1991. 4 Q. 1991. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. How old were you when you joined? 7 A. I was 20, 20 years old. 8 Q. 20 years old, and you've been an active firefighter 9 since then, have you? 10 A. Yes, I have. 11 Q. Could you give a summary of your career since 1991? 12 A. I joined what was the London Fire and Civil Defence 13 Authority back in January 1991. I spent just under six 14 months training at Southwark Training School. From 15 there, I did a year's probation and then, after 16 four years, I took a number of tests and -- basically 17 I did a four-yearly, it was called then, and upon 18 passing that I was then deemed qualified as a qualified 19 firefighter. 20 I think the following year I completed my motor 21 drivers course and I have remained -- I've always been 22 posted to North Kensington and I've worked there for my 23 whole career, 27 years, always on the Red Watch. 24 Q. Always on the Red Watch? 25 A. Always on the Red Watch.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 Q. And in terms of your level, your training level, you say 2 that's competent. 3 A. Correct. 4 Q. What does that mean? 5 A. Well, when I became competent, it was actually called 6 qualified, but I suppose that's semantics. It basically 7 means that I was deemed -- I'm a qualified firefighter, 8 I've undergone a number of tests, and that is 9 a continuous programme where you're forever doing drills 10 and -- you just do an ongoing process where they are 11 continually monitoring how your performance -- how 12 you're performing, and if they identify any issues, then 13 they'll work with those and that maintains your 14 competency. 15 Q. Right. When was the last time before June 2017 you were 16 assessed for your competence? 17 A. I think it's just an ongoing process. I don't think 18 there's a specific: this is your test day; it's 19 an ongoing process with everything you do. 20 Q. Yes, I see. 21 In terms of training, can you tell us what was the 22 most recent training before June 2017 you received? 23 A. It would be impossible to say specifically what type of 24 training. You're doing training for everything, 25 continually, be it desktop classroom study or drills in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 but I could not give you a specific date or year. It's 2 about two years ago. 3 Q. Okay. 4 A. It's really hard to remember because we do so much. 5 It's really hard to give specific dates on anything, to 6 be fair. 7 Q. Can you give us an idea about what the back to basics 8 training course involves? 9 A. So, from memory, I think the back to basics was put out 10 for the whole brigade, obviously not all at once, and so 11 you were tasked to go to a station when you're on 12 strategic resource and we'd meet up with a number of 13 other stations, and then you would basically do the 14 training programme, which is basically going back to 15 basics -- it's in the title. And I think that one was 16 about high-rise procedure. 17 Q. So that one, the back to basics training -- 18 A. There's been more than one. There was a previous one 19 a year or two years before that which was at Paddington. 20 Q. Right. When did the back to basics course come in? 21 A. I think this is the second one that I've done, so in 22 history terms it's relatively quite new. 23 Q. Quite new. 24 A. From my history. 25 Q. Do you know what prompted the London Fire Brigade to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 the yard or sometimes you'll do an organised exercise 2 out on the ground somewhere. You know, special risks on 3 your ground, so sometimes you'll focus on those, such as 4 we have Wormwood Scrubs Prison on our ground, so we'll 5 focus on organising an exercise there. It just helps us 6 familiarise, get used to what we're doing, practises 7 everything, and we're just always ready from doing those 8 things. 9 Q. Yes. Okay, thank you. 10 Can I ask you to be shown, please, page 27 of your 11 statement and the third paragraph on that page. You say 12 in the last three sentences in that paragraph: 13 "I have previously received training was last year 14 at Hammersmith. This is called Back to Basics training. 15 I went through setting up bridgeheads and similar 16 things." 17 I just want to ask you about the back to basics 18 training course. 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. First of all, was that training course for the whole of 21 the North Kensington watch? 22 A. It was, yes. 23 Q. You say "last year", and given that your witness 24 statement was signed in 2018, do you mean 2017? 25 A. I think it was prior -- it was pre-Grenfell from memory,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 start delivering back to basics course? 2 A. I do not know. 3 Q. No. And you mention high-rise training in the context 4 of the back to basics course. Can you elaborate a bit 5 more? 6 A. So it was specifically about high-rise procedure and 7 dealing with high-rise incidents. So we'd do 8 a practical, and there's so many stations there, you end 9 up doing it in a number -- it would be happening three 10 or four times within the day. A group of four or six 11 would do the drill, they'd go off into the classroom; 12 the next four would come along, they'd go in the 13 classroom, and it was just routinely like that. So it 14 was practical and then up to the classroom. 15 Q. Right. 16 Did the back to basics course contain anything about 17 how to deal with a multi-compartment fire in a high-rise 18 block? 19 A. It always does, high-rise. One of the basic things in 20 high-rise drills and procedures and everything is 21 a covering jet -- should a compartment fail, you've got 22 a covering jet to stop that fire from spreading above 23 the flat where the compartment is broken. So absolutely 24 yes. 25 Q. Right. Only at the bottom of page 27, if you look down</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p>

