

<p>1 Thursday, 5 July 2018</p> <p>2 (9.30 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to</p> <p>4 today's hearing.</p> <p>5 We are going to resume in a moment, I think, with</p> <p>6 the evidence of Mr Secrett.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Yes. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Could we ask the usher to bring</p> <p>9 Mr Secrett in, please.</p> <p>10 CHRISTOPHER SECRETT (continued)</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, Mr Secrett.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: Good morning.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I hope you're feeling ready to carry</p> <p>14 on.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: Absolutely.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, we are going to take this in</p> <p>17 fairly small chunks, but if at any stage you feel the</p> <p>18 need for a break, just indicate and we'll take one there</p> <p>19 and then. All right?</p> <p>20 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>22 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (continued)</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Good morning, Mr Secrett.</p> <p>24 A. Morning.</p> <p>25 Q. Last night, we had got, I think, to the point where</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 1</p>	<p>1 A. The bridgehead is the generic term for the scene of</p> <p>2 operations, if you like, inside the building, so there's</p> <p>3 not a fixed point. The bridgehead is the name for that</p> <p>4 general area.</p> <p>5 The entry control board was set up next to the lift</p> <p>6 cars.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. And then committing firefighters into the stairs,</p> <p>8 where would that be done?</p> <p>9 A. From memory, I was stood sort of to the top on that</p> <p>10 chunk of wall between the lift cars, to the top of the</p> <p>11 second lift. But, like I say, the bridgehead will just</p> <p>12 be the area where the operations are. Like I say, it's</p> <p>13 not like a breathing apparatus entry control point where</p> <p>14 it's in a fixed position; it's just kind of where</p> <p>15 everyone gathers to be briefed and debriefed.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 Now, I'm going to do this again by a slightly</p> <p>18 different document. We're looking, I think, probably at</p> <p>19 a floor plan higher up in the building.</p> <p>20 Can I just ask you to be shown the plan of the</p> <p>21 second floor. Maybe we can use the cursor to identify</p> <p>22 what's where. It is MET00012593, page number 10.</p> <p>23 Now, this is the second floor and you can see the</p> <p>24 boxing club to the north. I think it comes to the same</p> <p>25 thing, but just on this plan, if you could identify</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 3</p>
<p>1 I was about to start asking you questions about the</p> <p>2 bridgehead. I think we can take it from that point.</p> <p>3 A. Okay.</p> <p>4 Q. The bridgehead is to be set up on the second floor, and</p> <p>5 you go up by lift, as we saw, to the second floor with</p> <p>6 all that equipment and set up the bridgehead.</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Can we now look and see if we can get a picture of</p> <p>9 exactly where the bridgehead was set up on the second</p> <p>10 floor. For that, I'd like to ask you to look at exhibit</p> <p>11 number 2 to your statement, if you can, which is</p> <p>12 MET00013085, which, when it comes, should be the map or</p> <p>13 diagram of the floor plan which you've used.</p> <p>14 That's the first exhibit. Mr Documents Director,</p> <p>15 I think it's the next one immediately behind it.</p> <p>16 That's it. [MET00015646, CMS/3]</p> <p>17 Now, I wonder whether you can just help us identify</p> <p>18 precisely where the bridgehead was set up and which</p> <p>19 parts of which equipment were set up.</p> <p>20 Here we have the floor plan of the second floor --</p> <p>21 A. Mm-hm, okay.</p> <p>22 Q. -- of Grenfell. I think it's the second floor. It</p> <p>23 doesn't look like the second floor.</p> <p>24 But just roughly in terms of the stairs and the</p> <p>25 communal hall, where was the bridgehead set up?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 2</p>	<p>1 where the entry control boards were. You said they're</p> <p>2 by the lifts.</p> <p>3 A. Yes, so to the north of the second lift, in that sort of</p> <p>4 piece of wall that you have there. From memory, it was</p> <p>5 there.</p> <p>6 Q. So to the north, by the words "Communal Hall", where you</p> <p>7 see them printed?</p> <p>8 A. That's it, yeah, so parallel to that communal hall sign.</p> <p>9 Q. So BA wearers coming up to the bridgehead would come up</p> <p>10 the stairs -- is this right? -- to the walkway gallery?</p> <p>11 A. Yes, it was. Yes, so they were walking up through the</p> <p>12 gallery and coming into that lobby that's marked</p> <p>13 "Communal Hall".</p> <p>14 Q. Right. Then in order to go out once they'd been</p> <p>15 committed --</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. -- from the bridgehead --</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. -- where did they go next?</p> <p>20 A. Where it says "steps up". They'd make their way to the</p> <p>21 steps and go up the internal staircase at</p> <p>22 Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>23 Q. So in the part of the area which has the words "steps</p> <p>24 up" to the right, which is long and thin, where there's</p> <p>25 the door or --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 4</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. -- entrance, rather, to the stairs --</p> <p>3 A. Yes.</p> <p>4 Q. -- you've got -- is this right? -- BA wearers going into</p> <p>5 the bridgehead --</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. -- to tally out, and then once they've tallied out, they</p> <p>8 then double back on the queue, as it were, through the</p> <p>9 steps up into the stairs, into the building?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, that's right. It's quite a confined area so you</p> <p>11 just have to work with what you've got. But bridgeheads</p> <p>12 are notoriously tight for sort of storing resources</p> <p>13 ready to go. It's a notorious -- not an issue, but it's</p> <p>14 a characteristic of a bridgehead. They get very busy</p> <p>15 because you're working in a confined space.</p> <p>16 But, yeah, you would've had BA wearers coming in</p> <p>17 through that corridor, being committed into the</p> <p>18 incident, going back through the same corridor to the</p> <p>19 stairs.</p> <p>20 Q. Okay. So you've got a queue in and a queue out.</p> <p>21 A. Yes. I mean, there wasn't a queue when I was there, but</p> <p>22 they would come in and go out that way.</p> <p>23 Q. Was there a reason why you couldn't set up the</p> <p>24 bridgehead on the walkway gallery so as to avoid</p> <p>25 congestion in the narrow area which is marked "steps</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 that's when you take the step back and you start</p> <p>2 policing it a bit more, for want of a better word. But</p> <p>3 that initial stage, there's hose to run out, there's</p> <p>4 equipment to come up, and it's not at that stage you</p> <p>5 would detail each firefighter to do each individual</p> <p>6 task. Get everything set up and then that's when the</p> <p>7 level of control really kicks in, once you're ready to</p> <p>8 start committing crews.</p> <p>9 I can't remember if I specifically said to</p> <p>10 Firefighter Dorgu to go up.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 Did you know that Firefighters O'Beirne and Badillo</p> <p>13 had decided to lay the hose out on the fourth floor?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, they told me that by handheld radio. Like you say,</p> <p>15 you can see there what I briefed, and they radioed back</p> <p>16 something like, "It's absolutely clear on the fourth</p> <p>17 floor, we're laying it out here".</p> <p>18 Q. Right. And you were happy with that, were you?</p> <p>19 A. Well, it wasn't -- Firefighter Badillo and O'Beirne are</p> <p>20 two very experienced firefighters, and if they're</p> <p>21 telling me it's clear, I was happy with that. It's not</p> <p>22 standard, it normally would come from the third and go</p> <p>23 up, but that does bring complications with it. It takes</p> <p>24 longer. You're immediately -- you're tying up extra</p> <p>25 firefighters because where it passes through the door,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 up"?</p> <p>2 A. Noise. I mean, from memory, that walkway gallery had</p> <p>3 a balcony and then you sort of look down into the</p> <p>4 ground-floor lobby. You want a bit of a quiet area for</p> <p>5 your briefings and stuff like that. So being in the</p> <p>6 lobby, it's like a room to brief your crews and just</p> <p>7 have that -- it's just sort of that's your area.</p> <p>8 I would never set up a bridgehead in sort of an open</p> <p>9 space like that. Unless, of course, you know, smoke was</p> <p>10 coming in, but there's no reason -- it would be normal</p> <p>11 to set it up in the communal hallway.</p> <p>12 Q. Now, you say in your statement, page 4 -- if you just go</p> <p>13 back to that -- in the middle of that page:</p> <p>14 "I requested FF Justin O'Beirne and FF Dave BADILLO</p> <p>15 go upstairs to the 4th floor, start laying out a length</p> <p>16 of hose and report back to me on what they could see.</p> <p>17 I requested they lay the hose out on the 3rd and take it</p> <p>18 to 4th."</p> <p>19 Now, Firefighter Dorgu also says that he went up to</p> <p>20 the fourth floor. Did you ask him to go up as well as</p> <p>21 firefighters O'Beirne and Badillo?</p> <p>22 A. I can't remember if I did. At that stage of</p> <p>23 an incident -- and, indeed, any incident -- there's lots</p> <p>24 to get done and it's very much everyone will just muck</p> <p>25 in and get things done. Once everything's set up,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 when it's charged, you need someone there to make sure</p> <p>2 it's not gone under the door and got stuck, you need to</p> <p>3 make sure it's all set up.</p> <p>4 It's a lot quicker to go on the fire floor, although</p> <p>5 it's not in policy, so that's why they made that</p> <p>6 decision, because the lobby was clear and there was no</p> <p>7 danger. I guess they kind of risk-assessed it when they</p> <p>8 got up there, and I know them well enough to be happy</p> <p>9 with that and I let them run with it, and I passed that</p> <p>10 information on to my watch manager, Mike Dowden, as</p> <p>11 well. I told him what happened.</p> <p>12 Q. How did you pass that on?</p> <p>13 A. Handheld radio. I just radioed down and said, "Look,</p> <p>14 the initial attack line of hose is coming from the</p> <p>15 fourth floor". I said when the backup crew -- when that</p> <p>16 line of hose gets laid out, I'll make sure that comes</p> <p>17 from the third so we've still got the two lines of</p> <p>18 hose -- one from the fire floor, one from the floor</p> <p>19 below -- so it will default pretty much back to standard</p> <p>20 procedure. But at that time, yeah, it was -- yeah, so</p> <p>21 I did tell him, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Just in terms of that radio communication, did you</p> <p>23 receive a confirmation back from Mike Dowden that he had</p> <p>24 received and understood your message?</p> <p>25 A. Yeah, Mike came straight back to me on the radio and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 said, "Okay, that's fine". He just sort of reiterated</p> <p>2 what I'd said; he said just make sure that second line</p> <p>3 goes in from the floor below.</p> <p>4 Q. He said that, did he?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Then you did instruct that, did give that instruction?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Who did you give that instruction to, to set the hose in</p> <p>9 also on the third floor?</p> <p>10 A. That was to the -- I think it was -- it was either</p> <p>11 Firefighter O'Beirne, Badillo or Dorgu. So they laid</p> <p>12 out that initial line of hose and then the second line</p> <p>13 of hose was laid out from the third floor. I can't</p> <p>14 remember which ones exactly but it's mainly those three</p> <p>15 that were doing all the hose running.</p> <p>16 Q. If you or anyone set the hose into the third-floor dry</p> <p>17 rising main outlet and then ran it up to the fourth</p> <p>18 floor, would that not cause the stair door to both the</p> <p>19 third-floor lobby into the stairwell and the</p> <p>20 fourth-floor stairwell door into the lobby to be propped</p> <p>21 open?</p> <p>22 A. Absolutely it would, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. What would that mean in terms of smoke spread if there</p> <p>24 was smoke in the lobbies on either floor?</p> <p>25 A. It would increase the likelihood that smoke would filter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 A. He either told me or he told Mike, but I could hear the</p> <p>2 communication on my radio. I specifically -- I remember</p> <p>3 him saying "Okay, it's charged now, you've got water</p> <p>4 going in". I remember the words. I can't remember</p> <p>5 whether he was talking me or Mike.</p> <p>6 Q. You heard it by radio?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. You then say that you directed Firefighters Brown and</p> <p>9 Batterbee to put their sets on and gain entry into the</p> <p>10 flat where the fire was on the fourth floor.</p> <p>11 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you see that?</p> <p>13 Do you know where they were when you gave them that</p> <p>14 instruction?</p> <p>15 A. Yeah, all three of us were at the bridgehead.</p> <p>16 Q. You were at the bridgehead at that point, okay.</p> <p>17 Then at the very bottom of page 4, you say -- well,</p> <p>18 actually, you said it in a couple of places, but four</p> <p>19 lines up from the bottom, you say:</p> <p>20 "The crew said they were at the door and had tested</p> <p>21 the hose (ensuring water is present in the hose) ..."</p> <p>22 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>23 Q. That is Brown and Batterbee, is it, saying that?</p> <p>24 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay. And then you say:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 into those staircases. It's far from ideal, but, you</p> <p>2 know, wherever the dry riser is located, we have to run</p> <p>3 hose out. We've got no option with that. Each building</p> <p>4 has a different design. At Grenfell Tower, that's the</p> <p>5 way it was, so that's what had to be done.</p> <p>6 Q. Is it quite common to find a dry rising main outlet in</p> <p>7 a lobby as opposed to a stairwell, in your experience?</p> <p>8 A. I wouldn't say it's uncommon. Generally you would find</p> <p>9 a dry riser in a protected shaft, so a staircase that's</p> <p>10 sort of designed for firefighting operations, and that</p> <p>11 is a lot better because the hose doesn't have to prop</p> <p>12 open the doors and, like you say, it doesn't affect the</p> <p>13 smoke spread and stuff as much.</p> <p>14 But, yeah, we just have to work with what we've got</p> <p>15 and at Grenfell that was the layout, so that's what we</p> <p>16 had to do.</p> <p>17 Q. Now, in your statement at page 4 at the bottom, you say</p> <p>18 that Danny Bills was setting into the dry riser --</p> <p>19 that's four lines down from the start of that</p> <p>20 paragraph -- and filling it with water. Do you see</p> <p>21 that?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Now, he was the driver on G271.</p> <p>24 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Do you know how it was confirmed when water was coming?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 "... at this point WM DOWDEN said the fire was</p> <p>2 starting to break out the window and he wanted to put a</p> <p>3 covering jet on it. I told him not to do that as the</p> <p>4 crews were just about to go in."</p> <p>5 Then you go on to say:</p> <p>6 "I requested the jet go above or below the flat but</p> <p>7 not in it."</p> <p>8 Now, just looking at that in a bit of detail because</p> <p>9 there's quite a bit of information there.</p> <p>10 First of all, do you think Firefighters Batterbee</p> <p>11 and Brown had tallied out by that stage?</p> <p>12 A. They definitely had.</p> <p>13 Q. They definitely had?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 A. No one, certainly while I was on the bridgehead, and as</p> <p>17 far as I'm aware for the whole incident, left that</p> <p>18 bridgehead without tallying out. So that's when you</p> <p>19 take the tally out of your bodyguard and it gets put</p> <p>20 into the entry control board.</p> <p>21 Q. The reason I ask you that question is obviously they</p> <p>22 were on the fourth floor by this stage, so they had gone</p> <p>23 up from the bridgehead --</p> <p>24 A. They were under air and they had tallied out and they</p> <p>25 were in the entry control board.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 Q. The reason I ask you that is because we can get a time 2 fix from the telemetry data on their times of tallying 3 out. For Batterbee we have 01.04.11 and for Brown 4 01.04.19 for the tally out.</p> <p>5 A. Okay.</p> <p>6 Q. So that fixes it in time.</p> <p>7 My question is: how long after they had left the 8 bridgehead do you think Mike Dowden told you that the 9 fire was starting to break out the window, as you say?</p> <p>10 A. It could only have been a couple of minutes.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 And Mike Dowden, to your knowledge, was standing 13 where at that point?</p> <p>14 A. Outside the building on the ground floor.</p> <p>15 Q. When he said to you the fire was starting to break out 16 the window, how did that communication come to you?</p> <p>17 A. Via my handheld radio.</p> <p>18 Q. Did what he told you cause you any concern?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Could you expand? What were your thoughts?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, I mean, it's -- so it's telling me that the 22 fire's, you know, intensifying. When we initially 23 arrived, it appeared to be a fairly small fire at the 24 window. It wasn't a particularly what I would call 25 raging fire; it was just some flame at the window. And</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 was Charlie Batterbee, I think I remember his voice 2 coming on the radio -- saying, "We're at the door and 3 we're about to make entry". So I'd got that message, 4 and then almost immediately after that radio traffic had 5 finished, that's when Mike came on the radio, which is 6 what I explain there.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 In terms of that communication, from 9 Charlie Batterbee to you -- you're at the bridgehead?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. What was the channel that was being used?</p> <p>12 A. My radio was on channel 1, but I was stood right next to 13 the entry control board with Alex De St Aubin and his 14 radio was on channel 6, so I can hear both channels.</p> <p>15 Q. Just in terms of mechanics, his radio was on 16 channel 6 -- does the BA entry control board have its 17 own radio which you can hear, or is it when somebody 18 communicates with the BA control officer, you do it on 19 the handheld radio?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, so our handheld radios and the radio on your 21 breathing apparatus set, you can change channels 22 manually. They all work on all channels. It's standard 23 to have fire ground communications on channel 1 and 24 breathing apparatus communications on channel 6. So the 25 radio on the breathing apparatus set was set to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 now, if it's escalated and the window's broken, yeah, 2 that's a concern that it's escalating and we need to try 3 and get on top of it.</p> <p>4 Q. Is that what I would call a step change or a pivotal 5 moment?</p> <p>6 A. Fires develop and they develop at different rates, and 7 it was an indication to me that it was developing at 8 quite a significant rate.</p> <p>9 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>10 Was that an indication to you that any different 11 kind of strategy in terms of attacking the fire should 12 now be adopted?</p> <p>13 A. No, not at all. It's normal for fires to develop. It 14 happens all the time. You know, when we first turn 15 up -- you know, they always develop in front of your 16 eyes, that's the nature of fires. So it didn't 17 particularly ring any additional alarm bells in my head; 18 it was just, right, okay, you know, it's getting bigger 19 sort of thing.</p> <p>20 Q. Yes. I follow.</p> <p>21 Now, you say he wanted to put a covering jet on it 22 and you told him the crews were about to go in.</p> <p>23 How did you know that the crews were about to go in?</p> <p>24 A. Because before Mike had radioed that message, I'd 25 received a message from Charlie or Danny -- I think it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 channel 6 and Alex De St Aubin had turned his radio to 6 2 so he could communicate with them.</p> <p>3 Q. I understand.</p> <p>4 Would you know, or would he know, receiving the 5 message on channel 6, that he had got the message from 6 a handheld radio on floor 4 or a BARIE set?</p> <p>7 A. There's no way of telling, really. You can take 8 an educated guess by the tone of the voice. If it's 9 from a handheld, it's slightly more muffled because 10 they're talking through their breathing apparatus mask. 11 If it's from the BARIE set, if it's working, it will be 12 clearer.</p> <p>13 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>14 Then we've got entry into flat 16 in terms of time 15 at 01.07.21, according to the thermal imaging camera, 16 which I won't show you.</p> <p>17 Was your discussion with Mike Dowden about 18 a covering jet before that moment?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. So I think we can get a time fix about the covering jet 21 discussion at before 01.07.21.</p> <p>22 Now, just standing back and looking at the 23 generalities, what is standard practice for the use of 24 external jets?</p> <p>25 A. Standard practice would be if the fire is breaking out</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

1 **of the window, a covering jet helps to stop the external**
2 **spread of fire on that building.**
3 Q. Given what you say about what might happen -- let's just
4 look at that. At the bottom of the page you say:
5 "I requested the jet go above or below the flat but
6 not in it. If the jet had been directed into the flat
7 the water would have turned to steam and basically it
8 would have scolded[sic] the FF crew. This can cause
9 serious injuries."
