

<p>1 Wednesday, 4 July 2018</p> <p>2 (9.30 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning. Welcome to today's</p> <p>4 hearing. We are going to resume the evidence of Mr Egan</p> <p>5 in just a moment.</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: Good morning, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Could we have the witness in,</p> <p>8 please. Thank you.</p> <p>9 DANIEL EGAN (continued)</p> <p>10 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (continued)</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, Mr Egan.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: Good morning, sir.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you ready to keep going?</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Raring to go, sir.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. Mr Millett.</p> <p>16 MR MILLETT: So am I, just!</p> <p>17 Morning, Mr Egan.</p> <p>18 A. Morning.</p> <p>19 Q. Can I just pick up where we were last night with you in</p> <p>20 the foyer of the tower.</p> <p>21 Can I just take you to your contemporaneous notes,</p> <p>22 if I may, which are behind your statement.</p> <p>23 I want to ask you about page 3 of that document,</p> <p>24 which is part of a very long answer under question 9.</p> <p>25 It's the third paragraph down on that page, and in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 of "auto" as opposed to "on"?</p> <p>2 A. Well, the "auto", you would expect it to actuate when</p> <p>3 the smoke detectors -- if there was smoke detectors and</p> <p>4 would then open the vents. But what you could do is you</p> <p>5 could force that -- if for some reason it didn't</p> <p>6 operate, you could turn the key to "on" and it should</p> <p>7 just open and allow the ventilation system to work.</p> <p>8 Q. Right. And when it went to "on", would that work on</p> <p>9 every floor or just one floor or where the fire was?</p> <p>10 A. It depends on the type of system that's in place. Where</p> <p>11 the ventilation would be on corridors, usually you find</p> <p>12 that you can only do one corridor at a time because the</p> <p>13 system will equalise out, so you have to clear one</p> <p>14 floor, turn it off, then you can turn it on on the next</p> <p>15 floor, but I wasn't aware that -- it was a very simple</p> <p>16 system. It said "auto vent" or something like that and</p> <p>17 it just had "auto" and "on".</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 A. It didn't tell me whether it was in the stairwells and</p> <p>20 I didn't know whether there was corridors off at the</p> <p>21 time either.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay, right.</p> <p>23 Would it be normal to have some kind of guidance</p> <p>24 plate or documentation or information next to the AOV</p> <p>25 box?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 middle of that paragraph you say:</p> <p>2 "I noticed the ventilation box, Auto or On with</p> <p>3 a key turned to on position. I did not see any guidance</p> <p>4 or for where this was operating in the tower. I told</p> <p>5 Pete W about this box. I did not see or notice any AFA</p> <p>6 panel, but I did not actively seek one out either, it</p> <p>7 was not my priority."</p> <p>8 Can I just ask you one or two questions about the</p> <p>9 ventilation box.</p> <p>10 First of all, what is the ventilation box that</p> <p>11 you're referring to there?</p> <p>12 A. It was just on the wall and I made an assumption that it</p> <p>13 was to do with the -- if it had an automatic smoke</p> <p>14 ventilation system for the stairwells.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay. And you say it had a key in it turned to "on".</p> <p>16 That's your clear recollection, is it?</p> <p>17 A. That's my recollection, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you know who turned it to "on"?</p> <p>19 A. No, I don't, no, sorry.</p> <p>20 Q. Is that how you left it?</p> <p>21 A. I left it, yeah, because usually you would expect to see</p> <p>22 it in "auto", so because it was switched to "on", I just</p> <p>23 made an assumption that someone has tried to get it to</p> <p>24 work, to force it to work.</p> <p>25 Q. Right. What would be the difference in your experience</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 A. Not really in the box; usually they would be with the</p> <p>2 plans. It may say where that operates and then you</p> <p>3 could go through the diagram on the plan and work out</p> <p>4 where the AOVs are situated, and then you could adjust</p> <p>5 your tactical plan later.</p> <p>6 Q. You say that you told Pete W about this box. Pete W, is</p> <p>7 that Pete Wolfenden?</p> <p>8 A. That's Pete Wolfenden, and I just mention it as -- as</p> <p>9 I was talking and I mentioned it to him and just said,</p> <p>10 you know, it's in the "on" position, and we -- it was</p> <p>11 just that -- there isn't anything else I can do with</p> <p>12 that information. I've got it, it's already in the "on"</p> <p>13 position, so if there are vents and they are working,</p> <p>14 they will be in the open position.</p> <p>15 Q. Right. Do you know what Pete Wolfenden did with that</p> <p>16 information?</p> <p>17 A. No, I think it was just a conversation as in -- there</p> <p>18 isn't anything -- I wasn't asking him to do anything</p> <p>19 with the information; I was just voicing that I've</p> <p>20 noticed that that's in the "on" position; therefore, the</p> <p>21 vents should be open.</p> <p>22 Q. Right. Did there come a time after that when somebody</p> <p>23 other than you perhaps operated the vents and got them</p> <p>24 to work?</p> <p>25 A. I'm not aware. I can make an assumption that the fire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 safety officer that came on maybe may have looked at it, 2 but I don't know of anyone that did do it.</p> <p>3 Q. Was there a fire safety officer that came on, do you 4 know?</p> <p>5 A. There should've been another fire safety order on at 6 some stage in the incident, maybe -- they may have -- as 7 you were, same as me, come on as fire safety but then 8 had to be used for something else, and we could've been 9 sort of run out of fire safety officers until later, 10 once the incident had closed down, really.</p> <p>11 Q. No.</p> <p>12 A. Then used a fire safety officer.</p> <p>13 Q. I mean, do I take it that you don't know who the fire 14 safety officer was who came along?</p> <p>15 A. No, sorry, I don't know.</p> <p>16 Q. Can I then take you back to your statement, please, 17 which you should have also on the screen at page 7. 18 I want to ask you about page 7 and the third paragraph 19 in that statement on that page, which starts: 20 "As it was getting to day light there was an issue." 21 You see there that you describe a discussion with 22 a crew manager about people in either flat 113 or 23 flat 133. 24 Where were you physically at that point?</p> <p>25 A. So I was actually on the command unit where we had</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 A. Under sort of the first column, there's a little bit of 2 green writing just there (Indicates).</p> <p>3 Q. Yes. Perhaps we can have that expanded. It's very 4 difficult to see, but what from your recollection was 5 that?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, so the green figures -- if we go back to the -- so 7 the tick, if I recall correctly, we put the tick after 8 we confirm that we had a record that they left the 9 premises, which came a little bit later on. So the 10 ticks were nearer the end of the incident.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 A. Originally -- so 113, we would've had information that 13 it was one adult, four children, and I don't -- sorry, 14 I can't --</p> <p>15 Q. It looks like an F.</p> <p>16 A. Yeah.</p> <p>17 Q. Can you help with that?</p> <p>18 A. No, I can't remember.</p> <p>19 Q. It doesn't look as if it's a repeated figure anywhere 20 else on that picture, so leave that then. And the P --</p> <p>21 A. The P would be the priority because of the children.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay. In terms of the order in which these things would 23 be placed on there, can you help us?</p> <p>24 A. It was just transferring the information that we got 25 from control with regards to fire survival guidance, we</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 our -- the door was open so you could see the tower and 2 then I could see the firefighter on the phone.</p> <p>3 Q. Then you go on to say: 4 "I said 'what flat number is she?' He checked with 5 her and told me the number. I looked at the board and 6 saw that this already had a P by it, which meant 7 Priority." 8 Can I ask you to look at DEG/4, your exhibit, which 9 we looked at yesterday. 10 If you look at -- you had better look at both -- 11 start with 113, which is one of the two flat numbers you 12 refer to, you can see a red tick next to it and then 13 what looks like a green 1, and then a 4 in a ring in 14 black and then something next to it and then a P. 15 First of all, could you explain to us what all of 16 those legends or indications are? First of all, the red 17 tick. 18 A. Just at the bottom of that photograph I think there's 19 a key to what we put on there.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay. Yes. Let's go to that. So that looks like -- 21 well, P is priority. And then the plus --</p> <p>22 A. I think in the bottom left-hand side.</p> <p>23 Q. What --</p> <p>24 A. So --</p> <p>25 Q. What does that say?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 then plotted up that information to that flat number. 2 So 133 we believed had two adults -- the information we 3 had was two adults, two children, so we made that 4 a priority.</p> <p>5 Q. You made that a priority. I was actually looking at 6 113.</p> <p>7 A. Sorry.</p> <p>8 Q. Just stay on 113 for the moment. So you've got the 9 green 1, which is a green adult; yes?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Just summarising what you said, and then a 4 in a ring.</p> <p>12 A. Four children, we believed.</p> <p>13 Q. And then something next to it, which I don't think you 14 can help us with, and then P, priority. 15 Does the P mean that the whole flat is a priority?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. And that all goes down, does it, from the information 18 that you've got on the paper, on the form that's been 19 written on based on the information that's come from 20 control?</p> <p>21 A. That's right, so the information that we got from 22 control and then we prioritised it.</p> <p>23 Q. The red tick you think comes later, once the flat is 24 cleared?</p> <p>25 A. I think so. I think that relates to what's on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 left-hand side.</p> <p>2 Q. Then if we can do the same exercise in relation to</p> <p>3 flat 133, you've got 2 in green, so that's two adults,</p> <p>4 is it?</p> <p>5 A. We believe two adults, two children, so they was made</p> <p>6 a priority because of the children.</p> <p>7 Q. It looks like a red ring or red box around the P with</p> <p>8 flat 133. Can you explain that?</p> <p>9 A. I think what that is, is where we've had people talk to</p> <p>10 us about it or people have questioned it -- if I was</p> <p>11 dealing with it, for example, and then I was asking Tony</p> <p>12 Peckham about 133, it's a priority and he would just be</p> <p>13 sort of fidgeting, if you know what I mean, he would be</p> <p>14 saying, "Yeah, look, we've got it here as a P", that</p> <p>15 sort of ...</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 Now, going back to your statement, towards the end</p> <p>18 of the paragraph we're on, which is the third paragraph</p> <p>19 on page 7, you say:</p> <p>20 "I looked at the board and saw that this already</p> <p>21 had a P by it, which meant Priority. I knew that I had</p> <p>22 passed on that information ages ago and it had been</p> <p>23 marked up to show BA sent. It had a 2 in green which</p> <p>24 meant two adults and a 2 in black which meant kids."</p> <p>25 You just explained that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 I would've gone along the lines that it was 133. Purely</p> <p>2 because of the number of children.</p> <p>3 Q. Right, thank you.</p> <p>4 A. Yeah, because the other one had four children, and that</p> <p>5 would have stuck in my head more, that there was four</p> <p>6 children in the flat.</p> <p>7 Q. Yes, thank you. Yes, absolutely.</p> <p>8 Let's just go back to your statement in the</p> <p>9 second-last line in that paragraph:</p> <p>10 "I knew that I had passed on that information ages</p> <p>11 ago and it had been marked up to show BA sent. "</p> <p>12 What would show BA? What marking would show BA</p> <p>13 sent?</p> <p>14 A. I can't recall. I don't know if that's wrong</p> <p>15 terminology. We never put a P on anything until we'd</p> <p>16 communicated that information to people or whoever was</p> <p>17 at the base of the tower taking information. We didn't</p> <p>18 just put loads of Ps on the board and then go through it</p> <p>19 methodically afterwards; we only put a P on the board</p> <p>20 once we'd communicated that that was a priority and we'd</p> <p>21 already sent that information to the base of the tower.</p> <p>22 So I think I just made an assumption that because we'd</p> <p>23 given them that information, they would send a BA team</p> <p>24 to that flat for us.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay. So just to see if I can summarise where we've got</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 Going back to the photograph -- we may need to flick</p> <p>2 back and flick forward -- there's a 2 in green and a 2</p> <p>3 in black. That's 133, isn't it? Flat 133, not</p> <p>4 flat 113.</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. So what you say in your statement, can we be clear that</p> <p>7 what you're talking about is flat 133, or do you think</p> <p>8 that it might be 113, which is what you say in the third</p> <p>9 line it might have been?</p> <p>10 A. I think I would -- from looking at the picture, I would</p> <p>11 go that it was 133 that I was talking about. But I base</p> <p>12 that purely on the number of children that were there.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. I'm showing you your photograph of this board</p> <p>14 just to try to clarify which flat you remember being the</p> <p>15 subject of the discussion between originally the crew</p> <p>16 manager and the man on the phone and what flat they were</p> <p>17 actually talking about and the information you received.</p> <p>18 A. I think it was flat 133.</p> <p>19 Q. Right. But do you think that because of what I've shown</p> <p>20 you or do you have an independent recollection of that?</p> <p>21 A. My recollection when I wrote the statement, which was</p> <p>22 a few months after, it was a little bit hazy and numbers</p> <p>23 aren't sort of my strong point. But when I -- so --</p> <p>24 I wouldn't put all my cards and all my money that it was</p> <p>25 133, but from looking at that and the information,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 to -- and don't let me tell you what happened, it's</p> <p>2 supposed to be the other way round -- you get the</p> <p>3 information about the flat, which number it is --</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. -- the number of adults, the number of children. You</p> <p>6 write that up -- yes?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. And then you do a prioritisation?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. You decide what's priority and you send that to the</p> <p>11 tower.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. The foyer.</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. And then at that stage -- is this right? -- you write</p> <p>16 the P on the board?</p> <p>17 A. That's when the P would be on the board, so -- yeah.</p> <p>18 Q. And in terms of your evidence in your statement, "it had</p> <p>19 been marked up to show BA sent", that's a reference to</p> <p>20 the P, is it, because at that stage you were assuming</p> <p>21 that, having told the tower these were priorities, BA</p> <p>22 wearers would be sent up to get them?</p> <p>23 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. That's right, is it?</p> <p>25 A. That's right, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 Q. Very good. That's very clear, thank you.</p> <p>2 Then you go on in the next paragraph to say:</p> <p>3 "I knew this flat number had kept coming up and</p> <p>4 I had made sure that the information was getting</p> <p>5 through."</p> <p>6 When you say "I made sure that the information was</p> <p>7 getting through", first of all, what information?</p> <p>8 A. Some -- some of the flat ...</p> <p>9 Q. It's okay, take your time.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: There's no rush at all.</p> <p>12 A. Some of the flat numbers just kept repeating themselves</p> <p>13 for -- where there were people at the scene, you know,</p> <p>14 or the police officers were getting information, the two</p> <p>15 police officers outside the command unit, they would be</p> <p>16 asking us, they've had a call about 133. So, you know,</p> <p>17 I just knew, even when the firefighter was on the phone</p> <p>18 and they mentioned the flat, you know, I still checked,</p> <p>19 but you just knew that we'd had the information and we</p> <p>20 had sent it, and we'd sent it multiple times.</p> <p>21 You know, we didn't just leave it. If someone</p> <p>22 else -- if the police officers outside the command unit</p> <p>23 told us that they received the call about flat 133, I'd</p> <p>24 have sent that message again to Pete to say, "Look,</p> <p>25 flat 133, we haven't got there".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 A. I did go to the base of the tower, I did have</p> <p>2 a conversation, as I mentioned yesterday, where I needed</p> <p>3 that, but it was -- you know, as I said, in my opinion,</p> <p>4 I wanted it all to be done, but I also realised that</p> <p>5 that isn't going to happen, but they were doing things,</p> <p>6 but my priority obviously at that time in this moment is</p> <p>7 flat 133, but I just couldn't get that information back</p> <p>8 to me that they'd even committed the crews to flat 133.</p> <p>9 Q. Now, can I take you to page 8 of your statement. At the</p> <p>10 top of the page, just continuing on the same topic, you</p> <p>11 say:</p> <p>12 "I contacted SM Pete Wolfenden and asked if we were</p> <p>13 going to that flat. He said yes, he had passed it on."</p> <p>14 We've just explored that.</p> <p>15 "I said that we were on the phone to the lady and</p> <p>16 asked him to let us know what was going on. SM Pete</p> <p>17 Wolfenden confirmed that it had been passed to the</p> <p>18 Bridgehead."</p> <p>19 When you talk about "the lady", are you able to</p> <p>20 expand on who that was or some better identification?</p> <p>21 A. So the lady was in the flat. She had two children, and</p> <p>22 she was talking to I believe it was her boyfriend or her</p> <p>23 partner, but he'd now given the phone to the crew</p> <p>24 manager. The crew manager said that he was speaking to</p> <p>25 her on the phone and all she was saying was ... sorry.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 Q. So when you say, just coming back to my question, "made</p> <p>2 sure that the information was getting through", that was</p> <p>3 you in CU7 repeating the message to Pete Wolfenden?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Who was on the radio --</p> <p>6 A. Inside the tower, but at the base of the tower.</p> <p>7 Q. -- in the foyer of the tower?</p> <p>8 A. In the foyer, yes, sorry.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay. And do you know what he did with that repeat</p> <p>10 information after he received it from you?</p> <p>11 A. He told me he gave that information to the bridgehead.</p> <p>12 Q. And when you say "He told me he'd sent that to the</p> <p>13 bridgehead", was that during the same radio conversation</p> <p>14 when you reminded him or was it later?</p> <p>15 A. That would be in the conversation, it would've been</p> <p>16 after, when we had a lull of calls, I would try and ask</p> <p>17 for some feedback what was going on, and all he was</p> <p>18 saying to me is we've given everything, we've given the</p> <p>19 flat numbers and the priority calls to the bridgehead.</p> <p>20 Q. At the point when you realised that you were having to</p> <p>21 make repeat transfers of information about the same</p> <p>22 flat -- in this case 133 -- to Pete Wolfenden in the</p> <p>23 foyer, did you think: "This system isn't working,</p> <p>24 there's too many links in the chain, I just need to</p> <p>25 speak to the guys at the bridgehead now and tell them"?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 She was saying that she just wants to go, really, she's,</p> <p>2 you know -- she -- one of her ... one of her children</p> <p>3 had already gone and the other one wasn't moving, so she</p> <p>4 had no reason to do anything.</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 Now, just on that information, can I just explore</p> <p>7 whether there is a confusion between 113 and 133. Just</p> <p>8 going back to the photograph at DEG/4 -- I'm sorry to</p> <p>9 grind you to the detail.</p> <p>10 A. That's fine. That's fine.</p> <p>11 Q. On the information you have just given us, is it</p> <p>12 possible that some of the information that was written</p> <p>13 up against flat 133 should have been against 113 and</p> <p>14 vice versa?</p> <p>15 A. It could have quite easily been around the wrong way.</p> <p>16 There was a lot of movement, there was at a lot of --</p> <p>17 even on -- some of the flats I think on the higher</p> <p>18 floors, some of the flats had particularly high numbers</p> <p>19 of people in there, but we just had to go on that --</p> <p>20 that was the information that we had. We couldn't</p> <p>21 really go -- we didn't have the ways of going back to</p> <p>22 check and phone up 133 and find out exactly who is in</p> <p>23 the flat or who wasn't in the flat. If we'd written</p> <p>24 down the wrong information, you know, I apologise for</p> <p>25 that, but ... that's what we were led to believe was the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 information at the time.</p> <p>2 Q. Yes. I understand. Okay.</p> <p>3 On the same page, page 8, Mr Egan -- Mr Egan, are</p> <p>4 you okay?</p> <p>5 A. Yeah, I'm fine, thank you. Sorry about that.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 You say, after having discussed in the previous</p> <p>8 paragraph being told there were people on the roof:</p> <p>9 "By that point I knew that we weren't going to put</p> <p>10 the fire out -- we needed to put more effort into</p> <p>11 getting people out, not putting water on the flames. My</p> <p>12 view was we should commit crews to every floor -- we</p> <p>13 needed to flood the building with firefighters. I</p> <p>14 passed my thoughts up the chain of command."</p> <p>15 Now, first of all, are you able to estimate, at</p> <p>16 least, the time at which you had that knowledge or view,</p> <p>17 you knew you weren't going to be able to put the fire</p> <p>18 out? Can you estimate the time when you thought that?</p> <p>19 A. Very early on. It was -- we needed to -- there was so</p> <p>20 much fire that was going through into the flats. Just</p> <p>21 from my experience, I know we're not going to get the</p> <p>22 water to all of them floors. We just can't physically</p> <p>23 do that. So that's when my opinion was that, you know,</p> <p>24 we need to get the people out, and once we get the</p> <p>25 people out then we can at least then try in a more</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 priority, but to me it was clear.</p> <p>2 Q. You refer to a face-to-face conversation with Tom</p> <p>3 Goodall, Richard Welch and Pat Goulbourne; was that when</p> <p>4 you took over at CU7 or was it after you had taken over</p> <p>5 at CU7?</p> <p>6 A. No, that was after -- it would've been after Tom Goodall</p> <p>7 had taken over from me.</p> <p>8 Q. On what, on --</p> <p>9 A. On the CU7.</p> <p>10 Q. Oh, right.</p> <p>11 A. Yeah. Because that's -- I told him what we had, my</p> <p>12 thoughts on what we should be doing, that aids his</p> <p>13 decision-making, and then at another stage when I went</p> <p>14 into the base of the tower and then the bridgehead had</p> <p>15 moved then to the ground floor, that's when I saw</p> <p>16 Richard Welch and Pat Goulbourne and I wanted answers,</p> <p>17 I wanted them to commit crews.</p> <p>18 You know, I didn't take into it the severity that</p> <p>19 they've just moved down from -- whatever, they was on</p> <p>20 the third floor. You know, it could've been right at</p> <p>21 that moment and then the next minute I'm on top of them</p> <p>22 saying, "Come on, we've got to commit the crews, we've</p> <p>23 got to just get them out, stop trying to put the fire</p> <p>24 out".</p> <p>25 Q. So trying to put some kind of time frame on that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 structured manner to try and extinguish the fire.</p> <p>2 But I think it was just a case of -- they were</p> <p>3 committing the BA crews to get people out, it's just the</p> <p>4 frustration was I didn't know that that's all they were</p> <p>5 doing, I didn't know if they was trying to put the fire</p> <p>6 as out well, and I was thinking, if they are, you're</p> <p>7 just wasting resources, wasting time. You cannot put</p> <p>8 that fire out.</p> <p>9 Q. When you say in the third line there:</p> <p>10 "I passed my thoughts up the chain of command."</p> <p>11 I know we explored this a little bit yesterday, but</p> <p>12 can you just clarify again for me: who did you tell?</p> <p>13 A. That would have been to the group managers, which was</p> <p>14 Tom Goodall, Richard Welch and Pat Goulbourne.</p> <p>15 Q. How did you tell them? What was your means of</p> <p>16 communicating these thoughts to them?</p> <p>17 A. That would've been face-to-face. I'd be saying to Tom,</p> <p>18 who had taken over from me, what we had, and when he</p> <p>19 would ask for where we are with regards to the resources</p> <p>20 and what information, as I say, I was quite vociferous</p> <p>21 in the way that I said it, you know, I just wanted it to</p> <p>22 be heard, because sometimes some people get focused on</p> <p>23 their own little routines, I'm sure I got focused on</p> <p>24 fire survival guidance, but you need to listen to what</p> <p>25 else is going on. You might not see that as the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 conversation.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. How long had you spent in charge of FSG calls in CU7</p> <p>4 before handing over to Tom Goodall, do you think?</p> <p>5 A. I thought it was a good half hour, 45 minutes, before</p> <p>6 Tom Goodall took over from me.</p> <p>7 Q. Right. So then you went to the tower. Did you see</p> <p>8 Welch and Goulbourne at the bridgehead or did you meet</p> <p>9 them in the foyer, or anybody else?</p> <p>10 A. Yes. Once the bridgehead had moved from I believe the</p> <p>11 third floor -- or from the second floor, I think -- to</p> <p>12 the ground floor, that's when I seen them two.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. Do you have a recollection of the time when the</p> <p>14 bridgehead came down to the ground floor?</p> <p>15 A. I think I went back to the tower not long after I'd</p> <p>16 handed over to Tom Goodall because I just wanted to make</p> <p>17 sure that what we had in place was still in place.</p> <p>18 Q. And was it?</p> <p>19 A. It was, it's just that the bridgehead had changed, but</p> <p>20 we still had the communication links, we was still</p> <p>21 getting information to them, but they weren't giving</p> <p>22 that information back.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 A. Where they --</p> <p>25 Q. When you arrived at the tower, had the bridgehead</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 already moved to the ground floor, do you remember?</p> <p>2 A. Either the third or fourth time I went to the tower, it</p> <p>3 had moved to the ground floor.</p> <p>4 Q. Right. And at that stage, to the best of your</p> <p>5 recollection, what was the system of passing FSG</p> <p>6 information to the bridgehead within the ground floor?</p> <p>7 A. I still believe the process was we would give that</p> <p>8 information to Pete Wolfenden and Pete Wolfenden would</p> <p>9 give that to whoever is in charge of the bridgehead.</p> <p>10 Q. Was that still going on even though the bridgehead was</p> <p>11 now on the ground floor, which was where Pete Wolfenden</p> <p>12 was also situated?</p> <p>13 A. It was, because on the wall -- as you walked in, the</p> <p>14 wall that was directly in front of you -- they were</p> <p>15 writing down fire survival guidance calls that we'd</p> <p>16 given them.</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 Just to go back a little bit to the handover from</p> <p>19 you to Group Manager Tom Goodall, did you have</p> <p>20 a handover briefing?</p> <p>21 A. I did -- I handed over as quickly and succinctly as</p> <p>22 I could. Similar things -- I know Tom, I've worked with</p> <p>23 him before. I've handed over at incidents and I've</p> <p>24 taken briefings from him. So I gave him the bullet</p> <p>25 points of what we had. Usually you'd say what resources</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 So we then had to try and find -- yeah, so that was</p> <p>2 more in later stages that we tried to find out exactly</p> <p>3 had anyone come out from fire survival guidance calls.</p> <p>4 Q. You said in your last answer -- let me just follow</p> <p>5 up -- you tried to find information on what floor they,</p> <p>6 the BA crews, were on.</p> <p>7 How did you go about finding the information as to</p> <p>8 what floor --</p> <p>9 A. That was me going direct to Pete and just having</p> <p>10 a conversation. It was either just on the radio --</p> <p>11 a couple of times I went to the base where I could see</p> <p>12 him because the radio traffic was so bad. I could then</p> <p>13 shout to him across, so a little bit further away than</p> <p>14 yourself and me here, and then I'd be asking him what's</p> <p>15 going on, and he'd go away, come back and he'd say that</p> <p>16 they've gone through the fifth floor, they've gone</p> <p>17 through the sixth floor.</p> <p>18 When I asked him about particular flats, he would</p> <p>19 say that he's told them. He said, you know, sort of</p> <p>20 they've sent crews there.</p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 A. They've been told.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay.</p> <p>24 Going back to your statement on page 8, the third</p> <p>25 paragraph down, we've looked at what you say there about</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 we had, but we didn't have any; we just had this chain</p> <p>2 of command. And that's where -- you know, he saw what</p> <p>3 we had but he saw a better way to record the information</p> <p>4 onto the grid system.</p> <p>5 Q. Did you give Tom Goodall any impression as to the</p> <p>6 success with which the system you had set up was</p> <p>7 working?</p> <p>8 A. I'm sure he asked about, you know, who's come out of the</p> <p>9 tower, what have we got back, and I said to him that we</p> <p>10 haven't got anything. But all I know is I've checked,</p> <p>11 the information is leaving here, it's going to the foyer</p> <p>12 and that information is then being sent to the</p> <p>13 bridgehead, and we're making assumptions on some of the</p> <p>14 calls that they believe that BA has been sent to that</p> <p>15 flat.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you also tell Tom Goodall that there were some</p> <p>17 examples of flats where it appeared to you that you were</p> <p>18 having to send repeat messages to Pete Wolfenden to pass</p> <p>19 to the bridgehead?</p> <p>20 A. Later on in the incident we had that conversation as to,</p> <p>21 you know, we've still been asking about this flat,</p> <p>22 because we didn't know what floor the BA crews were on.</p> <p>23 We tried to find information of what floor they was on,</p> <p>24 and that got a little bit mixed in translation,</p> <p>25 I believe.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 your thoughts about not being able to put the fire out,</p> <p>2 and you told us about passing your thoughts up the chain</p> <p>3 of command to Welch and Goulbourne. Did they respond to</p> <p>4 you about your thoughts?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, they did, yeah. It wasn't a -- I'm big enough and</p> <p>6 open enough -- it wasn't a friendly conversation, but</p> <p>7 I could sense their frustration, probably as much as</p> <p>8 they could sense my frustration that I wanted them to</p> <p>9 do -- I wasn't telling them to do it; I was saying to</p> <p>10 them, "This is what we need to do, we need to be getting</p> <p>11 in there, we need to be going to these particular</p> <p>12 flats", and their response was, "We're doing it". You</p> <p>13 know, they had so many BA crews around them, especially</p> <p>14 when they was at the base in the foyer.