1 at the foot of the page, you see you say:
 2 "Our previous training has always worked. We rely
 3 on the building's design to do its job and
 4 compartmentalise the fire. We do not have training on
 5 what the process should be if compartmentalisation
 6 fails."
 7 **A. Yes. That is a wording. That is, in my mind, real fire**
 8 **training. So it's -- all training that we do is**
 9 **imagination, so you have to imagine -- so as much as**
 10 **you're standing there putting a jet above the window,**
 11 **there's nothing there, so you've got to imagine that,**
 12 **actually, that fire is travelling above. So it's not**
 13 **real, if that makes sense; it's your imagination.**
 14 **That's most training: imagining it's on fire, imagining**
 15 **there's people in there, imagining something's not**
 16 **working. Everyone's imagination is different.**
 17 Q. Right, okay. So in this imaginary world of learning --
 18 **A. Training, yes.**
 19 Q. -- training -- I don't mean to diminish its importance,
 20 Mr Brown -- what do you learn about what you should do
 21 if you see compartmentation failing in a high-rise
 22 block?
 23 **A. Well, just the fact that you're putting a covering jet**
 24 **and you explain why you're doing this, from there on --**
 25 **so you can stand there and think, "Why am I doing**

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1 **this" -- well, they explain why you're doing it, because**
 2 **you're looking at -- for that compartment to fail. But,**
 3 **of course, in training, that compartment never fails.**
 4 Q. No. And you talk about a covering jet; that would be on
 5 the exterior?
 6 **A. That's correct, yes.**
 7 Q. Why do you think training about compartmentation failure
 8 would concentrate on a covering jet on the outside?
 9 **A. I think it's -- it could be -- I would imagine it's down**
 10 **to resources, because you can't have fire engines off**
 11 **the run everywhere; we need to be on call 24 hours**
 12 **a day. So it would be difficult and very**
 13 **labour-intensive to then add additional crews to what**
 14 **you would normally do or send another crew up to fight**
 15 **the fire inside that compartment and so on and so on.**
 16 **It's very labour-intensive. And we're an operational**
 17 **fire service; you just cannot afford to have that amount**
 18 **of fire engines off the run.**
 19 Q. Did your training contain anything -- when I say your
 20 training, I mean either in the back to basics course or
 21 even more generally -- about exterior fire spread,
 22 spread on the exterior of a building?
 23 **A. Only in that should the compartment fail at the window.**
 24 Q. What did that training tell you?
 25 **A. Literally, again, covering jet above.**