10 A. Mm.
11 Q. Given what you say about what might happen, were you
12 surprised that Mike Dowden was saying that this was what
13 he wanted?
14 A. No. At the same time, I don't remember Mike saying that
15 he was going to put the covering jet inside the window,
16 it was just me being belt and braces: if you're going to
17 put a covering jet, don't put it into the window, put it
18 above or below. I wanted him to make sure he knew there
19 was crews going in. I wanted to be crystal clear about
20 that.
21 Q. I see, okay.
22 Then you go on to say:
23 "It was quite chaotic at this time and I had to
24 reconfirm WM DOWDEN had received what I had said."
25 A. Mm.

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1 Q. You say it was quite chaotic; what do you mean by that?
2 A. Just because of the position I was in on the bridgehead.
3 I'm talking to Alex, the entry control officer, I'm
4 listening to his radio, I'm listening to my radio on
5 channel 1. People outside are talking to Mike by their
6 radio. So you've got -- you know, each ear's got
7 a radio that's constantly got traffic going on, so I'm
8 trying to listen to it all and take it all in.
9 Q. Did you feel the need to reconfirm to Mike Dowden what
10 you had said because of a concern you had about whether
11 he had actually heard it over the radio?
12 A. I think I was aware he'd heard it, but it's potentially
13 a very dangerous situation, so I just wanted to make
14 sure that he was crystal clear what was going on.
15 Q. Did he confirm to you that he did understand crystal
16 clearly what was going on?
17 A. Yeah, and I could hear him on the radio directing the
18 crews outside, basically confirming what I've said.
19 I remember hearing some radio exchange making sure that
20 the jet doesn't go into the window.
21 Q. You say, four lines down from the top of the page, two
22 lines down from the start of that paragraph:
23 "WM DOWDEN was getting a bit flustered and was
24 asking what was going on."
25 A. Mm.

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1 Q. Can you explain what you mean?
2 A. So Mike's -- on the fire ground, he's normally very
3 cool, calm, methodical. He still was, but I could tell
4 by the intensity of the messages on the radio that
5 things were ramping up a gear. There was lots of
6 messages, there was lots of urgency in his voice, and
7 that was an indication to me that things were starting
8 to escalate.
9 Q. Right.
10 Did he tell you how things were escalating from
11 where he was standing outside the tower?
12 A. In a roundabout way because he told me that the fire was
13 breaking out the window and he wanted to put a jet on
14 it, so that was enough information for me to appreciate
15 that it was starting to break out of the window.
16 Q. I see, okay.
17 Did he say anything else to you other than the fire
18 was breaking out the window?
19 A. Not that I remember, no.
20 Q. You then go on to say in the same sentence that he was
21 asking what was going on. Then you go on to say:
22 "CM BATTERBEE came on the radio fairly quickly and
23 said the fire was out and it appeared to have been the
24 fridge in the kitchen. I radioed this to Mike and told
25 him the fire was out."

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1 First of all, did you get a response from him when
2 you radioed Mike and told him that?
3 A. I can't remember if I did or not.
4 Q. Were you confident that the message that you were
5 radioing him with had got through to him and he
6 understood it?
7 A. I don't remember having any concerns that it hadn't, but
8 yeah, I would be lying if I said I can clearly remember
9 that conversation, because I can't.
10 Q. Fair enough.
11 You then say:
12 "It had taken about 10 minutes to extinguish the
13 fire."
14 10 minutes from when are you counting?
15 A. From time of them leaving the bridgehead.
16 Q. Right.
17 Did you have a means of measuring that or is that
18 just an estimate when you did your statement?
19 A. No, it's just a guess. I put it in my statement. It's
20 just an estimate. I wouldn't -- yeah, it's hard to
21 judge, you know. It was a high-pressure situation,
22 there was a lot going on. Like I say, that was my best
23 estimate of that time frame.
24 Q. You then say in the next sentence:
25 "WM DOWDEN asked what was going on and said that he

Page 20

5 (Pages 17 to 20)

<p>1 was going to make pumps 8."</p> <p>2 Now, we've got a time stamp of making pumps eight at</p> <p>3 01.19.08. So was your discussion with him before or</p> <p>4 after that?</p> <p>5 A. I would assume it's before.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 When he asked what was going on, first of all, how</p> <p>8 did he ask you that? What was the means of</p> <p>9 communication?</p> <p>10 A. I do remember that very clearly. He said "What's going</p> <p>11 on up there, Chris, because it's coming out the window</p> <p>12 pretty bad now?"</p> <p>13 Q. Did he?</p> <p>14 A. Around that time, I was getting messages from the BA</p> <p>15 crew inside saying that they'd found the fire in the</p> <p>16 kitchen and extinguished it, so that was my first</p> <p>17 warning that something's amiss here. I was getting two</p> <p>18 very conflicting -- one person inside telling me it's</p> <p>19 out and my governor's outside about to make it up. It</p> <p>20 was a bit of a surreal situation, really.</p> <p>21 Q. Did he describe to you what he was seeing?</p> <p>22 A. I don't -- again, I can't remember. I can't remember if</p> <p>23 he did or not.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you think that when he said he was going to make</p> <p>25 pumps eight that that had a significance, pumps eight?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 A. It must have been because I remember him saying he was</p> <p>2 going to make pumps eight, otherwise he would've said</p> <p>3 "I've made pumps eight".</p> <p>4 Q. Now, you say in the next sentence:</p> <p>5 "I told him to slow down because the fire was out."</p> <p>6 Would I be right in thinking that that is because</p> <p>7 that is what Charlie Batterbee had told you through</p> <p>8 Officer De St Aubin?</p> <p>9 A. That's exactly right.</p> <p>10 Q. Did Firefighter Batterbee give you or Firefighter</p> <p>11 De St Aubin any other information about the fire?</p> <p>12 A. No, and I wouldn't normally expect that. The comms are</p> <p>13 pretty poor, to be honest. You can hear what's going on</p> <p>14 but it's not a clear conversation like we're having now.</p> <p>15 It's quite difficult to get your message across</p> <p>16 sometimes. So when you're in breathing apparatus</p> <p>17 wearing a radio, it tends to be the bare minimum: short,</p> <p>18 sharp messages.</p> <p>19 Q. Now, Mr Batterbee has given evidence to the inquiry, and</p> <p>20 when he did so last week he said that he remembers</p> <p>21 telling the bridgehead that he thought the fire had</p> <p>22 jumped a floor.</p> <p>23 Is that something you remember? Is that a message</p> <p>24 you remember getting, that the fire had jumped a floor?</p> <p>25 A. No, I don't specifically remember that. You know, but</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 A. It did. That means the incident has escalated fairly</p> <p>2 significantly. That's quite a bold move for what was</p> <p>3 initially a small fire in a kitchen, which is why</p> <p>4 I questioned a bit on it. That's not a response I would</p> <p>5 normally expect to have come through the radio from the</p> <p>6 officer in charge for a fire of that size.</p> <p>7 Q. Now, again, just in terms of timing, on the information</p> <p>8 we have, there's a message at 01.21.15 or so -- it's not</p> <p>9 absolutely necessarily accurate to the second, but</p> <p>10 around about that time, 01.21.15 -- that BA team 1,</p> <p>11 Batterbee and Brown, confirmed from flat 16 that the</p> <p>12 fire was out.</p> <p>13 Do you remember receiving that message from them?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah, I definitely remember getting a radio message from</p> <p>15 one of them saying the fire in the kitchen was out,</p> <p>16 yeah.</p> <p>17 Q. Would that have come to Firefighter De St Aubin or to</p> <p>18 you?</p> <p>19 A. Yes, that would've gone through his radio. I would've</p> <p>20 heard it instantly because, like I say, I was purposely</p> <p>21 stood next to him so I could hear both radios.</p> <p>22 Q. Just to refocus on the question I asked you a minute ago</p> <p>23 with that timing in mind, do you think that a discussion</p> <p>24 that you had with Mike about make pumps eight was before</p> <p>25 that?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 that's probably my memory. If Charlie said he sent it,</p> <p>2 then he sent it.</p> <p>3 Q. Fair enough.</p> <p>4 When you say "I told him to slow down", what were</p> <p>5 you asking him to do?</p> <p>6 A. I was just -- yeah, just sort of double-checking with</p> <p>7 him, really, is this really a move he wants to make?</p> <p>8 Like I say, from my position, I'm getting told on the</p> <p>9 radio that the fire's out and then Mike's telling me</p> <p>10 it's make pumps eight. So I was questioning that</p> <p>11 because I'm stuck in the middle and that's two very</p> <p>12 conflicting stories, which in 19 years I've never had.</p> <p>13 They normally go hand in hand, you know. I'd</p> <p>14 normally get a message from the crew saying, "Right,</p> <p>15 it's going pretty well in here", then the officer in</p> <p>16 charge would be making it up; or it would go the other</p> <p>17 way: they'd say, "The fire is out" and "Yeah, it's</p> <p>18 looking all right out here". I've never had such --</p> <p>19 been in a situation where there's two conflicting</p> <p>20 stories. So I was questioning Mike because -- yeah,</p> <p>21 I was basically -- in my mind, I was really confused as</p> <p>22 to what's going on here.</p> <p>23 Q. You then say:</p> <p>24 "I realised something was amiss and asked</p> <p>25 Firefighter De St Aubin on the BA board to ask what was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 going on."</p> <p>2 Who did you ask him to ask?</p> <p>3 A. The BA crews.</p> <p>4 Q. Right. Did he?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you remember what he asked? Do you remember what</p> <p>7 they told him?</p> <p>8 A. No. At a guess, that could have well been when Charlie</p> <p>9 said that the floor's jumping, but I can't remember the</p> <p>10 radio exchange. I just remember thinking: right, I need</p> <p>11 to get a picture of what's going on here, because like</p> <p>12 I say, there's two conflicting accounts of what's</p> <p>13 happening.</p> <p>14 Q. You then go on to say:</p> <p>15 "By now there was lots of radio traffic. It</p> <p>16 transpired although the fire had been extinguished</p> <p>17 inside the flat, the fire was travelling on the outside</p> <p>18 of the building."</p> <p>19 You say "It transpired"; do you know where that</p> <p>20 information came to you from?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, so at some stage with the radio traffic, talking</p> <p>22 to Mike, he told me that the fire was now on the outside</p> <p>23 of the building, which I assumed to mean that the flat</p> <p>24 above had caught fire, what we spoke about yesterday,</p> <p>25 you know, fire travelling up. It's not that unusual.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 I think you said it had jumped a floor, which was your</p> <p>2 assumption. Is there anything that Mike Dowden said to</p> <p>3 you that might have indicated to you that instead of</p> <p>4 simply jumping a floor, which you go on to say can</p> <p>5 happen, the actual exterior itself was alight?</p> <p>6 A. No. But in fairness to Mike, he probably didn't know</p> <p>7 what was happening at that point either because neither</p> <p>8 of us had seen a building burn on the outside before, so</p> <p>9 he was probably a bit perplexed as to what was happening</p> <p>10 as well.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 At that stage, did you encounter or think you'd</p> <p>13 encountered any difficulties in communicating with Mike?</p> <p>14 A. The only difficulty would've been just the volume of</p> <p>15 traffic. The radio was constantly going. And I know</p> <p>16 myself, being an officer in charge of incidents,</p> <p>17 everyone's trying to talk to you and you're trying to</p> <p>18 get back to everyone, and the radio was just constantly</p> <p>19 going.</p> <p>20 So the only difficulties I remember was sometimes</p> <p>21 I had to sort of like, "Mike, did you get that?" "Yeah,</p> <p>22 I got it, Chris", sort of thing, and I had to make sure</p> <p>23 he'd got it. But that was for my benefit more than his;</p> <p>24 I just wanted to make sure the messages were getting</p> <p>25 through.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 It doesn't happen all the time but it's not unusual. So</p> <p>2 my assumption was that's what was happening.</p> <p>3 Q. Right. But my question was a slightly different:</p> <p>4 "It transpired ..."</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. "... the fire had been extinguished inside the flat, the</p> <p>7 fire was travelling on the outside of the building."</p> <p>8 The information that it was travelling on the</p> <p>9 outside of the building -- let me just ask the question</p> <p>10 again -- that information, it's travelling on the</p> <p>11 outside of the building, where do you think that</p> <p>12 information came to you from?</p> <p>13 A. It would've come from Mike.</p> <p>14 Q. Did it come to you, the information, or did it come</p> <p>15 to -- did it come to you directly from Mike?</p> <p>16 A. Yes. Mike's radio would've been on channel 1 and so --</p> <p>17 as my radio was. And I remember him saying something</p> <p>18 along the lines of, "It's on the outside of the</p> <p>19 building, it's going quite well up here".</p> <p>20 Q. Going quite well up here?</p> <p>21 A. Quite well out here, sorry, not up here. Yeah, I've got</p> <p>22 a vague memory of the conversation; I cannot remember it</p> <p>23 word for word.</p> <p>24 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>25 When he said that, did you get an impression that --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 But the actual physical radio, there was no problem</p> <p>2 with sending or receiving messages at that point.</p> <p>3 Q. Indeed, you say in your statement, three lines up from</p> <p>4 the end of that paragraph:</p> <p>5 "By now there was lots of radio traffic."</p> <p>6 Are you able to give us an impression of the kinds</p> <p>7 of traffic, kinds of messages, you were hearing at that</p> <p>8 point?</p> <p>9 A. I remember him directing the crews with the covering</p> <p>10 jet. I think there was messages about water and</p> <p>11 hydrants and bits and pieces. Yeah, I can't remember</p> <p>12 sort of the specifics of the conversation, I just</p> <p>13 remember it being very busy.</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 A. It's hard because when I'm running the bridgehead,</p> <p>16 although I'm trying to listen to everything what's going</p> <p>17 on, I've also got an important job to do. So I need to</p> <p>18 be aware what's going on around me but, likewise,</p> <p>19 I can't forget about what I'm doing and just listen to</p> <p>20 the radio. I'm trying to manage the bridgehead and make</p> <p>21 sure that my crews are safe, but also keep my ear out to</p> <p>22 build up a picture of what's going on around. So you</p> <p>23 are kind of in a position where you're trying to do two</p> <p>24 jobs at once.</p> <p>25 Q. In terms of impression, was your impression, so far as</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 you remember it, that the volume of traffic that you</p> <p>2 were hearing on your fire ground radio was normal or</p> <p>3 abnormal?</p> <p>4 A. No, that was consistent with Mike's message that he was</p> <p>5 making it eight and the fire's on the outside of the</p> <p>6 building. I was getting a real feeling in the pit of my</p> <p>7 stomach that something was going wrong, and that was</p> <p>8 consistent with that, you know. If the fire -- you</p> <p>9 know, it's like anything: if the fire's getting -- if</p> <p>10 you're controlling the fire, everyone calms down a bit</p> <p>11 because you're on top of it; if it's going the other</p> <p>12 way, there's loads going on and everyone is trying to</p> <p>13 talk to everyone.</p> <p>14 So it was just a part of the picture that was</p> <p>15 telling me this fire is escalating.</p> <p>16 Q. Yes.</p> <p>17 At that stage, escalation, going back to your</p> <p>18 training we discussed yesterday, did it occur to you</p> <p>19 that there was some strategy, some way of attacking the</p> <p>20 fire or dealing with the residents that now needed to be</p> <p>21 thought about?</p> <p>22 A. No, absolutely not, because at that point -- you know,</p> <p>23 everything's easy with hindsight. At that point, we</p> <p>24 still didn't know what was happening. It's like, okay,</p> <p>25 this fire is behaving very differently, but we wasn't</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 If you go back to page 4 of your statement and look</p> <p>2 at the very bottom of the page, you see that you say:</p> <p>3 "I requested the jet go above or below the flat but</p> <p>4 not in it."</p> <p>5 Do you see that?