</p> <p>15 Q. Yes.</p> <p>16 In the last paragraph on that page, page 8, you</p> <p>17 refer to a man in his twenties approaching you to tell</p> <p>18 you about his dad who was in the tower, and you explain</p> <p>19 in your statement the content of that discussion.</p> <p>20 Do you --</p> <p>21 A. Yeah.</p> <p>22 Q. You explain the advice you gave. Did you pass on to</p> <p>23 anyone the fact that you had given the advice to that</p> <p>24 individual that you have stated there?</p> <p>25 A. I got back onto the command unit and I spoke about it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 I think I told Pete Wolfenden. The guy was just so 2 calm. He just believed we'd get him out. 3 Q. Yes. Are you able to identify which flat or which floor 4 that conversation related to? 5 A. I think -- I don't think it was that high; I think he 6 was in the 70s numbers. 7 Q. Can I ask you to look back at DEG/4 just to see if it 8 triggers a recollection. You say the 70s, let's see if 9 this triggers a recollection about which flat it might 10 be. 11 If you go to DEG/4 and look across at the 70s, which 12 are two-thirds of the way down -- 13 A. 72. 14 Q. You think which? 15 A. 72. Because I've put on it "phone". That's my writing. 16 Q. Right, thank you. So flat 72 on the 10th floor. 17 A. Okay, sorry. 18 Q. No, no, that's helpful. You think it was that. Okay. 19 Did you pass on to anyone the fact that you had 20 given the advice to him over the phone? 21 A. Yeah, so he would've been made a priority because he was 22 so high, so we would've -- whether it was after me 23 speaking to him that we made him a priority or previous 24 to that, but when I'd have got back on the unit and seen 25 that it was flat 72 and how high he was in the tower,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 A. No, it was daylight out there when that information was 2 going on the board. 3 Q. Right, okay. So after the grid whiteboard was being 4 filled in? 5 A. Oh, yes. Yeah. 6 Q. Who was doing the writing-up on that wall? 7 A. It would've been one of the command unit staff. So 8 I think -- yeah. Well, I'm going to make an assumption 9 here: it could've been the watch manager could've came 10 back and then entered that details on there, but I'm 11 assuming it's one -- I've got a picture of Norm, Watch 12 Manager Harrison, taking responsibility for that side of 13 it. 14 Q. I think you may have answered this already an answer 15 or two ago, but just help me: who instigated the use of 16 this whiteboard for that purpose? 17 A. That would've been Tom Goodall. 18 Q. I see, okay. 19 This is your photograph, but you weren't still in 20 charge of CU7 at that stage, so -- 21 A. I wasn't, no. 22 Q. So what were the circumstances in which you took that 23 photograph? 24 A. Just trying to get my head round it. 25 Q. Okay. All right. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 that they were floors that were so closely affected by 2 the fire. 3 (Pause) 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? 5 A. Yeah, I'm fine, thank you. 6 MR MILLETT: Can I just ask you then to look at DEG/5. 7 We've looked in some detail at the grid whiteboard that 8 you had in CU7. This is a different whiteboard which 9 looks as if it was sitting next to the grid whiteboard. 10 Can you just explain in general terms what this 11 whiteboard was for? 12 A. Okay, so what happened was we had the respite centres or 13 the welfare centres -- I believe there was three of 14 them -- and Tom Goodall got some watch managers to go 15 round and speak to people that were in there to try and 16 find out what flat they came from and how many people 17 was in their flat, you know, and get any more 18 information, you know, was there people still in there. 19 So the information that we've got there, is -- so 20 the flat number and how many people got out. 21 Q. At what point did that whiteboard start being used in 22 that way? 23 A. That was quite -- that was quite a while into the 24 incident, so -- 25 Q. Was it after the -- sorry.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 Now, just looking at some of the details on it, 2 we've got some times, and you've got "04:25 BA crews 3 committed to 15th floor", and on the left-hand side it 4 says "From SM Wolfenden". 5 What was your understanding about what was happening 6 with the 15th floor? What did "BA crews committed to 7 the 15th floor" mean? 8 A. Where it was so frustrating was trying to put -- we 9 weren't trying to put any pressure on them, but we was 10 trying to prioritise what the crews were doing. And it 11 got to the stage where me and Pete had had 12 a conversation about, you know, we've just got to push 13 them through, just got to push them through, and then 14 Pete said -- I was saying to Pete, "I need to know where 15 they are because it's no good me giving you the 22nd 16 floor if they haven't even got there". So he came back 17 to me and said that they was at the 15th floor. 18 Q. What would happen above the 15th floor? 19 A. That was as far as -- crews may have got above the 15th 20 floor earlier on in the incident, but at that particular 21 time, no crews were getting above the 15th. 22 Q. Is that what that means? 23 A. That's what that means, yeah. 24 Q. Okay. And then at 04.45, just 20 minutes later, 25 somebody's written:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 "BA crews only committed up to 11th floor not 15th."</p> <p>2 So what happened? Was that a change?</p> <p>3 A. That was a change. So I was asked to record that by</p> <p>4 Pete Wolfenden because he felt strongly that -- he asked</p> <p>5 at 4.25 where were the crews being committed, and they</p> <p>6 told him on the 15th floor. And I think there was</p> <p>7 a heated conversation, discussion, between</p> <p>8 Pete Wolfenden and Richard Welch.</p> <p>9 Q. Yes.</p> <p>10 A. And I believe it to be around what floor the crews were</p> <p>11 committed on, and so Pete radioed to me and said he</p> <p>12 wants it recorded on the key decision log that crews are</p> <p>13 no longer -- crews are only being sent to the 11th</p> <p>14 floor.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 Just focusing on another part of this picture, at</p> <p>17 the top right-hand corner it says:</p> <p>18 "@ 04:50 133 adults, 38 kids, 38 people accounted</p> <p>19 for."</p> <p>20 Could you just explain what that means?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, so that would've been the time that that had been</p> <p>22 last updated, so the last time the watch manager</p> <p>23 would've come back from the respite centre.</p> <p>24 Q. I see. So --</p> <p>25 A. So at 4.50, that was the total that we had, and 38</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 Three lines down you see something, it says,</p> <p>2 "[something] on the 11th floor".</p> <p>3 Can you help us interpret what that something is?</p> <p>4 It looks like "shell" or something like that, but ...</p> <p>5 A. No, sorry, I can't.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 Then below that, there's some writing in black, just</p> <p>8 below all the figures, which I'm afraid I can't read or</p> <p>9 understand. Can you help me with that?</p> <p>10 A. No. No, sorry.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 If you go back to your statement and look at page 9,</p> <p>13 in the third paragraph there -- I'm not going to read it</p> <p>14 out, but just look at it -- you talk there about the</p> <p>15 issues getting to a man in flat 83 on the 11th floor,</p> <p>16 and you say in the third line:</p> <p>17 "The safety officer was saying the man was on the</p> <p>18 8th Floor but I thought he was on the 11th Floor."</p> <p>19 My question is: who was that safety officer, do you</p> <p>20 know?</p> <p>21 A. No, I don't. It was a crew manager that had been sort</p> <p>22 of seconded into that position.</p> <p>23 Q. Right. And do you remember roughly what time in the</p> <p>24 night or what stage in the night you had these issues</p> <p>25 about getting to a man on the 11th floor?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 unaccounted for.</p> <p>2 Q. Is that 38 unaccounted for, you think that should be, or</p> <p>3 38 --</p> <p>4 A. Sorry, no.</p> <p>5 Q. Let me just ask it this way: 133 adults in green; does</p> <p>6 that mean accounted for or unaccounted for?</p> <p>7 A. I believe that's accounted for.</p> <p>8 Q. Right. And 38 kids in black, same question.</p> <p>9 A. Yeah, because that matched the other side of the board,</p> <p>10 the colour key, so adults are in green and children are</p> <p>11 in black.</p> <p>12 Q. So was this a form of tallying up the information from</p> <p>13 the welfare centres and the rest centres with the</p> <p>14 information on the grid?</p> <p>15 A. I believe so.</p> <p>16 Q. I see. So 38 people accounted for.</p> <p>17 A. Yeah.</p> <p>18 Q. Can you explain --</p> <p>19 A. I --</p> <p>20 Q. -- what that means?</p> <p>21 A. No, I can't think why that would be on there.</p> <p>22 Q. We may have to ask Mr Goodall about that.</p> <p>23 Can I just ask you one or two other questions while</p> <p>24 we're on this picture. If you go to the left-hand side,</p> <p>25 you'll see a list "Rescued/evacuated".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 A. I don't actually know the time, but I think it's</p> <p>2 recorded when this guy comes out, so its --</p> <p>3 Q. Okay.</p> <p>4 A. Because he was in there for so long, it's recorded when</p> <p>5 he comes out.</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p>7 I just have one or two -- I say one or two; probably</p> <p>8 six or so -- specific questions based on the FSG board</p> <p>9 and some other pictures which are not in your exhibits.</p> <p>10 Mr Chairman, it will probably take about 15 minutes</p> <p>11 or so to do this exercise. I just wanted to make sure</p> <p>12 that that was acceptable to the witness and with you.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, how do you feel?</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Yeah, no, it's fine.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If we have a break now, it will only</p> <p>16 prolong the agony, so to speak, but if you find it</p> <p>17 difficult, do indicate.</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: I appreciate that, thank you.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Okay.</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: Can I ask you to start, please, with DEG/4,</p> <p>21 which is the whiteboard grid again. Just go back to</p> <p>22 that picture.</p> <p>23 Can I ask you to look, please, at flat 175, and</p> <p>24 I think we can take this quite quickly because you've</p> <p>25 probably covered half of the questions that I have</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 before.</p> <p>2 You have 175 up there with a red tick and a 5 next</p> <p>3 to it. The significance of the red tick, I think you</p> <p>4 told us earlier, is that it was cleared. Is that right?</p> <p>5 A. I think the red tick relates to that we've got</p> <p>6 information that they're out of the building, but then</p> <p>7 if we looked at the left-hand board, it may show that,</p> <p>8 otherwise I can't -- if it isn't that, I don't know what</p> <p>9 the red tick is for. I can't recall, I'm afraid.</p> <p>10 Q. All right, and you have 5 in green.</p> <p>11 A. Yes, so we'd have thought there was five adults there.</p> <p>12 Q. Right. There is information that shows that in fact</p> <p>13 there were three children in that flat. Did you know</p> <p>14 that?</p> <p>15 A. I didn't, no.</p> <p>16 Q. You didn't know that.</p> <p>17 If you had known that, how would that have been</p> <p>18 marked?</p> <p>19 A. Then they would've been priority.</p> <p>20 Q. Yes.</p> <p>21 Looking at flat 203, at the top of the page, you've</p> <p>22 got a 5 and a 2, and that shows five adults and two</p> <p>23 children, with a P next to it.</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Can you help us as to what happened as a consequence of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 A. But the information would've come from control as part</p> <p>2 of their questioning and their support as to really why</p> <p>3 can't you leave the premises, and they would've said</p> <p>4 that there's smoke in the corridors or something like</p> <p>5 that, and that may have been then written up there, the</p> <p>6 reason why they can't.</p> <p>7 Q. But under the system that you've described to us --</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. -- all the information that was going onto the wall --</p> <p>10 unless I have this wrong -- had come through CU7 and the</p> <p>11 system that was now in operation in CU7. So the</p> <p>12 information about smoke would've -- is this right? --</p> <p>13 had to have gone through CU7 --</p> <p>14 A. Not related to that photo, I'm afraid. That was very</p> <p>15 early on in the incident, when the car bonnet was in</p> <p>16 operation -- system. That's when all that information</p> <p>17 was put on the wall.</p> <p>18 Q. So the information would've come through control and the</p> <p>19 running system at the car bonnet at that stage?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 So the information about smoke -- is this right? --</p> <p>23 would that have come essentially from a fire survival</p> <p>24 guidance call?</p> <p>25 A. Yeah, rather than any -- yeah, rather than the Fire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 that prioritisation of that flat?</p> <p>2 A. That information for that flat would've been made</p> <p>3 a priority, like many of the others, and that</p> <p>4 information would've been sent to the foyer and said</p> <p>5 that that's where we want BA crews to get to.</p> <p>6 Q. Right. Do you know what happened?</p> <p>7 A. I don't know.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 Can I ask you now to look at DEG/1, which is</p> <p>10 a photograph of numbers on the wall, which I think is in</p> <p>11 the foyer, written up there by whoever was in the foyer.</p> <p>12 Can you explain -- three-quarters of the way down</p> <p>13 you see a number "122 15th" -- looks like "15th", could</p> <p>14 be 18th, it's hard to tell -- and then it says "smoke".</p> <p>15 You see the number 122?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. And then next to it what looks like "15th"?</p> <p>18 A. 15th floor.</p> <p>19 Q. Then if you look across -- I'm afraid it hasn't quite</p> <p>20 picked it up -- it says "smoke".</p> <p>21 Do you know how the information about smoke got to</p> <p>22 be there?</p> <p>23 A. I don't actually know why that was written up there</p> <p>24 because I didn't write it.</p> <p>25 Q. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 Brigade saying, "Oh, its smoky up there", that</p> <p>2 information would've -- if it does relate to that line</p> <p>3 of 122, then that would mean that the person said that</p> <p>4 there was smoke either coming into their flat or they</p> <p>5 can't get out because their corridor is full of smoke.</p> <p>6 Because control would've advised them to leave the</p> <p>7 premises if it's safe to do so.</p> <p>8 Q. Can I ask you to be shown, please, MET00015925, which is</p> <p>9 now tab 39 of our documents bundle.</p> <p>10 This is the whiteboard now at -- there's a new time,</p> <p>11 it looks like, in the top right-hand corner in green:</p> <p>12 05.19. You've got 133 adults in green, 38 kids in black</p> <p>13 and now 39 people accounted for. Can you help with</p> <p>14 that?</p> <p>15 A. Well, that just would've been adjusted. So at 5.19, the</p> <p>16 watch manager would've came back. I've been to the rest</p> <p>17 centres, the well-being centres, and, you know, if there</p> <p>18 was more people or not, you know, if there was no</p> <p>19 change, then it will have just been updated at 5.19, you</p> <p>20 know, this is the information we've got, there was no</p> <p>21 new information, or we would've added it on there and</p> <p>22 then adjusted the figures to the right-hand side.</p> <p>23 Q. Do you know how the adjustment for people unaccounted</p> <p>24 for, if that's what that means, was made? Against what</p> <p>25 information was the maths being done to arrive at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 a figure of 39, do you know?</p> <p>2 A. We was just -- we was trying to work on the basis of the</p> <p>3 fire survival guidance calls that have come in and that</p> <p>4 we've recorded on the right-hand side, cross-reference</p> <p>5 it with these ones on the left and then how many people</p> <p>6 we had left that we knew had made contact with us.</p> <p>7 Q. In general terms, the information about rescue and</p> <p>8 evacuation, I think you said earlier, had come from the</p> <p>9 rescue centres?</p> <p>10 A. They did, yes.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Before we leave that picture, do you</p> <p>12 remember Mr Millett asked you about the writing which</p> <p>13 was off the left-hand side of the previous photograph?</p> <p>14 A. Right.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think we've now got a fuller</p> <p>16 picture. It looks as though it refers or might refer to</p> <p>17 a Watch Manager T Furnell. Does that ring any bells?</p> <p>18 Have you come across someone of that name?</p> <p>19 A. I haven't come across someone with that name. I wonder</p> <p>20 if he was one of the watch manager runners that was</p> <p>21 going to the --</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. It's just in case you</p> <p>23 recognised it.</p> <p>24 A. No, sorry, I don't.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: It's been suggested to me, very helpfully but</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 The last picture we saw was at 05.19, this one is at</p> <p>2 05.37, and the number of people accounted for has now</p> <p>3 changed to 40.</p> <p>4 Again, does that help you explain the -- well,</p> <p>5 the words "people accounted for", is that people</p> <p>6 accounted for or unaccounted for? The number seems to</p> <p>7 be rising.</p> <p>8 A. Yes. No, I couldn't -- I would just be guessing, I'm</p> <p>9 sorry.</p> <p>10 Q. And then at the bottom left-hand corner we have</p> <p>11 something, looks like "FF Pav Singh 06:15 treated by LAS</p> <p>12 for smoke inhalation".</p> <p>13 A. So in one of the -- Firefighter Singh suffered a bit of</p> <p>14 smoke inhalation and was removed from the tower or</p> <p>15 escorted from the tower, and he went to one of the</p> <p>16 respite centres.</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 A. So we knew he was there.</p> <p>19 Q. Now, just looking across the picture to the grid we see,</p> <p>20 and we can take the time -- well, maybe we can't -- but</p> <p>21 if you look on the grid at flat 142, if that could just</p> <p>22 be enlarged for you, on the right side, it has a green</p> <p>23 5, which you've told us means five adults, and then</p> <p>24 there's a red P.</p> <p>25 Can you explain the circumstances in which that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 probably rather leadingly, that the words in black to</p> <p>2 which the chairman has just been drawing your attention</p> <p>3 are or say in part "@ Garden Bar & Grill". Does that</p> <p>4 prompt a recollection?</p> <p>5 A. No. No, I didn't know where the actual rest centres</p> <p>6 were.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay.</p> <p>8 A. So ...</p> <p>9 Q. Okay.</p> <p>10 A. Sorry, can I just add, though, this was the information</p> <p>11 that we was getting purely from those three areas. We</p> <p>12 knew that people had been taken away by ambulance and</p> <p>13 people would've just self-presented, they'd have just</p> <p>14 wandered off, we knew that, but that was -- so we</p> <p>15 probably got more people out than is actually on there,</p> <p>16 but that is who we could confirm, so we didn't try to</p> <p>17 embellish it in any way.</p> <p>18 Q. That's very helpful. That was a question I was going to</p> <p>19 come to. So that is not a total picture; it's just</p> <p>20 a picture of information that was coming from the</p> <p>21 specific welfare areas --</p> <p>22 A. That's where we had evidence to say.</p> <p>23 Q. Fine. Very good.</p> <p>24 Can I ask you then to turn to the next tab, tab 40,</p> <p>25 and be shown MET00015928.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 board had a green 5 and a P attributed to that flat?</p> <p>2 A. No, I don't know, sorry.</p> <p>3 Q. Was it part of the system whereby even though they were</p> <p>4 adults, they were nonetheless designated as a priority?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, if they were vulnerable in some way then they</p> <p>6 would've been a priority.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. Do you know what action was taken as a result of</p> <p>8 that prioritisation for those people in that flat?</p> <p>9 A. The information would've been passed to the bridgehead</p> <p>10 to commit BA crews to go and rescue them.</p> <p>11 Q. Staying on the same picture, if you look, please, at</p> <p>12 flat 122, which is on the right-hand side, you can see</p> <p>13 a 2 there in green. That refers to what?</p> <p>14 A. Two adults.</p> <p>15 Q. Yes. If you turn to the next tab, tab 41, which is</p> <p>16 MET00015930, we're now back on the left-hand whiteboard,</p> <p>17 the non-grid whiteboard, I think.</p> <p>18 Sorry, I'm wrong, that's a completely different</p> <p>19 photograph.</p> <p>20 Do you know what this photograph is?</p> <p>21 A. No, I haven't seen that before.</p> <p>22 Q. You've never seen it before?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Have you ever seen a list like this before?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 Q. Right.</p> <p>2 Then finally if we go to tab 42, which is</p> <p>3 MET00015933, you can see if you look at the top of the</p> <p>4 page, flat 205. That's now got -- I'm sorry, I think we</p> <p>5 may have the wrong picture, actually. 15933.</p> <p>6 (Pause)</p> <p>7 Yes, if you look at flat 203, at the top of the</p> <p>8 page, that has a 1 in a circle?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. You've got the 5 in green, five adults; 2 in black, two</p> <p>11 children; P, the priority, but you've also got a 1 in</p> <p>12 a circle; can you explain what that is?</p> <p>13 A. I can't actually recall what the blue number was.</p> <p>14 I don't know if the blue number would've been for babies</p> <p>15 or infants. It could well have meant that.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. But you don't know?</p> <p>17 A. I can't remember, I'm sorry.</p> <p>18 Q. If you look at 124, that says 1 in green -- that's one</p> <p>19 adult -- P. Do you know how that one adult came to be</p> <p>20 prioritised?</p> <p>21 A. If there was an adult on their own then we would've --</p> <p>22 or I would've been led to believe that they was</p> <p>23 vulnerable persons, so we needed to make extra efforts</p> <p>24 to get them out.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay. Then next to it there's 123, which is two adults,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 A. I don't.</p> <p>2 Q. The same question in relation to flat 2, so very low</p> <p>3 down in the building.</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Two adults -- well, there's a 2 in blue.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Which I think is the flat number, then 2 in a ring in</p> <p>8 black.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. So --</p> <p>11 A. Yeah, so that would've been -- I don't -- I thought</p> <p>12 there was a key at the bottom of the page to say what</p> <p>13 they were.</p> <p>14 Q. Yes. I think the trouble is that the photographs we</p> <p>15 have of this grid don't reveal what that key -- if it's</p> <p>16 there -- in full shows, at least in respect of that</p> <p>17 legend, that number in a ring. We can pursue that with</p> <p>18 others. But that's very helpful.</p> <p>19 Mr Egan, would you just give me a moment, please.</p> <p>20 A. Yes, fine.</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: Thank you, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>22 (Pause)</p> <p>23 Mr Egan, thank you very much for giving your</p> <p>24 evidence. I have no further questions for you.</p> <p>25 Mr Chairman, it may be appropriate that we just take</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 but also got priority, so can you help with that?</p> <p>2 A. So exactly the same, really. 123, you know, one of</p> <p>3 those persons we would've believed would've been</p> <p>4 vulnerable. So not necessarily two of them, but it's</p> <p>5 two as a total.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay. Then flat 55, you've got a 3 in a circle. What</p> <p>7 does that represent?</p> <p>8 A. No, I'm sorry, I don't know.</p> <p>9 Q. Flat 33, you've got a 1 in a circle. Same question.</p> <p>10 This time it's blue. Can you help with that marking?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. Then flat 14, just looking at that one, you've</p> <p>13 got a tick, a 3 in green and a 3 in black in a circle.</p> <p>14 Do you know what the 3 in black in a circle means?</p> <p>15 A. Looking at that board, I would say that that was three</p> <p>16 adults and three children.</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 A. But going back to the other one, I don't know why that</p> <p>19 3 -- three children on their own or ...</p> <p>20 Q. Right. And there's a suggestion that -- I just want you</p> <p>21 to comment on it -- the 3 in a circle or numbers in</p> <p>22 a circle mean that those are the numbers who</p> <p>23 self-evacuated. Does that mean anything?</p> <p>24 A. That could well be, that they'd already left.</p> <p>25 Q. But do you know that?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 a short break before I finally let this witness go.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I was about to ask you, do you need</p> <p>3 him to remain just in case there are further questions?</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: I personally don't, but there may be</p> <p>5 an indication that maybe one or two may be left since</p> <p>6 we've gone through a long exercise of looking at the</p> <p>7 material this morning.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, we will all have a break now.</p> <p>9 We'll have 10 minutes until 11.45.</p> <p>10 Mr Egan, I'm afraid there could be some more</p> <p>11 questions. If there are, I hope there will be very few.</p> <p>12 But I am going to have to ask you to remain for the time</p> <p>13 being just in case.</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Can I just say, we prioritised everyone; it's</p> <p>15 just some were a little bit higher.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, of course. Of course. We</p> <p>17 understand.</p> <p>18 Thank you very much, you go with the usher.</p> <p>19 Right, 11.45, then, please.</p> <p>20 (10.35 am)</p> <p>21 (A short break)</p> <p>22 (10.45 am)</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>24 Well, shall we get Mr Egan back in any event?</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: We do have a small list of questions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 (Pause)</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Egan, I think there are a few</p> <p>3 more questions that Mr Millett needs to ask you, all</p> <p>4 right?</p> <p>5 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much, Mr Egan, and thank you for</p> <p>7 coming back.</p> <p>8 First of all, can I just ask you to be shown by the</p> <p>9 documents manager a photograph which is MET00015924.</p> <p>10 This is the white grid in CU7 again. This picture shows</p> <p>11 the whole whiteboard with the key at the bottom, and you</p> <p>12 can see that.</p> <p>13 There's still no reference there to a tick, but what</p> <p>14 we do see is P, priority, and then P in a square,</p> <p>15 "Priority line gone dead".</p> <p>16 I asked you some questions yesterday about what that</p> <p>17 square was and we can now see.</p> <p>18 Could you just explain what "Priority line gone</p> <p>19 dead" means?</p> <p>20 A. That would've been probably coming back from control to</p> <p>21 say that there's no further communication going on on</p> <p>22 that line.</p> <p>23 Q. Right. And the green dot, "Left premise", you can see,</p> <p>24 and then there's a cross, "Left flat".</p> <p>25 What's the difference, do you know?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 asterisk, but no use of the asterisk in the grid.</p> <p>2 A. Right, yeah.</p> <p>3 Q. What might have happened?</p> <p>4 A. I think that that is saying that the red ticks, BA crews</p> <p>5 have been sent to them floors that have got the red tick</p> <p>6 on it.</p> <p>7 Q. So when you gave evidence earlier this morning you</p> <p>8 thought the red ticks are where the flats had been</p> <p>9 cleared.</p> <p>10 A. Yes, I believe -- by seeing that key now and remember --</p> <p>11 because the asterisk -- I know it isn't the right thing</p> <p>12 to do, but the asterisk were just -- so there was a form</p> <p>13 of a list, and the -- so we used the tick to say that BA</p> <p>14 crews had gone there or -- for whatever reason, we knew</p> <p>15 that BA crews had gone there. They may relate to what</p> <p>16 was on the wall and we kept it red because that's what</p> <p>17 we was doing the priorities in the P.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay, thank you.</p> <p>19 Now, you can put that away and take that off the</p> <p>20 screen.</p> <p>21 Just a couple more general questions.</p> <p>22 First of all, was there a procedure for checking</p> <p>23 flats even where there had been no FSG calls coming from</p> <p>24 that flat?</p> <p>25 A. There is a way that we do check them and that we clear</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 A. Sorry -- okay, "Left flat". No, I don't know -- no,</p> <p>2 I don't know what the difference was there.</p> <p>3 "Left flat" ...</p> <p>4 Q. No, okay.</p> <p>5 A. I don't know if that -- yeah, I don't know -- if you</p> <p>6 look just where you've got that highlighted, is it 74</p> <p>7 that's got the cross on it?</p> <p>8 Q. Yes.</p> <p>9 A. Yes. So that would relate to that flat.</p> <p>10 Q. And there's 82 as well. There's an arrow which goes</p> <p>11 from top-left to bottom-right --</p> <p>12 A. Yeah.</p> <p>13 Q. -- under the legend "Left flat". What does that</p> <p>14 signify?</p> <p>15 A. No. No, I don't know, sorry.</p> <p>16 Q. What about the little blue dot with an F next to it?</p> <p>17 What does that tell us, do you know?</p> <p>18 A. No. I think ... I think that may have said "fatality".</p> <p>19 Q. I'm sorry to dwell on this grid again, Mr Egan, but in</p> <p>20 the bottom left-hand corner you see a red asterisk, "BA</p> <p>21 have gone there", but we don't, I think, see any red</p> <p>22 asterisks used anywhere in the grid. We have red ticks.</p> <p>23 I just wonder whether you can help us interpret the</p> <p>24 grid in that way. We've got red ticks but with nothing</p> <p>25 in the key, and you've got a red "BA have gone there"</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 them methodically as we go through, and that would be</p> <p>2 probably the form of a systematic search. So we</p> <p>3 would -- which would've probably been far later into the</p> <p>4 incident, when the systematic search would've been done.</p> <p>5 Q. At what point do you think that that systematic search</p> <p>6 system started up?</p> <p>7 A. I believe that started up around -- between 10.00 and</p> <p>8 10.30, that they started to make a systematic search of</p> <p>9 each floor.</p> <p>10 Q. So before that, is it that the searches of individual</p> <p>11 flats was only being done in response to particular FSG</p> <p>12 calls from those flats?</p> <p>13 A. Yeah, the crews shouldn't just go in on -- this is a bit</p> <p>14 of a misconception -- the crews shouldn't just go in to,</p> <p>15 say, the ninth floor and then smash in every door to</p> <p>16 clear it, because what that does, that breaks down the</p> <p>17 compartmentation. So if flat on the ninth floor then</p> <p>18 catches fire, it's going to spread through into the</p> <p>19 corridor.</p> <p>20 So they should -- you know, they'll go to that</p> <p>21 particular flat. If they haven't got information about</p> <p>22 flat 27 that's next door to them, then they're not going</p> <p>23 to try and get in there. If the door is open they may</p> <p>24 look, but their priority would be to go to the flat that</p> <p>25 they was being identified to.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p>