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1 Q. Is that it?
 2 **A. Well, you have to imagine -- again, it's down to**
 3 **imagination -- this window that's broken its**
 4 **compartmentation could be on the sixth floor. There's**
 5 **not a lot else you can do outside. If an aerial is not**
 6 **there with your training, you can't utilise that aerial,**
 7 **so the answer is do what you can on the outside with the**
 8 **covering jet, and if an aerial is not there in the real**
 9 **world, you just get up inside, up to the next floor,**
 10 **because you always fight the fire inside out.**
 11 Q. Let me be a little bit more specific: did you ever
 12 receive any training on what would happen if the
 13 exterior of the building ignited?
 14 **A. I think you need to be more specific with regards to**
 15 **what is the exterior part of the building, because it**
 16 **becomes an imagination thing. Is it a brick building,**
 17 **a concrete building?**
 18 Q. Did you have any training about cladding?
 19 **A. No.**
 20 Q. Did the training provide any guidance to you as to what
 21 the appropriate response would be to fire spreading
 22 vertically up the exterior of a building?
 23 **A. No.**
 24 Q. What about laterally across a facade?
 25 **A. No.**

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1 Q. Were you aware from your experience about Lakanal House?
 2 **A. No. I mean, we did a basic -- again, a basic desktop**
 3 **package, that's theory, and -- no, not really. The**
 4 **training on it wasn't great, no, in my opinion.**
 5 Q. Right. Let's see --
 6 **A. You need -- I think if you're not at the incident, it's**
 7 **really hard to gauge -- really hard to gauge from the**
 8 **other side of London exactly what was entailed at this**
 9 **incident by what's written on a bit of paper. It's very**
 10 **hard to understand what is meant -- what is said, what**
 11 **is meant.**
 12 Q. You say that you did a basic desktop package. Was that
 13 a basic desktop package about Lakanal House?
 14 **A. It was a training package delivered by my watch manager.**
 15 Q. Right. When was that?
 16 **A. I do not know.**
 17 Q. Was it Lakanal House-specific?
 18 **A. It was, I think. Again, I can't be 100 per cent.**
 19 **I don't know. We have so much coming our way, it's**
 20 **really hard to be specific.**
 21 Q. Do you remember any training materials, slides,
 22 handouts, matters like that?
 23 **A. I don't, no.**
 24 Q. You say it wasn't that great; what wasn't great about
 25 it?

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1 A. It's just very hard because, literally, most of the
 2 training that we receive is just text written on a bit
 3 of paper, it's just written out, printed out. It's
 4 given to the watch manager, "There you go, deliver
 5 that".
 6 So London is a very large Brigade. It's huge, and
 7 you've got four watches per station. There's -- well,
 8 there was 100 -- I think there's 103 stations now. It's
 9 a massive task to undertake, and the fire service really
 10 struggles with its budget, so it delivers what it can
 11 the best possible. To be fair, it does actually quite
 12 a remarkable job, in my opinion, but could really do
 13 with a bit more investment. Really.
 14 Q. Have you ever heard of a fire at Shepherds Court?
 15 A. I was actually ordered onto it, but on the day I was
 16 standing by because there wasn't enough personnel at
 17 Battersea because they were short of a driver, I think.
 18 We were ordered on when it was made pumps 20, but again,
 19 once I got there, I think they'd dealt with the
 20 incident, so I didn't really get involved.
 21 Q. You weren't involved?
 22 A. By the time we got there, because it's quite a long
 23 distance from Battersea to Shepherd's Bush, it takes
 24 quite a long time to get there in the middle of the day,
 25 a lot of traffic, so they'd extinguished it and so we

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1 weren't required, so I think we then left.
 2 Q. You'll remember Shepherds Court was, I think,
 3 19 August 2016.
 4 A. Sorry, could you repeat that?
 5 Q. Shepherds Court, the date, August 2016. You don't
 6 remember?
 7 A. No.
 8 Q. After that date, just to give you a time frame, do you
 9 remember being trained on the lessons that could be
 10 learned from the Shepherds Court fire?
 11 A. No, no. I don't think it's that uncommon what happened
 12 at Shepherd's Bush fire because a window, from my
 13 understanding and conversations -- because I think my
 14 watch was ordered onto it from North Kensington at the
 15 time, and naturally we just talk about what happened
 16 because we like to learn things and improve all the
 17 time, it's a constant thing, I understand it broke out
 18 of a window, and as much as it went up and started to
 19 affect the next window, it didn't actually break in,
 20 because you need that window to break down and then the
 21 fire to then grow in that compartment as well, and it's
 22 quite a fair process for that to actually happen, and
 23 you expect that room to be able to hold that fire for
 24 a certain length of time before that room would
 25 eventually flashover and force enough flame up to the