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Could you just explain there what help the jet going</p> <p>8 below the flat would give in terms of containing fire</p> <p>9 spread?</p> <p>10 A. If it's going below the flat, it depends how the fire's</p> <p>11 behaving on the outside of the building, but it will</p> <p>12 stop any falling debris catching anything below. It can</p> <p>13 go both ways. It's quite common for the fire to spread</p> <p>14 upwards, but you can also have fire and debris dropping</p> <p>15 down. So it's just as effective, just protecting</p> <p>16 a different risk, if you like.</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 What about aiming the jet above the window, what</p> <p>19 benefits would that bring?</p> <p>20 A. I'd say in sort of, you know, 99 per cent of cases the</p> <p>21 flame will come out of the window and travel upwards as</p> <p>22 heat rises, and the jet will break that wall of fire, if</p> <p>23 you like, and it will protect or minimise the risk of</p> <p>24 anything above that catching alight.</p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 aware why.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: No.</p> <p>3 Mr Chairman, I'm about to move on to a different</p> <p>4 topic and we've had quite an intense 40 minutes. I just</p> <p>5 wonder whether now might be a good time for a break.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Secrett, we've been running for</p> <p>7 40 minutes, how do you feel?</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: I feel okay but a quick coffee would do well.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You'd like a break?</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: Please.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You're probably not the only one.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you.</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So we'll stop for 10 minutes and</p> <p>14 we'll resume at 10.20.</p> <p>15 Thank you very much, you go with the usher.</p> <p>16 (10.10 am)</p> <p>17 (A short break)</p> <p>18 (10.20 am)</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr Secrett, ready to go</p> <p>20 on?</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good, thank you.</p> <p>23 Mr Millett.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: Mr Secrett, I just want to go back to something</p> <p>25 that I skipped over a little bit too quickly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 In terms of the ability of an ordinary hose plugged</p> <p>2 into a pump at ground level, how high would you usually</p> <p>3 expect the water jet to reach, assuming normal water</p> <p>4 pressure is available in central London?</p> <p>5 A. I would expect a handheld branch to be able to get up to</p> <p>6 the fifth or sixth floor.</p> <p>7 Q. If you were confronted -- this is a hypothetical</p> <p>8 question, so take it in that spirit -- with flames</p> <p>9 coming out of the window but also material falling down</p> <p>10 from the window, ignited material falling down, what</p> <p>11 would be the best approach? Would you aim the jet below</p> <p>12 the window or above the window?</p> <p>13 A. Or a mixture, just manage it as you see it. If you're</p> <p>14 the firefighter on the jet, you know -- yeah, just</p> <p>15 prioritise the direction of the water, really.</p> <p>16 Q. What was the upshot of your conversation with</p> <p>17 Mike Dowden about the covering jet?</p> <p>18 A. My concern was that he was going to put it into the</p> <p>19 window. Not necessarily on purpose -- it's a very fine</p> <p>20 line. The fire's on the fourth floor and you've got</p> <p>21 a firefighter with a jet that's squirting it up, so they</p> <p>22 might not even mean it to go into the window but it</p> <p>23 would go into the window, and the danger of that is the</p> <p>24 steam that would be created in that compartment for the</p> <p>25 firefighters.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 So water turns to steam at a ratio of 1,700 to 1, at 2 100 degrees. The handheld jets that the firefighters on 3 the ground would've been using, that will throw water 4 out set at 230 litres per minute. So if that's going 5 into the compartment, roughly every second you'd have 6 just over 3.5 litres of water going in, which would 7 expand into roughly 6,500 litres of steam, and that's 8 every second. 9 So even if it's just a quick blip down, just because 10 they've moved or something, and that goes in there, that 11 could potentially be 6,500 litres of steam which equates 12 to about 80 bin liners full of steam, and that's every 13 second. So it's a really dangerous situation. 14 Q. If you are confronted with a flat on fire and you know 15 the crew is going to go in but you want to put 16 a covering jet on it, which is the safest course: aiming 17 above or aiming below the window? 18 A. It depends what's happening in front of you. I'd say 19 crew-wise there's no safer option; it's just 20 prioritising that jet of water to where it needs it 21 most. 22 Q. Okay, thank you. 23 Now, moving ahead, you say on page 5 in the middle 24 that another crew from Hammersmith arrived, FF Nick and 25 FF John. We think that's Barton and O'Hanlon.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 Q. "... and back up the initial crew." 2 Is that the reference? 3 A. Yes, that's what happened. I got confused at the time 4 of making my police statement. 5 Q. I just wonder how, when you made your police statement, 6 you came to refer to going to the fifth floor as you 7 were getting reports of a fire. How did that confusion 8 creep in? 9 A. In the end, that's what I asked Kensington's BA crew to 10 do. 11 Q. Right, okay. 12 A. I initially asked, as I say -- I initially stood them by 13 as an emergency team, but when I got confirmation there 14 was a fire in the flat on the fifth floor, I then asked 15 them to go up to the fifth floor. 16 Q. Right. Just taking this slightly more in stages, could 17 you explain what an emergency team is? 18 A. Yeah. So when resources allow, we have an emergency 19 crew standing by at the bridgehead where the entry 20 control point is, and the purpose of them is to be 21 deployed should any of the firefighting teams get into 22 difficulties. 23 So on this incident, we was quite short of -- to 24 start off with, everyone was busy, so we was sort of 25 getting tight with crews. Hammersmith turned up and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 A. That's correct. 2 Q. You say they came to the bridgehead and you say: 3 "I told them to get a hose and a branch and go to 4 the 5th floor as we were getting reports of a fire." 5 Getting reports of a fire where, is the first 6 question? 7 A. Well, before we carry on, I said at the start of this 8 I've read my statement recently and that highlighted to 9 me I'd made an error. If you look at my contemporaneous 10 notes, that's not what I asked them to do. I got 11 confused at the time of making my statement. That crew, 12 I asked them to go and back up the initial crew in 13 the -- they were the backup crew for the initial 14 firefighting crew onto the fourth floor. That's what 15 I say in my contemporaneous notes, but I got mixed up in 16 my police statement. 17 Q. Yes. 18 Just so I am clear about that, if you go to your 19 contemporaneous notes, which should be in the next tab 20 in the witness bundle, I think the reference you're 21 giving us is about halfway down, where you see you say: 22 "Other appliances had started to arrive. I briefed 23 G36 BA crew to lay out a covering jet ..." 24 Is that the Hammersmith crew? 25 A. That's it, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 I sent them in to back up the initial crew, but by this 2 time I had a really -- it was obvious something was 3 going wrong because it had started -- the incident was 4 ramping up, as we discussed earlier. 5 So when Kensington's crew turned up, they were very 6 keen to get under air and get going and get in, but 7 I wanted them to stand by initially as an emergency team 8 because I didn't know what was going on, and it's my job 9 to look after my crews. 10 Q. And standing by as an emergency team, they would be in 11 BA, would they? 12 A. Yes, but not under air. 13 Q. But not under air? 14 A. Yeah, what we call in standby mode. So their cylinder 15 will be turned on but they won't be under air; they'll 16 just be there with their face mask on their neck loop, 17 their helmet and gloves on ready to be deployed, should 18 they need to be. 19 Q. If they were needed to be deployed for an emergency, 20 what equipment would they take with them? 21 A. So the emergency crew has to have a minimum rank of 22 a crew manager and it has to be at least the size of the 23 biggest crew. So if we had a crew of three in there at 24 that time, they would have to be a crew of three. At 25 that time, we had two crews of two, so that was enough</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 to be my emergency team.</p> <p>2 If resources allowed, they would take with them what</p> <p>3 we call a second set bag, so they would literally have</p> <p>4 a bag with a spare BA set in it, but we didn't have one</p> <p>5 at that time.</p> <p>6 So really their job at that point was just to listen</p> <p>7 to what was going on and be ready to be deployed to</p> <p>8 carry out any rescues to any firefighting crews.</p> <p>9 Q. Now, you say that you were getting reports of a fire.</p> <p>10 Were you getting reports of a fire higher up the</p> <p>11 building?</p> <p>12 A. Mm, yes, I was.</p> <p>13 Q. Was that before or after or at the same time as the</p> <p>14 Kensington BA crew arrived at the bridgehead?</p> <p>15 A. That was before. That was before.</p> <p>16 Q. How long before?</p> <p>17 A. No, sorry, that was after. So the Kensington crew had</p> <p>18 arrived and I told them to stand by as the emergency</p> <p>19 team. When the confirmation came through that there's</p> <p>20 now a fire in the flat above, that's when I deployed</p> <p>21 them to go to the fifth floor.</p> <p>22 Q. Now, first of all, who gave you the information that</p> <p>23 there was a fire in the flat above?</p> <p>24 A. I can't remember if it was Mike or Justin O'Beirne.</p> <p>25 Q. Right. How did you hear it? Was it heard on your fire</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 was very chaotic and I was dealing with a task. I can't</p> <p>2 remember what I was doing. I remember I looked round</p> <p>3 and they were there, and one of them was pretty much</p> <p>4 taking his harness off his mask, pretty much ready to</p> <p>5 put it on to go straight in, and that's when I said,</p> <p>6 "No, stand by as an emergency team because I want to</p> <p>7 keep an emergency team for the time being", and then</p> <p>8 I carried on with what I was doing. It was a very sort</p> <p>9 of brief, "Don't, you're not going in just yet, stand</p> <p>10 by".</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 You then go on, a sentence or two on, to say in your</p> <p>13 statement:</p> <p>14 "FF O'BEIRNE was doing a sweep and he reported back</p> <p>15 that there were fires on 6th and 7th floors."</p> <p>16 A. That's correct.</p> <p>17 Q. Just breaking that up a little bit, you say he was doing</p> <p>18 a sweep. What was he doing in general terms?</p> <p>19 A. He was doing some investigating of what was going on</p> <p>20 inside. Like I say, none of us -- this was all alien</p> <p>21 territory for all of us. Everyone was like what is</p> <p>22 going on here because this is strange, this isn't</p> <p>23 normal. And Justin O'Beirne was having a look around</p> <p>24 inside to see where the fire was breaking out and just</p> <p>25 giving us a feel of what was going on inside the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 ground radio or did you hear it --</p> <p>2 A. I got the message over the fire ground radio, but --</p> <p>3 yeah, it was one of those two but I -- yeah, I couldn't</p> <p>4 say for definite which one told me.</p> <p>5 Q. It was either Justin O'Beirne or Mike Dowden telling you</p> <p>6 that?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>9 You then go on in your statement to say:</p> <p>10 "They both looked spooked so I could tell something</p> <p>11 was amiss."</p> <p>12 Now, that's a reference to, I think, Jamal Stern and</p> <p>13 Richard Hippel.</p> <p>14 A. That's right.</p> <p>15 Q. Just to clarify that.</p> <p>16 You say they both looked spooked; could you just</p> <p>17 expand on that?</p> <p>18 A. Yeah, I know them both fairly well, they're at the</p> <p>19 station next to ours, and I could tell by the look on</p> <p>20 their faces that they'd obviously seen on the way in</p> <p>21 what was going on on the outside. I could tell by the</p> <p>22 look on their faces that they had a look of concern</p> <p>23 about them as to what was going on.</p> <p>24 Q. Did you ask them what they had seen on the outside?</p> <p>25 A. I don't think I did because at that time, like I say, it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 building, and I remember him telling me that it's now</p> <p>2 going on the sixth and the seventh.</p> <p>3 Q. I'll come back to that in just a second.</p> <p>4 Just in terms of Justin O'Beirne's movements, he</p> <p>5 told us when he gave evidence that that was something he</p> <p>6 did off his own bat.</p> <p>7 Did he tell you that he was going to conduct</p> <p>8 an exploration of the higher floors?</p> <p>9 A. I can't remember if he specifically used those words,</p> <p>10 but at the same time I was aware he was doing it.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you hear him report back to Mike Dowden that he had</p> <p>12 found a fire on the fifth floor?</p> <p>13 A. I can't remember specifically that piece of information,</p> <p>14 but I can remember he was having lots of communication,</p> <p>15 you know, I remember hearing his voice a lot on the</p> <p>16 radio, so he was communicating back, but I can't</p> <p>17 remember specifically the message you just asked me</p> <p>18 about.</p> <p>19 Q. Just to get it from your point of view.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. If Justin O'Beirne, having got to the fifth floor, found</p> <p>22 a fire there, used his fire ground radio to communicate</p> <p>23 that fact on channel 1, is that something you would've</p> <p>24 heard?</p> <p>25 A. Yeah, and that's probably what I heard when I committed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 Kensington's crew to the fifth floor.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay. In the same way, in the normal course of things,</p> <p>3 is that something that Mike Dowden would've heard</p> <p>4 downstairs --</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. -- on the ground?</p> <p>7 A. I say yes -- it would've come through his radio but</p> <p>8 I can't guarantee he wasn't talking to someone. But,</p> <p>9 yeah, if he was listening to his radio at that moment,</p> <p>10 yes, most definitely he would've heard it.</p> <p>11 Q. Then you say, just to come to it, he reported back that</p> <p>12 there were fires on the sixth and seventh floors.</p> <p>13 Just taking these in stages, we've heard the message</p> <p>14 about the fifth. How soon after his report that there</p> <p>15 was a fire on the fifth floor did he report that there</p> <p>16 was a fire on the sixth?</p> <p>17 A. Straight away. It was straight away. Because</p> <p>18 I remember he said it was going on the fifth floor so</p> <p>19 I said to Kensington -- Firefighter Hippel and Crew</p> <p>20 Manager Stern, I said, "Right, get under air and go up</p> <p>21 to the fifth floor and see what's going on up there",</p> <p>22 and as soon as I said that to them, he was then saying</p> <p>23 it's going on the sixth, and then I was like, right,</p> <p>24 okay, I was thinking of my next plan of action, and</p> <p>25 before I had a chance to process what was going to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 going to make it up and we'd also used all of our BA</p> <p>2 wearers, and it's at that point I handed over the</p> <p>3 bridgehead to Watch Manager O'Keeffe, because we'd run</p> <p>4 out of breathing apparatus wearers, so I was going to</p> <p>5 put on a breathing apparatus set to go in myself.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 Now, you then say in the next sentence:</p> <p>8 "I told the Kensington FF crew [Jamal Stern and</p> <p>9 Richard Hippel] to go and back up the Hammersmith FF</p> <p>10 crew on the 5th floor."</p> <p>11 Was the Hammersmith firefighting crew on the fifth</p> <p>12 floor?</p> <p>13 A. No, like I say, that was me getting confused at the time</p> <p>14 of my statement.</p> <p>15 Q. So that's the same mistake, is it?</p> <p>16 A. Yeah, it's --</p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 A. Yeah, I apologise, but it's not accurate there.</p> <p>19 Q. No problem at all, I just want to get this clear. So</p> <p>20 "I told the Kensington firefighting crew" something;</p> <p>21 what did you tell them to do?</p> <p>22 A. The Kensington firefighting crew, I asked them to go to</p> <p>23 the fifth floor and investigate and firefight if they</p> <p>24 needed to.</p> <p>25 Q. Right. What did they do next?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 happen, he was now telling me it was going on the</p> <p>2 seventh as well.