1 Q. Yes.
 2 Now, when you very first arrived on the scene -- I'm
 3 sorry to go right the way back to the start of your
 4 evidence, which must seem like a long time ago -- your
 5 initial thoughts were that you had to put the fire out.
 6 That's in essence what you said.
 7 If you were going to have a rescue operation instead
 8 of attacking the fire, how would you have gone about
 9 that? What method would you adopt to conduct
 10 an evacuation of this tower on the basis of your
 11 knowledge?
 12 **A. It would've taken a lot of command and control. We**
 13 **would have had to use some form of warning, so**
 14 **loudhailers for the crews. And my thought process was**
 15 **that they would systematically go through a couple of**
 16 **floors at a time, with crews going along, banging on**
 17 **doors, giving people a chance, you know, trying to**
 18 **cajole them out if they was in there, and then trying to**
 19 **escort them down. And then perhaps do three floors at**
 20 **a time, depending on how it was working.**
 21 **This is just -- it's all hypothetical. It's what**
 22 **I thought at the time, that this is how it should be**
 23 **done.**
 24 Q. Right. It's what you thought at the time.
 25 **A. It's just what I thought at the time.**

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1 Q. You made a hand signal identifying three floors going in
 2 an upwards direction, which may not be caught on the
 3 transcript, so let me ask you the question: in going
 4 a number of floors at a time, would you go bottom up or
 5 top down?
 6 **A. No. From what I could see and from the information that**
 7 **we had, I think the vast majority of the calls were from**
 8 **the 11th floor. So in my opinion, that's where I'd have**
 9 **started -- 11, 12, 13 -- and just committed crews, bang**
 10 **on doors, try and get people to come out. If they don't**
 11 **open the door, it's not advisable to force the door.**
 12 **It's a hard call. It's not something that could just**
 13 **happen. It would take a while. The crews would have to**
 14 **be really briefed. Because the crews would be going in,**
 15 **they wouldn't have water, because only a couple of crews**
 16 **would have enough for the jets.**
 17 **So I think it's doable, but it could take a while to**
 18 **get that process in place.**
 19 Q. And in terms of resources, what would you need?
 20 **A. You would need multiple machines, multiple BA wearers.**
 21 **On average they can wear for 20 minutes. They might be**
 22 **able to do two runs, go to one floor, wait for a moment,**
 23 **escort people down, they might have enough air to go to**
 24 **maybe the 14th, 15th, 16th in crews of four, four**
 25 **firefighters per floor. You would soon run out of**

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1 **firefighters. It would be and it was a major incident**
 2 **and you would need to use all those BA resources that**
 3 **you had.**
 4 Q. Just to repeat my question, just so I've pinned it down:
 5 would you go bottom up, or lower to higher, or higher to
 6 lower?
 7 **A. You'd have to start at the highest point that you could**
 8 **probably get to. So like I said, from my thought**
 9 **process, it would've been the 11th floor upwards,**
 10 **because I -- and I also believed it was clearer air**
 11 **there. I could be completely wrong. But I believed it**
 12 **was clearer air. But that's where all the information**
 13 **I was getting -- the fire survival guidance calls**
 14 **started from about the 11th floor. So they were the**
 15 **risk. And I knew obviously the higher you get into the**
 16 **tower, the hotter, the more smoke was going to be there,**
 17 **and it's going to take you a lot longer to try and clear**
 18 **a floor once it's engulfed in the flames.**
 19 Q. So you would start at the 11th floor, but would you
 20 clear from the 11th floor upwards or go straight to the
 21 top and come down towards the 11th floor?
 22 **A. Initially, you would start making your way up. But then**
 23 **the systematic search -- as I said, you know, it's not**
 24 **a quick fix, but you would then -- you'd still want to**
 25 **make sure that you've cleared 10, 9, 8, 7, down to the**

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1 **ground.**
 2 Q. Thank you.
 3 Can I ask you to look at or be shown policy 790 in
 4 tab 5 of the LFB policy bundle. Look, please, at
 5 internal page 4, paragraph 7, recording and sharing of
 6 information.
 7 I just want to look at paragraph 7.5 with you.
 8 "The Command Support System (CSS) has a messages
 9 screen that records messages sent to and from the
 10 incident ground once a CU has been mobilised. Messages
 11 sent by Firelink radio relating to FSG calls are
 12 recorded here."
 13 My question is: do you remember whether the CSS
 14 system on either CU8 or CU7 was working on that night?
 15 **A. We had an issue with the CSS because the command unit**
 16 **has an inbuilt generator to produce obviously**
 17 **electricity and that, and I think it had been sent up --**
 18 **so it had been recorded that it had been intermittent**
 19 **fault before, and on the night I believe it kept --**
 20 **I think we did get it up and running and then it just**
 21 **crashed. I think it crashed about three or four times.**
 22 **I think it overheated.**
 23 **There is an issue with the power supply that**
 24 **provides electricity and the CSS working.**
 25 Q. Right. Was that on both CUs or just 8 or just 7, which

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13 (Pages 49 to 52)