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1 next window.
 2 So you like to think that each time it is going up
 3 in a compartment, you'll have time to get crews in and
 4 deal with it before it reaches a point of flashing over
 5 up to the next one. That is my understanding.
 6 Q. Yes. Okay.
 7 Were you ever given any training about how to
 8 conduct a mass evacuation of a high-rise tower block?
 9 A. No, we weren't, because the whole evacuation -- we
 10 can't -- when a fire happens, if it has an alarm system,
 11 that is the evacuation point. By the time we get there,
 12 the evacuation point is lost. There is no chance to
 13 evacuate. The whole point of having an evacuation
 14 procedure is you have an integrated fire alarm. We
 15 don't do evacuations; we do assist and rescues. There
 16 is no evacuation procedure we can do. It's impossible.
 17 You're asking people to come down through stairs
 18 that could be smoke-logged, they might not make it.
 19 That is just giving up on them. We have a process and
 20 we will get in there, get them out. We can't just leave
 21 them for a free-for-all.
 22 Q. When you say it has an alarm system, do you mean
 23 a whole-building alarm?
 24 A. The whole building, integrated alarm system, so it tells
 25 everybody, "There's a fire in the building, get out",

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1 before the fire has time to grow and develop and take
 2 hold. Because once that happens, smoke travels
 3 anywhere. You could have a system where it's sucking
 4 air out of that room and pushing it somewhere else. You
 5 don't know. We don't know.
 6 Q. Can I just ask you about whole-building alarm systems?
 7 A. Yes.
 8 Q. I mean, you've been in North Kensington as a front line
 9 firefighter --
 10 A. Yes.
 11 Q. -- since 1991.
 12 A. Correct, yes.
 13 Q. In your experience, are there high-rise tower blocks in
 14 North Kensington which have whole alarm systems?
 15 A. With regards to residential tower blocks --
 16 Q. Residential tower blocks.
 17 A. -- no, although Grenfell used to have. Grenfell used to
 18 have an integrated fire alarm system with a concierge.
 19 Q. Yes. Could you just elaborate on that a little bit?
 20 A. So on the ground floor, there used to be a concierge and
 21 there was a fire alarm panel in there, and I believe
 22 there was an alarm system -- I can't 100 per cent --
 23 because this is a long time ago, but I believe there was
 24 a head on every lobby -- on every lobby, on every floor,
 25 and I used to go to many fire alarms there where

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1 sometimes it was actually a fire, or it could've been
 2 the bin room outside that's drawn in smoke inside.
 3 There's lots of different reasons why that alarm would
 4 go off. Sometimes there are fires, not always. Could
 5 just be burnt cooking, could just be a bit of dust. But
 6 the whole building would actuate all at once.
 7 Q. What would happen --
 8 A. The idea is that everyone evacuates. That's your
 9 evacuation point: there's a fire in the building, get
 10 out.
 11 Q. In your experience, did the whole of Grenfell Tower ever
 12 evacuate?
 13 A. Some did, some didn't. I'll be honest, since
 14 Grenfell Tower, I think most people are taking fire
 15 alarms a lot more seriously than they used to and people
 16 are evacuating like we would hope they would do when the
 17 fire alarm goes off. If you don't have a fire alarm,
 18 you don't know, you're not aware of what's going on.
 19 Q. I am just trying to get to the facts here.
 20 So until what point in time, do you remember, did
 21 Grenfell Tower have a whole-building evacuation alarm?
 22 A. I do not know the answer to that. I don't know what
 23 year. I would imagine they removed the smoke alarm
 24 system the same point they removed the concierge, but
 25 again, I don't know the date.