</p> <p>3 Q. Right. So the space in time between him telling you</p> <p>4 about the fifth, the sixth and the seventh is what?</p> <p>5 A. Short.</p> <p>6 Q. Short.</p> <p>7 A. Yeah.</p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 Now, you then say:</p> <p>10 "I heard WM DOWDEN make pumps 10."</p> <p>11 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>12 Q. Now, just in terms of a time fix on that, we have that</p> <p>13 in the short incident log as timed at 01.24.09 when</p> <p>14 pumps were made 10, or the message, at least, had come</p> <p>15 back as confirmed.</p> <p>16 So your discovery from Justin O'Beirne of fires on</p> <p>17 the sixth and seventh floors was before that or was that</p> <p>18 after that?</p> <p>19 A. I think it was before that.</p> <p>20 Q. Before that. Right, so when you say, "I heard WM DOWDEN</p> <p>21 make pumps 10", that's after you heard there were fires</p> <p>22 on the sixth and seventh floors?</p> <p>23 A. Yeah. A lot happened at that moment. I was getting</p> <p>24 reports from Justin that the fires were breaking out on</p> <p>25 the sixth and seventh floors, I had Mike saying he was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 A. Reported to entry control, went under air and took some</p> <p>2 equipment with them and off they went.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 Now, we have, just in terms of the time stamp,</p> <p>5 Hippel and Stern, Kensington, tallying out respectively</p> <p>6 at 01.17.22, and 01.17.46. So that's quite a long time</p> <p>7 before make pumps 10, seven minutes or so on our timing.</p> <p>8 Indeed, that's actually before make pumps eight.</p> <p>9 So just in terms of timing, can you help me, would</p> <p>10 that be about right?</p> <p>11 A. It doesn't help you, but it's very hard to remember the</p> <p>12 exact timescale of how it is happening. It was all sort</p> <p>13 of -- it's all coming in and it all happened in that</p> <p>14 short space of time. But unfortunately I can't give you</p> <p>15 a definite answer of: this happened, then that happened,</p> <p>16 then that happened. There was a lot of information in</p> <p>17 a very short period of time.</p> <p>18 Q. Yes.</p> <p>19 Let me just see if we can get a clearer fix on this.</p> <p>20 I'm sorry to ask you to look at this as a sort of</p> <p>21 digression, but it may be worth it. If you look at the</p> <p>22 telemetry data, if you can be shown that, and let's just</p> <p>23 look at the Hippel/Stern pair, Kensington, in brown --</p> <p>24 or, no, it's green, actually -- there, you can see that</p> <p>25 they tally out at 1.17.22, Richard Hippel, and 1.17.46.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 If we just go across the page a bit, you can see</p> <p>2 when they log on to the ECB, which is only a minute or</p> <p>3 so later: 01.18.19 and 01.18.21.</p> <p>4 So if that's correct -- and we have no reason to</p> <p>5 think that isn't correct -- what would that tell you</p> <p>6 about when you dispatched Hippel and Stern to the fifth</p> <p>7 floor?</p> <p>8 A. Like I say, it all happened kind of at once. It may</p> <p>9 have been that I said to them, "Look, you're going up to</p> <p>10 the fifth floor", and I may have handed over to</p> <p>11 Brien O'Keeffe and then he may well have rebriefed them</p> <p>12 or committed them, because it was at that point the</p> <p>13 bridgehead was handed over and I went. I cannot</p> <p>14 remember if they'd left the entry control point by then.</p> <p>15 So it may well have been that Brien O'Keeffe rebriefed</p> <p>16 them or held them back, I don't know.</p> <p>17 But because it all happened at once, that could've</p> <p>18 been why there was a bit of a delay there from what I'm</p> <p>19 saying and how it happened.</p> <p>20 Q. Let me try and unpick that a little bit.</p> <p>21 Was it you who asked or instructed Hippel and Stern</p> <p>22 to go to the fifth floor?</p> <p>23 A. From memory, yes. And then, like I say, when you're</p> <p>24 talking about it, it sounds like, you know -- it's kind</p> <p>25 of like, right, there's a fire on the fifth, and I gave</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, I would say so. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Thank you very much.</p> <p>3 Now, you then have just described how you left the</p> <p>4 tower.</p> <p>5 Before you do that, if I can just show you your</p> <p>6 statement, this is two-thirds of the way down on page 5,</p> <p>7 you say:</p> <p>8 "I told FF Brian O'KEEFE[sic] to take over the BH</p> <p>9 and I would go and get BA set on."</p> <p>10 And that's what you just told us today.</p> <p>11 Firefighter Brien O'Keeffe, he's --</p> <p>12 A. Sorry, he's a watch manager. I've just -- either I've</p> <p>13 made a mistake or it's -- yeah.</p> <p>14 Q. Exactly, and he's more senior to you.</p> <p>15 A. He is, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Yes.</p> <p>17 When you say you told him what had happened and that</p> <p>18 the fire was spreading to other floors, are you able to</p> <p>19 expand on that in terms of the briefing you gave him, or</p> <p>20 is really that it?</p> <p>21 A. No, from memory, I was up there running the bridgehead</p> <p>22 and then Watch Manager O'Keeffe arrived. He was kind of</p> <p>23 watching what was going on. He was kind of taking it</p> <p>24 all in, I guess, and building up his own picture of what</p> <p>25 was happening.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 them a real basic brief of what was going on, and then</p> <p>2 I turned to Watch Manager O'Keeffe and said, "Look,</p> <p>3 we're running out of BA, there's no point in two of us</p> <p>4 doing this". I said, "Are you happy to run the</p> <p>5 bridgehead and I'll go and get on a set?" He said,</p> <p>6 "Yeah, great". So at that point I went.</p> <p>7 So I don't know if they then turned to</p> <p>8 Brien O'Keeffe and said, "What do you want us to do,</p> <p>9 guy?" I don't know if he rebriefed them or I don't know</p> <p>10 if they took my brief and checked in and went. I never</p> <p>11 actually saw them check in the BA board.</p> <p>12 So I did give them a woolly brief, a loose brief, of</p> <p>13 there's now a fire on the fifth, but I'm unclear from my</p> <p>14 memory if they checked in and went or if I'd gone. It's</p> <p>15 all a bit ...</p> <p>16 Q. Right. Can we be clear, though, that you received your</p> <p>17 message from Justin O'Beirne about a fire on the</p> <p>18 fifth --</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. -- before Hippel and Stern tallied out and logged on to</p> <p>21 the ECB?</p> <p>22 A. Yes. Yes, that's correct, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. So on that basis, would it be right that Justin O'Beirne</p> <p>24 had found a fire on the fifth, told you about it, before</p> <p>25 01.17.22?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 I remember him on a radio discussing with Mike about</p> <p>2 making it up, requesting more resources. I remember</p> <p>3 seeing him do that.</p> <p>4 The handover was really brief, in the sense that</p> <p>5 I just -- like I say, I know Brien; he's at the station</p> <p>6 next to me. He's, you know, a competent officer.</p> <p>7 I knew he had been standing there watching what was</p> <p>8 going on, so he had a good picture of what was</p> <p>9 happening. It was at that point I turned and said to</p> <p>10 him, "Look, we're both stood here doing this, we're</p> <p>11 running out of BA, shall I go and get a set on?" He was</p> <p>12 like, "Yeah, great".</p> <p>13 So it was a brief handover, but at that time there</p> <p>14 was a real sense of urgency of, you know, we needed to</p> <p>15 get going here. In the ideal world, I would've given</p> <p>16 him a full handover, but it wasn't -- haste was of the</p> <p>17 essence, really.</p> <p>18 Q. So the gist of it is that you told him that the fire was</p> <p>19 spreading to other floors. Did he say anything to you</p> <p>20 about exterior fire spread?</p> <p>21 A. I can't remember. I remember we'd had -- while I was</p> <p>22 still running the bridgehead, I remember we exchanged</p> <p>23 words, but I cannot remember what -- he could well have</p> <p>24 done, but I can't remember.</p> <p>25 Q. Because he, of course, had come into the tower from the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 outside?</p> <p>2 A. Yeah, so he'd seen it. You'll have to ask him what he</p> <p>3 saw. I think I was in a bit of a -- not in a nice way,</p> <p>4 I was in a bit of a unique position there because I was</p> <p>5 pretty much the only one that had seen it from a small</p> <p>6 fire and then I hadn't seen it any other way. All I was</p> <p>7 doing was trying to picture what was going on. The</p> <p>8 other crews arriving, they've seen whatever they've seen</p> <p>9 as they've arrived and they've come in knowing that,</p> <p>10 hang on, there's something amiss here, and all I'm</p> <p>11 running on is a picture that I've built up in my mind,</p> <p>12 because last time I saw it outside, the building was</p> <p>13 fine and it was just a small fire in the window. I'm</p> <p>14 trying to picture what was going on.</p> <p>15 Q. Yes.</p> <p>16 At the moment you left the bridgehead, had</p> <p>17 Charlie Batterbee yet tallied in or arrived back at the</p> <p>18 bridgehead?</p> <p>19 A. No, I don't think he had.</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 Now, we have him tallying into the bridgehead at</p> <p>22 01.32.11.</p> <p>23 So can we take it that you had left the bridgehead</p> <p>24 by that point?</p> <p>25 A. Yes. I mean, if you want a time fix of when I left the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 And you look up at the tower and you say the fire</p> <p>2 must have been at least three-quarters of the way up the</p> <p>3 building.</p> <p>4 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>5 Q. Mr Secrett, would you like a break?</p> <p>6 A. I'm all right.</p> <p>7 Q. We can take a break if you want to.</p> <p>8 A. I'm okay.</p> <p>9 Q. Let's just take this slowly.</p> <p>10 Could we just take the statement off the board.</p> <p>11 Just close it down.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like to sit for a moment?</p> <p>13 A. I'm okay, sir, thank you.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: Now, in your statement, you say:</p> <p>15 "I said to WM DOWDEN, 'Jesus Christ, what have you</p> <p>16 made it?' He said 10 pumps. I said I would make it</p> <p>17 15-20 because it looks like we are losing it. By this</p> <p>18 I meant that the fire appeared to be getting away from</p> <p>19 us; it was doing what it wanted rather than us</p> <p>20 controlling it."</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think we need a break, whether you</p> <p>22 think or not. We need a break.</p> <p>23 Go with the usher, if you would. Don't talk to</p> <p>24 anyone about your evidence while you're out.</p> <p>25 (Pause)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 bridgehead, I tally in, and when I left the bridgehead,</p> <p>2 I went downstairs, made my way outside to the nearest</p> <p>3 fire appliance -- it was one of North Kensington's</p> <p>4 I can't remember which one it was, and I grabbed a BA</p> <p>5 set, put it on and went straight back inside.</p> <p>6 I would say that would've taken me 5 minutes,</p> <p>7 another couple of minutes of briefing. So I would say</p> <p>8 I probably left the bridgehead with Brien O'Keeffe 7 to</p> <p>9 8 minutes before I tally in at the BA board.</p> <p>10 Q. That's helpful. And we have your tally-in time as</p> <p>11 1.33.57, in fact, but we'll explore that in some detail</p> <p>12 now if we can.</p> <p>13 So you leave the bridgehead, Charlie Batterbee's not</p> <p>14 there, so we think that's before 01.32.11 because that's</p> <p>15 his tally back in time, and you go downstairs, where you</p> <p>16 say -- this is at the bottom of page 5 of your</p> <p>17 statement -- you have a conversation with Mike Dowden.</p> <p>18 Do you see that? You say:</p> <p>19 "I left the BH and ran downstairs. I went outside</p> <p>20 and met WM DOWDEN outside."</p> <p>21 Just pausing there, where exactly was he standing</p> <p>22 when you met him?</p> <p>23 A. So he would've been on the southeast corner on the</p> <p>24 grass.</p> <p>25 Q. Southeast corner.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 I think at this stage, Mr Millett, unless it's going</p> <p>2 to disrupt your questions too much, we'll have</p> <p>3 15 minutes.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: I think we should and I'll see if I can move on</p> <p>5 from this detail.</p> <p>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Take whatever course you think</p> <p>7 necessary.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Let me just examine my questions.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course.</p> <p>10 Right, we'll break now and we'll resume at 11.05.</p> <p>11 Thank you.</p> <p>12 (10.51 am)</p> <p>13 (A short break)</p> <p>14 (11.12 am)</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, Mr Millett, Mr Secrett is ready</p> <p>16 to go on.</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: But I think we ought to be thinking</p> <p>19 about another short break in half an hour, 40 minutes,</p> <p>20 depending on how things go.</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: I think not more than 40 minutes as the</p> <p>22 outside, I'm afraid.</p> <p>23 Well, thank you very much, Mr Chairman. If we could</p> <p>24 please have Mr Secrett back.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 (Pause)</p> <p>2 All right, happy to go on?</p> <p>3 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, I've already said to Mr Millett</p> <p>5 that I think we should seek to have another break within</p> <p>6 30 or 40 minutes --</p> <p>7 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- in any event, but if you need</p> <p>9 a break before then, just make sure I know.</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: At the point at which you had this discussion</p> <p>13 with Mike Dowden outside, did you have a discussion with</p> <p>14 him about alternatives to firefighting?</p> <p>15 A. No, no, I came out and had a look and, like I said in my</p> <p>16 statement, asked, you know -- realised what was going on</p> <p>17 and, yeah, my initial suggestion was to request more</p> <p>18 pumps. I'm sure he was on top of it anyway, that was</p> <p>19 just my input, if you like.</p> <p>20 Q. What did he do next, do you remember?</p> <p>21 A. He ran straight off to the appliance and I assume that's</p> <p>22 what he did.</p> <p>23 Q. Can we scroll forward, then, a little bit in time. You</p> <p>24 go back to the bridgehead.</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 than when I had left it."</p> <p>2 Can you give us an idea of how many people were at</p> <p>3 the bridgehead at that stage? I say "people" -- BA</p> <p>4 wearers.</p> <p>5 A. I can't give you a number but there was -- it was busy</p> <p>6 up there. There was people in breathing apparatus sets.</p> <p>7 Justin was back there with Alex on the BA board.</p> <p>8 Yes, I've got a vague memory of the bridgehead just</p> <p>9 being busy. I couldn't tell you how many people or who</p> <p>10 was there.</p> <p>11 Q. Now --</p> <p>12 A. I've finished, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. In your statement, you go on to say in this next</p> <p>14 line:</p> <p>15 "People were writing on the walls, there were</p> <p>16 numerous FSG calls coming in -- a list of them -- which</p> <p>17 I have not experienced before."</p> <p>18 Then you mention reports of someone being stuck in</p> <p>19 a wheelchair on the eighth floor that couldn't get out.</p> <p>20 Then:</p> <p>21 "Just numerous calls going up on the walls one after</p> <p>22 the other."</p> <p>23 Now, can we just see if I can explore that a bit.</p> <p>24 People were writing on the walls. Who was doing the</p> <p>25 writing?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 Q. I think you say you went there with Chris Dorgu.</p> <p>2 A. That's correct.</p> <p>3 Q. Where had he been when you met him?</p> <p>4 A. When I got to the appliance -- it was either Golf 271 or</p> <p>5 Golf 272 -- to get a breathing apparatus set, he was --</p> <p>6 I can't remember if I was on there and then he got on or</p> <p>7 he was already on there, but we basically met in the</p> <p>8 back of the machine or back of the appliance, putting on</p> <p>9 our breathing apparatus sets together. And I asked him</p> <p>10 had he been briefed to do anything. He said, "No, I'm</p> <p>11 just getting a set on". I said, "Well, come with me as</p> <p>12 we might as well go in together as we know each other".</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 To cut a slightly long story short, you went back to</p> <p>15 the bridgehead.</p> <p>16 A. That's correct.</p> <p>17 Q. Who was in charge at that stage, do you remember?</p> <p>18 A. Watch Manager Brien O'Keeffe.</p> <p>19 Q. Who was on BA entry control?</p> <p>20 A. Alex De St Aubin. At that time, he might have had</p> <p>21 Justin O'Beirne assisting him.