<p>1 one?</p> <p>2 A. The conversation I had with the command unit staff when</p> <p>3 it crashed is that this is a regular occurrence.</p> <p>4 Q. Is that on CU8 or CU7?</p> <p>5 A. On multiple command units.</p> <p>6 Q. Sorry, maybe I'm not being clear.</p> <p>7 On the night, you were on CU8 and then you moved to</p> <p>8 CU7.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. On which command unit did the CSS system crash?</p> <p>11 A. Sorry. When I was on command unit 7, that's where the</p> <p>12 generator failed on that one.</p> <p>13 Q. What about CU8?</p> <p>14 A. I wasn't on there, so I don't know whether theirs worked</p> <p>15 or not.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. If it hadn't crashed and was working as it was</p> <p>17 supposed to work, what difference would that have made</p> <p>18 to the system of collating FSG calls and then</p> <p>19 communicating them with the bridgehead or via</p> <p>20 an intermediate point to the bridgehead?</p> <p>21 A. Where the information would've come from control, we may</p> <p>22 have been able to see if control would've put them on</p> <p>23 the CSS. So we may have been able to cross-reference</p> <p>24 later on, you know, once we had time to see what</p> <p>25 information we'd been given via the radio and the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 But saying that, I didn't really need that much --</p> <p>2 I didn't need that information because I had the fire</p> <p>3 survival guidance to deal with. I wasn't dealing with</p> <p>4 the operations of it.</p> <p>5 Q. So in terms of fire survival guidance, how would</p> <p>6 a working CSS have improved things?</p> <p>7 A. I don't really know, to be honest. If control would --</p> <p>8 I've never been in that position where information's</p> <p>9 been on the CSS on fire survival guidance.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 Then if you go back to your statement at page 3 --</p> <p>12 again, I'm sorry to take you back to early on in your</p> <p>13 evidence -- there's just one point I need to follow up</p> <p>14 with you, which we covered a little bit but I just want</p> <p>15 to see if we can cover a little bit more.</p> <p>16 At the bottom of page 2, top of page 3, this is when</p> <p>17 you arrive at the command unit and book in, and this is</p> <p>18 CU8, and you say at the bottom of page 2:</p> <p>19 "I spoke to the Incident commander (Group Manager</p> <p>20 GM) Richard Welch, and he started to brief me and I</p> <p>21 asked what he needed me to do. He just stopped and said</p> <p>22 'I want you to take charge of the Fire Survival Guidance</p> <p>23 Calls.'"</p> <p>24 Then you say:</p> <p>25 "I asked for the details of what we already had, and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 telephone and what had been recorded, and it may have --</p> <p>2 you know, if we did write down the wrong number,</p> <p>3 I apologise, but we could've checked.</p> <p>4 Q. Would it have made the car bonnet communication system,</p> <p>5 which had been there to start with -- would that have</p> <p>6 still been necessary or would a working CSS have meant</p> <p>7 that was unnecessary?</p> <p>8 A. No, the car bonnet is the of initial attack, really.</p> <p>9 They're the ones that are going to get that initial</p> <p>10 information. A little bit later -- only a few minutes,</p> <p>11 in this instance -- another command unit would come on</p> <p>12 and then they would then get -- they would set</p> <p>13 themselves up, they'd get the command support system</p> <p>14 working.</p> <p>15 So the car bonnet is still there, you know, they</p> <p>16 would still take them calls, and then we would pass that</p> <p>17 or move that to the command unit.</p> <p>18 Q. So if the CSS had been working, what benefit would it</p> <p>19 brought to you on the night which you didn't have?</p> <p>20 A. Only in -- you know, thinking about it in hindsight, as</p> <p>21 it's on, I can see what messages are being sent from the</p> <p>22 fire ground in case I would've missed them. I would've</p> <p>23 been able to see the structure of who the incident</p> <p>24 commander was, where the other sector commanders were.</p> <p>25 That would've given me a bigger picture of the incident.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 spoke to Watch Manager Norman Harrison (WM) who was one</p> <p>2 of the Command Unit Staff."</p> <p>3 So the conversation with Norman Harrison, was that</p> <p>4 in the presence of Group Manager Welch?</p> <p>5 A. Yeah, it was, yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay. And did Watch Manager Norman Harrison say</p> <p>7 anything in your and Mr Welch's presence about his view</p> <p>8 of stay put and whether it should continue to be the</p> <p>9 right advice to give to residents in the building?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. He didn't. Did he say anything about talking to control</p> <p>12 about what advice should be given to residents in the</p> <p>13 building?</p> <p>14 A. No. When this conversation happened, Norman just</p> <p>15 started telling me exactly what he had, like the number</p> <p>16 of calls he had, he's saying he's got a plaque, we're</p> <p>17 trying to work out what floors they're on, trying to</p> <p>18 cross-reference it, and then that's when Richard Welch</p> <p>19 said, "There's command unit 7, go and do it on command</p> <p>20 unit 7".</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. Did you see or hear Norman Harrison express any</p> <p>22 views in front of Mr Welch about the wisdom of stay put</p> <p>23 and what should be told to the control room?</p> <p>24 A. No, I didn't hear him.</p> <p>25 Q. You didn't.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 A. No, I wasn't ...</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Mr Egan, thank you very much for answering my</p> <p>3 further questions.</p> <p>4 Can I just say I'm very grateful to you for coming</p> <p>5 to the inquiry and giving your evidence. Thank you very</p> <p>6 much.</p> <p>7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Egan, again, thank you very</p> <p>9 much indeed for coming along. I'm sorry it's been a bit</p> <p>10 difficult for you from time to time, and I'm sorry it</p> <p>11 went on rather longer than I think you were expecting.</p> <p>12 But your evidence has been very helpful and I'm very</p> <p>13 grateful to you for coming along.</p> <p>14 Thank you very much.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So if you would like to go with the</p> <p>17 usher, you are free to go.</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: Thanks very much.</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, it's probably sensible if we have</p> <p>20 a very short break just before the next witness.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, I think some rearrangements</p> <p>22 have to be made because he would prefer to give evidence</p> <p>23 sitting down.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: That's right, thank you.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I'll rise for 5 minutes or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 that's the idea -- but if you have any difficulty</p> <p>2 understanding them or you want me to repeat them, please</p> <p>3 just ask me and I will do that, or I'll try and put the</p> <p>4 question in a different way.</p> <p>5 If you need a break at any time, please just say and</p> <p>6 we can have a short break. We will try to break anyway</p> <p>7 without taking evidence in great long chunks.</p> <p>8 Could you please give the inquiry your full name?</p> <p>9 A. John Edward O'Hanlon.</p> <p>10 Q. And you made a statement, if you could be shown that.</p> <p>11 It should be in the bundle in front of you if you need</p> <p>12 to see it in paper form at tab 11A, but we have it on</p> <p>13 the screen in the normal way, and it's MET000080592.</p> <p>14 Have you read that statement recently?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. It's dated 21 December 2017.</p> <p>17 Can you confirm that its contents are true?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. We also have, at tabs 11B and C, your contemporaneous</p> <p>20 notes at 11B, and that's JOH/1, exhibit 1, and that's</p> <p>21 MET00005407; and then at C we have a plan, JOH/2,</p> <p>22 MET00015806, and we may need to look at those as we go</p> <p>23 through.</p> <p>24 The reason I'm reading that out aloud is so that's</p> <p>25 now formally in evidence in the inquiry.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 less if it can be done more quickly.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: I think 5 is a good number.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, thank you.</p> <p>4 (11.08 am)</p> <p>5 (A short break)</p> <p>6 (11.15 am)</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, thank you.</p> <p>9 Can we please have the next witness, who is John</p> <p>10 O'Hanlon.</p> <p>11 JOHN O'HANLON (sworn)</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr O'Hanlon,</p> <p>13 good morning.</p> <p>14 You sit there and make yourself comfortable.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right?</p> <p>17 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>19 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: Good morning, Mr O'Hanlon.</p> <p>21 A. Morning.</p> <p>22 Q. First of all, can I say thank you very much for coming</p> <p>23 to the inquiry to help us with our investigations. We</p> <p>24 really do appreciate it.</p> <p>25 My questions are intended to be short and simple --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 Can I ask you, have you discussed your statement or</p> <p>2 the evidence that you're going to give to the inquiry</p> <p>3 today with anybody before coming here?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>6 I'm going to start, if I can, Mr O'Hanlon, with your</p> <p>7 position and your training.</p> <p>8 You joined the LFB 16 or so years ago?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. And have you been an active firefighter since then?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. In your statement, you say your training level is</p> <p>13 "competent". That's in your second paragraph. Can you</p> <p>14 just explain for us what that means? Other firefighters</p> <p>15 have done. Can you just tell us what that means?</p> <p>16 A. I believe we're continuously assessed on our competence</p> <p>17 and I'm deemed a competent firefighter.</p> <p>18 Q. Right. When was the last assessment that you had about</p> <p>19 competence before June --</p> <p>20 A. I think it's just done continuously through.</p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 You were stationed at Hammersmith, I think, for some</p> <p>23 ten years on Red Watch, and you were at Hammersmith on</p> <p>24 the night of the Grenfell Tower fire.</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 Q. I think you were assigned to pump G362.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. In your statement, at the bottom of page 1 and over the</p> <p>4 top of page 2, you explain the high-rise training that</p> <p>5 you have received and you continue to receive. Let's</p> <p>6 just look at that together, if we can.</p> <p>7 At the bottom of page 1 you say:</p> <p>8 "We also do 'real' fire training once a year, but</p> <p>9 that is not specifically high rise ..."</p> <p>10 Then:</p> <p>11 "We also have refresher training once a year in BA."</p> <p>12 Then you say this:</p> <p>13 "I have previous experiences of fire fighting in a</p> <p>14 high rise block in a few incidents in Fulham but I can't</p> <p>15 remember when."</p> <p>16 In relation to any of those, were those firefighting</p> <p>17 experiences those that involved fire on the exterior of</p> <p>18 the building?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Right. Is there anything about those experiences which</p> <p>21 stands out?</p> <p>22 A. Not that I can recollect, no.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay.</p> <p>24 You say in your statement on page 1, just a little</p> <p>25 higher up:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you practise how to deal with any fire survival</p> <p>3 guidance calls that come and what to do with the</p> <p>4 information as it comes to the tower?</p> <p>5 A. No, that's more kind of lecture-based.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 In terms of lectures, you get regular lectures, do</p> <p>8 you, at Hammersmith?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Who delivers those lectures?</p> <p>11 A. One of the officers, either the watch manager or the</p> <p>12 crew manager.</p> <p>13 Q. Right. At the time of the Grenfell Tower fire, who was</p> <p>14 the watch manager or who were the watch managers at</p> <p>15 Hammersmith.</p> <p>16 A. Watch Manager Watson.</p> <p>17 Q. Was he A or B?</p> <p>18 A. I'm not sure.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 In terms of these lectures, how often would you have</p> <p>21 a classroom-based training session?</p> <p>22 A. At least once a week, once a tour.</p> <p>23 Q. Were these high-rise or other things too?</p> <p>24 A. Yeah, there's lots of different ones.</p> <p>25 Q. Right. How often would you get a classroom lecture on</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 "We use our drill tower weekly. We practice high</p> <p>2 rise and basement drills at the station. We turn up to</p> <p>3 the drill tower and treat is as a high rise. We each</p> <p>4 have roles to perform."</p> <p>5 Could you describe for us the drill tower that you</p> <p>6 have at Hammersmith?</p> <p>7 A. It's just a four-storey brick building with windows on</p> <p>8 each level. We've got a dry riser main. It's about</p> <p>9 5 metres by 5 metres with metal floor stairs going up,</p> <p>10 with a pitched roof on the top for roof ladder training.</p> <p>11 Q. Right. Could you just give us an idea of the kinds of</p> <p>12 things you practise when you do a high-rise drill in the</p> <p>13 Hammersmith tower?</p> <p>14 A. Basically you can drive round into the yard. Everyone</p> <p>15 will have their role. You pull up as in a normal</p> <p>16 incident and you'll use the base of the tower as the</p> <p>17 bridgehead and work from that.</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 Do you practise, when you do high-rise drills,</p> <p>20 dealing with a fire where it's come out of the window</p> <p>21 and is moving up the outside?</p> <p>22 A. Initially there will be a covering jet which would deal</p> <p>23 with that, but then that has to be switched off once</p> <p>24 people are in the compartment.</p> <p>25 Q. You practise that, do you?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 high-rise?</p> <p>2 A. Once every six months, maybe. I'm not sure of the</p> <p>3 timings.</p> <p>4 Q. When you got lectures, were you given handouts or slides</p> <p>5 or other kinds of written material?</p> <p>6 A. It's a PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>7 Q. Were you given anything to take away with you to study?</p> <p>8 A. No, but the op notes and training manuals are on the</p> <p>9 computer at work.</p> <p>10 Q. Does your training cover any aspect of advice given to</p> <p>11 residents to stay put?</p> <p>12 A. Not that I know of, no.</p> <p>13 Q. Does your training cover compartmentation, what it means</p> <p>14 and what happens if it fails?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Could you just explain a bit and expand a bit about what</p> <p>17 that training is?</p> <p>18 A. What, compartment training?</p> <p>19 Q. Yes.</p> <p>20 A. Well, just that you treat a room as a compartment and</p> <p>21 you deal with that fire as you would a compartment.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you have any training on what procedures you should</p> <p>23 follow if compartmentation should fail?</p> <p>24 A. I'm not sure there's any procedures, but it's</p> <p>25 generally -- you'd just start again from where the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 fire's gone to.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>3 Did you, before June 2017, ever get any training in</p> <p>4 what should happen or what does happen where an exterior</p> <p>5 cladding structure on a high-rise building catches fire?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you get any training or education on exterior</p> <p>8 lateral or downward fire spread?</p> <p>9 A. No, no.</p> <p>10 Q. As at June 2017, had you heard of a fire at Shepherds</p> <p>11 Court?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you attend that fire?</p> <p>14 A. I didn't, no.</p> <p>15 Q. What had you heard about the Shepherds Court fire?</p> <p>16 A. Just that it came out the window and moved up two flats,</p> <p>17 one by one, up to the next floor and then the next</p> <p>18 floor, I believe.</p> <p>19 Q. How had you come to hear about the Shepherds Court fire?</p> <p>20 A. My watch was the initial attendance.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 In terms of discussion about it, was there</p> <p>23 discussion within the crews at Hammersmith about lessons</p> <p>24 learnt as a result of Shepherds Court?</p> <p>25 A. Just that it was a very hard job for them, but that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 and found it was separate to the flats. That's all</p> <p>2 I knew about the tower."</p> <p>3 Now, there's quite a lot of information in there, so</p> <p>4 can I unpack it with you, as it were.</p> <p>5 A. Okay, yeah.</p> <p>6 Q. First of all, an AFA, what is an AFA?</p> <p>7 A. Automatic fire alarm.</p> <p>8 Q. Automatic fire alarm. And what's automatic about it?</p> <p>9 A. It goes off on its own; it doesn't have to be triggered</p> <p>10 by somebody. It will go off by smoke, flies, dust.</p> <p>11 Q. The call to an AFA, is that an automated --</p> <p>12 A. It's automated. It will go through to our central</p> <p>13 company who will put it through to us and then we'll ...</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. And the nursery, do you remember where the</p> <p>15 nursery was located in terms of which floor it was on?</p> <p>16 A. It's on the ground floor. I think it's the west side.</p> <p>17 Q. You say --</p> <p>18 A. I know now it's a surgery, not a nursery.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. You say you were unable to access the nursery</p> <p>20 when you got there.</p> <p>21 Do you remember where the entry point to the nursery</p> <p>22 was?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, as you go through the main entrance to the tower,</p> <p>24 just on your left.</p> <p>25 Q. And why were you unable to access it?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 building gave them the time to get from one flat and put</p> <p>2 that out and the next flat.</p> <p>3 Q. Did you discuss or learn or hear anything as a result of</p> <p>4 Shepherds Court about the risks of exterior materials on</p> <p>5 the building -- cladding, sandwich panels -- catching</p> <p>6 fire?</p> <p>7 A. Not that I know of, no.</p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 In your statement, if you look, please, at the</p> <p>10 second page, you say that you had been to Grenfell Tower</p> <p>11 previously --</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. -- on a call-out. Do you remember that?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah, I remember being there before, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Right. Just so that I can pick it up with you in the</p> <p>16 statement, it's not easy to find your way round, but</p> <p>17 it's two-thirds of the way down, you say:</p> <p>18 "We had been called there to what is called an AFA,</p> <p>19 a fire alarm at the Nursery. It was a night called out</p> <p>20 so it was closed at the time. I believe it was some</p> <p>21 time in 2017 and I think it was at the time the</p> <p>22 renovations were coming to the end but I can't remember</p> <p>23 exactly. As I said the Nursery was closed and so we</p> <p>24 couldn't get into it without doing any damage so we</p> <p>25 searched around and that's when we went into the lobby</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 A. Because it was nighttime and it's locked up.</p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember if you had a way of getting hold of the</p> <p>3 key?</p> <p>4 A. Not that I know of. Whether they request -- some places</p> <p>5 have key holders that you can request. Some places</p> <p>6 don't have key holders listed.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you ever get into the nursery?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. How did that AFA get sorted out?</p> <p>10 A. We walked round the building, because there was glass</p> <p>11 panels, so you could see into the surgery. You walk</p> <p>12 around, make sure there's no signs of fire, and if</p> <p>13 everyone's happy, then you can send a stop for that.</p> <p>14 Q. I see.</p> <p>15 A. So --</p> <p>16 Q. You can do that automatically, can you?</p> <p>17 A. No, the officer in charge will send a stop via the</p> <p>18 driver.</p> <p>19 Q. That would stop the alarm, would it?</p> <p>20 A. No, sorry, a stop so we can go away from that shout.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 A. The alarm won't stop.</p> <p>23 Q. On that trip, did you get into the lift lobby?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you learn anything about whether you needed</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 a special key, a drop key or a fob or something like</p> <p>2 that, if you did need to get into the lift lobby?</p> <p>3 A. I didn't, no.</p> <p>4 Q. You didn't.</p> <p>5 A. (Indicated dissent).</p> <p>6 Q. I am going to turn now to the first call-out that you</p> <p>7 got to Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>8 On the evening of 13 June, you got a shout.</p> <p>9 Do you remember what time the call came into the</p> <p>10 station?</p> <p>11 A. No, but I believe it was -- was it just towards</p> <p>12 1 o'clock?</p> <p>13 Q. Yes. And the operational response review, which I won't</p> <p>14 show you, has you as status 2, mobile to incident, at</p> <p>15 01.01.16. Would that be about right in terms of your</p> <p>16 recollection?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. You say in your statement -- this is at the top of</p> <p>19 page 2, four lines down:</p> <p>20 "When the bells went down, I was in my room</p> <p>21 (Room 12). Because our rooms are all quite close we all</p> <p>22 came down together."</p> <p>23 And you go on to say:</p> <p>24 "I came down into the office where there is the tele</p> <p>25 printer and saw it was a fire at Grenfell Tower."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 A. I believe it was Firefighter Archer.</p> <p>2 Q. Archer. Okay. And what did he do with it, do you</p> <p>3 remember?</p> <p>4 A. He first thing he did was read it out as he was ripping</p> <p>5 it off. Obviously if he says "fire" then that kind of</p> <p>6 sparks you into a -- makes you, yeah, listen a bit more.</p> <p>7 Q. So you said he read it out. Where were you standing?</p> <p>8 A. Just coming down the corridor, just by the door to the</p> <p>9 office, and the teleprinter's right inside the door.</p> <p>10 Q. What about the rest of the crew?</p> <p>11 A. We were all pretty much down there at the same time.</p> <p>12 Q. So Firefighter Archer read it out to everybody, did he?</p> <p>13 A. Yeah, it said fire, Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>14 Q. Right. Did he give you any other information off the</p> <p>15 tip sheet?</p> <p>16 A. Not at that point because he needs to look on the map to</p> <p>17 find out where it is.</p> <p>18 Q. And did he?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Did he find out where it was?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, he said he recognised it. He double checked on</p> <p>22 the map and then went on to the machine.</p> <p>23 Q. The map is where? Is it a big paper map on the wall or</p> <p>24 is it electronic?</p> <p>25 A. We've got a small one right by the teleprinter, or just</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 Was anybody running the office at that stage or was</p> <p>2 it an empty room?</p> <p>3 A. No, no -- yeah, it's an empty room.</p> <p>4 Q. And there's a teleprinter. What was the teleprinter</p> <p>5 printing?</p> <p>6 A. A call slip for the shout to Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>7 Q. That comes off the teleprinter automatically, does it?</p> <p>8 A. Yeah, it prints out and then we rip the slip off.</p> <p>9 Q. And the information on the piece of paper that comes out</p> <p>10 of the teleprinter, where does that come from?</p> <p>11 A. It's sent through by control.</p> <p>12 Q. That piece of paper, it's been referred to by various</p> <p>13 names in the last week or so, but some people have</p> <p>14 called it a tip sheet; is that familiar to you?</p> <p>15 A. That's one of them, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you personally get to see the tip sheet?</p> <p>17 A. Not personally, no.</p> <p>18 Q. You didn't. At any stage during that night?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Right. You look at me as if it's a surprising --</p> <p>21 A. No, no, I was just trying to think whether I did, but</p> <p>22 I don't believe I did.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 Who took the tip sheet from the teleprinter, do you</p> <p>25 know?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 outside the door to the office you've got several large</p> <p>2 maps --</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 A. -- with grid references.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay.</p> <p>6 You then say in the next paragraph:</p> <p>7 "We then walked to the machine, got our leggings on,</p> <p>8 got on the machine and went. From our mobile data</p> <p>9 terminal (MDT) we didn't get any information other than</p> <p>10 where it was and that the fire was on 4th floor."</p> <p>11 Now, did you look at the MDT yourself?</p> <p>12 A. No, that's in the front cab.</p> <p>13 Q. And you were sitting where?</p> <p>14 A. Behind the officer in charge, on the nearside in the</p> <p>15 back.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay. So just at that stage, can you just tell us who</p> <p>17 was in the cab once you'd started off and were en route?</p> <p>18 A. Firefighter Archer was driving, Crew Manager Davies was</p> <p>19 in front of me in charge and myself and</p> <p>20 Firefighter Barton were on the back.</p> <p>21 Q. Who were the designated BA wearers, you and --</p> <p>22 A. Myself and Firefighter Barton.</p> <p>23 Q. You and Barton.</p> <p>24 You say:</p> <p>25 "From our mobile data terminal ... we didn't get any</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 information ..."</p> <p>2 Did anybody on the cab en route read out what the</p> <p>3 information was on the MDT?</p> <p>4 A. I believe Crew Manager Davies said fire, fourth floor,</p> <p>5 Grenfell Tower, possibly that it was in a kitchen. I'm</p> <p>6 not sure.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. Because when you say:</p> <p>8 "From our mobile data terminal ... we didn't get any</p> <p>9 information other than where it was and that the fire</p> <p>10 was on 4th floor."</p> <p>11 It sounds as if you are saying that that was the</p> <p>12 only information on the mobile data terminal.</p> <p>13 A. Well, it gives you a duplicate of the call sheet --</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 A. -- on the mobile data terminal.</p> <p>16 Q. Apart from that, was there any other information about</p> <p>17 the building that you were going to?</p> <p>18 A. Not that we knew.</p> <p>19 Q. Did that strike you as usual or unusual?</p> <p>20 A. It didn't come into my thoughts, to be honest.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 Does the level of detail that you get about</p> <p>23 a building you're going to on a shout vary from incident</p> <p>24 to incident?</p> <p>25 A. Yeah, some buildings have more information on the MDT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 A. If that's what it says, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 Did you -- well, we can pick it up in your</p> <p>4 statement. You say in your statement in I suppose the</p> <p>5 last paragraph before the end which starts "We arrived</p> <p>6 on scene at roughly 01:00 am", do you see that?</p> <p>7 Then in the next line it says:</p> <p>8 "The officer in charge of North Kensington said over</p> <p>9 the radio 'next machine can we have two BA wearers'. So</p> <p>10 CM DAVIES told Nick BARTON and I to put our sets on,</p> <p>11 grab the long line, a thermal image camera (TIC), a</p> <p>12 length of hose and a branch."</p> <p>13 Did you know who the officer was in charge of North</p> <p>14 Kensington --</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. -- at the time? You did?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Who was that?</p> <p>19 A. Watch Manager Dowden.</p> <p>20 Q. And when you say he said over the radio, was that while</p> <p>21 you were still in your appliance en route or after you'd</p> <p>22 arrived?</p> <p>23 A. Just as we were pulling up to the incident.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. And when you say "over the radio", which radio</p> <p>25 was that?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 than others.</p> <p>2 Q. Did you know you were going to a high-rise?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, that's kind of -- "tower" gave it away.</p> <p>4 Q. It would. Well, it might.</p> <p>5 Given that you were going to a high-rise, would you</p> <p>6 have expected there to be rather more information on the</p> <p>7 mobile data terminal than you were getting?</p> <p>8 A. There is on the map, on certain places there's</p> <p>9 a triangle with an exclamation mark which brings up more</p> <p>10 information. I'm not sure whether that was looked at by</p> <p>11 ourselves.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you get any information about where the dry rising</p> <p>13 main inlet was?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you get any information about the floor plans or --</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. -- where the dry rising outlets were on the floors?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Nothing like that.</p> <p>20 Any information about where the hydrants were to be</p> <p>21 found?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. You arrive at Grenfell Tower and we have you status 3 at</p> <p>24 01.08.27. Again, does that roughly correspond with your</p> <p>25 recollection?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 A. Handheld.</p> <p>2 Q. That's the handheld?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. So which channel was that tuned to?</p> <p>5 A. Channel 1.</p> <p>6 Q. And you and Barton put your sets on.</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. And was that once you had parked?</p> <p>9 A. As we were parking.</p> <p>10 Q. How easy is it to don a BA set while you're still</p> <p>11 sitting in the cab?</p> <p>12 A. It's behind you, so you just pull the straps over.</p> <p>13 Q. Oh, I see. So when you get into the cab, when you mount</p> <p>14 the cab to go to an incident, the BA set is ready to go,</p> <p>15 sitting on the back of your seat, is it?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, it's basically the backrest.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay.</p> <p>18 You park next to the North Ken appliance on</p> <p>19 Grenfell Road, and you say that. That was to the east</p> <p>20 of the tower; do you remember that?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. At the top of page 3, you say, three lines down:</p> <p>23 "When we got off the appliance we saw the glow in</p> <p>24 the window so we knew there was a fire in the room but</p> <p>25 we saw nothing out of the ordinary."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 How far away from the building were you, do you 2 think, at that point? 3 A. Probably here to the far wall (Indicates). 4 Q. So I am trying to gauge that. About 30 feet? 5 A. (Nodded assent). 6 MR MILLETT: More or less. The chairman will know better 7 than I will. 8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I was trying to avoid making 9 an assessment, but I would have said nearer 20 yards. 10 MR MILLETT: Reasonable views may differ. 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I am tempted to ask people to put up 12 their hands if they have a better suggestion, but the 13 trouble is we'd have a forest of hands. 14 MR MILLETT: Limits to democracy. 15 You got off the appliance and you describe the fire. 16 You say in the next line: 17 "I didn't have a full on front view of the window it 18 was more of a side view but you could see there was a 19 fire inside, you could see the glow in the window." 20 Could you tell at that stage whether the fire was 21 contained within the room or not? 22 A. In my recollection, I thought the window was closed and 23 I could just see a small orange glow. 24 Q. Right. What about smoke? Could you see any smoke? 25 A. I didn't see any smoke, but it was just a quick glance</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 A. I believe it's a bag that contains equipment that we'd 2 normally use up at the bridgehead. 3 Q. Such as what? 4 A. Hose, branches, breaking-in gear -- yeah. 5 Q. And did you have a fire bag with you? 6 A. No. 7 Q. What is special about a fire bag as opposed to all the 8 other equipment? 9 A. It allows you to carry more stuff at one time. 10 Q. Oh, I see. So it's simply a bag you put things in, is 11 it? 12 A. Because it's in a bag. 13 Q. Is there any special equipment in a fire bag that you 14 wouldn't have if you didn't have a fire bag? 15 A. I believe now we've got new equipment, we've got 16 a special fire bag now that has different equipment than 17 we did before. 18 Q. What's the different equipment? 19 A. There's dividing breaches with shut-off valves. 20 Q. What are those? 21 A. Dividing breaches where you can plug two outlets into 22 one, it divides the water. 23 Q. Right. 24 A. Yeah, so you can have two hoses coming out of one, but 25 this has got a shut-off valve.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 and then -- yeah, I didn't stand around to -- 2 Q. No, I was going to ask you, was it a thorough look or 3 was it a quick glance? 4 A. It was a look up, I can see an orange glow, get inside. 5 Q. You say in the next line: 6 "It didn't look big it looked like a kitchen job or 7 a small flat fire. The window wasn't broken so there 8 was no smoke coming out." 9 You say the window wasn't broken; could you see the 10 window intact? 11 A. I believe so, yeah. In my recollection, yes. 12 Q. Did you have long enough when you saw the window -- 13 could you see whether there were any features to the 14 window, like an extractor fan still set in? 15 A. No. 16 Q. Can't remember? 17 A. As I say, it was a brief glance. 18 Q. Brief glance. 19 Now, at the bottom of page 2, just to go back, 20 you've explained the material you took with you and I've 21 read that to you already. 22 Can I ask you this: have you ever heard of a fire 23 bag? 24 A. Yes, well -- yes. 25 Q. What is a fire bag?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 Q. When did those start coming in, do you remember? 2 A. I'm not sure. 3 Q. Was that after Grenfell Tower, was it? 4 A. I'm not sure, but we didn't have one at that point, 5 I don't believe. 6 Q. Would you have had dividing breaches on runs prior to 7 Grenfell Tower? 8 A. We have dividing breaches, yeah. 9 Q. Did you have dividing breaches at Grenfell Tower at the 10 incident? 11 A. On machines, yeah, but I don't know whether any were 12 used. 13 Q. Okay. 14 You then say, going back to your statement, that you 15 went past North Kensington as they were in the lobby. 16 Let's go to page 3, third paragraph down. You say: 17 "North Kensington were outside setting up all the 18 hose for the dry riser we walked past them and into the 19 main lobby." 20 Then you say after that: 21 "So you go up 2 flights of stairs and then you go 22 through another set of doors above the lift. In that 23 lobby is where the Bridgehead was set up. That's where 24 the rest of North Kensington's crew was. There was 25 water in the dry riser when we got to BA control."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 Can I just ask you, first of all, how did you get</p> <p>2 through the internal door to the stairwell, do you</p> <p>3 remember?</p> <p>4 A. I believe they were both open.</p> <p>5 Q. Were they propped open or did you need a special key to</p> <p>6 get through?</p> <p>7 A. I can't remember, but I would imagine they'd have been</p> <p>8 propped open.</p> <p>9 Q. Now, I think we can probably time this.</p> <p>10 Are you okay to look at CCTV pictures? Not live</p> <p>11 footage but pictures.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. If you go, please, and be shown CCTV image tab 1, which</p> <p>14 is INQ00000178, You should see a picture of</p> <p>15 a firefighter coming through the main door wearing</p> <p>16 a white tabard and talking to a gentleman.</p> <p>17 Can you identify, first of all, who was wearing the</p> <p>18 white tabard?</p> <p>19 A. I believe Watch Manager Dowden.</p> <p>20 Q. That's Watch Manager Dowden, is it?</p> <p>21 A. I believe so.</p> <p>22 Q. Behind him, do you know who that is?</p> <p>23 A. It would be a guess.</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 You say Watch Manager Dowden, and Watch Manager</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 A. Possibly.</p> <p>2 Q. Then they come back in again, if you look at the next</p> <p>3 picture, which is 180, with a length of hose, or one</p> <p>4 firefighter does. Do you know who that is?</p> <p>5 A. I believe that's me.</p> <p>6 Q. Looking at the hoses in the top right-hand corner of the</p> <p>7 picture, can you tell me whether they're charged or not</p> <p>8 charged?</p> <p>9 A. The ones at the top-left are charged.</p> <p>10 Q. How do you know that?</p> <p>11 A. Because they're not flat.</p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 Then you go up to the bridgehead, and that's on the</p> <p>14 second floor, as you've said.</p> <p>15 If you go to the next picture, the picture is timed</p> <p>16 at 01.10.03.</p> <p>17 Can you identify who is in that picture? We have</p> <p>18 the two BA wearers in the front. I think both of them</p> <p>19 have a hose, actually. Is one of those you?</p> <p>20 A. Possibly. I can't really tell.</p> <p>21 Q. The watch manager on the left, who is that, do you know?</p> <p>22 A. Watch Manager Dowden.</p> <p>23 Q. That's Dowden. Then on the right, who is the</p> <p>24 firefighter on the right holding the door open?</p> <p>25 A. I guess that is Firefighter O'Beirne.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 Dowden appears to be giving or taking something from the</p> <p>2 gentleman. Do you know what that was?</p> <p>3 A. I don't, but I presume it would be a fob.</p> <p>4 Q. Why do you presume?</p> <p>5 A. Because I know you need fobs get in so --</p> <p>6 Q. Is that --</p> <p>7 A. That would be the first thing that Mike would ask for.</p> <p>8 Q. Is that something that you knew on the night, that you</p> <p>9 needed a fob to get in?</p> <p>10 A. No, but that's generally the way high-rise -- you need</p> <p>11 fobs to get in.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you see Mike Dowden taking a fob from a witness?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. From a gentleman?</p> <p>15 That's timed at 01.08.49, so you had arrived by</p> <p>16 then.</p> <p>17 Do you think you were part of the group of</p> <p>18 firefighters we can see clustered around the door on the</p> <p>19 outside?</p> <p>20 A. I don't know.</p> <p>21 Q. The next picture, the next tab, tab 2 in the bundle,</p> <p>22 which is 179, we can see some BA wearers exiting the</p> <p>23 tower at 01.09.05. Do you know who they were?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. Might one of them be you?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>2 Do you know why he's holding the door open for you?</p> <p>3 A. Because we need to get through it.</p> <p>4 Q. Yes. That's --</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good answer.</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: -- primarily correct.</p> <p>7 Let me ask it a different way: do you know why the</p> <p>8 door needed to be held open?</p> <p>9 A. Because if it closes, we'll need to use the fob again,</p> <p>10 I presume.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you remember finding a way to keep that door open in</p> <p>12 order to allow firefighters through?</p> <p>13 A. Me personally?</p> <p>14 Q. Yes, do you remember?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you know how it was kept open or what the system was?</p> <p>17 A. Normally it's done by maybe a fire extinguisher or maybe</p> <p>18 a bit of hose, I don't know.</p> <p>19 Q. You don't remember how it was done? All right.</p> <p>20 If you then go back to your witness statement,</p> <p>21 page 3, fourth paragraph down, you say:</p> <p>22 "At that time they were [setting] up the BA board,</p> <p>23 they had just sent North Kensington's BA crew up the</p> <p>24 stairs. CM SECRETT from North Kensington was in charge.</p> <p>25 He said 'right I've sent a crew up there, get under air</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 and back them up with a backup hose'. So that's what we 2 did. Everyone knew what they were doing, it was just a 3 fire in a flat." 4 Now, the question is: do you know the name of the 5 firefighters who were going up the stairs? 6 A. The other BA crew? 7 Q. The other BA crew. 8 A. I don't believe I did at the time, but obviously I do 9 now. 10 Q. Who was setting up the BA board, do you remember? 11 A. I believe it was Alex De St Aubin. 12 Q. Who else was at the bridgehead? 13 A. I remember him and Crew Manager Secrett. I don't -- 14 Q. Right. And you say Secrett instructed you and Barton to 15 go under air and back them up. 16 We have the BA data, just to put a time on it, of 17 you removing your tallies at 01.11.34. Would that be 18 about right in terms of the length of time between 19 arriving and tallying out? 20 A. What time was it, sorry? 21 Q. 01.11.34. 22 A. If that's what it says, yes. 23 Q. You'd been there about 3 minutes? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Would that be about right?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 backing them up, help them out with anything they need. 2 Q. Did you take your own hose with you? 3 A. From the bridgehead? 4 Q. From the bridgehead up. 5 A. No. 6 Q. You didn't? 7 A. No. 8 Q. What equipment did you take up with you? 9 A. I believe we had a thermal image camera. 10 Q. Anything else? 11 A. Not that I know of. 12 Q. When you went up to back them up, did you go straight to 13 the fourth floor or did you go via another floor? 14 A. We went up the stairs to the fourth floor, yes. 15 Q. On that journey up, did you see whether there was any 16 hose coming out from the third floor -- 17 A. Yes, there was. 18 Q. -- running up the stairs into the fourth floor? 19 A. There was none running up into the fourth floor, but 20 there was hose being laid out from the third floor. 21 Q. So at the moment you passed the third-floor lobby, the 22 door from the stair into the lobby, what could you see 23 was happening -- 24 A. There was hose coming out of the third floor. 25 Q. You say it was coming out of the third floor?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 A. (Nodded assent). 2 Q. Okay. 3 Can you remember what Crew Manager Secrett told you 4 by way of this briefing? 5 A. No, I'd only be guessing. I don't remember specific 6 words. 7 Q. Did you have any information about the floor layout or 8 the location of the flat that you were supposed to be 9 going up to by way of backup? 10 A. Not that I can remember, no. 11 Q. Do you know which room the fire was in? Did you know? 12 A. For some reason I think in the kitchen. I don't know 13 whether I was told that or it's just that I know it was 14 the kitchen now, so I don't know. 15 Q. Right, yes. 16 That prompts a question: at what stage in the night 17 did you discover that it was a kitchen fire? 18 A. Well, for certain when I was in the kitchen. 19 Q. Sure. But before that? 20 A. I cannot recall whether I knew or not it was in the 21 kitchen. But, yes, I don't know. 22 Q. Can you explain what acting as a backup BA crew 23 involves? 24 A. Basically protecting the other crews egress out of the 25 incident, just in case they get cut off, and just</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 A. Being snaked up to the fourth floor, but not through the 2 door. 3 Q. Not through the door. How would it come out from the 4 third floor into the stairs if not through the door? 5 A. No, I mean into the fourth-floor door. 6 Q. I see. So at that stage it had come out from the third 7 floor, into the stairs and gone up, but hadn't gone 8 through into the fourth-floor lobby yet? 9 A. No, because that was our job, to take it through. 10 Q. Who had set up, do you remember, the hose on the third 11 floor? 12 A. I believe Firefighter Badillo. 13 Q. You were told by Crew Manager Secrett to go up under 14 air. Is it normal to go up under air from the 15 bridgehead rather than waiting until you get to the fire 16 floor? 17 A. Yes, because that's where you put your tally in the BA 18 board. 19 Q. So you don't start breathing only once the air becomes 20 contaminated; you start under air at the bridgehead? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. That's a golden rule, is it? 23 A. Pretty much, yeah. 24 Q. At the top of page 4 of your statement -- perhaps 25 I should just pick it up right at the bottom of page 3,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 that's probably the easiest place to start -- you say:</p> <p>2 "As we started going up the stairwell to level 3 we</p> <p>3 found FF BADILLO from North Kensington. He had gone</p> <p>4 onto the 3rd floor and plugged our hose and rolled out</p> <p>5 the hose for us so we grabbed the hose off him with the</p> <p>6 branch on the 3rd floor, went up another level to the</p> <p>7 4th, to the fire floor."</p> <p>8 I think that describes what you were talking about</p> <p>9 earlier on.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. "We opened the door in the lobby and it was smoky."</p> <p>12 What was the smoke like? How smoky was it?</p> <p>13 A. I don't believe it was particularly smoky but there was</p> <p>14 smoke present.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 Did you see anybody in the stairwell as you were</p> <p>17 coming up?</p> <p>18 A. I think in my statement I said I did. I can't recall</p> <p>19 any specifics, but if I said in my statement then --</p> <p>20 Q. Well, let's just look at that. You say in the fourth</p> <p>21 line down from the top of page 4:</p> <p>22 "There were people coming down the stairs as we were</p> <p>23 going up in BA, I presume from the neighbouring flats."</p> <p>24 Did you see whether those people were suffering from</p> <p>25 the effects of smoke inhalation or whether they looked</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 Q. But did you know there was already a hose plugged into</p> <p>2 the dry riser outlet on the fourth floor?</p> <p>3 A. I knew the crew before us would have hose, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. So yours was the backup hose coming up from the third</p> <p>5 floor.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you see smoke leaking out from the fourth-floor</p> <p>8 lobby into the stairwell from the --</p> <p>9 A. I presume I must have done when we opened the door. It</p> <p>10 must --</p> <p>11 Q. Right. Did that cause you any concern? I think you</p> <p>12 said no, but --</p> <p>13 A. Not particularly, no, because I don't believe it was</p> <p>14 very thick smoke.</p> <p>15 Q. Would it be normal to run a hose from a stairway into</p> <p>16 a fire floor lobby or corridor through a door into the</p> <p>17 stairway that would be left open so that smoke could</p> <p>18 come out?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. It would be normal, would it?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, it's part of the policy.</p> <p>22 Q. How would that keep the stairway protected from smoke as</p> <p>23 a clear means of escape for residents if it was</p> <p>24 necessary to evacuate?</p> <p>25 A. Well, it wouldn't.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 healthy and --</p> <p>2 A. From my recollection, I don't believe that there was --</p> <p>3 no, they were just walking down the stairs, as far as</p> <p>4 I know, but I can't be sure.</p> <p>5 Q. Did you wonder why they were coming downstairs?</p> <p>6 A. It's a big tower block; they could've been visiting --</p> <p>7 I don't know.</p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 So you entered the fourth-floor lobby with the hose</p> <p>10 that was coming up from the third floor.</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Yes? Would that mean that you would therefore have to</p> <p>13 prop the fourth-floor lobby door open?</p> <p>14 A. Well, not prop it open, but the door would have to be</p> <p>15 open to have the hose going through it, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Did that mean that smoke which you had encountered in</p> <p>17 the fourth-floor lobby would then leak out into the</p> <p>18 staircase?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Did it occur to you that that would be a problem, or</p> <p>21 might be a problem?</p> <p>22 A. It wasn't a thought I had at that time because I just</p> <p>23 thought it was a fire in a flat, so ...</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 A. But we need to get hose in there, so ...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 Q. It wouldn't?</p> <p>2 A. No, once the door's open.</p> <p>3 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>4 In your experience, does that cause a problem for</p> <p>5 those people seeking to use the stairway as a means of</p> <p>6 escape?</p> <p>7 A. Yeah, if there's only one staircase, yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Now, you say that you entered the lobby, and you say in</p> <p>9 the sixth line down:</p> <p>10 "We found the flat on the right hand wall as we came</p> <p>11 in. North Kensington were there, we could hear them."</p> <p>12 You say.</p> <p>13 "We found out they were going right into the</p> <p>14 flat ..."</p> <p>15 Now, let's just pause there.</p> <p>16 To be clear, were they already inside the flat --</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. -- when you could hear them?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. They were?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Was the door to the flat open or --</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- was it closed?</p> <p>25 A. Open.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 Q. Okay. Did you know that it had been broken into with 2 an enforcer? 3 A. I didn't know the details of how they got in there, but 4 the door was open. 5 Q. The door being open, was it staying open of its own 6 accord? 7 A. I can't remember. 8 Q. Or was it propped open? 9 A. It was open, but there was hose going through, so ... 10 Q. Oh, I see. So just give me a picture mentally. It was 11 open and there was hose going through. Was the reason 12 the door was open because there was hose going through 13 or was it propped open in some other way? 14 A. I don't know, I don't remember. 15 Q. Okay. 16 Can I just ask you to look at your contemporaneous 17 notes, which are in handwriting. 18 Eight lines up from the bottom you say -- this goes 19 just back a step in terms of what you were doing, 20 Mr O'Hanlon: 21 "As we entered the lobby it was heavily smoke 22 logged." 23 Could you just explain what you mean by "heavily 24 smoke logged"? 25 A. I said there it was heavily smoke logged, but this</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 right hallway. 2 Q. Okay. That's once you're in the flat? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Then it may just be me misunderstanding your sentence. 5 "Right into the flat", do you mean -- 6 A. No, sorry -- 7 Q. Do you mean -- 8 A. There was only one way into the flat. At the end of the 9 corridor, they'd gone right. 10 Q. Oh, I see. 11 A. Sorry. 12 Q. Right. I understand. 13 Does that mean that you would then go round to the 14 left? 15 A. Yes, that's what we did. 16 Q. I think you go on to say: 17 "... FF BARTON ... said 'if they are going right we 18 will go left and search the flat whilst they put the 19 fire out'. 20 Firefighter Barton, he was leading you, so was he 21 the one giving, as it were, instructions or commands? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Then you explain the left-hand wall search that you do. 24 Is that standard procedure when acting as a backup 25 crew; you would do a search in the opposite direction to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 statement was made pretty much straight after 2 Grenfell -- yeah, so, you know. 3 Q. So given that it was made pretty much straight after 4 Grenfell -- 5 A. After working for 12 hours -- 6 Q. Exactly. Does that mean that it's likely to be 7 accurate, a fresh recollection of what you just -- 8 A. I don't remember the lobby being heavily smoke-logged, 9 no. 10 Q. Right. Because you use the word "heavily" there -- 11 A. Yeah, I know I do. 12 Q. -- and I just wondered why that is. 13 A. I couldn't tell you why, but I don't remember the lobby 14 being heavily smoke-logged. 15 Q. Okay. So you think the word "heavily" there shouldn't 16 have been used or -- 17 A. Possibly, yes. 18 Q. Right. Okay. 19 Now, you say in your statement, if you just go back 20 to it: 21 "We found out they were going right into the 22 flat ..." 23 How did you find that out? 24 A. As we went down the corridor, it came to kind of 25 a T-junction and you could hear that they were down the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 the way in which it was being done by the primary crew? 2 A. Not sure what the actual procedure -- but in a flat, 3 there's no point in both of us going right and -- time's 4 of the essence, so ... 5 Q. Yes. 6 Now, later on in your statement -- this is much 7 later on at page 7 and I don't need to take you to it -- 8 you say you could hear the smoke alarm going off in the 9 flat. Do you remember that? 10 A. I believe I did, yeah. 11 Q. Do you remember whether that was an internal smoke 12 alarm? 13 A. Yes, it was. 14 Q. So going back to what you saw when you went in to the 15 flat, you first go into the flat, what was the 16 temperature like, do you remember? 17 A. I don't remember it being very hot. I remember it being 18 very smoke-logged, I think, and -- yeah, I don't believe 19 I remember it being really hot. 20 Q. What about the smoke conditions in the flat when you 21 first went in, what were they like? 22 A. In the corridor it was quite heavily smoke-logged, yes. 23 Q. Right. 24 When you went in, could you hear the North Ken crew? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 Q. Could you see them?</p> <p>2 A. When we got to the corridor, the end of the corridor,</p> <p>3 you could see like bits of light from their torches</p> <p>4 and --</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 A. But not actually them.</p> <p>7 Q. You couldn't actually see them. Was that because of the</p> <p>8 density of the smoke?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 Now, the first room you go into, as you say, is, you</p> <p>12 think, a bedroom.</p> <p>13 If you look halfway down page 4, if we just pick</p> <p>14 that up -- you say he's got the branch, you've got the</p> <p>15 TIC, and a halfway down the page you say:</p> <p>16 "... I bumped into him as he was trying to get back</p> <p>17 out again. It was dark and smoky now and you couldn't</p> <p>18 see much. There was a corridor on the left and a</p> <p>19 bedroom. That's the kind of thing you worry about,</p> <p>20 bedrooms at night, you are thinking people in bed. "</p> <p>21 Is that the standard way to search for people, that</p> <p>22 you do a room-by-room search?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. Then you go on to say:</p> <p>25 "So we went to the bedroom I think Nick went one</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 A. I don't know.</p> <p>2 Q. How long would you say that it took for you to do the</p> <p>3 search before you came to the kitchen?</p> <p>4 A. I wouldn't know.</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 You say at the bottom of page 4, about two lines up</p> <p>7 from the bottom:</p> <p>8 "When I got to the kitchen North Kensington were</p> <p>9 putting the fire out. I don't remember the left hand</p> <p>10 side of the kitchen. On the right hand-side the</p> <p>11 cupboards were smoke damaged but not fire damaged."</p> <p>12 I'll go on with that in a moment.</p> <p>13 Could I just ask you: when you both entered the</p> <p>14 kitchen, was Firefighter Barton still in front of you?</p> <p>15 A. I don't know. I would imagine so, but I don't know.</p> <p>16 Q. At that point, were you still holding the thermal</p> <p>17 imaging camera?</p> <p>18 A. I would've still had the thermal imaging camera, yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Did he have the branch?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. So what would be the normal situation in that</p> <p>22 arrangement? Who would go into the kitchen first if --</p> <p>23 A. Firefighter Barton.</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 When you went into the kitchen, do you remember</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 side of the bed and I went the other we were searching</p> <p>2 using our hands and feet, trying to find people."</p> <p>3 Had you been told that in fact everybody in the flat</p> <p>4 had left it?</p> <p>5 A. No, I believe in my statement I -- as I went up the</p> <p>6 stairs, I asked: was there anybody in there? I don't</p> <p>7 know who to, but I got the reply "We don't know".</p> <p>8 Q. Do you remember who you had that conversation with?</p> <p>9 A. No. It wasn't a conversation, it was -- as I went up</p> <p>10 the stairs, I just turned round and said, "Is there</p> <p>11 anyone in there?" "We don't know."</p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 While you were doing this search, what had you done</p> <p>14 with the thermal imaging camera?</p> <p>15 A. I just put it down. It comes on a strap and I just put</p> <p>16 it down.</p> <p>17 Q. Right, so it was still on you but dangling?</p> <p>18 A. Yeah, it was dangling, I believe.</p> <p>19 Q. What about the hose? What had Nick Barton done with the</p> <p>20 hose?</p> <p>21 A. Nick had the branch and I had part of the hose as well.</p> <p>22 Q. Were you doing the search while holding the hose?</p> <p>23 A. No, I let go, go round the other side of the bed.</p> <p>24 Q. What did he do with the hose? Did he put it down or</p> <p>25 search while holding the hose?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 whether you left the door open or did you close it</p> <p>2 behind you?</p> <p>3 A. The kitchen door would've been open.</p> <p>4 Q. Can you describe what the conditions were like in the</p> <p>5 kitchen in terms of visibility when you first went in?</p> <p>6 A. From what I can remember, it was quite clear in there</p> <p>7 because obviously the window had gone, so all the smoke</p> <p>8 had gone out the window, so it wasn't that smoky in</p> <p>9 there.</p> <p>10 Q. You say the window had gone; do you remember what you</p> <p>11 could see in the window? When you say the window had</p> <p>12 gone, had the windowpane fallen out leaving a frame</p> <p>13 behind or had the whole window frame gone?</p> <p>14 A. I put in my statement I thought the whole of the frame</p> <p>15 had gone, but I've since seen photos of it and I can</p> <p>16 clearly see the frame, so.</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 At the top of page 5, you say:</p> <p>19 "The fridge was on the right, quite close to the</p> <p>20 window. You wouldn't recognise it as a fridge, just a</p> <p>21 charred rectangle with a bit of melted stuff at the</p> <p>22 bottom that was still alight."</p> <p>23 In terms of the fridge, do you remember where the</p> <p>24 fridge door was?</p> <p>25 A. I don't remember seeing a fridge door.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>

25 (Pages 97 to 100)