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1 Q. No.
 2 I asked you whether there were, in your experience,
 3 mass evacuations of Grenfell Tower. You say some did,
 4 some didn't.
 5 A. Absolutely.
 6 Q. Was that on some occasions or some people?
 7 A. It's everywhere, across all buildings, across the whole
 8 of London. Part of working on the front line within
 9 a fire station is there's a real struggle for resources.
 10 I think we're nearly 300 firefighters short right now.
 11 It's really hard to maintain pumps on the run,
 12 particularly in summer. So many are coming off the run
 13 during the summer. It's really hard to maintain a level
 14 of fire cover. It's a real struggle. It's hard,
 15 I won't lie.
 16 I'm sorry, I'm ranting and raving -- I've forgotten
 17 the question.
 18 Q. It's my fault, perhaps --
 19 A. I'm just angry and passionate.
 20 Q. Let's try and keep to the facts because that's what
 21 we're here to examine.
 22 A. Yes.
 23 Q. Just in terms of facts, you said a minute ago, "Some
 24 did, some didn't", when I asked you about evacuations
 25 in --

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1 A. Yes, so this happens across London, so the fire alarm
 2 will go off --
 3 Q. Can I just ask you the question.
 4 A. I'm sorry.
 5 Q. The question is: when evacuations happened at
 6 Grenfell Tower prior to the integrated alarm being
 7 removed, was there mass evacuation or not?
 8 A. I could not tell you because I do not have any way or
 9 anybody has any way of knowing how many people are in
 10 that building at that specific time. Some people may be
 11 in, some people may be out, and short of going through
 12 every single flat on 24 floors, knocking on their door,
 13 you would not know the answer to that. You do --
 14 Q. Was --
 15 A. Sorry.
 16 Q. Do you want to finish?
 17 A. I was just going to say what you do with an integrated
 18 fire alarm system, on the panel it will light up which
 19 area the smoke detector has actuated, so it could say
 20 zone 3. Next to that fire alarm panel, the zone would
 21 be indicated, what floor and what flat, or what floor it
 22 was on I would imagine in Grenfell, because it was more
 23 lobbies rather than individual flats, and you know
 24 exactly where to go. You don't need to travel the whole
 25 building, you go to where that smoke detector is

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1 actuating, because that's telling you where the fire is.
 2 Q. During the time, casting your mind back, when this
 3 integrated alarm was present at Grenfell Tower, do you
 4 remember what the standing advice to residents was in
 5 the event of a fire?
 6 A. When there was an alarm system in place?
 7 Q. Yes.
 8 A. I could not remember. I could only guess, and I'm not
 9 going to do that.
 10 Q. Now, in your statement, you say -- and this is, again,
 11 page 27, second paragraph:
 12 "I have previously been on a section 7(2)D visit to
 13 Grenfell Tower."
 14 It looks from that as if you'd only been on one. Is
 15 that right or had you been on more than one?
 16 A. That's just the way it's worded; I've been on hundreds.
 17 Q. Hundreds?
 18 A. Hundreds, yes.
 19 Q. Since what year?
 20 A. Well, it used to be called a 1(1)(d), it's now a
 21 7(2)(d). I've been doing what is now called a 7(2)(d)
 22 since July 1991, which is when I went operational from
 23 training school. So 26.5 years.
 24 Q. So in the 26.5 years of being on Red Watch at North
 25 Kensington, how many times, do you think -- just guess,

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1 I suppose -- you visited Grenfell Tower on a 1(1)(d) or
 2 a 7(2)(d) visit?
 3 **A. I could not ever give an answer to that. I do not know.**
 4 **Very often. You would go there naturally anyway just**
 5 **for calls or there would be some reason to go to these**
 6 **places. I cannot remember how often 1(1)(d)s, but**
 7 **I think back then -- again, I'm really having to go**
 8 **back -- it commanded a fire certificate, so I think that**
 9 **fire certificate commanded us or the building to have**
 10 **a visit once a year. And it wasn't just**
 11 **a familiarisation visit, which is pretty much what a**
 12 **7(2)(d) does; what it was was a fire safety enforcement**
 13 **visit with it to ensure that the building was meeting**
 14 **its fire regulations and to make sure that the fire**
 15 **systems in place are there, and not just making sure**
 16 **they're there, but we'd test them, we'd look at them,**
 17 **we'd physically -- we would test everything. We'd go up**
 18 **to the top -- first of all, you'd arrive, you'd look for**
 19 **the hydrant, you'd make sure that the access -- if there**
 20 **was a fire gate, you'd make sure that that was clear,**
 21 **you'd make sure if there's yellow lines which is a keep**
 22 **clear, you'd make sure that no one parked on there and**
 23 **if there was, you'd go to the concierge and say, "Sort**
 24 **that out, do not let people park there".**
 25 **Then you'd go to the fire lifts, you'd make sure**