</p> <p>22 Q. Picking it up in your statement on page 6, about</p> <p>23 a quarter of the way down, what I might call the third</p> <p>24 paragraph, you say:</p> <p>25 "When we [got] to the BH it was even more chaotic</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 A. I can't remember. I think it was Justin or -- it</p> <p>2 would've been Justin or Alex. And they were just --</p> <p>3 Q. You said Justin; Justin O'Beirne, is that?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Or Alex De St Aubin?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. What was the wall they were writing on? Which wall in</p> <p>8 the second-floor lobby?</p> <p>9 A. I really can't remember.</p> <p>10 Q. Where did you think at the time they were getting the</p> <p>11 information they were writing up on the wall from?</p> <p>12 A. Over the handheld radios, because I could hear some of</p> <p>13 it going on, you know, various people stuck. I just</p> <p>14 remember the information going on as we were sort of</p> <p>15 pretty much running back from the appliance, back into</p> <p>16 the building, I can remember hearing it all going on,</p> <p>17 and when we got there, there was lists being written</p> <p>18 down.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 A. When I put FSG call in there, that may be an assumption</p> <p>21 on my part. There was definitely -- so the FSG is the</p> <p>22 process that I'm sure you're aware of now. There was</p> <p>23 basically lists of people that were stuck. I assume</p> <p>24 they were FSG calls.</p> <p>25 Q. That was what I was going to ask you. You say:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 "People were writing on the walls, there were 2 numerous FSG calls coming in -- a list of them ..." 3 So when you say "numerous FSG calls", can you just 4 explain what you mean?</p> <p>5 A. Yeah, so like I say, that was partly an assumption on my 6 part because that would be a normal -- that would 7 normally be where information would come from of people 8 stuck in their flats. They would make the call to 9 control, control would feed that back to the fire 10 ground. So we was getting that information coming in, 11 so my assumption was it was going through the normal 12 method.</p> <p>13 But I'm now aware that a lot of -- or at least some 14 of the reports of people stuck within the building were 15 coming from various other means. But, again, that's not 16 really a normal situation. Normally, when we get 17 information specifically about someone stuck in a flat, 18 it's normally via an FSG call.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. And you say a list of them; were people 20 writing -- Justin or Alex -- a list on the wall?</p> <p>21 A. Yeah, I remember stuff getting written on the wall. 22 There's kind of -- not very helpful, but it's kind of 23 a hazy memory that I have and there was stuff being 24 written down. I can't remember the specifics of the 25 list, how many there was; I just remember it -- sort of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 A. No. Like I say, that was my assumption, that they were 2 coming through the normal means, ie from the caller to 3 control, control back to the fire ground, but I've 4 learned they were coming from other sources, people that 5 were there, people that were grabbing hold of 6 firefighters. So it was coming in from all different 7 avenues that wouldn't be a normal situation.</p> <p>8 It was all getting passed -- everyone was talking to 9 each other over the handheld radios and, like I say, it 10 was a constant flow of information coming over, and 11 that's -- wherever the report of someone stuck came 12 from, it got passed over the handheld radio, back to the 13 bridgehead, one way or another.</p> <p>14 Q. When you got to the bridgehead, do you remember what the 15 pumps make-up was?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. You'd had a conversation with Mike Dowden and he said 18 he'd made pumps 10 and you suggested a higher number. 19 Do you remember hearing what the pumps had gone at 20 the point when you rejoined the bridgehead?</p> <p>21 A. No. I would take a strong guess that that was put 22 across the radio but I don't remember hearing it.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 Now, we know that pumps went to 15 at 01.27.26 or 25 so. That was the message on the short incident log.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 looking and thinking, you know ...</p> <p>2 Q. Okay. Let me just see if I can get a visual fix on 3 this.</p> <p>4 If I can ask you to be shown what is an exhibit to 5 Justin O'Beirne's statement, exhibit 4, which is at 6 MET00015625. Mr Documents Director, if you could put 7 that up.</p> <p>8 Let's see if this is anything like what you saw.</p> <p>9 Now, that's a list which Mr O'Beirne gave evidence 10 about and it's an exhibit to his statement. The 3 we 11 think is wrong -- it should be, we think, 2 -- but leave 12 that on one side.</p> <p>13 That sort of information written on the wall there, 14 is that the sort of thing that you remember seeing when 15 you got back to the bridgehead?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, the list wasn't as large as that, but I probably 17 saw the start of that list.</p> <p>18 Q. Right, thank you.</p> <p>19 Just to go back to a question I asked you a minute 20 ago -- I know you answered it, I just want to get some 21 clarity if I can.</p> <p>22 To go back to your statement, you say that there 23 were FSG calls coming in. I think you said they were 24 coming in over the radio.</p> <p>25 Do you know where they were coming from?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 Do you think that you went back to the bridgehead 2 before or after that time?</p> <p>3 A. 01.15?</p> <p>4 Q. 01.27.26.</p> <p>5 A. I can't remember, but, like I say, if you're trying to 6 get a fix of when I got back, I wasn't on there long 7 before I took my tally out and went in. I wasn't 8 hanging about on that floor for long. That's probably 9 more accurate than my memory.</p> <p>10 Q. That's absolutely right. We have your time of tally-out 11 01.33.57.</p> <p>12 A. Mm.</p> <p>13 Q. So, again, getting a time fix, did you see these FSG 14 calls being written up onto the wall --</p> <p>15 A. Not that full list, but there was stuff on the wall.</p> <p>16 Q. And that was before you tallied out?</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. That's very helpful. Thank you.</p> <p>19 Now, before we leave this FSG question in terms of 20 information, did you see anybody coming to the 21 bridgehead with FSG information on a piece of paper or 22 pieces of paper?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 Did you see anybody coming up to the bridgehead and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 telling either Brien O'Keeffe or Alex De St Aubin about 2 fire survival guidance information? 3 A. I remember Dave Badillo coming up with information of 4 someone stuck, and again, at the time I assumed that was 5 from an FSG call. 6 Q. We're going to explore that in a moment -- 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. -- in some detail. 9 Before we do that, you say in your statement -- 10 I skipped over it a minute ago: 11 "There were reports of someone being stuck in a 12 wheelchair on the 8th floor ..." 13 This question of reports -- what do you mean by 14 reports? Was that talk on the bridgehead or was there 15 a written -- 16 A. No, from my memory, someone had made their way out of 17 the building and informed someone on the fire ground 18 that they've left someone behind that was in 19 a wheelchair. I remember that information being passed 20 over the handheld radios. 21 Q. Do you remember there being any discussion about whether 22 that was the right floor? Was there a doubt about 23 whether that was the floor? 24 A. There is doubt because that's my best recollection of 25 the floor from my memory, but a lot happened that night</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 for a 12 yr old girl stuck on the 20th floor." 2 Before I go on, Mr Secrett, I'm going to ask you 3 some detailed questions about that process; is that 4 okay? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Now, you say, first of all, "basically choosing one to 7 go to". Was that how it was working on the bridgehead, 8 that a BA crew would look up and choose for themselves 9 which one they would go to, or would the bridgehead 10 manager or BA entry control officer tell you? 11 A. I can't speak for everyone else, but when we got to the 12 bridgehead, there was loads going on, and before I'd had 13 a chance to be briefed and given a task, I was just sort 14 of standing there thinking, you know, what's going on? 15 And just taking in the information. The list was 16 starting to be put up and, you know, I was looking to 17 choose -- well, not choose -- but I was looking for 18 which call to go to. 19 Q. Right. 20 A. I hadn't been tasked and we was going to go under air 21 and get going, so it was just ... 22 Q. From what you could see, was Watch Manager O'Keeffe or 23 Alex De St Aubin giving specific instructions to BA 24 crews as to what flats or floors to go to? 25 A. I can't remember. I really can't remember.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 and I stand to be corrected that that wasn't the right 2 floor. That's my memory of it, but it could've been 3 a different floor. 4 Q. Do you remember whether there was any discussion, 5 dispute, disagreement, about whether the man was stuck 6 on the 11th floor as opposed to the eighth floor? 7 A. No. 8 Q. Do you remember there being any discussion at that stage 9 about difficulties in numbering the floors, people 10 having difficulties finding people up in the building? 11 A. Not at that stage, but I know from my own experience -- 12 which we'll probably move on to in a bit -- there was 13 difficulties in identifying floors. But at that stage 14 I hadn't heard anyone reporting it. 15 Q. Right. Let me just capture this now then while I can. 16 You say later on you knew from your own experience 17 that there were difficulties in identifying floors; when 18 did you come to discover that there were those 19 difficulties in identifying floors? 20 A. When I was making my way up to the 20th floor. 21 Q. We'll come to that right now. 22 Now, on that, you say in your statement, page 6, 23 halfway down, beginning of I think the third paragraph: 24 "I was standing there basically choosing one to go 25 to and whilst I was doing that another FSG call came in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 Q. Okay. You say: 2 "... whilst I was doing that another FSG call came 3 in for a 12 your old girl stuck on the 20th floor." 4 Now, you say "another FSG call came in". What 5 do you mean by that? 6 A. So what I mean by that was information was being told to 7 me about a 12-year-old girl stuck on the 20th floor, and 8 that information came from Firefighter Dorgu. 9 I remember I was kind of standing there next to Alex at 10 the BA board just thinking: right, where are we going to 11 go? Because at that time it was me -- I was paired up 12 with Chris Dorgu and we was just kind of standing there 13 waiting to be tasked. 14 I remember looking at the writing thinking: right, 15 where are we going? Chris grabbed hold of me and said, 16 "Look, there's a 12-year-old girl stuck on the 20th 17 floor, Dave's going up there". I looked round and spoke 18 to Dave. I said, "What's going on, Dave?" He had the 19 information of the flat and the age and, you know, who 20 was stuck in there. 21 At that point, no disrespect to the firefighter that 22 Dave was with, but I said, "Look, if you're going up 23 there, we'll go up together" as, you know, we all worked 24 with each other, we knew each other and I felt more 25 comfortable us three going up together.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 Q. Let's take this a little bit more in stages if we can.</p> <p>2 A. Of course.</p> <p>3 Q. You say the information that you got came from</p> <p>4 Chris Dorgu. Do you know where he got the information?</p> <p>5 A. From Dave.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay. Because you say an FSG call came in for</p> <p>7 a 12-year-old girl. I was just wondering whether that</p> <p>8 had come in to the bridgehead from a source.</p> <p>9 A. So, again, that was my assumption where that information</p> <p>10 came from. It turns out I was wrong because that</p> <p>11 information was passed directly to Dave by a member of</p> <p>12 the public.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 A. At the time of my statement, I wasn't aware that's where</p> <p>15 he got the information from.</p> <p>16 Q. I follow. You go on in the next sentence to say:</p> <p>17 "FF DORGU and I took that call."</p> <p>18 A. So, yeah --</p> <p>19 Q. What are you referring to?</p> <p>20 A. So as I said, I was standing there sort of waiting to be</p> <p>21 tasked or, you know, take ownership of a rescue that</p> <p>22 needed carrying out, and then Chris pointed out to me</p> <p>23 that Dave had information, so as we were a crew, that's,</p> <p>24 you know, what the wording is there, we sort of decided</p> <p>25 to attach ourselves to this piece of information and go</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 Q. Let me just show you something in the short incident log</p> <p>2 that gives a time but also maybe some further</p> <p>3 information. It's tab 23 of the documents bundle. Can</p> <p>4 I ask you to go to page 18 in this document. If you</p> <p>5 look with me at the time stamp 01.31.38.</p> <p>6 Just to orientate you in this document, this is</p> <p>7 a short incident log created by the LFB from a much</p> <p>8 longer document and it shows the messages coming back</p> <p>9 and forth.</p> <p>10 "01.31.38, PD, Service Request."</p> <p>11 Do you see that?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. "... RT4 - G271 - FURTHER CALL TO SAY FIRE ON 20TH FLOOR</p> <p>14 ALSO - PEOPLE TRAPPED."</p> <p>15 Now, first of all, that timing, 01.31.38, would that</p> <p>16 be about the time that you were having your conversation</p> <p>17 with Chris Dorgu about a girl trapped on the 20th floor?</p> <p>18 A. I forgot what time I tallied out at.</p> <p>19 Q. 01.33.57.</p> <p>20 A. Yes, so within that two minutes, yeah, it was about --</p> <p>21 all happening at the same time.</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 Now I've shown you that that was a service request</p> <p>24 created and that message was sent to G271, do you</p> <p>25 remember whether that message came to the bridgehead at</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 and sort of attempt the rescue.</p> <p>2 Q. So did your information about fire survival guidance for</p> <p>3 the 12-year-old girl on the 20th floor come through the</p> <p>4 bridgehead or did it come ultimately from Dave Badillo?</p> <p>5 A. It came from Dave Badillo, but he was on the bridgehead.</p> <p>6 This is where the discussion and the --</p> <p>7 Q. Did you know where he had got that information from?</p> <p>8 A. No. Like I said, you know, time was of the essence and</p> <p>9 it's not normally a conversation, although it may seem</p> <p>10 obvious stood here now, you would have. I was given</p> <p>11 that information so it was a case of: right, well, look,</p> <p>12 us three, let's go". I didn't ask him where he got that</p> <p>13 from. That's why I said in my statement it came from</p> <p>14 an FSG call because that was an assumption at the time</p> <p>15 of my statement. I've learned that wasn't correct</p> <p>16 since.</p> <p>17 Q. How soon before you tallied out -- and we've got you</p> <p>18 tallying out at 01.33.57, as I think I mentioned -- did</p> <p>19 you have this discussion with Chris Dorgu about the girl</p> <p>20 on the 20th floor?</p> <p>21 A. It was immediately before. We wasn't hanging about. As</p> <p>22 soon as we got the information, it was: right, okay. We</p> <p>23 rejigged the crews, like I say, we set up a crew of</p> <p>24 three, me, Dave and Chris, and we were straight under</p> <p>25 air and tallying out and heading up.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 all in any way before you tallied out?</p> <p>2 A. No, I don't remember if that specific message came to</p> <p>3 the bridgehead, but it corresponds with the information</p> <p>4 Dave had.</p> <p>5 Q. Yes.</p> <p>6 Now, you say in your statement, halfway down, two</p> <p>7 lines into that paragraph we've just been looking at:</p> <p>8 "FF BADILLO was there and he said someone had given</p> <p>9 him the keys to the flat with 12 yr old girl in on 20th</p> <p>10 floor."</p> <p>11 Do you know who had given him the keys?</p> <p>12 A. No.</p> <p>13 Q. Did he say anything about who had given him the keys?</p> <p>14 A. He could've done, I can't remember.</p> <p>15 Q. Did he tell you anything else at that point about the</p> <p>16 girl on the 20th floor?</p> <p>17 A. No, just the information that's there. I remember him</p> <p>18 saying there was a girl on the 20th floor.</p> <p>19 Q. Did he tell you that he'd already tried to get up to the</p> <p>20 20th floor on his own?</p> <p>21 A. I wasn't aware of that at the time, no.</p> <p>22 Q. No. Did you know the girl's name?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 A. Er ...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 Q. At the time.</p> <p>2 A. I'm not sure. I obviously do now. I'm not sure at the</p> <p>3 time.