<p>1 Q. So do you think it was still on the fridge or off the 2 fridge and somewhere else?</p> <p>3 A. All I saw was a carcass and a pile of melted plastic 4 about that high (Indicates).</p> <p>5 Q. Right. Is that what you refer to as the "bit of melted 6 stuff at the bottom that was still alight"?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Then you go on to say, "The flame was around 30 cm 9 high". Is that the flame coming from the pool of 10 plastic?</p> <p>11 A. Melted plastic, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. At that stage, was there any other fire inside the flat?</p> <p>13 A. Not inside the flat, no, not that I remember.</p> <p>14 Q. Could you see what was happening outside the flat at 15 that stage?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, I believe so.</p> <p>17 Q. What could you see?</p> <p>18 A. It looked like the window surround was alight.</p> <p>19 Q. The window surround was alight inside the flat or --</p> <p>20 A. Externally.</p> <p>21 Q. Externally. Where was the window surround alight, 22 bottom, left, right or top?</p> <p>23 A. From bottom-right up round back to bottom-left, as far 24 as I can remember.</p> <p>25 Q. So the whole of the top of the window and the two</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 A. No, I didn't.</p> <p>2 Q. Were you aware of them sending a message or trying to 3 send a message?</p> <p>4 A. No, but if they're sending a message on their BARIE set, 5 then unless I was actually kind of next to them and 6 staring at them, I wouldn't --</p> <p>7 Q. Right. So you say you weren't aware and didn't hear?</p> <p>8 A. I wasn't aware.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you have a discussion with them or them with you 10 about the fire on the exterior that you could see in 11 relation to the window frame?</p> <p>12 A. Not that I remember; all I remember is they said they 13 were running out of air. I mean, it's pretty 14 self-explanatory in there that the window surround was 15 alight.</p> <p>16 Q. You then go on in the fifth line of the first paragraph 17 on page 5 to say:</p> <p>18 "So when we walked in and I gave it a little spray." 19 What did you give a little spray?</p> <p>20 A. The little bit of plastic in the fridge.</p> <p>21 Q. You say:</p> <p>22 "You could have put it out with a cup of water ..." 23 Then you explain the technique you used, painting 24 that.</p> <p>25 You then go on to you say what was happening at the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 jambs --</p> <p>2 A. Yeah, the two sides.</p> <p>3 Q. -- left and right.</p> <p>4 Could you describe the fire you saw on the window 5 edges?</p> <p>6 A. In my statement I said the right-hand side was the 7 fiercest. It was roaring on the right-hand side and the 8 other two were just on fire, as far as I can remember.</p> <p>9 Q. Then you go on to describe, four lines down at the top 10 of page 5:</p> <p>11 "So they came out of the kitchen and said to us 'we 12 are running out of air so just carry on'. So when we 13 walked in and I gave it a little spray."</p> <p>14 Just to clarify that for me, was there a time when 15 you were all in the kitchen together, all four of you --</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. -- or did they come out and then you --</p> <p>18 A. No, I believe we were all in the kitchen together.</p> <p>19 Q. During that time, do you remember a conversation, 20 discussion, words passing back between you about what 21 was happening?</p> <p>22 A. Not that I remember, but that doesn't mean -- it 23 could've happened.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you hear either of those firefighters, those BA 25 wearers, send a radio message?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 window. I'm going to come to that.</p> <p>2 But before you went over to the window, did anything 3 about what you saw inside the flat give you cause for 4 concern?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. You describe giving it a little spray, as I've just 7 shown you. Had you taken the branch by this point?</p> <p>8 A. I must have done, or if North Ken had gone out, I'd had 9 their branch.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay. So --</p> <p>11 A. But I had a branch. I don't know whose it was.</p> <p>12 Q. What about Nick Barton, did he have a branch as well or 13 did he give you his?</p> <p>14 A. I'm not sure.</p> <p>15 Q. Where was Nick Barton at that stage? Was he in front of 16 you or behind you when you were painting the little 17 flame?</p> <p>18 A. He wouldn't have been -- I was right by the fridge, so 19 he wasn't in front of me, so ...</p> <p>20 Q. So he must have been behind you?</p> <p>21 A. Somewhere behind me, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Just then talking about the fire around the window, in 23 the second paragraph on page 5, you say:</p> <p>24 "The window had gone by then, broken, so it was what 25 we call a vented fire. All the smoke was starting to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 pour out so it made conditions for us easier. That's</p> <p>2 when we noticed the window had completely gone. Even</p> <p>3 the frame wasn't there and we noticed that it was on</p> <p>4 fire, that the window surround was on fire. I thought</p> <p>5 that was a bit weird."</p> <p>6 Just unpacking that a little bit, you've explained</p> <p>7 what you mean by the surround.</p> <p>8 Can you describe the flames?</p> <p>9 A. Bright orange on the right-hand side. It was roaring</p> <p>10 back in, from what I can remember.</p> <p>11 Q. Roaring back in?</p> <p>12 A. Roaring.</p> <p>13 Q. Can you explain what you mean?</p> <p>14 A. You could hear it roar.</p> <p>15 Q. You could hear it roar?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. What did that mean to you at the time?</p> <p>18 A. It sounded to me like a gas pipe. What a gas pipe</p> <p>19 sounds like when it's on roar.</p> <p>20 Q. When you say roaring back in, what shape was the flame</p> <p>21 that you could see roaring?</p> <p>22 A. It was curling round, back through the window.</p> <p>23 Q. Curling round, back through the window from where?</p> <p>24 A. Not long, but --</p> <p>25 Q. From where --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 "We walked over to the window and started spraying</p> <p>2 the window frame. It didn't have any effect on it at</p> <p>3 which point I sat on the window sill and was leaning out</p> <p>4 and trying to hit what I thought was the window</p> <p>5 surround. I couldn't lean that far out because of the</p> <p>6 weight of my BA on my back. I just saw a square of fire</p> <p>7 and that is when I noticed all the debris outside.</p> <p>8 Because of the angle I was I couldn't see the rest of</p> <p>9 the building."</p> <p>10 You go on to say what you say there.</p> <p>11 Now, when you say at the start of that paragraph,</p> <p>12 "We walked over to the window and started spraying the</p> <p>13 window frame", where were you standing? How close to</p> <p>14 the window were you when you started spraying the frame?</p> <p>15 A. I would've been right by the window.</p> <p>16 Q. Right by the window?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you notice any objects in front of the window?</p> <p>19 A. Not that stand out, but obviously I've seen the pictures</p> <p>20 and -- yeah, but I don't remember it.</p> <p>21 Q. No, but putting the pictures that you've seen out of</p> <p>22 your mind --</p> <p>23 A. No, I don't remember any objects that were in my way.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. So you don't remember an object that might have</p> <p>25 taken your weight if you'd wanted to --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 A. -- it was just the sound that I remember.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. Curling back in from the outside?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Whereabouts from outside? Top of the window, side of</p> <p>5 the window?</p> <p>6 A. All the way down the right-hand side.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 Did you then go and get a good look about what was</p> <p>9 on fire immediately outside the window?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Why is that?</p> <p>12 A. Sorry, I don't understand. Did I have --</p> <p>13 Q. Did you get a good look?</p> <p>14 A. I did try and get out the window and have a look, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay, we'll come to that.</p> <p>16 Could you see any fire spread from where you were</p> <p>17 standing?</p> <p>18 A. Not from where we were.</p> <p>19 Q. You then say you thought it was a bit weird. What was</p> <p>20 weird about it?</p> <p>21 A. The roaring, the intensity of the fire down the</p> <p>22 right-hand side.</p> <p>23 Q. Right. Could you see any blue in the flame?</p> <p>24 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>25 Q. You then say in the third paragraph, I think, on page 5:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 A. No, I sat on the windowsill.</p> <p>2 Q. I'm assuming that was cool enough for you to --</p> <p>3 A. We had fire gear on, so ...</p> <p>4 Q. Sorry?</p> <p>5 A. We had our fire gear on, so I didn't really consider.</p> <p>6 It wasn't on fire, so ...</p> <p>7 Q. Okay.</p> <p>8 Now, you say, just after:</p> <p>9 "... I sat on the windowsill and was leaning out and</p> <p>10 trying to hit what I thought was the window surround."</p> <p>11 Can you describe for us how you were positioned in</p> <p>12 terms of your legs and hips and back?</p> <p>13 A. Legs were inside the room, bum was on the window and</p> <p>14 leaning out and -- yeah, with the hose.</p> <p>15 Q. With the hose. Was anybody holding onto you?</p> <p>16 A. I don't remember. Nick might have been, I'm not sure.</p> <p>17 Q. So you have got your back or BA equipment essentially</p> <p>18 facing out --</p> <p>19 A. I'm not sure if it was dangling or it was jammed into</p> <p>20 the corner, but it was facing that way.</p> <p>21 Q. And the jet that you were aiming, were you aiming it at</p> <p>22 the window surround or out of the window?</p> <p>23 A. At the bits that I could see that were on fire.</p> <p>24 Q. And that you described before was to the right-hand side</p> <p>25 of the window.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 A. Sorry, what was the right-hand side?</p> <p>2 Q. The right-hand side of the window was what you had</p> <p>3 described before as on fire.</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Which --</p> <p>6 A. No, all of it was on fire; I said the right-hand was the</p> <p>7 worst.</p> <p>8 Q. Forgive me, all right.</p> <p>9 In which direction did you aim your jet?</p> <p>10 A. I would've said I probably started on the right and went</p> <p>11 all the way round, but I can't remember specifics.</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: Now, Mr O'Hanlon, I want to show you a very</p> <p>13 short snapshot of a video taken of the building on fire.</p> <p>14 I'm going to give the trigger warning, Mr Chairman,</p> <p>15 in the usual way.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Okay.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Can I ask the witness, first of all, are you</p> <p>18 all right to see a short, perhaps repeated once --</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: -- snapshot? I'll proceed to do it.</p> <p>21 Before I do, Mr Chairman, I ought to give the usual</p> <p>22 trigger warning.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, please.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: What we are going to see -- this is for the</p> <p>25 benefit of those in the room and for those watching by</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 neutrally without prompting you. Can we just play the</p> <p>2 video.</p> <p>3 (Video played)</p> <p>4 Now, just pause there.</p> <p>5 Did you see something coming up through the flames</p> <p>6 from bottom-right to top-left?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, I believe so.</p> <p>8 Q. Could we just show that again? It is at about 01.22.20</p> <p>9 to 21 or so. If we could just play that again, I'll</p> <p>10 shout "There" when I see it, when I want to ask you</p> <p>11 about it.</p> <p>12 So if you could just play that again, please.</p> <p>13 (Video played)</p> <p>14 There. Can you see where the arrow is? Perhaps we</p> <p>15 should just play it once more.</p> <p>16 Okay, so if you look at where the arrow is on the</p> <p>17 cursor, and if it's played, you can see as we play</p> <p>18 through it something coming through the flames from the</p> <p>19 bottom-right to the top-left. If you play it ...</p> <p>20 (Video played)</p> <p>21 So there it comes now. That's all I needed to show</p> <p>22 you.</p> <p>23 Can you help us with what that is?</p> <p>24 A. Not really, but maybe it was us -- it must have been us.</p> <p>25 Yeah, but --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 live stream -- is part of the Luke Bisby fire spread</p> <p>2 video timed at 1.22 or so, which contains images of the</p> <p>3 building on fire which some people might find</p> <p>4 distressing and contains some audio.</p> <p>5 So if anybody does find that distressing then</p> <p>6 I would ask them either to take steps to cover their</p> <p>7 eyes and ears or to leave this room -- we'll allow</p> <p>8 a little time for you to do that -- or if they're</p> <p>9 watching by remote live stream, to take themselves away</p> <p>10 from it for a moment.</p> <p>11 So I'll wait 30 seconds or so while people do that,</p> <p>12 give them an opportunity to get away from it, then we'll</p> <p>13 proceed.</p> <p>14 Mr Documents Director, if you could just queue it</p> <p>15 up -- I'd take that off the screen for the moment. Just</p> <p>16 queue it up. Thank you.</p> <p>17 (Pause)</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right. I think we've had time.</p> <p>19 Thank you.</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: So what we are going to show you first of all</p> <p>21 is the clip. What I would like you to look out for</p> <p>22 while we are looking at it is the position where you</p> <p>23 think you would have been in the building, and you're on</p> <p>24 the fourth floor, and I would like you to look out for</p> <p>25 any signs of movement of water jets, if I can put it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 Q. You say it must have been you; I would agree, but I just</p> <p>2 want to work out why you say that.</p> <p>3 Is that the angle at which you were aiming your jet</p> <p>4 when you were halfway out of the window?</p> <p>5 A. We were just aiming it around the window.</p> <p>6 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, I'm slightly puzzled</p> <p>8 because it seemed to me to be rather higher up in the</p> <p>9 building than I would've expected.</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: Well, that's, in a sense, my next question.</p> <p>12 One can't necessarily know where it starts, but my next</p> <p>13 question is: when you were aiming your jets, how much</p> <p>14 pressure were you getting and how far could you aim your</p> <p>15 jet of water?</p> <p>16 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>17 Q. Would it have been a few feet or would it have been 20</p> <p>18 or 30 feet?</p> <p>19 A. It could've been 20, 30 feet. I don't remember having</p> <p>20 it on a jet setting; I had it more of a spray.</p> <p>21 Q. Right.</p> <p>22 A. Which would've sent the water out like that rather</p> <p>23 than (Indicates) ... yeah.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. All right. I think we probably exhausted that</p> <p>25 subject.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 Can I then ask you to take that away and then look</p> <p>2 back at your statement in the third paragraph on page 5,</p> <p>3 which we've just being looking at. You say, three lines</p> <p>4 down from the start of that paragraph:</p> <p>5 "I just saw a square of fire and that is when</p> <p>6 I noticed all the debris outside."</p> <p>7 This square of fire, can you describe, where was</p> <p>8 this square --</p> <p>9 A. I meant as in (Indicates).</p> <p>10 Q. It's the window frame, is it?</p> <p>11 A. Yeah.</p> <p>12 Q. If you make a signal with your hands, the transcript</p> <p>13 doesn't describe it, so I have to do that.</p> <p>14 A. Sorry. Yeah, basically the shape of the window frame</p> <p>15 without the bottom shelf.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 You say you noticed all the debris outside; do you</p> <p>18 mean burning debris or --</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. -- debris that had fallen down?</p> <p>21 A. No, burning debris.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you see it falling?</p> <p>23 A. After I noticed it on the ground, yeah, then it</p> <p>24 started -- there was a tree outside the window,</p> <p>25 I believe, and it was starting to fall into the tree.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 How big, first of all, were these bits of -- these</p> <p>2 drops, these --</p> <p>3 A. The ones that I can remember were like water drops that</p> <p>4 had little sparks coming off them.</p> <p>5 Q. Right. Water drops with little --</p> <p>6 A. They weren't water drops, but that kind of dimensions,</p> <p>7 and it seemed to have little sparks coming off them.</p> <p>8 Q. Right. As they were flying through the air?</p> <p>9 A. As they were dropping.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 You say, going back to the bottom of page 5, having</p> <p>12 given a description of the fire that you could see</p> <p>13 there, in the last line:</p> <p>14 "Nick had a go as well hitting the window from the</p> <p>15 inside and again it had no effect."</p> <p>16 Did you swap positions and give him the hose or did</p> <p>17 he have his own hose, do you remember?</p> <p>18 A. I don't remember that, but I know that we swapped round.</p> <p>19 Q. What was the effect of him having a go? You say it had</p> <p>20 no effect.</p> <p>21 A. Exactly the same.</p> <p>22 Q. Right. Did he lean out of the window and try --</p> <p>23 A. I believe so, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- to extinguish the flames outside?</p> <p>25 A. (Nodded assent).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 Q. Right. Was there much of it?</p> <p>2 A. Starting to get worse and worse, yeah.</p> <p>3 Q. Right. Did you see where it was coming from?</p> <p>4 A. Above.</p> <p>5 Q. How far above?</p> <p>6 A. I would not have a clue.</p> <p>7 Q. When you saw that and you saw that material coming down</p> <p>8 and burning, where were you directing your water?</p> <p>9 A. I presume still up, and then I think we started to --</p> <p>10 strangely, I think we were worried about the tree</p> <p>11 catching alight, is what I've had discussions with</p> <p>12 Firefighter Barton about afterwards. But generally it</p> <p>13 was more on the building.</p> <p>14 Q. Just on the topic still of falling, burning material, if</p> <p>15 you look at the top of page 6, you say:</p> <p>16 "When I saw the fire around the window sill I</p> <p>17 thought it was weird, I thought the gas pipe had gone,</p> <p>18 somewhere, it just didn't add up in my mind."</p> <p>19 Then you go on a couple of lines down to say:</p> <p>20 "I remember looking out of the window and seeing</p> <p>21 little sparks coming down, they were falling through the</p> <p>22 air, they were fizzing. At the time I didn't understand</p> <p>23 what that was. You could hear it and see the little</p> <p>24 sparks coming off, little drops. It is stuff that I had</p> <p>25 never seen before."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 Q. He did?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. How concerned did you feel about what was happening that</p> <p>4 you could see?</p> <p>5 A. We thought it was worrying but obviously nothing on the</p> <p>6 scale ...</p> <p>7 Q. What did you think was happening?</p> <p>8 A. We thought it was jumping floors to the next floor.</p> <p>9 Q. What did you think that this burning, sparking material</p> <p>10 was?</p> <p>11 A. I didn't have a thought. It's just something that</p> <p>12 I remember. Metal.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 Did you give any thought yourself to what needed to</p> <p>15 be done next to deal with what you could see, this --</p> <p>16 you say jumping a floor, but spread of fire?</p> <p>17 A. Did I give any -- sorry?</p> <p>18 Q. Did you give any thought to what needed to be done next</p> <p>19 to deal with what you could see?</p> <p>20 A. What I should do next or ...?</p> <p>21 Q. Well, what needed to be done by all of you.</p> <p>22 A. No, we were just trying to spray water.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay.</p> <p>24 At that stage, when you saw this material falling</p> <p>25 down through the window frame and hear the sound --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 A. Sorry, it wasn't falling through. I don't believe it 2 was falling back in, it was just falling down. 3 Q. At the stage when you could see the material falling 4 down and you could hear the noise of the fire, did you 5 have any thought about whether other flats in the 6 building might now have become affected by fire? 7 A. We thought it was jumping up to the next floor, yes. 8 Q. You say that on page 6 in the first paragraph. You say, 9 third line: 10 "Maybe it was going up to the floor above ..." 11 What did that tell you about compartmentation? 12 A. Well, it had failed. 13 Q. Did you communicate with the bridgehead about what you 14 had just seen? 15 A. Not that I remember. 16 Q. Did you communicate with the bridgehead about the 17 possibility that compartmentation might have failed? 18 A. Not that I remember, no. 19 Q. Did you have a BARIE radio or was that Nick Barton who 20 had the BARIE? 21 A. I can't remember who had the BARIE radio. 22 Q. You would have still had a fire ground radio yourself, 23 would you? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Did you try and send a message from flat 16?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 come back into the flat? 2 A. I believe I was talking to a BA crew that were going to 3 go in, and Nick was talking to who was in charge of the 4 bridgehead. 5 Q. I see. 6 Did you tell the next BA crew about the weird 7 behaviour of the fire and the noise of the fire that you 8 had seen in flat 16? 9 A. I don't believe I went into specifics, no. 10 Q. Do you know whether Firefighter Barton told whoever was 11 in charge of the bridgehead at that point what you had 12 both seen in terms of the way the fire was behaving on 13 the exterior? 14 A. I believe he explained that he thought it had gone up to 15 the next flat above. 16 Q. Do you know who was in charge of the bridgehead at that 17 stage? 18 A. As far as I know, Watch Manager O'Keeffe. 19 Q. So he had taken over from Crew Manager Secrett during 20 your wear; is that how you remember it? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. On your way down from the fourth floor to the second 23 floor, where the bridgehead was, do you remember what 24 the conditions were like, the air conditions? 25 A. No. I don't think the lobby on the fourth floor was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 A. I don't believe so, no. 2 Q. Do you know why that was, having seen this weird, 3 sparking, fizzing material? Do you know why you didn't 4 tell the bridgehead what you'd seen? 5 A. No. The only reason I could give was that the other 6 crew had already left and were on their way down to the 7 bridgehead. 8 Q. Did you discuss what you were looking at with Nick 9 Barton? 10 A. I don't think we had a discussion, no. 11 Q. You I think then go back down to the bridgehead, and we 12 have in your telemetry data the fact that you closed 13 down at 01.35.46. 14 In the last paragraph on page 6, you say in the 15 second line there: 16 "I said to the next person who was going in 'we've 17 left the hose by the kitchen door because we are worried 18 it's going to come back into the flat'. With that we 19 have collected our tally, told the entry control what we 20 had done:- that the fire was out in the flat and where 21 we had left the hose and that we were worried about the 22 fire coming back in the flat ..." 23 Just pause there. 24 That discussion there, you say -- do you remember 25 who you told that you were worried that the fire might</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 that smoke-logged. I don't believe it being heavily 2 smoke-logged. 3 Q. And the stairway -- 4 A. The stairwell -- I've got no recollection of the 5 stairwell. 6 Q. Okay. 7 What about traffic of people in the stairwell at 8 that point? You come down from floor 4 to floor 2. Do 9 you remember whether there were residents coming down -- 10 A. I don't remember seeing anyone, but that doesn't mean 11 there wasn't anyone on the stairs. 12 Q. At the top of page 7 of your statement, you describe 13 that you come back to the bridgehead, and then you say: 14 "... we went down the stairs and came out of the 15 building via the glass front entrance we came in." 16 You came out and you say you looked up at the 17 building, looked at each other and just said "Oh shit!" 18 Then you say this: 19 "Looking to my left it looked like that whole side 20 of the building where the window was, was alight." 21 Now, you say the whole side of the building. I just 22 want to try and get your recollection if I can -- 23 A. Yeah, I'm looking up as well, don't forget. 24 Q. Where were you? 25 A. Walking back.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 Q. You had just come out of the front, so you were coming 2 out -- 3 A. Come out, turned left, walking back to our machine. So 4 probably coming from the south side, just looking up, 5 and then you see the east side from the side view. 6 Q. Yes, I see. 7 Had the fire, do you think, gone all the way to the 8 top of the tower at that point? 9 A. I wouldn't know. I can't remember. 10 Q. What do you remember? 11 A. I just saw -- and it looked like -- I said the whole of 12 the building, but I wouldn't know what floor. But -- 13 yeah. 14 Q. Okay. 15 A. A lot of the building was alight. 16 Q. Then you say this: 17 "I had seen the thing in Dubai on the internet a few 18 months before and that sprung to mind afterwards, but 19 I've never seen anything like it." 20 You say "I had seen the thing in Dubai on the 21 internet", can you just help us with that? What did you 22 see on the internet about a fire in Dubai? 23 A. I saw on YouTube there was a fire in Dubai in a hotel 24 maybe or -- that all caught fire in Dubai. 25 Q. Do you know about what had caused that fire?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 A. A minute, two minutes. 2 Q. Right. Do you have to do a kind of test? 3 A. You're supposed to, yes. 4 Q. What is that test? 5 A. Fire ground A test. 6 Q. What does that involve? 7 A. Just testing the rest of the equipment works, the 8 mask -- yeah, all the hoses. 9 Q. Right. 10 Sorry to go back, it's a question I'm asking out of 11 order, I should've asked it before, but this Dubai 12 fire -- sorry to go back to it -- you saw it on the 13 internet. Did you ever receive any training from the 14 LFB about what should happen if the Dubai experience 15 were to be repeated in London? 16 A. No. 17 Q. You look puzzled that I'm asking the question. 18 A. No. Not that I know of, there's a Dubai bit of training 19 on the -- no. It was just a clip that I saw on the 20 internet. 21 Q. Okay. 22 You say you went back into the building, having put 23 your BA on again, and we pick that up two-thirds of the 24 way down page 7, where you say: 25 "We entered the building and joined the queue."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 A. No, I knew no details, just a clip that I'd seen. 2 Q. Do you know what caused you to look at that clip? 3 A. No. 4 Q. This fire in Dubai, was it the subject ever of any 5 discussion around the mess table or a discussion between 6 the crew members at Hammersmith? 7 A. I don't recall it being. 8 Q. This Dubai fire, was it something that you had any idea 9 was even discussed or talked about or was part of London 10 Fire Brigade intelligence, or was it just a private 11 thing you happened to chance upon? 12 A. Yes, just a private thing. 13 Q. Right. 14 You then say, a line or two down: 15 "We ran to our machine and changed our cylinders 16 over to go back in. We realised why there were so many 17 BA wearers waiting to go in. I've never seen anything 18 like it in my life." 19 I just want to ask you, you wanted to be 20 recommitted? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. And changing cylinders, how easy is that to do? 23 A. Yes, pretty easy. 24 Q. Sorry, I should've asked: how long does that take 25 normally?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 Do you see that? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. How easy was it to enter the building in terms of debris 4 falling from the building? 5 A. I don't know. I've -- 6 Q. What do you recall about the ease of passage on the 7 ground between your appliance and the entrance to the 8 building? 9 A. There's nothing that sticks out that I can recall, 10 so ... 11 Q. Okay. And you joined a queue, you say. A queue of 12 what? 13 A. BA wearers. 14 Q. How big was the queue? How long was it? 15 A. I don't remember. I remember being up on the mezzanine 16 floor and looking out and just seeing lots of BA wearers 17 walking towards the building. 18 Q. When you joined the back of the queue, where was it? 19 A. I believe it was up on the mezzanine floor. 20 Q. How many people were there in front of you in the queue 21 before you got to be able to check in at the bridgehead? 22 A. I couldn't tell you. 23 Q. Lots, a few? 24 A. Yeah, lots. 25 Q. Lots?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 A. There was lots.</p> <p>2 Q. How long did it take you, do you remember, between</p> <p>3 joining the back of the queue and then checking in at BA</p> <p>4 entry control?</p> <p>5 A. I don't think we checked in at BA entry control.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 How long did it take you, do you think, between</p> <p>8 joining the back of the BA queue and arriving at the</p> <p>9 bridgehead so that you could be recommitted?</p> <p>10 A. I don't know. I remember being in the queue and then</p> <p>11 I remember the next bit, going up to the third floor.</p> <p>12 Q. At the point when you re-entered the building and joined</p> <p>13 the queue, can you remember what the conditions were</p> <p>14 like in the lobby in terms of the air?</p> <p>15 A. Fine, as far as I can remember.</p> <p>16 Q. Right. What about when you went up the stairs and</p> <p>17 eventually got to the bridgehead? What were the</p> <p>18 conditions like there when you got there?</p> <p>19 A. Nothing that stands out, so ...</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 Now, at the bottom of page 7 you say you were just</p> <p>22 handed two BA boards and told to go up to the third</p> <p>23 floor:</p> <p>24 "I have no idea who passed the boards to us. They</p> <p>25 shouldn't really have done that, they should have stayed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 A. Sorry, De Silvo.</p> <p>2 Q. So to the best of your recollection, just so I have</p> <p>3 a fix on this, the move of the bridgehead from the</p> <p>4 second to the third floor was at a time when O'Keeffe</p> <p>5 and De Silvo were running the bridgehead?</p> <p>6 A. I don't know who was running it, but they were both</p> <p>7 present on the bridgehead.</p> <p>8 Q. They were present on the bridgehead.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Do you remember whether there was any more senior</p> <p>11 officer than --</p> <p>12 A. Not that I can recall.</p> <p>13 Q. -- Watch Manager O'Keeffe at that time?</p> <p>14 A. Not that I can recall.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay.</p> <p>16 At the time of that move, how many other</p> <p>17 firefighters were there waiting to be committed?</p> <p>18 A. There was a lot.</p> <p>19 Q. A lot?</p> <p>20 A. A lot.</p> <p>21 Q. Obviously you can't be exact.</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. But a crowd of them. Okay.</p> <p>24 Did you have any impression as to how well</p> <p>25 the bridgehead was being managed?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 with the boards themselves. So we went up to the 3rd</p> <p>2 floor which was quite a small lobby, and put the two</p> <p>3 boards down."</p> <p>4 Who handed you the two BA boards?</p> <p>5 A. As I've said, I don't know.</p> <p>6 Q. You have said that. Was that person a watch manager or</p> <p>7 a crew manager --</p> <p>8 A. I don't know.</p> <p>9 Q. -- or a person in command?</p> <p>10 A. I don't know. I just have a recollection of being on</p> <p>11 the mezzanine and then somebody saying, "We're moving to</p> <p>12 the third floor" and having a BA board given to me.</p> <p>13 Q. Right. The move to the third floor, was that -- why</p> <p>14 were you being asked, do you know, to put BA boards on</p> <p>15 the third floor?</p> <p>16 A. Because they were moving to the bridgehead to the third</p> <p>17 floor.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you remember what kind of time that was?</p> <p>19 A. Time had just -- I had no concept of time by then.</p> <p>20 Q. At that stage, do you remember who was in charge of the</p> <p>21 bridgehead?</p> <p>22 A. I remember there was -- Watch Manager O'Keeffe was there</p> <p>23 and I believe Watch Manager De Sousa from Chelsea.</p> <p>24 I don't know who was in charge.</p> <p>25 Q. De Sousa, could that be De Silvo?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Now, the move time, we've got a time for of about -- and</p> <p>3 it's subject to verification, of course, but take it</p> <p>4 from me at the moment -- 02.13 am.</p> <p>5 A. 13 or 30?</p> <p>6 Q. 13, 1-3.</p> <p>7 Would that be roughly in accordance with your</p> <p>8 recollection?</p> <p>9 A. As I said, time was just --</p> <p>10 Q. Right. Which would be just over an hour --</p> <p>11 A. And no concept of time throughout the rest of the night.</p> <p>12 Q. No, you did say that.</p> <p>13 Do you remember who took the decision to move?</p> <p>14 A. No. As I say, I remember being on the mezzanine and</p> <p>15 then a board was given to me and they said, "We're</p> <p>16 moving to the third floor", so I moved to the third</p> <p>17 floor.</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: Just a couple more questions, if I may,</p> <p>19 Mr Chairman, before we break, and I'll come to the end</p> <p>20 of this topic.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: When you got to the third floor, do you</p> <p>23 remember what the conditions were like there?</p> <p>24 A. I don't remember being -- it wasn't smoky, I don't</p> <p>25 think, no.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