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1 **they had the fire lifts in place. You'd make sure it**
 2 **works. You didn't just look at it and say, "There's**
 3 **a fire lift"; you'd then check this fire lift. It's**
 4 **part of the fire safety enforcement. You'd actually**
 5 **physically put the key in and operate the fire lift and**
 6 **that that would work.**
 7 **You'd then go up to the top floor, you'd look at**
 8 **emergency lighting, you'd look at fire doors, you'd make**
 9 **sure the self-closures were there. And not only would**
 10 **you make sure the self-closures were there, you'd test**
 11 **the self-closures worked.**
 12 Q. It sounds as if, from that answer, this is something you
 13 would do in the distant past but didn't do anymore?
 14 **A. We don't do it anymore because it's all been taken away,**
 15 **it's all been privatised. It's no longer our**
 16 **responsibility to make sure that these fire enforcements**
 17 **and fire certificates and fire safety things in place --**
 18 **it's not our business anymore, apparently; it's all been**
 19 **privatised.**
 20 Q. Okay. We're perhaps straying away from some factual
 21 questions.
 22 **A. Yes, I'm sorry.**
 23 Q. When was the last 7(2)(d) visit that you paid to
 24 Grenfell Tower?
 25 **A. The last time I went to Grenfell Tower was, I believe --**

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1 **I think the dry riser had come off the run.**
 2 Q. What does that mean?
 3 **A. I think -- the dry riser, it was basically**
 4 **non-operational because they were extending it. I think**
 5 **it was on the third or the fourth floor -- again,**
 6 **I can't remember, you'll have to forgive me.**
 7 Q. Other witnesses have said third floor.
 8 **A. I think it's the third floor, and they were extending it**
 9 **down, so basically it was going to be inoperational for**
 10 **a number of days while they extended that down. So**
 11 **I think we went there just to check that out and see**
 12 **what their plans were, and then we went back again.**
 13 **But I'm not sure that we carried out that visit or**
 14 **it was another watch, but I know our watch went back to**
 15 **make sure that that was completed, located the new riser**
 16 **inlet and basically: okay, thank you very much, it's**
 17 **back on the run.**
 18 MR MILLETT: Right.
 19 Mr Brown, forgive me, I know you're fresh, I can
 20 see; there are others in the room who may be less fresh,
 21 if I can put it that way.
 22 Mr Chairman, it's maybe a convenient point to break.
 23 I am going to go into detail on the evidence that has
 24 just been given, but it may be better to do that first
 25 thing in the morning.

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1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.
 2 There you are, Mr Brown. I am sorry we are going to
 3 interrupt your evidence so soon, but there it is. We've
 4 reached the time of day when we do that.
 5 Can I ask you, please, now you've started giving
 6 your evidence, not to discuss your evidence or any other
 7 aspect of the matters we're dealing with until you've
 8 finished completely, which will be some time tomorrow.
 9 THE WITNESS: Okay, smashing. Thank you.
 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.
 11 Now, what time are we going to resume?
 12 MR MILLETT: May I ask that we start at 9.30?
 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do you mind being here, please, to
 14 start at 9.30.
 15 THE WITNESS: Absolutely, okay.
 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. You go with
 17 the usher, that's fine.
 18 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
 19 MR MILLETT: Thank you.
 20 (4.15 pm)
 21 (The hearing adjourned until Friday, 29 June 2018 at
 22 9.30 am)
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