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you remember any discussion about the flat number?</p> <p>5 A. Yes, Dave knew the flat number.</p> <p>6 Q. Did he tell you what it was?</p> <p>7 A. He did, yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Do you remember what it was?</p> <p>9 A. 176.</p> <p>10 Q. You say in your statement -- can we --</p> <p>11 A. I'm okay, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Just to look at your statement, you say in the next</p> <p>13 sentence:</p> <p>14 "I told WM O'KEEFE we were going to 20th floor and</p> <p>15 we reported to FF DE ST AUBIN on the ECB as a crew of 3,</p> <p>16 FF DORGU, FF BADILLO and I."</p> <p>17 Did you tell Watch Manager O'Keeffe anything else</p> <p>18 during that briefing?</p> <p>19 A. No, it was very, very short.</p> <p>20 Q. Did you tell him which flat you were going to, do you</p> <p>21 think?</p> <p>22 A. I really can't remember.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you know anything or see anything to lead you to</p> <p>24 think that the girl was no longer in that flat but had</p> <p>25 moved --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 So that gives a time fix.</p> <p>2 What happened next? You tallied out, where do you</p> <p>3 go next?</p> <p>4 A. We went to the lift.</p> <p>5 Q. Is that in accordance with policy?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. So why did you go to the lift?</p> <p>8 A. It was a decision -- I can't remember if I made it</p> <p>9 solely or we discussed, but we was going a long way up</p> <p>10 the building, and it's not in policy but I wanted to use</p> <p>11 the lift to break the back of the journey going up</p> <p>12 there. It was probably in hindsight too far to go on</p> <p>13 a standard duration BA set because it's a lot of work to</p> <p>14 get up there, so I wanted to use the lift to get a lot</p> <p>15 of the hard work done for us.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you tell anybody you were using the lift to get up</p> <p>17 to the 20th floor?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. But I think I got your evidence, which is that</p> <p>20 you used it because you were concerned otherwise you'd</p> <p>21 run out of air because it was so far to go?</p> <p>22 A. Exactly.</p> <p>23 Q. Now, you then say in your statement, four lines up from</p> <p>24 the bottom:</p> <p>25 "The lift arrived and we all put our equipment in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 A. No, no, the information we got I considered -- yeah,</p> <p>2 current and accurate.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 Just before I leave that topic, did you see anything</p> <p>5 written on the wall --</p> <p>6 A. No, no.</p> <p>7 Q. -- about the 20th floor?</p> <p>8 A. That information solely came from Dave Badillo.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay.</p> <p>10 Now, the three of you then tally out and you give</p> <p>11 your tallies to Alex De St Aubin. As I said to you</p> <p>12 before, we've got your tally-out personally at 01.33.57.</p> <p>13 It might be worth just looking at the telemetry data to</p> <p>14 get a fix on that. If we go to that, it's tab 1 of the</p> <p>15 documents bundle.</p> <p>16 In "BA Time Line (2)", in the light blue, we have</p> <p>17 you as the second of the three -- Secrett,</p> <p>18 Christopher -- and then we have you tallying out</p> <p>19 01.33.57 and logging on to ECB at 01.34.24. Do you see</p> <p>20 that?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. We have your crewmates, Dave Badillo tallying out at</p> <p>23 01.33.33 and logging on to the ECB at 01.33.58, and</p> <p>24 Chris Dorgu very similar: tallying out 01.35.01, logging</p> <p>25 on to the ECB 01.35.19.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 and then went in. I retained carrying my hose. The</p> <p>2 doors shut and moved up but it stopped on the 6th</p> <p>3 floor."</p> <p>4 Then you say a line or two down:</p> <p>5 "As the doors opened, the lift immediately filled</p> <p>6 with a thick black wall of smoke. Straight away we</p> <p>7 could not see one another."</p> <p>8 Just in terms of sixth, Dave Badillo told us that</p> <p>9 his recollection was that it had stopped at the eighth</p> <p>10 floor and I think Chris Dorgu's statement says something</p> <p>11 similar. We've explored that with Dave Badillo and</p> <p>12 I just want to explore that with you.</p> <p>13 What do you remember? Was it the sixth or the</p> <p>14 eighth?</p> <p>15 A. I remembered it being the sixth but, like I say, you</p> <p>16 know, a lot happened that night, so I could be wrong.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay.</p> <p>18 You've described the conditions immediately you</p> <p>19 opened the door in terms of smoke. What about</p> <p>20 temperature? Did you experience anything in terms of</p> <p>21 temperature at that floor when the lift doors opened?</p> <p>22 A. Not that I remember.</p> <p>23 Q. Right. What about visibility into the lobby? Did you</p> <p>24 see anything when the doors opened?</p> <p>25 A. It was very poor. Like I say, the lift doors opened and</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 immediately -- yeah, it filled with fairly thick smoke, 2 and I couldn't really see the other two that were in the 3 lift with me. It was at that point I said, "Look, we're 4 not going up any further, we're going to get out the 5 lift here".</p> <p>6 Q. Were you surprised to find smoke on the sixth floor?</p> <p>7 A. Absolutely.</p> <p>8 Q. You I think told us earlier that you had learnt from 9 Justin O'Beirne earlier -- indeed, before you left the 10 bridgehead -- that he had found fire on the fifth, sixth 11 and seventh floor.</p> <p>12 So if it was the sixth floor, why would you be 13 surprised to find smoke on the sixth floor?</p> <p>14 A. Because if there's a fire in a flat, it doesn't 15 necessarily mean that the lobby is going to be smoked 16 out as badly as it was. And also it was a surprise that 17 we stopped at the sixth because I pressed floor 15. 18 I thought we was going to the 15th and it stopped at the 19 sixth unexpectedly.</p> <p>20 Q. You say you pressed 15.</p> <p>21 A. Mm.</p> <p>22 Q. I'm not sure we've got that from you. So when you went 23 into the lift, you pressed 15?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, one of us pressed floor 15.</p> <p>25 Q. Why was that and not floor 20?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 there's no smoke without fire. So the assumption would 2 be that there's a fire on the 20th floor, so that was 3 what I was planning for in my mind and that's what I was 4 expecting.</p> <p>5 Q. Right. Had you actually heard any reports come to you 6 that there was in fact fire or smoke on the 20th floor?</p> <p>7 A. No, but that's the assumption I make if someone was 8 trapped.</p> <p>9 Q. Now, you say the lift stopped. Did you know why it had 10 stopped on the sixth or eighth floor?</p> <p>11 A. I had an educated guess that someone's called the lift. 12 There would be no other reason for it to stop.</p> <p>13 Q. When the lift stopped and the smoke came in, did you or 14 did Chris Dorgu or Dave Badillo radio down to the 15 bridgehead to let them know about the conditions that 16 you had just discovered at that floor?</p> <p>17 A. No, but our radios were quiet by that point, which 18 indicated to me it was out of range.</p> <p>19 Q. Your radios were quiet. When you say quiet, do you mean 20 not receiving any human voices or simply completely 21 silent?</p> <p>22 A. I don't remember any communications coming over the 23 radio.</p> <p>24 Q. At what point do you remember the communications over 25 the radio ceasing as you went up?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 A. Because we knew there was -- or we had reports of fire 2 on the floor, on the 20th floor. My intention was to 3 break the back of the journey using the lift. I was 4 fully aware that it was not the brightest idea to use 5 the lift, but it was a case of weighing up the risk of 6 going up there with standard duration BA set or 7 utilising the lift.</p> <p>8 So I didn't want to go all the way because obviously 9 the worst-case scenario is that the lift opens and 10 you're faced with a fire with no water, so I made the 11 decision to go to the 15th to break the back of the 12 journey and hopefully it would be okay.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 You said a minute ago that you knew there was -- or 15 I think it's been taken down as "had thoughts of fire" 16 on the 20th floor. Did you say "thoughts" or "reports"?</p> <p>17 A. Sorry --</p> <p>18 Q. In your answer, your last answer to me --</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Well, let me see if I can get at it this way: you press 21 the button in the lift to go to the 15th floor.</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. What at that stage did you know about the possibility of 24 there being fire on the 20th floor?</p> <p>25 A. Because someone was trapped, that would be -- you know,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 A. I don't remember the specific point. I just remember 2 that there was nothing coming over it. Not at this 3 point, but fairly soon after that, I tried to 4 communicate with the entry control board myself and 5 I had no joy.</p> <p>6 Q. Right. But you're in the lift at this stage, sixth or 7 eighth floor, the doors have opened, you've seen the 8 smoke.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. But at that stage you're saying --</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. -- the radio had gone quiet?</p> <p>13 A. Yes. Whatever floor we was on, my radio was quiet, 14 which tells me it wasn't receiving any communications.</p> <p>15 Q. Just to pick it apart a little bit more, did you notice 16 at any point when the lift was rising that the traffic 17 on your radio had stopped?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you still get radio traffic on your fire ground 20 radio when you were still at the bridgehead?</p> <p>21 A. I can't remember -- yes, I -- yeah, the radio was 22 definitely working at the bridgehead.</p> <p>23 Q. So at some point between you leaving the bridgehead and 24 arriving at the sixth or eighth floor in the lift, 25 you're saying --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. -- your fire ground radio stopped --</p> <p>3 A. That's correct.</p> <p>4 Q. -- communicating. Right. But you can't remember when</p> <p>5 exactly?</p> <p>6 A. No, no.</p> <p>7 Q. But definitely by the time you'd got to the sixth or</p> <p>8 eighth floor in the lift?</p> <p>9 A. It was quiet -- yeah. Whichever floor it was -- like</p> <p>10 I say, there's obviously confusion there. It was</p> <p>11 either -- it was definitely the sixth or the eighth --</p> <p>12 whichever floor we was on, yeah, we was out of range.</p> <p>13 Q. You say at the top of page 7:</p> <p>14 "I said we were not going any further in the lift</p> <p>15 and that we would get off here and walk up."</p> <p>16 Why did you think you weren't going any further in</p> <p>17 the lift?</p> <p>18 A. I wasn't prepared to.</p> <p>19 Q. I see. So that was a decision you made rather than the</p> <p>20 functionality of the lift giving out on you?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay. You said:</p> <p>23 "I swept about for the person who had called the</p> <p>24 lift but I was not able to find them."</p> <p>25 When you say "I swept about", did you shout?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 Q. You open it, do you?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Are you the one who opens it?</p> <p>4 A. No, I believe I was in the middle.</p> <p>5 Q. Right, so who would've opened it?</p> <p>6 A. Dave Badillo.</p> <p>7 Q. And you come into the stairwell, and what are the</p> <p>8 conditions like in the stairwell?</p> <p>9 A. Smoky.</p> <p>10 Q. Smoky. How similar to the smokiness in the lobby?</p> <p>11 A. Not as bad as the lobby. I remember it was a little bit</p> <p>12 clearer but not a lot clearer.</p> <p>13 Q. How about illumination? Could you see any light?</p> <p>14 A. Yeah, there was a bulkhead on the wall. I just remember</p> <p>15 seeing it on each floor just glowing. It wasn't --</p> <p>16 I wouldn't say it was giving me any useful light, it was</p> <p>17 just glowing. So I wouldn't call it lighting.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you at that stage chance to look at whether there</p> <p>19 was any numbering on the walls to tell you which level</p> <p>20 you were on?</p> <p>21 A. No, not at that stage, but we started ascending the</p> <p>22 stairs and it wasn't too long before I tried my radio,</p> <p>23 and I remember looking to try and work out where we was</p> <p>24 to give them a position fix. We was also having a bit</p> <p>25 of a break because it was hard work going up the stairs,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 A. Yes -- no, I didn't shout. I don't remember shouting,</p> <p>2 if I did. The lift filled with smoke and then we kind</p> <p>3 of shuffled out, and we knew roughly where the staircase</p> <p>4 was, and as we made our way, I was sweeping my boot to</p> <p>5 see if I could feel anyone.</p> <p>6 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>7 What about the others, were they doing the same</p> <p>8 thing?</p> <p>9 A. I don't know, I couldn't really see them. I could just</p> <p>10 about make out whichever one was in front of me, make</p> <p>11 out their breathing apparatus cylinder.</p> <p>12 Q. You go on to say, page 7, four lines down:</p> <p>13 "I felt about the walls and found the door. The</p> <p>14 temperature was hot but nothing I wouldn't have</p> <p>15 expected."</p> <p>16 The temperature was hot; was that in the stairwell</p> <p>17 or in the lobby where it was hot?</p> <p>18 A. I don't remember having any feelings or thoughts of the</p> <p>19 temperature in the lobby, but I remember feeling it was</p> <p>20 warm on the steps, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Right. So you've come out of the lift on this floor,</p> <p>22 sixth or eighth, the conditions are very poor.</p> <p>23 A. Mm.</p> <p>24 Q. You find the door to the stairwell.</p> <p>25 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 so it gives you a chance to get some breaths in you</p> <p>2 while you try your radio.</p> <p>3 I remember having a quick look and I was completely</p> <p>4 unaware what floor we was on. There was no easy way of</p> <p>5 identifying where we was.</p> <p>6 Q. Did the conditions as you went up the stairs stay the</p> <p>7 same in terms of smokiness or did they get better or</p> <p>8 worse?</p> <p>9 A. They got worse.</p> <p>10 Q. They got worse?</p> <p>11 A. Mm.</p> <p>12 Q. Right. When you were looking for the floor numbering,</p> <p>13 what was it that made it difficult to find or identify?</p> <p>14 A. The smoke and the fact that there was no clear labelling</p> <p>15 of the floors. The floors that were numbered were kind</p> <p>16 of just written on, you know, almost in permanent</p> <p>17 marker, almost like the residents had done it</p> <p>18 themselves, they've marked up the floors. It didn't</p> <p>19 look like a uniformed each floor had its own number</p> <p>20 stamped.</p> <p>21 Q. Really?</p> <p>22 A. Which is, you know, quite often you will find the case.</p> <p>23 If you go up a tower block on the stairs, you know,</p> <p>24 you'll normally have a number above the door or</p> <p>25 something or on the wall. I don't remember there being</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 any clear numbering, just numbers, like I say, that</p> <p>2 looked like they'd been written on with a permanent</p> <p>3 marker.</p> <p>4 Q. How big were these numbers?</p> <p>5 A. They varied because, like I say, it was handwriting.</p> <p>6 People had -- I don't know who had written them on, so</p> <p>7 each one was a different size, different shape,</p> <p>8 different handwriting, just like a scribble of each</p> <p>9 number.</p> <p>10 Q. Is that something you'd ever come across before inside</p> <p>11 a stairwell in a high-rise building?</p> <p>12 A. I may have done, but it's not something that I can</p> <p>13 recall seeing before, so it's not -- I wouldn't say it's</p> <p>14 common, no.</p> <p>15 Q. You say, seven lines down from the top of page 7:</p> <p>16 "I tried to call FF DE St Aubin on my hand held</p> <p>17 radio at some pint to update him but he couldn't hear me</p> <p>18 as we were out of range."</p> <p>19 So just describe, if you could, for us what that</p> <p>20 involved?</p> <p>21 A. So that was me, like I say, stopping to get some breath.</p> <p>22 And also I had a roll of hose under each arm and they</p> <p>23 were really heavy. I remember I kept stopping to give</p> <p>24 my arms a rest. And while I was doing that, I was</p> <p>25 trying to update him on the radio rather than sit there</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 A. It's quite often to not get a signal or you can't hear</p> <p>2 who you're talking to or -- it's not all the time, but</p> <p>3 at the same time, you know, it's not that uncommon.</p> <p>4 Q. In your experience, is it a well-known problem in the</p> <p>5 London Fire Brigade that --</p> <p>6 A. I wouldn't -- yeah, I wouldn't say it's a problem.</p> <p>7 It -- but, yeah, I guess, yeah, it is, yeah.