<p>1 Q. Did you have radio communication on the third floor, do 2 you remember?</p> <p>3 A. I had my handheld radio.</p> <p>4 Q. Was it working?</p> <p>5 A. I hadn't tried to use it, so -- but obviously the radios 6 were -- there was a lot of traffic, I remember.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. Right.</p> <p>8 Then you describe on page 8 at the top how you 9 operate the board, and you do that over the first half 10 of page 8.</p> <p>11 Do you remember how long you and Firefighter Barton 12 were operating the two boards that you had taken up?</p> <p>13 A. No. I see in my statement I put 35 to 45 minutes, but 14 I'd say it was more 15 to 20, to be honest.</p> <p>15 Q. I was going to ask you. You say you had no concept of 16 time. You say 35 to 45 minutes --</p> <p>17 A. Yeah, I think that's way too long.</p> <p>18 Q. Did anybody take over from you?</p> <p>19 A. No, we cleared those boards.</p> <p>20 Q. Who told you to do that?</p> <p>21 A. Nobody, but the BA wearers were coming down, they were 22 all running out of air, so ...</p> <p>23 Q. Right. And was anybody in charge of you on the third 24 floor while you were running those BA boards?</p> <p>25 A. Not me personally, no, or Firefighter Barton.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 putting them into their BA set.</p> <p>2 A. Putting them into their sets, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Where were these two boards located, were they in the 4 stairwell or were they in the third-floor lobby?</p> <p>5 A. As you come up the stairs, the lift would be over on 6 your right, just in the corner. Me and Nick were next 7 to each other. I believe Nick recalls Crew Manager 8 Sephton was there; I don't.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p>10 Mr Chairman, I think that's brought this particular 11 line to an end. It's probably convenient --</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's a convenient point for 13 a break.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: Yes, thanks.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think it's been a long morning. 16 We might have a slightly longer lunch break.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So, Mr O'Hanlon, we're going to stop 19 now and we're going to resume at 2 o'clock. Please will 20 you not talk about your evidence or anything to do with 21 it over the break.</p> <p>22 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? Thank you very much. 24 You go with the usher then.</p> <p>25 (Pause)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 Q. In running those BA boards, did you have telemetry 2 communication between the boards and the BA wearers?</p> <p>3 A. There was telemetry between the boards and the BA 4 wearers, as far as I was aware, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. How many BA wearers did you commit through the BA boards 6 that you were --</p> <p>7 A. I didn't commit anyone.</p> <p>8 Q. Right. Okay, let me just understand what you were 9 doing.</p> <p>10 In the fourth line down from the top of page 8 you 11 say:</p> <p>12 "So Nick had one board and I had the other and our 13 priority was making sure the people on the boards got 14 back out, it was our responsibility to get them back 15 down."</p> <p>16 What were you actually doing?</p> <p>17 A. We were given two boards that were full of BA wearers 18 that were already inside.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 A. And it was our responsibility for them to come down and 21 book those BA wearers out.</p> <p>22 Q. Did that involve taking their tallies and putting them 23 back into the BA board?</p> <p>24 A. Into their sets -- no, they --</p> <p>25 Q. Sorry, taking their tallies out from the board and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 2 o'clock, then, please. Thank you.</p> <p>2 (12.47 pm)</p> <p>3 (The short adjournment)</p> <p>4 (2.00 pm)</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, let's get Mr O'Hanlon back 6 straight away.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, if we can, thank you.</p> <p>8 (Pause)</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr O'Hanlon?</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Settle yourself down and then over 12 to Mr Millett.</p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr O'Hanlon, thank you for coming back. 14 I don't intend to keep you there for much longer.</p> <p>15 Can I ask you, please, to look at your statement at 16 page 8 and look halfway down the page, where you say: 17 "Once we had cleared the boards." 18 Do you see that?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. "Once we cleared the boards we left them. It was now a 21 little less cluttered in the lobby as they were only 22 working off one BA board." 23 So did you go back down to the lobby?</p> <p>24 A. After we cleared the boards, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. After you'd cleared the boards.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 What were the conditions like down there at that</p> <p>2 time, do you remember?</p> <p>3 A. Clear. I don't think there was any smoke that I can</p> <p>4 remember.</p> <p>5 Q. What was happening in the lobby at that time?</p> <p>6 A. Just seemed to be a congregation of BA wearers. That's</p> <p>7 where everyone was coming in.</p> <p>8 Q. Did you see anybody in the lobby recording FSG</p> <p>9 information in any way?</p> <p>10 A. Not that I remember. I know they were, but I don't know</p> <p>11 whether they were at that point. But not that</p> <p>12 I remember.</p> <p>13 Q. Well, we'll come back to it very shortly.</p> <p>14 You then at the bottom of page 8 describe two</p> <p>15 casualties coming into the lobby, you think a mum and</p> <p>16 a young girl. You say:</p> <p>17 "Nick BARTON took either the mum or her young girl</p> <p>18 out of the front entrance door to the LAS and CM</p> <p>19 BATCHEDOOR from Fulham took the other person."</p> <p>20 My question is: did you see where they went?</p> <p>21 A. Out the main entrance.</p> <p>22 Q. After that?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you find out what happened to the casualties?</p> <p>25 A. I believe they took them to the LAS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 I saw him from the inside trying to break out.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 Then halfway down page 9 you say:</p> <p>4 "I was then joined by FF Wayne ARCHER who had been</p> <p>5 on the pump with me that night. We noticed somebody had</p> <p>6 jumped and landed on the playground. I had seen a blur</p> <p>7 and heard a thud. It was going so fast I knew it wasn't</p> <p>8 a piece of debris. He landed around 10 metres from me</p> <p>9 just inside of the playground. I turned round and saw</p> <p>10 what it was."</p> <p>11 I want to ask you about that.</p> <p>12 Were you with Firefighter Archer at that time?</p> <p>13 A. I believe so, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Where exactly were you standing, do you know?</p> <p>15 A. Rough guess, in between the building and the start of</p> <p>16 the playground on the west side of the tower.</p> <p>17 Q. And how far to the side, north or south, do you know?</p> <p>18 A. I'd say --</p> <p>19 Q. Or in the middle?</p> <p>20 A. -- nearer the south -- definitely nearer the south side</p> <p>21 than the north side.</p> <p>22 Q. How long was it, roughly, since you left the bridgehead</p> <p>23 that you saw that happen?</p> <p>24 A. Roughly, I don't know, it took us a long time to break</p> <p>25 in to ... I could only guess, half an hour, but that's</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 Q. Right. You don't know?</p> <p>2 A. No, not specifically.</p> <p>3 Q. Then if you go to the top of page 9 you say, after</p> <p>4 explaining or describing the burst hose:</p> <p>5 "I dumped my set on North Kensington's machine that</p> <p>6 was parked near the front."</p> <p>7 And you heard they needed another entrance, you say,</p> <p>8 to get in.</p> <p>9 You say, just picking it up at the end of the second</p> <p>10 line:</p> <p>11 "... I heard over the radio that they are looking</p> <p>12 for another way to get out of the building because they</p> <p>13 couldn't use the front entrance anymore."</p> <p>14 You say "I heard over the radio", so was your radio</p> <p>15 functioning at that point?</p> <p>16 A. Thinking about that, I don't know whether I heard it or</p> <p>17 I saw Firefighter Broderick was doing that.</p> <p>18 Q. What I'm trying to get an idea of is how well your fire</p> <p>19 ground radio was working at that time.</p> <p>20 A. I have no recollection whether it was working or not, to</p> <p>21 be honest.</p> <p>22 Q. Because when you say "I heard over the radio" --</p> <p>23 A. Yeah, I must've said that but --</p> <p>24 Q. -- that indicates the radio was working.</p> <p>25 A. -- I couldn't 100 per cent say whether I heard that or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 a complete stab in the dark.</p> <p>2 Q. Sure.</p> <p>3 Then on page 10, the top of the page, the first</p> <p>4 paragraph, in fact, is where we start, I think, you</p> <p>5 said:</p> <p>6 "We then went back into the building through the</p> <p>7 hole we had made in the surgery. The internal door had</p> <p>8 been put through from the surgery to the lobby and it</p> <p>9 was now the main way we were going to be getting people</p> <p>10 in and taking people out."</p> <p>11 Just in summary, you had created a new front or main</p> <p>12 entrance to the lobby, had you, breaking through the</p> <p>13 hole in the west wall?</p> <p>14 A. There was, like, slatted vents that were broken out and</p> <p>15 then somebody put through the door from the lobby into</p> <p>16 the surgery, so there was a way out now to the west side</p> <p>17 of the --</p> <p>18 Q. Where did the slatted vents, once you'd taken them out</p> <p>19 of the west wall, bring you out onto? If you were</p> <p>20 coming out of the building through that hole that had</p> <p>21 been left by removing the slatted vents, where would</p> <p>22 that bring you out to?</p> <p>23 A. Opposite the playground, but nearer the south side than</p> <p>24 the north side of the building.</p> <p>25 Q. In the second paragraph on page 10 you say in the fourth</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 line:</p> <p>2 "The Bridgehead must have been moved down to the</p> <p>3 ground floor as well because all BA crews were lining up</p> <p>4 inside with the EDBA wearers queuing up inside the</p> <p>5 surgery."</p> <p>6 Now, we have a rough time for the bringing of the</p> <p>7 bridgehead down to the ground floor of about 03.08 am.</p> <p>8 Does that trigger a recollection in terms of time for</p> <p>9 you?</p> <p>10 A. No, not at all.</p> <p>11 Q. Would that seem about right?</p> <p>12 A. I would have no clue whether that was ... sorry.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay.</p> <p>14 Do you know who was in charge of the bridgehead at</p> <p>15 this point, when it had been moved down to the ground</p> <p>16 floor and you came in?</p> <p>17 A. As far as I knew, it was Watch Manager O'Keeffe but --</p> <p>18 yeah, as far as I knew. I didn't pay attention to who</p> <p>19 was in charge. He was the last person that I knew was</p> <p>20 in charge.</p> <p>21 Q. Right. Did you see O'Keeffe on the bridgehead at that</p> <p>22 time --</p> <p>23 A. I believe so, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. -- when it was on the ground floor?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 What sort of information was Mr Williams writing up</p> <p>2 on the wall, do you remember?</p> <p>3 A. No. He was writing the information that we shouted at</p> <p>4 him, but I believe himself, Watch Manager Watson and</p> <p>5 Watch Manager O'Keeffe were dealing with fire survival</p> <p>6 guidance.</p> <p>7 Q. Right. Can you give us an idea of the kind of</p> <p>8 information that he was writing up?</p> <p>9 A. From myself, that I was giving?</p> <p>10 Q. He was writing out, you were shouting, but what was he</p> <p>11 writing?</p> <p>12 A. What flat, what floor, how many people, was there anyone</p> <p>13 left.</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 Now, can I just show you a photograph to see if you</p> <p>16 can help with it. If you could please be shown DEG/1,</p> <p>17 which is MET00015642. I just want to see whether what</p> <p>18 I am about to show you is the kind of thing that you say</p> <p>19 you saw Mr Glynn Williams recording on the wall.</p> <p>20 That's a photograph in fact taken by Daniel Egan,</p> <p>21 a previous witness, and taken at I think an earlier time</p> <p>22 in the evening. When I say "earlier time in the</p> <p>23 evening", we're not exactly sure when, but at an earlier</p> <p>24 stage in the evening than the time we think the</p> <p>25 bridgehead was moved down to the ground floor. We're</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 Q. You don't know who else was with him?</p> <p>2 A. No. I've said in my statement that --</p> <p>3 Q. You did.</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay.</p> <p>6 Then at the bottom of page 10, you say:</p> <p>7 "We were asking the conscious casualties what flat</p> <p>8 they were from, is there anyone else in there. We were</p> <p>9 then shouting this information to Glynn WILLIAMS the</p> <p>10 Watch Manager from Fulham and he was writing this</p> <p>11 information on the wall by the front entrance."</p> <p>12 So whereabouts, to the best of your recollection,</p> <p>13 was Mr Williams standing when he was doing that writing?</p> <p>14 A. If you were to walk in the front -- the original</p> <p>15 entrance, on that wall to the left before you got to the</p> <p>16 entrance to the surgery.</p> <p>17 Q. I see. How far when you saw him doing that was he from</p> <p>18 the BA entry control, or the bridgehead control,</p> <p>19 whichever you like to call it?</p> <p>20 A. I think when the bridgehead was up on the mezzanine,</p> <p>21 I vaguely remember it being up there, then it was</p> <p>22 20 foot away, and then when it moved down to the bottom</p> <p>23 of the staircase in the glass entry, they were probably</p> <p>24 5 metres away.</p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 just trying to explore this.</p> <p>2 Just looking at that picture, is that kind of thing</p> <p>3 familiar to you?</p> <p>4 A. No. When I said I was shouting, I wasn't going over to</p> <p>5 him and looking at the wall, I was going straight out</p> <p>6 the surgery door. So as I was passing him, I was</p> <p>7 shouting the information to him. I don't believe that</p> <p>8 I ever went up to the wall and looked at the wall.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you see the wall and what he was writing on the wall</p> <p>10 at any stage?</p> <p>11 A. I never paid any attention to what he was writing.</p> <p>12 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>13 Looking at the kinds of information we see recorded</p> <p>14 on that picture -- sorry to just press this a little</p> <p>15 bit -- you can see floor and flat and other information.</p> <p>16 Was that the kind of information you were giving</p> <p>17 Glynn Williams when you were shouting it at him?</p> <p>18 A. I don't really understand. Are you asking me to</p> <p>19 interpret that?</p> <p>20 Q. No, I'm not, I'm asking you whether or not that was the</p> <p>21 kind of information: floor, flat, conditions?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, not conditions.</p> <p>23 Q. Not conditions.</p> <p>24 A. Just the occupants.</p> <p>25 Q. Right. And you were getting that information from</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 people coming down the tower, were you?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Right. Were you getting that kind of information from</p> <p>4 anywhere else?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 Had anybody asked you to collate the information in</p> <p>8 that way or was it just something you --</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. -- did on the spur of the moment yourselves?</p> <p>11 A. It just seemed the best thing to do.</p> <p>12 Q. Who else was helping you in that effort?</p> <p>13 A. There was Firefighter Archer and Firefighter Broderick</p> <p>14 from Golf 33 Kensington.</p> <p>15 Q. Right. There's a Brodrick and a Broderick.</p> <p>16 A. Yes, there's two.</p> <p>17 Q. Is he the one without the E, Brodrick?</p> <p>18 A. He's the one from Kensington.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. All right.</p> <p>20 How long were you doing that for, do you think,</p> <p>21 shouting information?</p> <p>22 A. It seemed like hours, but ...</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 Just a few final questions.</p> <p>25 You say at the foot of page 12, if I can just show</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 initially I was told, but I learned later that it wasn't</p> <p>2 working.</p> <p>3 Q. You learnt later. Who did you learn that from?</p> <p>4 A. Again, general kind of talk about the incident.</p> <p>5 Q. You call it a firefighter lift. Did you know yourself</p> <p>6 at the time what features the lift or lifts at</p> <p>7 Grenfell Tower had for firefighting?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: Mr O'Hanlon, thank you very much, I have no</p> <p>10 further questions for you.</p> <p>11 Mr Chairman, I have no further questions. I don't</p> <p>12 know whether there may be one or two others.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do you need to take a moment?</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: I think there may be a moment. I can see</p> <p>15 a signal, unlike Nelson.</p> <p>16 (Pause)</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You'll have to wait a minute to sort</p> <p>18 this out.</p> <p>19 (Pause)</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much, Mr Friedman.</p> <p>21 No, I have no further questions.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, I do not have any questions,</p> <p>23 so, Mr O'Hanlon, it just remains for me to thank you</p> <p>24 very much for giving your evidence. It will be very</p> <p>25 useful to us. Thank you for coming.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 you that, after the reference to Dany Cotton walking</p> <p>2 into the lobby:</p> <p>3 "Apparently radio communications were difficult but</p> <p>4 I didn't need to use the radio."</p> <p>5 When you say "Apparently radio communications were</p> <p>6 difficult", did anybody tell you that radio</p> <p>7 communications were difficult?</p> <p>8 A. That's kind of the rumour I'd heard, because there was</p> <p>9 so much radio communication on our radio, it's very hard</p> <p>10 for one person to finish a sentence before somebody else</p> <p>11 cuts in.</p> <p>12 Q. Yes.</p> <p>13 A. Yeah, so I believe those were the problems.</p> <p>14 Q. You believe those were problems; did anybody tell you --</p> <p>15 A. Not specifically; I just knew there was radio</p> <p>16 communication problems.</p> <p>17 Q. Where did you learn that from?</p> <p>18 A. Just from general chit-chat with the --</p> <p>19 Q. General chit-chat, okay.</p> <p>20 You also say:</p> <p>21 "... I couldn't tell you what the specific problems</p> <p>22 were. I also believe there was a fire fighter lift but</p> <p>23 I don't believe it was working."</p> <p>24 Did anybody tell you it wasn't working?</p> <p>25 A. I couldn't say 100 per cent that when we went in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 You go with the usher.</p> <p>2 (The witness was released)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, I think we need a moment for</p> <p>4 reorganisation before the next witness; is that right?</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman. Perhaps 5 minutes. No more</p> <p>6 than 5 minutes.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'll rise now then for 5 minutes and</p> <p>8 we can get it done.</p> <p>9 Thank you.</p> <p>10 (2.17 pm)</p> <p>11 (A short break)</p> <p>12 (2.25 pm)</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: I now call Mr Secrett.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you, yes.</p> <p>16 CHRISTOPHER SECRETT (affirmed)</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>18 Good afternoon, Mr Secrett. Now, you would prefer</p> <p>19 to give your evidence standing up?</p> <p>20 THE WITNESS: Yes, please.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, if at any stage you change</p> <p>22 your mind, just indicate and that will be fine. All</p> <p>23 right?</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Mr Secrett, good afternoon.</p> <p>3 A. Hello.</p> <p>4 Q. Could I just say, first of all, thank you very much for</p> <p>5 coming to give evidence to assist the inquiry in its</p> <p>6 investigations, we do very much appreciate it. It's of</p> <p>7 very great assistance to us.</p> <p>8 A. That's okay.</p> <p>9 Q. My questions are intended to be short and simple, but</p> <p>10 sometimes they don't turn out that way; if you have</p> <p>11 difficulty understanding my question or don't hear it</p> <p>12 properly, please just say and I'll put it a different</p> <p>13 way or I'll speak louder.</p> <p>14 A. Okay.</p> <p>15 Q. If you need a break at any stage then just indicate and</p> <p>16 we can have a break.</p> <p>17 A. Okay.</p> <p>18 Q. We'll probably break before or in one hour.</p> <p>19 A. Okay.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Shall we look for a convenient point</p> <p>21 around 3.15 or between 3.15 and 3.30?</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: That's 50 minutes from now, so it sounds like</p> <p>23 a long time, but I hope it's not too bad.</p> <p>24 Can I just ask you, first of all, to give us your</p> <p>25 full name?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 true?</p> <p>2 A. The contents are what I believe to be true at the time</p> <p>3 of making the statement.</p> <p>4 Q. Yes. Have you discussed your statement or your evidence</p> <p>5 with anybody before coming here today?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Now, I'm going to start with a few questions about your</p> <p>8 position in the LFB.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Is it right you joined the LFB in February 2001?</p> <p>11 A. That's correct.</p> <p>12 Q. You've been an active firefighter since then, have you?</p> <p>13 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Prior to that, you were, I think, a firefighter in</p> <p>15 Buckingham.</p> <p>16 A. That is correct.</p> <p>17 Q. How long were you a firefighter in Buckingham for?</p> <p>18 A. I joined Buckinghamshire fire and rescue on 8 June 1999.</p> <p>19 Q. I think you're presently a crew manager at North</p> <p>20 Kensington, or at least you were when you did your</p> <p>21 statement.</p> <p>22 A. Yes, I still am.</p> <p>23 Q. You still are?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Was that your position on the night of 13/14 June 2017?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 A. Christopher Martin Secrett.</p> <p>2 Q. And you've done a statement. In the bundle in front of</p> <p>3 you, which is a little blue file, there should be</p> <p>4 a written version of your statement at tab 9A, dated</p> <p>5 6 February 2018. We also have it up on the screen. If</p> <p>6 you prefer to use it in the written version or printed</p> <p>7 version we can do that, but normally we've been working</p> <p>8 from what's on the screen on your right on the desk or</p> <p>9 up on the wall.</p> <p>10 A. Okay.</p> <p>11 Q. The Met reference to that is MET00010105.</p> <p>12 With that is your contemporaneous notes as CMS/1,</p> <p>13 which is MET00005384, which is at tab 9B of your file.</p> <p>14 Then you also have three other exhibits, CMS/2, 3</p> <p>15 and 3 again -- one is illegible and one is clear, but</p> <p>16 they're both different documents -- they are</p> <p>17 MET00013086, MET00013085 and MET00015646.</p> <p>18 The reason I go through that rigmarole is so that</p> <p>19 they are publicly on the record and people can find them</p> <p>20 if they want to see them.</p> <p>21 A. Okay.</p> <p>22 Q. Can I ask you about your statement, first of all.</p> <p>23 Have you read it recently?</p> <p>24 A. I have.</p> <p>25 Q. Can you please confirm for us that its contents are</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, it was.</p> <p>2 Q. Is it right you'd only been at North Kensington for</p> <p>3 a few months before Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>4 A. That's correct. I joined the watch at North Kensington</p> <p>5 in February of that year.</p> <p>6 Q. And before that, I think you tell us you were at</p> <p>7 Willesden and then at Twickenham.</p> <p>8 A. Yes. So I was a firefighter at Willesden and then I got</p> <p>9 promoted to Acton, then from Acton I went to Twickenham,</p> <p>10 and then from Twickenham to North Kensington.</p> <p>11 Q. At North Kensington, which watch were you on?</p> <p>12 A. I've always been on the Red Watch.</p> <p>13 Q. On page 1 of your statement, in the second paragraph,</p> <p>14 you say:</p> <p>15 "I have now been a CM for nearly 3 years and I am</p> <p>16 considered competent."</p> <p>17 Just in terms of CM training, is there a particular</p> <p>18 training you have to go through to be a crew manager?</p> <p>19 A. Yes. So initially when you're promoted you are put on</p> <p>20 to what's called a LIM course, leadership incident</p> <p>21 management course, which for me was two days at</p> <p>22 a Bristol training venue, and in those two days you're</p> <p>23 put through your paces running various incidents as</p> <p>24 a crew manager and as a watch manager, and you're</p> <p>25 assessed while you do those incidents.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 If you pass the course successfully, which I did, 2 you are then posted to your station. I was posted to 3 Acton Red Watch. Then you undertake training on your 4 watch, which is an evidence-gathering exercise. So 5 duties that I carry out, I make evidence logs of that. 6 Once I've got enough evidence to satisfy the 7 development log and it's signed off by my watch manager 8 and it's overseen by my station manager, it then gets 9 sent off for verification at an independent review board 10 within the Brigade, and once everybody is happy with it 11 and it is signed off, I'm then deemed a competent crew 12 manager. 13 Q. How does your role or did your role as crew manager 14 relate to or interlink with Mike Dowden's role as watch 15 manager? 16 A. So I'm the level below Mike Dowden. Mike Dowden is the 17 watch manager. So at a typical incident, Mike will be 18 running the incident; he'll have overall command and I'm 19 his number 2, if you like. So I'm high rank in the 20 firefighters, but I'm one below Mike, so I'm kind of the 21 intermediate between Mike and the firefighters on the 22 watch. 23 Q. Would he give you instructions or would you work on the 24 basis of your own initiative, in general terms? 25 A. Both. Sometimes he would give me specific instructions</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 manager have at a high-rise incident? 2 A. It depends on the incident, how it's progressing. But 3 typically, on a -- if there is ever one -- standard 4 high-rise incident, the watch manager would be the 5 incident commander and the crew manager would be in 6 charge of the bridgehead. That would be a typical 7 scenario. 8 Q. I follow. 9 Now, continuing on the theme of high-rise 10 firefighting, what high-rise firefighting training did 11 you get in your initial training? 12 A. In my -- so as -- 13 Q. That might take you back a bit far. 14 A. No, so in my initial training, when I joined the London 15 Fire Brigade, at that time we went to Moreton-in-Marsh 16 college and we done an exercise in a high-rise building, 17 but that was as a firefighter. 18 When I got promoted to a crew manager, we didn't do 19 a high-rise exercise. 20 Q. Right. Okay. And that was at a time when you were at 21 the London Fire Brigade? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. Have you received high-rise training based on London 24 Fire Brigade policy 633? 25 A. Yes. So as part of our what we call core skills</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 of things he wants done. A lot of the time, I will know 2 what needs to be done just through experience, I guess, 3 and he would just intervene if he sees a problem, if 4 he'd like things run another way. 5 But it's not a case of every task we go to do, 6 I have to wait for him to tell me what to do; a lot of 7 the time, you get on with it, and he intervenes if he 8 wants something done a different way. 9 Q. What are the crew manager's particular responsibilities 10 at an incident? 11 A. So typically, like I say, Mike will be in charge of the 12 overall incident, and I'll be in charge of the sort of 13 smaller scenes of operation. 14 So if I put it into a different context, a road 15 traffic collision, typically I'll be standing in front 16 of the vehicle and I'll be keeping a close eye on the 17 firefighters. Mike will be stood back, overseeing the 18 whole incident, and I'll feed back to him, otherwise 19 he'll be trying to communicate with ten different people 20 at once. 21 So the point of the crew manager is it's a level of 22 safety within the rank structure and it cuts down the 23 lines of communication for the officer in charge. 24 Q. Turning to high-rise firefighting and to repeat the 25 question, what particular responsibilities would a crew</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 training, we train on a range of subjects, and high-rise 2 training is within that. So most of the time it will be 3 theoretical based, lectures and going over procedures 4 and what's expected to be done. Other times it could 5 be -- I've done training exercise in the drill tower, 6 where we simulate a high-rise incident. Yes, that's the 7 main sort of training I've done. 8 Q. I know you weren't at North Kensington for very long 9 before the Grenfell Tower fire, but did you receive any 10 drill training on high-rise firefighting while you were 11 at North Kensington? 12 A. Most definitely we done quite a lot of theory training 13 on it. I specifically remember doing that. I can't 14 remember if we did a practical exercise or not. 15 Q. Did you receive any refresher training in high-rise 16 firefighting in the -- 17 A. No. 18 Q. You didn't. 19 When was your most recent high-rise training prior 20 to the Grenfell Tower in June 2017? 21 A. As a watch, so my team that I work with, we done quite 22 a lot of high-rise training leading up to Grenfell, 23 purely because -- you've heard about it from other 24 witness statements -- we'd attended a fire at 25 Trellick Tower a month or two before Grenfell, and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 because of that incident, we'd done a lot of high-rise 2 training on the watch following that incident. 3 Q. Yes. You speak of Trellick Tower in your witness 4 statement on the first page. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. You say, in the sixth line up from the bottom, sixth 7 line up: 8 "There was an incident at Trellick Tower and since 9 this we have undertaken a lot of high rise training at 10 North Kensington Fire Station. This is a hot topic for 11 us." 12 Now, Trellick Tower was -- you tell me -- well, 13 first of all, were you at Trellick Tower? 14 A. I was; I was the first appliance onto it. 15 Q. Can you give us the date? 16 A. I can't, sorry, no. 17 Q. I think April 2017 is the month; would that be right? 18 A. Yes, that sounds about right, yes. 19 Q. So in the period April to June 2017, did you do 20 high-rise training at North Kensington? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. Right. 23 You say it was a hot topic for you; why was that? 24 A. Because the fire at Trellick Tower gave us challenges 25 that we didn't anticipate. It also put me in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 us. 2 Q. I understand. 3 So what particular lessons or take-away did you 4 learn from your experience of dealing with the incident 5 at Trellick Tower? 6 A. The fact that things don't always go as they're written 7 down in the policy. The policy is -- it's what we do 8 and it's what we're trained to do, it's what we should 9 stick to, but it's written in a perfect world, and it 10 showed me that things aren't always perfect and we have 11 to adapt. Yeah. 12 Q. What was it about the Trellick Tower incident that you 13 learned that meant that you had to depart from policy? 14 A. The fact that I needed to be in about three or four 15 different places at once; I needed to be speaking to the 16 concierge, I needed to be getting to the plans, I needed 17 to be securing the fire lift, I needed to be detailing 18 the crews, and it all needed doing and I was on my own 19 trying to do everything, but you can't; you just do the 20 best you can. 21 Q. Did you succeed in getting the plans? 22 A. I didn't, actually, no, because the key got stuck in the 23 box, so I gave up. The plans were retrieved later, but 24 at that time, yeah, I had to abandon it because I was 25 wasting too much time on one task, so I left that. But</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 a situation that I was unfamiliar with, in the sense 2 that when I got called onto that incident, it's a tower 3 block of 30 floors and I think the fire was on the 27th, 4 and I turned up with just a single crew and one pumping 5 appliance. In a textbook scenario, you'd have two fire 6 appliances pull up together and everyone gets designated 7 their jobs. When I turned up to that, I was on my own 8 with my crew and that put me in a position that I hadn't 9 anticipated being. 10 So it opened my eyes into how things can go and that 11 created a lot of talking points and running through sort 12 of different scenarios in a training environment after 13 the incident. 14 Q. Right. I'm sorry to ask you this, just to follow up on 15 that answer. 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. You say at Trellick Tower the initial attendance was 18 just one appliance? 19 A. No, there was more appliances ordered on. I was at 20 North Kensington at the time with my crew at the station 21 and it's a 2-minute drive, if that, from the station, so 22 we got there first and the other appliances were coming 23 on afterwards. So there was other appliances on it, but 24 I was in a situation where I was there dealing with it 25 with just a crew of three and myself. There was four of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 someone freed the key off later on. 2 Q. Since the Trellick Tower incident, has the high-rise 3 training changed in any particular way so as to 4 reinforce or educate firefighters about the lessons 5 learnt at Trellick Tower? 6 A. Not specifically at Trellick Tower. The policies were 7 reviewed in July after the Grenfell incident, it had 8 amendments to the policy, but nothing came out from 9 Trellick Tower. 10 Q. You then at the bottom of the page, a line up, say: 11 "We also complete practical training on buildings 12 under construction." 13 Does under construction include under refurbishment? 14 A. Yes, so what I'm referring to there was when I was at 15 Acton, there was a 12-appliance high-rise drill 16 organised in -- it was a high-rise block that had 17 been -- I think it was going to be demolished. All the 18 residents had been taken out of it, so it was just 19 a shell of a building, and my watch manager at the time 20 planned a 12-pump exercise there and they done 21 a training exercise. Unfortunately I missed it. 22 So when I'm talking there, I'm talking in general 23 terms. But, yes, I was sent out on a standby that day, 24 so I missed the exercise. 25 Q. Then you go on to say:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