</p> <p>8 Q. Or a well-known feature then?</p> <p>9 A. Yeah, yeah, yeah, it's a well-known feature that the</p> <p>10 comms are a bit -- yeah, not as reliable as, you know,</p> <p>11 your handheld fire ground radio.</p> <p>12 Q. Mr Secrett --</p> <p>13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: This is the BARIE radio you're</p> <p>14 talking about, is it?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, I'm referring to both. I didn't actually have</p> <p>16 a BARIE set on, I had my handheld radio. That's what</p> <p>17 I was talking on. But it's not uncommon to go out of</p> <p>18 range.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Okay.</p> <p>20 A. It wasn't like a bolt out of the blue, "Hang on,</p> <p>21 I wasn't expecting this", it was just like, "Okay, no</p> <p>22 one can hear us now". It happens.</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Right.</p> <p>24 Mr Secrett, we've been going now for about</p> <p>25 40 minutes. I think perhaps a short break --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 and just -- we're talking seconds, it wasn't a long</p> <p>2 pause, but I remember a couple of times I tried to call</p> <p>3 him, and I remember Chris Dorgu trying as well. But</p> <p>4 none of us were getting any joy. There was nothing</p> <p>5 coming back.</p> <p>6 Q. That's how you would know, is it? If you'd got them, if</p> <p>7 you'd got Alex, something would have come back from him?</p> <p>8 A. Yeah, he wouldn't ignore us. If he'd heard it, he</p> <p>9 would've come back to us.</p> <p>10 Q. So that's how you knew you were out of range?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. At what point on the climb did you try to reach Alex</p> <p>13 De St Aubin on your radio in that way?</p> <p>14 A. Fairly soon after we got out the lift.</p> <p>15 Q. Did you try again as you went up?</p> <p>16 A. We tried two or three times on the way up.</p> <p>17 Q. Did it surprise you to find that you were unable to get</p> <p>18 anything from Alex De St Aubin on your radio as you went</p> <p>19 up the tower?</p> <p>20 A. Didn't surprise me, no.</p> <p>21 Q. Why is that?</p> <p>22 A. Because it's not unusual for -- like I say, you know,</p> <p>23 our comms are great for the fire ground, but they're</p> <p>24 notoriously unreliable for breathing apparatus wears.</p> <p>25 Q. You say notoriously unreliable. Is that --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: -- might be in order.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good idea. We'll have a short break</p> <p>4 and please don't talk about your evidence to anyone</p> <p>5 else.</p> <p>6 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll resume at 12.05.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? Thank you very much.</p> <p>10 Right 12.05 then, please.</p> <p>11 (11.55 am)</p> <p>12 (A short break)</p> <p>13 (12.05 pm)</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Before the witness comes back in,</p> <p>15 can I just say that I'm very conscious that it's getting</p> <p>16 rather warm in here. Anyone who wants to take off</p> <p>17 a jacket -- or anything else, I suppose! -- should feel</p> <p>18 free to do so. Ties are not compulsory.</p> <p>19 More to the point, I have asked enquiries to be made</p> <p>20 about the air conditioning, and I'm hoping that if not</p> <p>21 straight away, at least by the time we come back after</p> <p>22 lunch it may be a bit more comfortable, but I can't do</p> <p>23 any more than that.</p> <p>24 Right, is Mr Secrett there?</p> <p>25 (Pause)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 All right, are you happy to go on?</p> <p>2 THE WITNESS: Yes, I'm ready.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Very good. Thank you very much.</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: Mr Secrett, could I go back very briefly over</p> <p>5 a couple of things that might appear to you to be old</p> <p>6 ground, and probably are a bit.</p> <p>7 First of all, when you left the bridgehead, or</p> <p>8 before you left the bridgehead, what did you know of</p> <p>9 Firefighter O'Beirne's visit to the seventh floor,</p> <p>10 eighth, ninth, 10th and 11th or 12th floors?</p> <p>11 A. I was aware he was doing a sweep if you want to call it</p> <p>12 that or information-gathering. I remember him saying</p> <p>13 that there was smoke-logging on various floors.</p> <p>14 I remember him saying that, but I can't remember the</p> <p>15 specifics about which floor. But I was aware what he</p> <p>16 was doing and the information was most definitely coming</p> <p>17 back through the radios.</p> <p>18 Q. I am just trying to get a picture of how high the floors</p> <p>19 were that he was communicating about before you left the</p> <p>20 bridgehead.</p> <p>21 A. I couldn't remember. I can't remember sort of specifics</p> <p>22 of -- I didn't have a specific conversation with him</p> <p>23 that sticks in my mind, I just remember his voice on the</p> <p>24 radio reporting smoke on various floors.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 be trapped. That was -- it sounds obvious, but that</p> <p>2 was -- no one specifically told me there was fire and</p> <p>3 smoke up there, but I assumed there was and that's why</p> <p>4 someone was trapped.</p> <p>5 Q. Yes.</p> <p>6 Now, in your statement, you say on page 7, about</p> <p>7 a quarter of the way down the page:</p> <p>8 "When we got up to the 20th floor we came out in the</p> <p>9 lobby area; it was really hot."</p> <p>10 Before you come out into the lobby area, could you</p> <p>11 describe for us the air conditions in the stairwell at</p> <p>12 that level, level 20?</p> <p>13 A. Yeah, it was smoked out to the point where -- I remember</p> <p>14 Dave Badillo, when we got to the top of the stairs --</p> <p>15 like I say, I'd lost sort of the situational awareness</p> <p>16 of what floor we were on, I just kept climbing, and</p> <p>17 I remember Dave shouting like, "It's here", and he was</p> <p>18 kind of holding the door. But I wasn't -- I could hear</p> <p>19 him, but I had to get to the door and almost physically</p> <p>20 grab hold of him to see him, so that's how smoky it was.</p> <p>21 It's not like I could look up the stairs and see him;</p> <p>22 I had to get right on top of him before I could see him.</p> <p>23 So it was fairly smoky, yeah.</p> <p>24 Q. Again, difficult, but can you estimate how long it took</p> <p>25 you to get from the sixth or eighth floor where you come</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 Now, you say smoke on various floors; do you</p> <p>2 remember whether he said anything about fires in flats?</p> <p>3 A. I can't remember. I really can't remember.</p> <p>4 Q. At the moment when you and Firefighters Dorgu and</p> <p>5 Badillo left the bridgehead to go to the 20th floor --</p> <p>6 and I've asked you this before but I just want to get</p> <p>7 clarity -- did you tell Watch Manager O'Keeffe, "We are</p> <p>8 going to the 20th floor"?</p> <p>9 A. From my memory, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Did he say anything to you in response?</p> <p>11 A. No. I remember briefly telling him, but I don't</p> <p>12 remember -- I don't remember, you know, a conversation</p> <p>13 about it or an exchange of words. I most definitely --</p> <p>14 you know, it was crystal clear with Alex De St Aubin, he</p> <p>15 knew where we was going and he was on the entry control</p> <p>16 board. But from memory, Watch Manager O'Keeffe, he had,</p> <p>17 you know, 10 different things going on. He was a very</p> <p>18 busy chap at that point. Yeah.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you think at the time -- it's hard to recall</p> <p>20 everything in detail, I know -- that you had conveyed to</p> <p>21 Alex De St Aubin when you told him, "We're going to the</p> <p>22 20th floor", that there was a possibility of fire and</p> <p>23 smoke on the 20th floor?</p> <p>24 A. That was my assumption because we had reports someone</p> <p>25 was trapped. Otherwise, if it was clear, they wouldn't</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 out of the lift to the 20th floor?</p> <p>2 A. Probably realistically would've been about 10 minutes,</p> <p>3 possibly.</p> <p>4 Q. Right. And what about Firefighter Badillo, who I think</p> <p>5 is the firefighter who arrives before you.</p> <p>6 A. Sorry, could you repeat the question?</p> <p>7 Q. Yes. What about Firefighter Badillo, do you know how</p> <p>8 long it took him? Because I think he arrived at the</p> <p>9 20th floor before you.</p> <p>10 A. He did, but from memory, he was holding the door of the</p> <p>11 lobby open calling us where it is. So I should imagine</p> <p>12 that he ran ahead and he was checking the numbers as he</p> <p>13 went and sort of making better ground than us, but when</p> <p>14 he got there, he waited for us to join him. He</p> <p>15 didn't -- he stopped at the door to the flat and I think</p> <p>16 he was doing that to make sure that we didn't go past</p> <p>17 the 20th floor.</p> <p>18 Q. In terms of heat in the lobby area, can you just</p> <p>19 describe that for us?</p> <p>20 A. Yeah, I remember it being hot, but not to the point of</p> <p>21 concern. But also we were very hot because our fire</p> <p>22 gear or our PPE is not breathable, and like I say, we</p> <p>23 had just sort of come up the best part of 20 floors with</p> <p>24 all our equipment. We was really sweating, breathing</p> <p>25 hard, breathing heavy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 And I remember feeling: right, I'm hot now. How 2 much of that was the atmosphere and how much of that was 3 my own heat that I'm producing, I don't know. But at 4 that point I remember thinking: it's a bit warm. But it 5 wasn't a concern; fires are hot. It wasn't anything 6 that rang alarm bells at that point. 7 Q. In terms of making a comparison between the radiated 8 heat you were feeling there on the 20th floor and the 9 radiated heat you would have felt on the sixth or eighth 10 floor where you exited the lift, can you make 11 a comparison of how much hotter it was on the 20th? 12 A. Yeah, it was definitely hotter. The temperature sort of 13 continued to rise the whole time we was at the 20th 14 floor. When we first got there, I remember 15 thinking: okay, it's a bit warm -- or hot, I should say. 16 But like I say, it was nothing of concern. As we'll 17 probably get to in a minute, as time went on, the 18 temperature was gradually increasing the whole time we 19 was up there. 20 Q. And when you got into the lobby, what were the air 21 conditions like in there? 22 A. Again, it was smoky. I remember -- I've got a distinct 23 memory of putting down the length of hose that I was 24 carrying, and when I put them down, as I stood back up, 25 I couldn't see them again. So the visibility was less</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 wall? 2 A. No, no. 3 Q. Right. 4 Now, was there anybody else on the 20th floor -- 5 A. No, just us three. 6 Q. -- apart from you three? 7 A. No, not that we saw. 8 Q. On your way up to the 20th floor, did you encounter any 9 residents or other firefighters, for that matter -- 10 A. No. 11 Q. -- coming down? 12 A. No, at that point we was very much on our own up there. 13 Q. Okay. 14 Then in the second paragraph on page 7 of your 15 statement, you say: 16 "I put the hose down on the floor and asked FF Chris 17 DORGU to find the DRM to plug into and charge the hose 18 with water. I was very aware that we were up high 19 without water." 20 Did you know where the dry rising main outlet was? 21 A. Yes, I think we was all aware at that point because -- 22 well, to a point. The assumption was each floor's got 23 the same layout, but you kind of -- so we knew where the 24 stairs were, we knew where the lifts would be and we 25 knew where the dry rising main would be in relation to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 than from my face to the floor. 2 Q. Right. How tall are you? 3 A. Just under 6 foot. 4 Q. Right. And was that smokier or the same smokiness as 5 out in the stairwell at that stage? 6 A. It was about the same. 7 Q. About the same. 8 Forgive this next question, it may be a bit 9 pernickety. 10 A. That's okay. 11 Q. But is smoke visibility measurable vertically accurately 12 as opposed to measurable horizontally accurately, or are 13 they different? 14 A. There is a difference because smoke tends to rise 15 because it's hot, and as it rises, it will heat the 16 ceiling and creep down to what we call the neutral 17 plane. So there is a point if you laid on the floor you 18 might be able to see a greater distance than if you was 19 stood up. So there will be a difference in vertical 20 visibility as opposed to horizontal visibility, but 21 there's no way of measuring that; it's just what you can 22 see. 23 Q. When you came out of the stairwell, through the door 24 into the 20th-floor lobby, could you see anything 25 opposite you, for example the lifts or the opposite</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 that. 2 Q. Of course, Chris Dorgu had already done the setting in 3 on the third floor, so he'd -- 4 A. Yes, so he would've been aware of where it is. 5 Q. Then you go on to say: 6 "FF Dave BADILLO shouted out that he had found the 7 flat; I think it was number 176." 8 And you say: 9 "He had the keys but I believe the door was open 10 anyway." 11 You say you believe it was open; did you see it 12 open? 13 A. No, I've got a vague memory of Dave saying, "It's open, 14 it's already open", something along those lines. He 15 made reference to the door already being open. 16 Q. He made reference? 17 A. Mm. 18 Q. Did you see the door open for yourself? 19 A. No, because Dave found the door for the flat and he kind 20 of shouted, "I've got it, it's over here", and I kind of 21 followed where his voice was going because I couldn't 22 see him, and when I got there, he was at the door to the 23 flat and he had it open, and that's where we got on to 24 the next bit. 25 Q. You say:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 "We went inside the flat and I instructed the crew 2 to start searching the flat." 3 When you say "we", who went in? Was it all three of 4 you? 5 A. No, so I asked Firefighter Dorgu, Chris Dorgu, to set 6 into the dry rising main with the hose and the branch 7 that we'd taken up because I was very aware, as I said 8 in my statement, that we didn't have any water and it 9 was hot, so I was uneasy about that. 10 So I left him in the lobby to make a start on that 11 and me and Dave went into the flat. So when I refer to 12 the crew, it was me and Dave. 13 Q. Right. So at the stage when you went into the flat, did 14 you have any water or not yet? 15 A. No. 16 Q. Right. How safe is that? 17 A. It's not. But time was of the essence, you know. That 18 atmosphere, you couldn't breathe in it, so if there was 19 someone, we needed to find them quick and get out. 20 Q. On entry into the flat, first of all, what were the 21 smoke conditions like? 22 A. Really bad. 23 Q. Worse than in the lobby? 24 A. Just the same, you know, you're talking -- you know, 25 I wouldn't be able to see the desk from here, even less</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 open the door or use any keys. 2 A. Mm. 3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Could you tell from what you heard 4 or the manner in which he went in whether the door was 5 open in the sense of standing open or merely unlocked or 6 what? 7 A. I couldn't; Dave would be able to tell you that because 8 he found the door. When I got there, he was kind of 9 stood in the door with it open, with his hand on the 10 handle, and he's saying, "It's here, it's here". So I'm 11 not sure how he find that door. I don't know. 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You don't know. 13 Thank you. 14 MR MILLETT: And you did a search of the flat, as you 15 describe. 16 Were the lights working in the flat, do you 17 remember? 18 A. No. Well, I don't know if they were working; there was 19 no light in there. 20 Q. There was no light in there? 21 A. No. 22 Q. Did you try them? 23 A. No, it's not something you would do in a fire because if 24 they did come on, it wouldn't give you any -- it would 25 be of no benefit.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 than that even. 2 Q. What about the temperature in the flat at the moment you 3 went in? 4 A. When we first went in, it was still what I would 5 describe as -- it was hot, but it wasn't overly hot. It 6 wasn't a concern. We're used to heat so maybe I'm 7 underestimating that, but it wasn't a concern -- I don't 8 remember it being a concern to me. 9 Q. You then went into the flat with Dave Badillo. 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. And you did a search, as you say. 12 Just before I ask you about that, did Firefighter 13 Dorgu give you the charged hose and branch at any stage? 14 A. No. No. 15 Q. Why is that? 16 A. I kind of left him doing that while me and Dave made 17 a start on searching the flat, and the way it all panned 18 out, we was out of there before he had a chance to get 19 it done. 20 Q. Did he ever get the hose charged? 21 A. I never asked him. I never got it, so I assume not. 22 Q. Right. Okay. 