<p>1 "This tends to be more about the insulation catching 2 alight and not specifically about cladding." 3 What do you mean by insulation catching alight 4 there? 5 A. So there I'm referring to -- I think at the time of the 6 statement they were asking what kind of training we had 7 on different types of high-rise buildings. Apart from 8 a standard high-rise -- this policy 633, high-rise 9 firefighting -- the only other training that differs 10 from that is buildings under construction, and typically 11 fire spread in those buildings can be rapid because 12 they're exposed to the elements. So that's what I'm 13 referring to there. 14 Q. When you say -- sorry to press you a little bit -- 15 insulation, what's the insulation? 16 A. So typically in a timber-framed building that's under 17 construction, when they're at their most vulnerable to 18 catch fire is before the outside shell has been put onto 19 it. So it will be, as I say, a timber frame and there 20 will be insulation panels within the timber frame, like 21 Celotex insulation sheets. If they catch fire, the fire 22 spreads very rapid because of the wind and they're 23 basically exposed to the elements, so the fire can 24 spread as a bonfire would. It will spread as quick as 25 the wind will take it. So there is training on</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 A. I can't remember if there's specific training on how to 2 deal with the actual -- there probably is, but I can't 3 remember. 4 Q. No. Okay. 5 Nonetheless, just to perhaps repeat a question, 6 would you say that it was well known in the London Fire 7 Brigade that fire on exposed insulation forming part of 8 the exterior of a building under construction -- 9 A. It doesn't focus specifically on the insulation; the 10 risk is put down to buildings under construction and 11 that falls within it. 12 Q. Right. 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. But as part of that risk, the risk of buildings under 15 construction, is what you're saying that cladding, 16 insulation, covering a building, is something which 17 promotes rapid fire spread and that's a risk that you 18 have to learn to deal with when learning to deal with 19 buildings under construction? 20 A. Yes. I mean, we learnt that the hard way on the night 21 of the fire. 22 Q. I understand that entirely, but before the night, was 23 that learning present -- 24 A. No. 25 Q. -- to your knowledge?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 buildings under construction. 2 Q. You mention exposed cladding or insulation like Celotex 3 being prone to catching fire. Is that well known in the 4 London Fire Brigade, that insulation such as Celotex is 5 prone to catching fire and promoting fire spread? 6 A. I wouldn't say it's well known. It's not a common 7 occurrence, but it does happen. 8 Q. You mention Celotex; why do you mention that? 9 A. That's just a phrase I put to the panelling insulation. 10 It could be made by other manufacturers, but that's just 11 my own -- that's what I call it. I don't know what the 12 correct industry term for it is. 13 Q. You get training, you say, for what happens when 14 insulation catches alight. What does that training 15 involve? 16 A. So it's not training on specifically what happens when 17 it catches alight; it's training on a building under 18 construction, so it's more about being prepared for 19 rapid fire spread. It doesn't focus specifically on 20 what would happen if the insulation caught fire. 21 Q. Okay. But if the insulation, as you've described it, 22 caught fire which was on the exterior of the building 23 because it hadn't yet had the wrapping attached to it, 24 applied to it, did you have training into how to tackle 25 the spread of fire on that exterior?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 A. No, not to my knowledge, no. 2 Q. Right. 3 Now, in a similar theme, did your training ever 4 cover how to deal with the risk of fire spread on the 5 exterior of a building? 6 A. No, not that I remember. 7 Q. Have you ever heard of a fire at Shepherds Court? 8 A. Yes, I heard of it. I was on duty but I didn't attend. 9 I was at Twickenham at the time and that is quite 10 a distance from Hammersmith, where the fire was. 11 Q. Do you know whether there were lessons learnt from the 12 fire at Shepherds Court that were filtered down to 13 operational crews? 14 A. I don't specifically know of any lessons learnt but, 15 like any industry, there's talk amongst the workforce 16 when incidents like that happen, and everyone was fully 17 aware that the exterior caught alight and it spread 18 upwards at quite a rapid rate. From memory, there was 19 no specific training package that came out after that to 20 train us on it, but I was aware at the same time of what 21 happened. 22 Q. When you say talk amongst the workforce -- 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Can you be a bit more specific? Were you ever privy to 25 conversations with your colleagues about exterior fire</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p>

<p>1 spread at Shepherds Court?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, there was definitely conversations about what</p> <p>3 happened and the rate it spread. I apologise for being</p> <p>4 vague, I can't give you specifics on that, but, you</p> <p>5 know, I was fully aware of what happened and the</p> <p>6 consequences of that fire.</p> <p>7 Q. You say you were fully aware of what happened; can you</p> <p>8 just describe in your own words as best you can what did</p> <p>9 happen?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, the fire started in a flat and it broke out the</p> <p>11 windows and it quite quickly spread upwards, so the</p> <p>12 flames came out the window and caught the flat above</p> <p>13 that, that caught fire and then it just kept creeping up</p> <p>14 the building.</p> <p>15 Q. Do you know or did you discuss what the cause of the</p> <p>16 rapid fire spread on the exterior at Shepherds Court</p> <p>17 was?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. In terms of workforce discussion, what was the lesson or</p> <p>20 single theme that Shepherds Court told you?</p> <p>21 A. It's more of an awareness that it could happen. Like</p> <p>22 I say, it wasn't a specific training package that came</p> <p>23 out, it's just sort of discussion that, you know --</p> <p>24 Q. Was there -- sorry to cut you off.</p> <p>25 A. No, sorry, I've finished.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 that, no.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay. Okay.</p> <p>3 Now, on page 5, just picking up on that last answer</p> <p>4 and taking it a little further, you say a third of the</p> <p>5 way down the page -- I'm afraid it's not easy to</p> <p>6 navigate, but I would call this the second paragraph --</p> <p>7 towards the end of the second paragraph, you say -- and</p> <p>8 this is later in the evening:</p> <p>9 "... the fire was travelling on the outside of the</p> <p>10 building. This is something that can happen and I have</p> <p>11 seen before. Fire can spread to flat above via the</p> <p>12 window."</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Do you see that?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. "This is something that can happen and I have seen</p> <p>17 before. Fire can spread to flat above via the window."</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. I just want to ask you about that.</p> <p>20 You say you've seen it before; can you be more</p> <p>21 specific and tell us about your experience of seeing</p> <p>22 fire spread?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, so the obvious example for that would be Shepherds</p> <p>24 Court. Although I haven't seen it physically myself,</p> <p>25 I was aware that it happened and I was aware that it can</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 Q. Was there something about the way in which Shepherds</p> <p>2 Court was constructed that affected the way in which the</p> <p>3 fire spread there?</p> <p>4 A. I wouldn't know. I wouldn't know.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. Does your training cover compartmentation?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Does it specifically cover what a firefighter has to do</p> <p>8 if compartmentation within a high-rise block fails?</p> <p>9 A. I don't think it does, no.</p> <p>10 Q. Does your training cover the stay-put policy?</p> <p>11 A. There's reference to it in the high-rise policy, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you ever receive any training on how to assess</p> <p>13 whether the stay-put policy remains a safe policy to</p> <p>14 retain in the event of failure of compartmentation in</p> <p>15 a high-rise block?</p> <p>16 A. No, I'd say absolutely not. The wording is something</p> <p>17 like it's a consideration of the OIC whether to keep</p> <p>18 that in place or not, but it doesn't go into specifics</p> <p>19 on what signs to look out for.</p> <p>20 Q. In your experience, are there particular signs as to</p> <p>21 what to look out for which an OIC should keep in mind?</p> <p>22 A. From my experience, no, because I've never, until that</p> <p>23 night, been at a high-rise incident where we've felt the</p> <p>24 need that, you know, hang on a minute, we need to get</p> <p>25 everyone out of here. So my experience hadn't shown me</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 happen. So I guess when I was saying I've seen it</p> <p>2 before, that's bad wording on my part; maybe I should've</p> <p>3 said I'm aware of it.</p> <p>4 Q. But am I right in thinking, therefore, that you never</p> <p>5 actually attended at a high-rise incident where you've</p> <p>6 had to tackle a fire where there is external fire</p> <p>7 spread?</p> <p>8 A. I did many years ago at a block called The Oaks in</p> <p>9 Willesden and we had a fire on the -- I can't even</p> <p>10 remember how many storeys it is now, but we had</p> <p>11 a high-rise incident there and the fire broke out and it</p> <p>12 started spreading to the balcony above the flat that was</p> <p>13 on fire.</p> <p>14 Q. So that was a two-compartment fire, was it?</p> <p>15 A. The fire was -- yes, so it breached the compartment of</p> <p>16 the flat that was on fire and, from memory, the fire was</p> <p>17 contained to the balcony of the flat above it because</p> <p>18 crews were quite quick to go in there and extinguish</p> <p>19 that. Had it have been left, the assumption would be it</p> <p>20 would escalate and progress into the flat.</p> <p>21 Q. What was the mechanism of external or exterior fire</p> <p>22 spread?</p> <p>23 A. Failure of the window.</p> <p>24 Q. How did the fire then travel up the exterior of</p> <p>25 The Oaks?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 A. Well, heat rises and so does fire, so if a fire breaks 2 out the window, unless there's a strong wind force on 3 that, the flames are always going to lick upwards. 4 Q. Was any material on the exterior of that high-rise 5 The Oaks in Willesden on fire? 6 A. No, from memory it was the balcony, bits on the balcony, 7 so sort of plant pots and stuff that were on the 8 balcony. 9 Q. Is this what firefighters refer to as the coanda effect? 10 A. Yes, that's exactly right. 11 Q. So that's when a fire jumps -- well, you explain to 12 me: what is the coanda effect? 13 A. So it's when the window fails and the fire comes out the 14 window and against the side of the building, and then 15 whatever's above it is likely to catch fire, be it 16 cladding at Shepherd's Bush, be it the balcony at 17 The Oaks or whatever is flammable above it is likely to 18 catch fire unless it's extinguished before. 19 Q. Right. 20 You said cladding at Shepherd's Bush. Before 21 Grenfell happened, did you know that the Shepherds Court 22 fire involved cladding? 23 A. No, it's just discussions since Grenfell that I knew it 24 was cladding. At the time I just knew it spread up, 25 so ...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. On that occasion, had you yourself tried to gain access 3 to the tower through the electronic door? 4 A. On that occasion, we was met by the caller outside of 5 the building. She explained to us what had happened. 6 And there was people with her -- I don't know if they 7 were friends or other residents who knew her -- and when 8 I asked her to take us up to the flat, they let us in. 9 Q. Right. 10 Did you gain any understanding about how easy it was 11 for a fire crew to access Grenfell Tower in the event of 12 a fire as a result of these electronic doors being in 13 place? 14 A. No, and I think that was down to the fact that we -- 15 because when we attended the call, we was let straight 16 in, and obviously I'm thinking about the incident and 17 what we need to do and what equipment. I think because 18 it wasn't an issue, it wasn't something that I thought 19 about, if that makes sense. I think had we not been 20 able to get through that door, it would have triggered 21 a thought process. But because the door was open for 22 us, and while I'm talking to the lady, we just walked 23 straight through. I didn't give it a second thought 24 after that. 25 Q. We'll come back to that theme in a moment I think.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 Q. Sorry to pick you up on that, I was just interested in 2 what you said. 3 Now, can I then turn to prior visits to 4 Grenfell Tower. You say in your statement at page 2, 5 top of that page, we can go back to it, you say: 6 "I had not been on one of these [a familiarisation 7 visit] to Grenfell Tower due to the fact I had only been 8 at the station for a few months, but it would have come 9 round for me to complete." 10 Do you happen to know when the station last 11 conducted a visit to Grenfell Tower prior to the fire 12 in June 2017? 13 A. I do now, through watching the inquiry. 14 Q. That's -- no. 15 A. No, but at the time, I didn't, no. 16 Q. If you go to the bottom of page 2, you say, four lines 17 up from the bottom: 18 "I knew Grenfell Tower due to the fact I had 19 attended a call 2-3 weeks previously for a lock out. A 20 mum had locked herself out after her son called to say 21 he had been assaulted and someone trying to steal his 22 bike. On this incident we had been permitted entry by 23 one of the residents at the electronic door. This was 24 the only time I had been to Grenfell Tower but I roughly 25 knew the lay out."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 I want to turn to the call-out to Grenfell Tower on 2 the night. 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. In your statement on page 2 in the -- it's difficult to 5 tell, I think it's probably still the first paragraph, 6 eight lines or so down from the top, you say you started 7 your shift at 8 pm. The bells went off -- just trying 8 to pick it up -- at 00.50 hours, which meant 9 a mobilisation message came over the speakers announcing 10 an emergency call. 11 So is that how it works at North Kensington, the 12 speakers go, do they? 13 A. Yes. 14 Q. Is that a prerecorded message? 15 A. Yes, so it's a prerecorded voice. It's the same at all 16 fire stations. The only differ will be it tells you 17 which appliances have been mobilised. 18 Q. Okay. 19 Then you say, after explaining your normal routine, 20 just before the paragraph break: 21 "I went past the Watch Room where the teleprinter 22 messages are, it also houses the information holders, 23 maps, routes to the incident etc. As I passed I heard 24 someone say there was a fire at Grenfell Tower." 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 Q. Can you describe what happens in the watch room when 2 a call comes in? 3 A. Yes, so the watch room attendant and the drivers of the 4 appliances will go to the watch room, they'll tear off 5 the call slip. Each driver will get a copy of that call 6 slip. They'll have a look at it and they'll decide for 7 themselves if they know where they're going. They 8 should also get given a route card, which is a magnified 9 snapshot of the map grid reference that the incident is 10 on, so they should be handed one of those each. There's 11 also a large map in there, so if they're unsure or if 12 they want to double check, they can have a look at the 13 map and have a quick look at the route of how to get 14 there. 15 But it'd normally be just those three people that go 16 there, to the watch room. 17 Q. You refer to a watch room attendant. 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. Is that one of the crew members or is that a -- 20 A. Yes, it's a firefighter that will be detailed that task 21 at roll call at the start of the shift. 22 Q. Who was that on the night, can you remember? 23 A. I can't remember. 24 Q. You say in your statement you heard someone say there 25 was a fire at Grenfell Tower. Do you remember who that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 Q. Does each firefighter get their own tip sheet? 2 A. No, it's printed out in triplicate, so one stays on the 3 teleprinter roll at the station and the other two will 4 go with each appliance or at multi-appliance stations 5 there will be more copies to reflect the number of 6 appliances. But there is generally one per appliance 7 and one stays at the station. 8 Q. You describe in the next sentence the information that 9 you got on that tip sheet. You say: 10 "The operational text would include whether the 11 building was a high rise premises, known hoarders etc. 12 I believe the information we had received was quite 13 specific in that is stated there was a fire on the 14 fourth floor at Grenfell Tower." 15 A. Mm. 16 Q. Do you remember anything else by way of detail from that 17 tip sheet? 18 A. No. 19 Q. Now, you then go on to say that you went to your 20 appliance, G272, which was the pump for North 21 Kensington. Just pausing there, that's the pump and 22 G271 is the pump ladder? 23 A. Correct. 24 Q. Just very simply, could you tell us the distinction in 25 operational terms between the pump and the pump ladder?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 was? 2 A. No, so at North Kensington the layout is when you come 3 down the stairs, the watch room door is opposite you and 4 the fire appliance is off to the right, so I kind of 5 have to walk -- everyone who comes down the stairs has 6 to walk past the watch room to get to the appliances, 7 and I'd come down the stairs, I was making my way to the 8 appliance and I just heard it coming out the room. 9 I don't know who it was who said it, it was just -- 10 Q. Right. In the middle of page 2 just after the break you 11 say: 12 "I got my information sheet (TIP sheet) and on that 13 was the type of incident I was attending, the address, 14 the time of the call and any operational texts." 15 A. Mm-hm. 16 Q. That tip sheet -- you say "I got my information sheet 17 (TIP sheet)", how did you get it? Did someone give it 18 to you? 19 A. Tom Abell, who was driving, had it, and he -- it's kind 20 of standard. There's no written down procedure but 21 generally the driver will get in the cab and he will 22 give it to the officer in charge, because he's finished 23 with it, he knows where he's going, or she knows where 24 they're going, and, yes, they'll normally hand it over 25 to the officer in charge of that appliance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. The pump ladder will carry the 13.5 ladder and the 2 pump will carry the 9-metre ladder. The pump ladder 3 will have the highest ranking officer on duty on it, so 4 that night it was Mike Dowden, who was the watch 5 manager, and the pump will have a crew manager riding 6 it. 7 Q. In terms of their ability to communicate and their 8 ability to pump, would they be the same or different? 9 A. It's exactly the same appliance, it's just the 10 difference is the people sitting on it and the ladders 11 pretty much. 12 Q. Now, you then go on to say, two lines down from the 13 start of that paragraph, three-quarters of the way down 14 page 2: 15 "On the way I interrogated the appliance's Mobile 16 Data Terminal (MDT) to find out more information on 17 where we were going." 18 A. Mm-hm. 19 Q. "I remember looking at the location because I recall it 20 was quite tight to get our appliance near the tower." 21 A. Mm-hm. 22 Q. "There was a triangle on the building which indicates it 23 is in an Operational Risk Database Entry." 24 Now, just pausing there, did you look at the MDT on 25 the way?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p>

<p>1 A. I looked at it. I didn't go into the operational risk 2 entry for it. Like I say, I'd only been there once 3 before, so I knew it was there but I couldn't remember 4 how to get there or the particular access for it because 5 we go to hundreds of call-outs. So I just wanted to 6 look at it to refresh myself of where we were going. 7 And when I saw it, I remembered that the roads were 8 quite tight getting into it, and it's just a residential 9 area, so with parked cars and stuff, and especially at 10 nighttime, access is always more difficult because 11 everyone's at home, so all the cars are out in the 12 street.</p> <p>13 And I just always look myself, even if the person 14 driving me knows where they're going, I always 15 double-check just in case they forget on the way or -- 16 I just like to know for myself really where we're going.</p> <p>17 Q. And you say you interrogated the MDT; did you look into 18 the operational risk database entry for Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>19 A. No, I didn't, no.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you remember trying to do that?</p> <p>21 A. No, no, I wasn't going to do that on the way. I was 22 more looking at where it was, the way we were going into 23 it and the hydrants that were there nearby as well.</p> <p>24 Q. Can I just see if I can get a picture of how you'd go 25 about interrogating the MDT if you wanted to look at the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 So from my experience, the MDT is better to look at 2 when you're there, because you're fixed and you can have 3 a look and scroll down. It's trying to read that text 4 while you're driving along in the car, it's harder than 5 stood here now.</p> <p>6 Q. When you did arrive and came to a standstill, did you 7 have another look at the MDT?</p> <p>8 A. No, because I knew my watch manager would've done that.</p> <p>9 Q. Did he tell you he'd done that?</p> <p>10 A. No, but I know Mike and I know he would've done. He's 11 very thorough.</p> <p>12 Q. Did he tell you about the quality of the information 13 that you think you would've found on it?</p> <p>14 A. No, that wouldn't be a normal discussion at that time.</p> <p>15 Q. On page 3 of your statement, you describe in the second 16 line how you pull up behind the pump ladder -- that's 17 271 -- and you then say:</p> <p>18 "Control called up on the radio and said they were 19 receiving multiple calls. I knew from this that we were 20 attending a significant incident because you would 21 normally only get one or two calls."</p> <p>22 The radio you're referring to there, is that the 23 main scheme radio?</p> <p>24 A. That's correct.</p> <p>25 Q. Would that have broadcast itself into the cab?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 ORD content.</p> <p>2 A. Yeah, so it's got -- it's a screen, you know, a bit 3 smaller than the monitor there. It's got different tabs 4 on it, you can look at various different things. On 5 this occasion, I pressed the map function. So, from 6 memory, when I got onto the appliance, it had an 7 electronic copy of the call tip sheet, that's on there 8 as well, an electronic copy. So I put it into map 9 function. And I zoomed in on where we was going, onto 10 the tower, so it brought that up bigger so I could have 11 a look.</p> <p>12 Q. But you didn't go further to see where the hydrants 13 were, what the dry riser --</p> <p>14 A. I had a look where the hydrants were. I can't remember 15 where they are now, but I remember looking at the time 16 and that -- yeah, that's as far as I went with it. It's 17 quite -- it's an excellent system. It's not so great at 18 looking at when you're on the way to a call, purely 19 because you're trying to do -- you know, you're bouncing 20 along in the fire engine, you go quite quick, you're 21 jumping about, you're trying to press the button, your 22 fingers are moving and trying to read a screen that's 23 fixed while you're sort of talking to the crews or 24 keeping a lookout for potential accidents. There's lots 25 going on.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. When you say "significant incident" there, we just 3 looked at that, can you just explain a little bit more 4 clearly what you mean?</p> <p>5 A. Yes. So sometimes a call will come in and just one 6 person will make that call. That's normal. Generally, 7 if there's visible fire, anyone who's around in that 8 area will call the fire service because they're not sure 9 if someone else has done it. A good example of that 10 would be a car alight on a high street, loads of people 11 passing. Our control would probably take 20 or 30 calls 12 to that one incident because it's got visuals, people 13 phone it up.</p> <p>14 So generally when you get more than one call or 15 control call us up and say you're getting multiple calls 16 or further calls, it's a good indication you've got 17 something rather than it's a false alarm. It's a good 18 indication that, hang on, there is actually a fire here 19 because more than one person's called it in.</p> <p>20 That's why they pass us that information as well. 21 It's basically a heads-up that you're going to, you 22 know, a fire here; it's not likely to be a false alarm.</p> <p>23 Q. Yes. Then you say at the beginning of the next 24 paragraph:</p> <p>25 "When we arrived I looked up at Grenfell Tower and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 saw a fire on the fourth floor."</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Just pausing there. Do you remember exactly where G272</p> <p>4 had parked?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, just short of -- we was following behind Golf 271</p> <p>6 and we parked behind it. I couldn't give you</p> <p>7 a distance. But we wasn't right behind it, there was</p> <p>8 space between us, but, yeah, we pulled up short of</p> <p>9 Golf 271.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 Now, just help me with this: in terms of physical</p> <p>12 arrival, which pump arrived first, do you remember?</p> <p>13 A. Golf 271.</p> <p>14 Q. Pump ladder?</p> <p>15 A. Yes. Well, it was pretty much the same time, we was</p> <p>16 following each other, but ...</p> <p>17 Q. Right. But you were behind it, were you?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. I just wanted to clarify perhaps a minor point.</p> <p>20 If you could just be shown tab 23, the short</p> <p>21 incident log, and page 8 of that.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It will come up on the screen.</p> <p>23 A. Oh, sorry.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: Sorry, that was directed at the documents</p> <p>25 manager.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 straight off and go and do it. Or it could be sometimes</p> <p>2 there's a delay with the technology and you'll press it</p> <p>3 and the status change will stay grey for a short period</p> <p>4 of time, and when it goes a solid colour, then it's</p> <p>5 sent. That could be just radio signal. It's the same</p> <p>6 with a mobile phone signal.</p> <p>7 So it could be either I pressed it first or there</p> <p>8 was a slight delay with the technology.</p> <p>9 Q. That's very helpful. Thank you.</p> <p>10 Now, the next question is: when you arrived, do you</p> <p>11 remember where you parked the appliance in relation to</p> <p>12 the tower?</p> <p>13 A. Yes, so it was sort of southeast corner.</p> <p>14 Q. Southeast corner. How far away from G271 were you?</p> <p>15 A. I can't remember. I would be guessing if I gave you</p> <p>16 an answer to that.</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 Let's just look at your exhibit, if we can, just to</p> <p>19 see if we can get this. Could you be shown your first</p> <p>20 exhibit, which is MET00013086, which is a map that</p> <p>21 you've done.</p> <p>22 Now, can you just, if you can, explain to us where</p> <p>23 G272 was parked in relation to the tower? I think</p> <p>24 you've marked --</p> <p>25 A. Yes, it was roughly where that M is.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 A. No worries.</p> <p>2 Q. Now, halfway down the page there you see "Appliances",</p> <p>3 and it can be expanded, or "Csign" -- call sign --</p> <p>4 "Stn" -- station -- "Status". Then you see G272, and if</p> <p>5 you look across the page, you can see mobile 00.56.52,</p> <p>6 and that's status 2, as I understand it, then on scene</p> <p>7 00.59.24.</p> <p>8 271 below it is on scene at 00.59.28, so it looks</p> <p>9 like four seconds afterwards.</p> <p>10 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>11 Q. Now, you've just said you were following G271, it wasn't</p> <p>12 following you. So can you explain why the short</p> <p>13 incident log has G272 as on scene four seconds earlier</p> <p>14 than G271?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, so it could be one of two reasons. It could be --</p> <p>16 when you book in, we call it status 3, and that's done</p> <p>17 on the MDT that we spoke about. When we press that,</p> <p>18 that sends a notification up to our control centre and</p> <p>19 they know that that appliance is booked in attendance,</p> <p>20 it's logged on the call slip.</p> <p>21 So there's one of two reasons why Golf 272 was in</p> <p>22 attendance first: it's either because I physically</p> <p>23 pressed the button first. I tend to -- there's no</p> <p>24 necessarily right or wrong to this -- I tend to do it as</p> <p>25 we're approaching so that when we pull up, I can get</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 Q. Roughly where the M is?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. And 271?</p> <p>4 A. Was in front of us, sort of more in line with the main</p> <p>5 entrance if that is there.</p> <p>6 Q. So the M is where G272 is.</p> <p>7 A. Yes, and Golf 271 -- probably more sort of -- the front</p> <p>8 of the appliance, from looking at that, would be more in</p> <p>9 line with that dark line that's in front of it.</p> <p>10 Q. So how many yards apart, do you think?</p> <p>11 A. Again, I would be guessing. It's standard practice that</p> <p>12 we would always leave enough room to slip the 135 ladder</p> <p>13 off if we need to, so it was at least 13 --</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 A. Yes, I would be guessing if I gave you an answer to</p> <p>16 that.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you think you had a good view of the east side of the</p> <p>18 building?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Which pump was it that had the hose which was set in to</p> <p>21 the dry rising main?</p> <p>22 A. Golf 271.</p> <p>23 Q. 271. Okay.</p> <p>24 Is that because that's the first pump to arrive?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, it was parked closest to the dry riser. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 180</p>

<p>1 Q. Yes.</p> <p>2 Now, in your statement you say on page 3, just after</p> <p>3 where we've left off with it, second line down from the</p> <p>4 first paragraph break:</p> <p>5 "I could clearly see the fire was at the window of</p> <p>6 the flat on the East side."</p> <p>7 And you've marked this on the map, which we've now</p> <p>8 just put away, but I think we know where you mean.</p> <p>9 "I could see flames covering the window."</p> <p>10 Now, could you see any smoke at that stage?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. What were your first thoughts about what could happen to</p> <p>13 that fire, do you remember?</p> <p>14 A. My first thoughts was that we've got an incident and</p> <p>15 I just went into automatic -- sort of get on with it --</p> <p>16 Q. You go on to say:</p> <p>17 "The fire was clean looking with orange flames.</p> <p>18 Sometimes fires are in very dark, black looking smoke</p> <p>19 and all you can see is a glow of the fire. This wasn't</p> <p>20 what Grenfell looked like. It was orange flames."</p> <p>21 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>22 Q. Then you say:</p> <p>23 "I do not recall there being any smoke ..."</p> <p>24 What did the fact that it was orange flames and</p> <p>25 clean looking tell you about the way the fire was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, 3.25, please.</p> <p>2 (3.15 pm)</p> <p>3 (A short break)</p> <p>4 (3.25 pm)</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, just to alert you and</p> <p>6 everybody else, the witness is ready to come back.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: But I think we should seek to finish</p> <p>9 the afternoon at about 4 o'clock.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Very well, Mr Chairman, I understand why.</p> <p>11 (Pause)</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Secrett, just so that you know,</p> <p>13 we are going to finish the afternoon at 4 o'clock in any</p> <p>14 event.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: But if at any stage you feel that</p> <p>17 you need a break or just need to sit down for a moment,</p> <p>18 that's fine.</p> <p>19 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You just make it clear.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? Thank you very much.</p> <p>23 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: Mr Secrett, just a couple of questions arising</p> <p>25 out of the discussion we were having before the break.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 behaving?</p> <p>2 A. So it tells me that the fire's got ventilation, it's got</p> <p>3 fresh air going into it. Sometimes you might pull up</p> <p>4 and if the compartment is completely sealed, the windows</p> <p>5 will be very smoke-blackened and you might see an orange</p> <p>6 glow. Generally if you see clean flame, the smoke is</p> <p>7 dispersing somewhere. So my initial thought when I saw</p> <p>8 that -- well, it wasn't my initial thought -- but if you</p> <p>9 can see clean flame, the smoke is going somewhere and</p> <p>10 it's got some kind of ventilation, otherwise it would be</p> <p>11 bottling up.</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: Is that a convenient moment for a break?</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Is it convenient to you?</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr Secrett, we'll have a short</p> <p>16 break now. Can I ask you, please, not to talk to anyone</p> <p>17 about your evidence or anything to do with it.</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If we have to break again at the end</p> <p>20 of the day and you haven't finished, the same will</p> <p>21 apply.</p> <p>22 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thanks. So if you go with the</p> <p>24 usher, we'll resume at 3.25.</p> <p>25 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 Going back to Trellick Tower, do you remember</p> <p>2 whether there was any evacuation -- partial, perhaps,</p> <p>3 evacuation -- of Trellick Tower at the incident you</p> <p>4 attended?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. No.</p> <p>7 A. That's no, there was no evacuation, not no, I can't</p> <p>8 remember. So I can remember and there was no</p> <p>9 evacuation.</p> <p>10 Q. Thank you for the clarification.</p> <p>11 Earlier on in the afternoon, you said that you had</p> <p>12 never, before the incident at Grenfell Tower, been at</p> <p>13 a high-rise incident when you felt the need to get</p> <p>14 everybody out.</p> <p>15 Just exploring that answer a little bit -- we'll</p> <p>16 come to it, but can I just understand something -- are</p> <p>17 you saying that when you were there at Grenfell Tower</p> <p>18 you did feel the need to get everybody out?</p> <p>19 A. Well, yes. Of course we wanted to get everyone out that</p> <p>20 building. A mass evacuation didn't go through my mind</p> <p>21 at the time because we didn't know what was about to</p> <p>22 unfold in front of us, but obviously, yeah, we wanted</p> <p>23 everyone out safely from that building.</p> <p>24 Q. And doing the best you can in general terms -- we'll</p> <p>25 come to the specifics later or tomorrow -- did there</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 184</p>

<p>1 come a time during your attendance at the Grenfell Tower</p> <p>2 incident when you thought to yourself: "We must evacuate</p> <p>3 everybody in the building"?</p> <p>4 A. I can't remember having that specific thought because</p> <p>5 the incident kind of had a progression to it and it --</p> <p>6 no.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay, all right. Well, we'll come back to that if we</p> <p>8 need to.</p> <p>9 Can I talk to you about something a little less</p> <p>10 difficult, perhaps: entry into Grenfell Tower on the</p> <p>11 night.</p> <p>12 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>13 Q. I want to ask you first of all about the use of a fob --</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. -- to get in.</p> <p>16 Now, we're going to look at a number of photographs</p> <p>17 from the CCTV cameras of you coming in with other</p> <p>18 firefighters into Grenfell Tower on the night.</p> <p>19 Before I show you those, can I just ask you whether</p> <p>20 you're all right to look at those?</p> <p>21 A. That's okay.</p> <p>22 Q. Could we start with CCTV camera number 1, inquiry</p> <p>23 document 130, which is at tab 1 of our CCTV bundle.</p> <p>24 If we look at that, we can see on the screen this is</p> <p>25 a CCTV shot of a firefighter at 01.00.50. So 50 seconds</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 A. It looks like I'm talking on my handheld radio.</p> <p>2 Q. What have you got in your left hand, do you think?</p> <p>3 A. That's the call sheet, the tip sheet that we spoke about</p> <p>4 earlier.</p> <p>5 Q. Anything else?</p> <p>6 A. It looks like my lift key.</p> <p>7 Q. Lift key?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, express key.</p> <p>9 Q. Right. That's probably the best we can do before it</p> <p>10 gets over-pixelated.</p> <p>11 The tip sheet and you think the lift key?</p> <p>12 A. I think so, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Where would you have got the lift key from? Where did</p> <p>14 you get it from?</p> <p>15 A. I keep one in my tunic.</p> <p>16 Q. Is it always in your tunic?</p> <p>17 A. It is, yes. As my role as a crew manager, Mike or the</p> <p>18 watch manager would normally stay outside the building.</p> <p>19 I would normally go into the building to either</p> <p>20 investigate or start operations and it's quite common to</p> <p>21 need an express key. So I keep one on myself just</p> <p>22 because I'm always using it, really. It's not</p> <p>23 a personal issue, I just ...</p> <p>24 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>25 Next picture, which is tab 5, which is INQ00000134,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 past 1 o'clock in the morning.</p> <p>2 Can you identify that firefighter?</p> <p>3 A. It's myself.</p> <p>4 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>5 You are outside the main entrance. I think we can</p> <p>6 take that as read.</p> <p>7 You I think then go to the internal door, and that</p> <p>8 is -- well, perhaps let's just look at the next</p> <p>9 photograph on. That's you coming in, I think. Sorry,</p> <p>10 I'm telling you that -- can you identify that as you?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, I can.</p> <p>12 Q. That's you. That's timed at 01.00.52.</p> <p>13 Then at the next picture we see a firefighter at the</p> <p>14 lift lobby door on the ground floor at Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>15 I know that the firefighter has his or her back to</p> <p>16 the camera, but do you think that you can identify --</p> <p>17 A. Yes, I know that's myself.</p> <p>18 Q. That's you. Do you remember doing that?</p> <p>19 A. I remember doing it and I was the only crew manager --</p> <p>20 the other crew manager had a breathing apparatus set on,</p> <p>21 so it can only be me. But I remember doing it as well.</p> <p>22 Q. If you look at the next shot, which is tab 4, this is</p> <p>23 timed at 01.00.59. You're doing something. Could you</p> <p>24 just tell us what you think you're doing in that</p> <p>25 picture?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 what are you doing there?</p> <p>2 A. Looking back. Looking for the main -- I think I was --</p> <p>3 when I was on my handheld radio I was saying that the</p> <p>4 door is locked, can someone see if there's a key fob,</p> <p>5 and I think I was waiting to see if anyone was getting</p> <p>6 one.</p> <p>7 Q. Then in the next tab, which is tab 6 -- INQ00000135 --</p> <p>8 that's I think you at the door.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. We can recognise you there. Who is that on the left</p> <p>11 coming towards you?</p> <p>12 A. That's Mike Dowden, my watch manager.</p> <p>13 Q. Then coming in in front of you, holding in their left</p> <p>14 hand what looks like an entry control board and</p> <p>15 a forward information board, if I'm not wrong, who is</p> <p>16 that, do you think?</p> <p>17 A. From memory, that's Firefighter Badillo.</p> <p>18 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>19 You've got your hand out for something; do you know</p> <p>20 what it is?</p> <p>21 A. I can't remember, but I assume I'm asking Mike if he</p> <p>22 managed to get a fob for the interior door, or I might</p> <p>23 just be explaining what we need.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 Then in the next picture, which is timed at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 188</p>

<p>1 01.01.26, it's tab 7, we can see a group of firefighters 2 still in BA and incident commander in the foreground 3 there, and there's -- it looks like a lady -- 4 A. Mm. 5 Q. -- by the door. Do you remember that? 6 A. I don't, actually. I don't remember that lady being 7 with me. But I remember going outside and getting given 8 some keys that had a fob on it, and then I went back 9 inside to gain entry. But I don't remember the lady 10 being with me. 11 Q. Do you remember how you actually got entry into the lift 12 lobby? 13 A. Someone gave me some keys that had the electronic fob on 14 it, which allowed me to operate the electronic lock to 15 gain entry. 16 Q. Do you remember who that was, who gave you the 17 electronic fob key to get entry? 18 A. I've got a vague memory of someone out the front giving 19 me some keys, but now I've seen that, it's made me doubt 20 it because I'm not sure if she gave me the keys. 21 Someone definitely gave me a set of keys. 22 Q. Do you remember whether it was a male or a female? 23 A. From my memory it was a male. 24 Q. Right. 25 Just give me one moment. Sorry about this. It</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 189</p>	<p>1 normally expect to be on the MDT which you would find 2 out about on the way to an incident? 3 A. I wouldn't necessarily expect it, but it could be placed 4 on there. It's not something that I would look up to 5 find out; it's kind of something you sort out when 6 you're there. 7 Q. When you arrived at Grenfell, was it a surprise to find 8 you could not get into the lift lobby without 9 an electronic fob key? 10 A. It was an obstruction. I wouldn't say it was 11 a surprise. It definitely stopped us in our tracks for 12 a bit, but it's not uncommon to be faced with a door 13 that you can't open. 14 Q. You say it was an obstruction that stopped you in your 15 tracks for a bit; how long would you say it stopped you 16 in your tracks for? 17 A. A minute. You could probably tell from the CCTV 18 timings, but it felt like a minute or so. 19 Q. Right. 20 Now, we have you coming into the lift lobby and then 21 you walk into the lift lobby in the next picture, which 22 is INQ00000137. Is that you? 23 A. That's me, yes. 24 Q. You're striding with purpose towards something. What 25 are you looking to do?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 191</p>
<p>1 won't matter very much, but it's just to complete the 2 picture. 3 (Pause) 4 While that's going on, I've just a couple of 5 questions for you. 6 What's the usual procedure where you arrive at 7 a property that got an electronically fob-operated 8 security system? 9 A. The normal thing to do is to try the trades button to 10 see if that -- sometimes that will operate the lock to 11 gain entry. If there's somebody outside, we'll ask them 12 to let us in or, failing that, we would call a flat on 13 the intercom system and say, "It's the Fire Brigade, can 14 you let us in". 15 Sometimes there's a firefighter's key override box 16 so we can put in the express key that I mentioned that 17 I always keep on me. If we operate that, sometimes that 18 releases the electronic lock to override the security 19 systems to allow us to go in. 20 Q. Is that a drop key? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. That's what's called a drop key? 23 A. That's correct. 24 Q. Is the fact that you would need electronic entry through 25 a fob or use of the drop key something you would</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 190</p>	<p>1 A. I'm looking to secure the fire lift. 2 Q. Right. 3 In the next picture, timed at 01.01.35, you're doing 4 something with your right hand. Can you explain what 5 you're doing? 6 A. Yes, so I've put my express lift key or drop key into 7 the box that operates it and I'm trying to switch it on, 8 which would engage the fire lift operation. 9 Q. Right. Did you have any success with that? 10 A. No, I didn't, no. 11 Q. If you go to INQ00000138, which I think is the next one, 12 that is showing you doing something with your right hand 13 with the lift key and something with your left hand. 14 What are you doing with your left hand, do you 15 think? 16 A. It looks like I'm calling the lifts the conventional way 17 by pressing the button. 18 Q. Right. While turning the lift key with your right hand? 19 A. Yeah, I think by that stage I'd accepted defeat that it 20 wasn't going to work, so I called it as a member of the 21 public would call the lift. 22 Q. Right. 23 When you turned the key, did you hear a click or 24 feel a click? 25 A. No. I remember it was -- it was hitting a stop.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 192</p>

<p>1 Normally when you put it in and you twist it, you feel 2 sort of a positive click where it throws a lever over 3 which engages it, but it wasn't doing that; it was just 4 hitting some sort of stop on the key. The mechanism 5 wasn't -- it wasn't connecting to the mechanism. It 6 wasn't working.</p> <p>7 Q. Right. We see in this image, as you told us, that 8 you're operating the fire recall control panel and 9 pressing the general recall button at the same time?</p> <p>10 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>11 Q. That's right, is it?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. That's what you're doing.</p> <p>14 Why were you attempting to operate both functions at 15 the same time?</p> <p>16 A. It's no -- I may have even been trying to get my key out 17 of the -- sometimes they're quite stiff to get in. 18 I may even have been trying to retrieve my key and just 19 calling the lift. There's no little trick you can do if 20 you do both at the same time, it's nothing like that. 21 I'm either still trying it and pressing the lift to call 22 it on its way, or I'm physically trying to get my key 23 back out and just call the lift normally.</p> <p>24 Q. What happened with the lift when you tried each and both 25 of these functions?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 193</p>	<p>1 Q. All right.</p> <p>2 Now, going back to the question of lifts, if I can.</p> <p>3 You say you called it; were you able to disable the lift 4 and bring it under firefighter control?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. What were you expecting the lift to do if it had worked 7 normally by use of the firefighter key you were trying 8 to use?</p> <p>9 A. First of all, you'd expect to feel a positive click with 10 the key in the control box. That would indicate to me 11 that it has switched over to fire lift mode.</p> <p>12 The reaction to the lift would be that normally on 13 the display it would come up "Out of order" or "Fire 14 lift in operation". The lift would return to 15 ground-floor level and the doors would open. That would 16 be the normal reaction.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you know what a recall switch is?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. I am given to understand that it's a key-operated switch 20 external to the lift shaft at ground floor by use for 21 the fire service, facility management, et cetera. Are 22 you familiar with that?</p> <p>23 A. I can only think that's a different name for the fire 24 control lift box that I'm referring to, but I've never 25 personally heard it call I recall lift --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 195</p>
<p>1 A. With the fire lift operation, nothing, and when I called 2 it normally, the lift -- I can't remember if the doors 3 opened straight away or if the lift came down, but when 4 I called the lift the sort of conventional way, it came 5 and the doors opened.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you ask anybody else in your group of firefighters 7 to try to operate the fire lift key?</p> <p>8 A. No, I don't think I did, from memory.</p> <p>9 Q. Can I just go back to one thing, which is the question 10 of the key fob. I was trying to find a photograph for 11 you just to see if we can prompt a recollection.</p> <p>12 Could you please be shown inquiry document 178, just 13 to step out from the lift key. I'm going to come back 14 to the lifts in a moment.</p> <p>15 A. Okay.</p> <p>16 Q. I just want to show you something else.</p> <p>17 If you just enlarge that. That is a picture taken 18 in the lobby with the incident commander taking 19 something, it looks, from a male. Then in the next 20 picture, which is INQ00000179 -- oh, he has been 21 pixelated out. I'll have to do it by reference to what 22 he's wearing.</p> <p>23 Do you think that that was the gentleman that you 24 got the fob key from? It's hard to tell.</p> <p>25 A. I really can't remember.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 194</p>	<p>1 Q. That fire control box, was that present in this lift 2 system at Grenfell?</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. It was. Did it work?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. What about it did not work?</p> <p>7 A. Well, it didn't operate anything. It didn't do -- it 8 had no influence on the lift at all. It didn't do what 9 it should do.</p> <p>10 Q. Right. Were you able to isolate the lifts so that they 11 could not be used in the event of fire?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. What risks to residents would your inability to bring 14 the lift under your sole control present?</p> <p>15 A. Well, there's a few. It allows the lift to be used by 16 anyone who wishes to use it and the danger is they get 17 in it and it, you know, stops and it fills up with smoke 18 and they're stuck unexpectedly.</p> <p>19 It also doesn't give us full control over it. So 20 the normal procedure would be we would leave that lift 21 at the bridgehead with the doors open, and if a casualty 22 comes down, we can put them straight in the lift and 23 take it down. Because we're unable to secure it, the 24 lift would be going up and down the building if people 25 are calling it, so that's another risk to the residents</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 196</p>

<p>1 because it would slow down their rescue, effectively.</p> <p>2 Q. What other risks might be presented? For example, to</p> <p>3 a resident who used the lift which then opened on</p> <p>4 a floor higher in the building?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, so they might not be aware that there's a fire in</p> <p>6 progress and they might pop down to the fourth floor to</p> <p>7 see a friend and the doors will open and they'll be</p> <p>8 faced with a fire situation, and that's obviously</p> <p>9 extremely dangerous. We had no way of controlling that</p> <p>10 lift so it was just free for anyone in the building to</p> <p>11 call it and use it.</p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 So when you discovered that the lift could not be</p> <p>14 brought under control by you in that way, did you tell</p> <p>15 anybody?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, I told my watch manager via my handheld radio.</p> <p>17 Q. At the top of page 4 we see that, you say in your</p> <p>18 statement:</p> <p>19 "I radioed to WM DOWDEN and informed him the lift</p> <p>20 was not working but that I was going to use it manually.</p> <p>21 He agreed with this."</p> <p>22 Then you go on to say it caused you concern and why.</p> <p>23 Do you think you might have been able to disable the</p> <p>24 lift in any other way?</p> <p>25 A. The only other way to disable the lift was to take the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 197</p>	<p>1 A. None.</p> <p>2 Q. In your experience, would that be normal?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, I wouldn't expect to walk into any building and</p> <p>4 find technical information on lift operation. I'd</p> <p>5 expect to be able to find it if I went into the lift</p> <p>6 motor room. Sometimes you might have a pack from the</p> <p>7 maintenance company that would give you further</p> <p>8 information, testing schedules, stuff like that, but</p> <p>9 it's not necessarily something we would get involved in</p> <p>10 or even look at.</p> <p>11 Q. Was there a premises information box?</p> <p>12 A. Not that I remember, no.</p> <p>13 Q. If there had been one, would that have been a source of</p> <p>14 information about the functionality of this lift?</p> <p>15 A. No -- yeah, typically, if there's a premises information</p> <p>16 box, the most information I would expect to find is the</p> <p>17 fact that there is a fire lift and maybe the location of</p> <p>18 the control for that. That would normally be as far as</p> <p>19 it goes.</p> <p>20 Q. Then in your statement, just going back to it you say,</p> <p>21 second paragraph, page 4:</p> <p>22 "When the lift arrived I got in with 2-3 other</p> <p>23 Fire-fighters (FFs) and all the equipment such as hoses,</p> <p>24 breaking in gear, branches, first aid kit, BA board and</p> <p>25 a line bag."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 199</p>
<p>1 time to open the lift car doors and isolate the power to</p> <p>2 it, which is normal practice after we attend someone</p> <p>3 shut in a lift. We would isolate the lift so no one</p> <p>4 else can use it and consequently get stuck in it. But</p> <p>5 that would not be normal practice in an incident like</p> <p>6 this.</p> <p>7 Q. Do you think it was possible to do that at this</p> <p>8 incident?</p> <p>9 A. It would've been possible, but -- yeah, of course, yeah,</p> <p>10 it would've been possible.</p> <p>11 Q. Where would you need to go in order to do that? Could</p> <p>12 you do that from the lift car?</p> <p>13 A. Only by investigating where it is. Each lift</p> <p>14 installation is different, so you have to look for it.</p> <p>15 So it could be on the ground floor, there could be</p> <p>16 a lift motor room at the top of the building or</p> <p>17 sometimes they're underneath and they can only be</p> <p>18 isolated from there. Sometimes they can only be</p> <p>19 isolated on top of the lift car. So it would need quite</p> <p>20 a lot of investigating to be able to do that. There's</p> <p>21 not a standard place you can go to be able to isolate</p> <p>22 it.</p> <p>23 Q. What technical information did you have available to you</p> <p>24 on arrival at Grenfell Tower about these lifts and what</p> <p>25 functionality they had?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 198</p>	<p>1 And then you said to the other firefighters to go to</p> <p>2 the second floor and meet you there.</p> <p>3 So who do you remember got into the lift with you,</p> <p>4 do you know?</p> <p>5 A. I can't remember. I think Crew Manager Batterbee and</p> <p>6 Firefighter Brown, who had their BA sets on, they</p> <p>7 would've definitely got in. Whoever else -- I think</p> <p>8 there was someone else, maybe two others, but I can't</p> <p>9 remember.</p> <p>10 Q. Let's see if we can piece this together.</p> <p>11 First of all, if you look, please, at CCTV bundle,</p> <p>12 tab 11, which is INQ00000140.</p> <p>13 That's a familiar angle. It's the lift lobby</p> <p>14 camera, which is C5, I believe.</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Who is that going into the lift?</p> <p>17 A. That's myself. I'm just about to go in, by the looks of</p> <p>18 it.</p> <p>19 Q. Yes. Then who do we have?</p> <p>20 A. So that's Firefighter Badillo with the entry control</p> <p>21 board and the roll of hose, and behind him is</p> <p>22 Firefighter De St Aubin. That's Crew Manager Batterbee,</p> <p>23 the other crew manager, that's looking at me.</p> <p>24 Q. Yes.</p> <p>25 A. The other one looks like Firefighter Dorgu, whose got</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 200</p>

<p>1 the breaking-in -- the halligan bar in his hand.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. And then do you remember whether they all piled</p> <p>3 into the lift or some didn't?</p> <p>4 A. I don't remember, no.</p> <p>5 Q. Perhaps it doesn't matter.</p> <p>6 If you look at the next picture, 141, this is inside</p> <p>7 the lift. Not very roomy.</p> <p>8 Can you tell from that who was in there with you?</p> <p>9 A. The only one I can positively say is Crew Manager</p> <p>10 Batterbee because of the rank markings on his helmet,</p> <p>11 but the others, no.</p> <p>12 Q. Because of the what?</p> <p>13 A. Because of the rank marking on his helmet.</p> <p>14 Q. What are those?</p> <p>15 A. They're the two black stripes. That identifies him as</p> <p>16 the other crew manager, who I know is Charlie Batterbee,</p> <p>17 and this one closest, it looks like he's got a breathing</p> <p>18 apparatus set on his back, possibly, so that would've</p> <p>19 been Firefighter Brown.</p> <p>20 Q. That's helpful. The two black parallel stripes, that's</p> <p>21 CM, is it?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. And it looks like there may be two.</p> <p>24 A. One is me and one is Crew Manager Batterbee.</p> <p>25 Q. That's helpful.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 201</p>	<p>1 going because we didn't have control over it. If they</p> <p>2 hadn't have put that there, the lift could've been</p> <p>3 called and subsequently all our equipment would've gone</p> <p>4 and we would've lost the lift. So its been put there as</p> <p>5 a temporary measure to keep some sort of control over</p> <p>6 the lift.</p> <p>7 Q. Right. Who thought that up?</p> <p>8 A. Whoever put it down.</p> <p>9 Q. Right. Is that something you would normally do if you</p> <p>10 couldn't get control of the lift? Is it a standard</p> <p>11 operating procedure?</p> <p>12 A. It's not a standard -- no, it's --</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It's common sense, really, isn't it?</p> <p>14 A. It's common sense. It's good practice, yes. That</p> <p>15 doesn't surprise me about the watch because they're all</p> <p>16 very experienced, so someone is obviously thinking on</p> <p>17 their feet.</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p>19 Did you come back for that material or did you leave</p> <p>20 it there so that you could isolate the lift effectively?</p> <p>21 A. I believe they used the enforcer to gain entry later on</p> <p>22 into flat 16, but I don't know if that specific one --</p> <p>23 there's obviously more than one on the fire ground and</p> <p>24 I don't --</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: What else do we have there on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 203</p>
<p>1 The next picture is somebody else looking like</p> <p>2 they're trying to go up. Who do you think that might</p> <p>3 be?</p> <p>4 A. I believe that to be Firefighter O'Beirne.</p> <p>5 Q. O'Beirne. And then at the door --</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Can I just ask, he seems to be</p> <p>7 carrying quite a bulky bag or box. Can you tell us what</p> <p>8 it is?</p> <p>9 A. Yeah, it's an IEC kit, so it's our first-aid kit.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p>11 Then as you came out of the lift on the -- well,</p> <p>12 which floor did the lift go to?</p> <p>13 A. Second floor.</p> <p>14 Q. When you came out of it, do you remember what you did?</p> <p>15 A. Started setting up the bridgehead.</p> <p>16 Q. I just want to show you a picture from CCTV camera 18,</p> <p>17 which is tab 17 in the CCTV bundle, picture 149.</p> <p>18 Jumping ahead a little bit in time, it's timed at</p> <p>19 01.03.08.</p> <p>20 Can you just tell us what we can see in that</p> <p>21 picture?</p> <p>22 A. Yes. So it looks like we've all got out of the lift.</p> <p>23 That piece of equipment in the lift door is what we call</p> <p>24 the enforcer, which is breaking-in equipment, and</p> <p>25 someone's put that there on purpose to stop the lift</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 202</p>	<p>1 picture? It looks like a branch, is it?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, so that's a branch.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And the two hoses?</p> <p>4 A. Two lengths -- well, I think that's possibly three</p> <p>5 lengths of hose. That's a length of 70-millimetre hose</p> <p>6 closest, and that looks like one or two lengths of</p> <p>7 45-millimetre hose. The long bar is called a halligan</p> <p>8 bar, which is breaking-in equipment.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Did you take all of that equipment out of the</p> <p>11 lift at the bridgehead floor?</p> <p>12 A. I can't remember. I can't remember.</p> <p>13 Q. It occurs to me to ask you this: if it was an effective</p> <p>14 way of keeping the lift at that level --</p> <p>15 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>16 Q. -- did it occur to you at the time to bring the lift</p> <p>17 under firefighter control by essentially stopping the</p> <p>18 lift going anywhere else by leaving an object like</p> <p>19 an enforcer in the doorway?</p> <p>20 A. No, no, it was -- that's the first I'm aware that</p> <p>21 happened. I was carrying on with my role. That's sort</p> <p>22 of ...</p> <p>23 Q. Right. If in fact leaving a lift uncontrolled but</p> <p>24 freely available for residents to use was something that</p> <p>25 presented all the dangers you've described to us, did it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 204</p>

<p>1 occur to you to stop that lift or immobilise that lift</p> <p>2 by essentially leaving something like a halligan bar or</p> <p>3 its like in the doorways to stop the doors closing?</p> <p>4 A. No, it didn't, and although it would work to a point,</p> <p>5 it's certainly not something that I would rely on,</p> <p>6 because if I left that piece of equipment there</p> <p>7 thinking, right, this will disable the lift and make it</p> <p>8 safe, I would stop thinking about that lift. If someone</p> <p>9 picks it up and the lift goes and I haven't noticed,</p> <p>10 that's a problem.</p> <p>11 So there's not enough control over that. That's why</p> <p>12 it's not written down in policy because it's such</p> <p>13 an uncontrolled way. Although, you know, what they've</p> <p>14 done there works, it's got its downfalls and the fact</p> <p>15 that as soon as that's moved, the lift doors will shut</p> <p>16 and off it goes.</p> <p>17 There's also more than one lift. There was two</p> <p>18 lifts. So it's a very temporary measure.</p> <p>19 Q. Yes. Yes, of course. As you say, there are two lifts,</p> <p>20 not one.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, it's 4 o'clock and I wonder</p> <p>23 whether now may be an appropriate moment to break. We</p> <p>24 are going to move on to a different subject.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You are going to have more questions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 205</p>	<p>1 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You go with the usher, please.</p> <p>3 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll break now and resume at 9.30</p> <p>5 tomorrow.</p> <p>6 I'm sorry about the succession of early starts but</p> <p>7 I think it's the only way to get close to keeping up</p> <p>8 with our perhaps a little ambitious timetable.</p> <p>9 Anyway, thank you all very much.</p> <p>10 (4.00 pm)</p> <p>11 (The hearing adjourned until Thursday, 5 July 2018 at</p> <p>12 9.30 am)</p> <p>13 INDEX</p> <p>14 DANIEL EGAN (continued)1</p> <p>Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY1</p> <p>15 (continued)</p> <p>16 JOHN O'HANLON (sworn)58</p> <p>Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY58</p> <p>17</p> <p>CHRISTOPHER SECRETT (affirmed)144</p> <p>18 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY145</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 207</p>
<p>1 obviously?</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: I do. I probably have, just so you and the</p> <p>3 witness know, half as much again as I've asked him this</p> <p>4 afternoon.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.</p> <p>6 Well, Mr Secrett, we are going to stop there. I'm</p> <p>7 sorry I have to ask you to come back again tomorrow.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: That's okay.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: What time are we going to start,</p> <p>10 Mr Millett?</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: I'm in your hands. But may I --</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, you know how the timetable is</p> <p>13 running better than I do.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: Yes, I do. Given where we've got to, may</p> <p>15 I suggest 9.30 and we may be able to catch up a little</p> <p>16 bit of time?</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would that be inconvenient, 9.30?</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: No, I'm happy with any time.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Okay, well, we'll start again at</p> <p>20 9.30.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Please don't talk to anyone about</p> <p>23 your evidence or the circumstances we're looking at.</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: I won't, no.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And we'll see you tomorrow.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 206</p>	

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