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Sorry, can I just interrupt to ask 24 about the door. 25 I understand you couldn't actually see Mr Badillo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 Q. Did you call out? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Now, you say two-thirds of the way down page 7 in the 4 third paragraph, I suppose, five lines down from the 5 start: 6 "I then went to the window and could see fire." 7 First of all, do you remember whereabouts roughly in 8 flat 176 the window was where you saw the fire? 9 A. Yeah, so the fire was at the window of what I believe to 10 be the living room. 11 Q. Perhaps we should do this by reference to your plan of 12 the floor that you've exhibited to your statement. 13 If you go to your second exhibit, which I think we 14 looked at this morning earlier, it's MET00015646. Top 15 right-hand corner is the flats which are the 6s. 16 By reference to that plan, could you just tell me 17 which window it was where you saw fire at the window? 18 A. Yes, so from memory it's where I've put the squiggle on 19 the outside wall. 20 Q. Yes, okay. 21 Thank you, you can put that away. That fixes that. 22 When you say "I could see fire", could you describe 23 for us what you remember seeing? 24 A. Yeah. Yeah, so initially the flat was completely 25 smoke-logged, like I say, you know, I couldn't see my</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 hand in front of my face.</p> <p>2 When I went -- me and Dave had both expressed</p> <p>3 a concern we couldn't find who we was looking for and we</p> <p>4 swapped over, and when I went into the room that Dave</p> <p>5 had searched, that's when I saw the fire at the window,</p> <p>6 and that's when things started to change.</p> <p>7 Q. Things started to change. What started to change?</p> <p>8 A. My low pressure warning whistle had gone off just before</p> <p>9 I'd gone in there, I think, and the temperature started</p> <p>10 increasing at quite a steady rate.</p> <p>11 Q. And fire at the window, just describe it for us. You've</p> <p>12 got the window frame?</p> <p>13 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>14 Q. Was the window still intact?</p> <p>15 A. It had crystallised.</p> <p>16 Q. Could you explain what you mean by that?</p> <p>17 A. So if you have a double glazed window and it takes</p> <p>18 an impact, it will kind of -- not shatter, but the glass</p> <p>19 will break and it will kind of fragment into thousands</p> <p>20 of pieces. It was intact, but I remember the window was</p> <p>21 just filled with orange flame, and I remember looking</p> <p>22 through and, when I looked at it, seeing the glass was</p> <p>23 all crystallised, which told me it was about to fail.</p> <p>24 Q. Right. What about around the edges of the window, what</p> <p>25 was happening there?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 the living room now. But that's an idea of how little</p> <p>2 I could actually see.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 Was there any fire in the flat at all?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. So you've got a flat with no fire in it but with very</p> <p>7 dense smoke, as you've just described.</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. What did that tell you about what was combusting and how</p> <p>10 the smoke had got into the flat?</p> <p>11 A. At that point I was aware the building was alight on the</p> <p>12 outside. I still wasn't aware why or what was actually</p> <p>13 burning or how that was even possible, but I was aware</p> <p>14 it was happening. So, yeah, I didn't really have any</p> <p>15 thoughts. I just thought: right, it's up here now, sort</p> <p>16 of thing.</p> <p>17 Q. Just slightly following up on the chairman's question,</p> <p>18 you saw the smoke in the flat; did you have any thoughts</p> <p>19 about whether the smoke was coming in somehow from the</p> <p>20 exterior or had come into the flat somehow through the</p> <p>21 interior of the building?</p> <p>22 A. No. I couldn't tell. Because it was smoked when we got</p> <p>23 there -- you know, if conditions had got worse while we</p> <p>24 was there, maybe I'd have a better idea because</p> <p>25 I would've probably seen where it was coming from, but</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 A. I don't remember anything about around the edges.</p> <p>2 Q. What was the fire doing? How was it performing?</p> <p>3 A. I remember it being very fierce, and it was a concern.</p> <p>4 Q. Was there a noise? Could you hear it?</p> <p>5 A. I don't remember a noise. There probably was. You</p> <p>6 know, I dare say there was, but I don't remember it.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Could you get any idea where the</p> <p>8 smoke in the flat had come from?</p> <p>9 A. No, because, like I said, the staircase was smoked, the</p> <p>10 lobby was smoked, and so was the flat, so it was just</p> <p>11 kind of that whole area had been smoked out. So, yeah,</p> <p>12 you know, as the window was still intact, I assume it</p> <p>13 was finding its way into the building from somewhere</p> <p>14 else.</p> <p>15 MR MILLETT: Was the smoke in the room where you were</p> <p>16 standing when you saw the flames at the window the same</p> <p>17 thickness, density, as the smoke you'd seen in the</p> <p>18 lobby?</p> <p>19 A. It was. I mean, to give you an idea, I say I believe it</p> <p>20 to be the living room -- that's how smoky it was;</p> <p>21 I couldn't tell what room I was in. If you walked into</p> <p>22 a room now, you'd know straight away whether it was</p> <p>23 a living room or bedroom. It was that smoky, I knew</p> <p>24 I was in a room, but I didn't know if it was another</p> <p>25 bedroom, a kitchen, a bathroom, but I believe it to be</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 because it was like that the whole time --</p> <p>2 Q. Did you have any radio contact with anybody while you</p> <p>3 were in flat 176?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. Did anybody else you were with, Dorgu or Badillo, have</p> <p>6 any radio contact?</p> <p>7 A. No, Chris Dorgu was -- I didn't know when I was in the</p> <p>8 flat, but when I came out he told me he's been trying to</p> <p>9 reach entry control on his radio to let them know that</p> <p>10 we'd been unsuccessful, but he had no joy.</p> <p>11 Q. Right. If the control room had been giving fire</p> <p>12 survival guidance to somebody on that floor or higher</p> <p>13 up, how would that information have reached you?</p> <p>14 A. It couldn't.</p> <p>15 Q. It couldn't?</p> <p>16 A. (Indicated dissent).</p> <p>17 Q. Mr Secrett, are you all right to continue?</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would you like a little break?</p> <p>19 A. I'm okay, I'm okay.</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: All right.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Don't push yourself too hard.</p> <p>22 A. Okay.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? We can easily stop for</p> <p>24 5, 10 minutes, whatever you need.</p> <p>25 A. I'm okay. I feel all right now. It's just a little</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 wave of emotion.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Was there any means by which the control room</p> <p>4 could've got a message to you about the advice they were</p> <p>5 giving to somebody high up in the building or of</p> <p>6 information they had about a caller?</p> <p>7 A. No, to a point we had a complete disconnection from the</p> <p>8 outside world when we was up there.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you try to make contact with the bridgehead</p> <p>10 yourself?</p> <p>11 A. Personally, no. I'd given up because of my failed</p> <p>12 attempts on the stairwell. Like I say, Chris Dorgu told</p> <p>13 me that he tried and failed, so there was sort of little</p> <p>14 point in keep trying.</p> <p>15 Q. Now, you say your low pressure whistle went off while</p> <p>16 you were in the flat.</p> <p>17 A. Mm.</p> <p>18 Q. On the telemetry data -- there's no need to go to it</p> <p>19 unless you want to see it -- that happened at 01.55.29.</p> <p>20 Do you know whether the entry control board picked</p> <p>21 that up at that time?</p> <p>22 A. I've no idea.</p> <p>23 Q. When it did pick it up, would it have been able to</p> <p>24 identify where you were in the building or just the fact</p> <p>25 that your whistle had gone off?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 Where was he, do you think, when you called to him?</p> <p>2 A. I know where he was; he was in the bedroom that I'd</p> <p>3 searched because we'd had a conversation about swapping</p> <p>4 over to retrace each other's steps. I crawled out of</p> <p>5 the room and then stood up in the hallway, and that's</p> <p>6 when we met in the hall and decided to go.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 At the stage when you exited the flat, you say:</p> <p>9 "... the temperature was like nothing I have ever</p> <p>10 experienced before ..."</p> <p>11 Was there any fire in the flat by that point?</p> <p>12 A. No, just at the window, but the temperature had soared</p> <p>13 from -- I think it was more the shock of it at the time,</p> <p>14 because it was a rapid increase in temperature which --</p> <p>15 like I say, it all kind of started going wrong all at</p> <p>16 once for us: we couldn't find who we was looking for, my</p> <p>17 air was running out and the temperature raised. It's</p> <p>18 like, "Let's get out of here", sort of thing.</p> <p>19 Q. You also say:</p> <p>20 "We were also really high up in the building and no</p> <p>21 one was coming to get us."</p> <p>22 A. Like I say, I remember having this huge wave of: we've</p> <p>23 come too high. There was no -- my whistle was going.</p> <p>24 Like I say, in a normal environment of consumption of</p> <p>25 50 litres a minute, you have got 12 minutes before your</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 A. No. They wouldn't have been able to tell where we was</p> <p>2 in the building from that information.</p> <p>3 Q. Then at the top of page 8 you say:</p> <p>4 "This point the temperature just soared. It went</p> <p>5 from what I would call normal hot to unbearable.</p> <p>6 I dropped to my knees and I think I actually lay down on</p> <p>7 the floor."</p> <p>8 Could you just tell us where you were in the flat</p> <p>9 when that happened?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, so when I went into the living room, my whistle was</p> <p>11 going, and I was very aware I was running out of air.</p> <p>12 In normal circumstances, if your whistle goes off,</p> <p>13 you've got 12 minutes of air remaining at a breathing</p> <p>14 rate of 50 litres per minute. I don't know what my</p> <p>15 breathing rate was; I should imagine it was a lot more</p> <p>16 than that.</p> <p>17 So I was very aware that we was in trouble because</p> <p>18 we was high up. I wanted to have a good look round the</p> <p>19 floor. I laid down to start conserving my air.</p> <p>20 I wasn't on the ground for very long but I was more</p> <p>21 having a look around the room before we abandoned what</p> <p>22 we was doing.</p> <p>23 Q. You say:</p> <p>24 "I crawled out and called to FF BADILLO that we had</p> <p>25 to get out of there."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 air runs out, and I knew I was over that breathing rate.</p> <p>2 So at that point, I was very unsure if we were going to</p> <p>3 get out or not, and we had no way of communicating that</p> <p>4 back to the bridgehead.</p> <p>5 Q. When you came out into the lobby, what were the</p> <p>6 conditions like out there in comparison with how they</p> <p>7 were when you left the lobby to go --</p> <p>8 A. Just the same. They remained the same, possibly a bit</p> <p>9 worse.</p> <p>10 Q. What about the heat?</p> <p>11 A. It was hot.</p> <p>12 Q. Hotter than before?</p> <p>13 A. Sorry?</p> <p>14 Q. Hotter than before?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. In the lobby?</p> <p>17 A. Yes, the whole temperature of that floor spiked quite</p> <p>18 quickly.</p> <p>19 Q. In light of what you've been telling us -- this may</p> <p>20 sound like a strange question -- did you knock on any</p> <p>21 other doors on that floor?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Was there a reason why?</p> <p>24 A. Because I was very doubtful at that point I was going to</p> <p>25 get out at all on my own, and, you know, the thoughts</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p>

<p>1 were to -- we would've been no use to anyone.</p> <p>2 Q. You then go on a third of the way down page 8 to say you</p> <p>3 remember one other low pressure whistle sounding, but</p> <p>4 you weren't sure who it belonged to.</p> <p>5 Do you have any recollection standing here now who</p> <p>6 that might have been? It was either one or other of</p> <p>7 Badillo or Dorgu, I suppose.</p> <p>8 A. It would've been one of them. I think it was Dave's.</p> <p>9 Q. Why would you think Dave's rather than Chris's?</p> <p>10 A. Because I can remember hearing it going off constantly</p> <p>11 and at one stage we lost Chris on the stairwell on the</p> <p>12 way down. So I don't remember there being a break in</p> <p>13 the noise that I could hear, so I assume it was Dave's.</p> <p>14 Q. Did his go off, do you think, while you were still in</p> <p>15 the flat or after leaving the flat?</p> <p>16 A. Mine went off in the flat, the other one went off after</p> <p>17 we'd left.</p> <p>18 Q. How long after you left, do you remember?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. No. And you say:</p> <p>21 "We went to find the stairs but ended up in the bin</p> <p>22 store."</p> <p>23 A. Mm.</p> <p>24 Q. "The temperature got even hotter."</p> <p>25 Was the temperature hotter in the bin store than in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 A. It didn't feel like very long, but it's hard to give</p> <p>2 an accurate time because it's -- when you're in</p> <p>3 a situation like that, time just -- you know, you lose</p> <p>4 sort of all ...</p> <p>5 Q. Then you say:</p> <p>6 "We struggled to get down the stairs and it was a</p> <p>7 mixture of stumbling, falling and crawling trying to get</p> <p>8 down."</p> <p>9 A. Yes, so I remember my legs were wobbly, just from</p> <p>10 exhaustion, I think, getting up there, and I tripped</p> <p>11 a few times, and at one point, like I say, we lost</p> <p>12 Chris Dorgu, so I sort of like crawled myself to the</p> <p>13 corner of the lobby and asked Dave to shout out for him</p> <p>14 because I didn't have the energy to.</p> <p>15 Q. Did the conditions in the stairwell change as you made</p> <p>16 your way down?</p> <p>17 A. No, they were smoky the whole way down.</p> <p>18 Q. What about when you neared the bridgehead, was it still</p> <p>19 as bad?</p> <p>20 A. I think once we got to the bridgehead, they must have</p> <p>21 cleared up because I knew we was getting out.</p> <p>22 We met -- I think I referred to it in my</p> <p>23 statement -- a crew fairly near the bottom of the tower,</p> <p>24 and they'd had the same problem as us, they didn't</p> <p>25 identify the floor numbers, and I remember again we sort</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 the lobby or --</p> <p>2 A. No, it was -- from when it rung alarm bells that it was</p> <p>3 getting hotter, while we was on that floor, it just kept</p> <p>4 steadily increasing. So it wasn't specific to the bin</p> <p>5 store; it was more the whole floor.</p> <p>6 Q. Did the bin store have any lighting in it?</p> <p>7 A. No. If it did, it wasn't any use.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. You then go on to say you struggled to get out of</p> <p>9 the bin store:</p> <p>10 "I was hot, disorientated, and stressed. Eventually</p> <p>11 we got out and got to stairwell."</p> <p>12 Are you familiar with the effects of heat stress?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Looking back on it, do you think that you were suffering</p> <p>15 the effects of heat stress?</p> <p>16 A. I think we all were.</p> <p>17 Q. You then say:</p> <p>18 "The smoke was thick in the stairwell and I could</p> <p>19 not see my hand in front of my face."</p> <p>20 How was that in comparison with the conditions in</p> <p>21 the stairwell when you left the stairwell to go --</p> <p>22 A. They were definitely worse.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 Roughly how long did you think that you had been on</p> <p>25 the 20th floor by that stage?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 of stopped and I sat down to conserve my air on the step</p> <p>2 while Dave showed -- I can remember I could just about</p> <p>3 see Dave and he had his torch right up to his head and</p> <p>4 he was sort of right up against the wall, showing him</p> <p>5 where the numbers are. So that gives you an indication</p> <p>6 of how smoky it was; you had to get right up to it on</p> <p>7 the wall to see what number it was.</p> <p>8 Q. This you cover at the foot of page 8 of your statement.</p> <p>9 Let's just jump to that. We'll come back to the stairs</p> <p>10 in a moment, but just going forward to that, you say:</p> <p>11 "We got to one floor (I do not know which one) where</p> <p>12 we met crews coming up. One of the FFs asked FF BADILLO</p> <p>13 how they knew which they were floor on."</p> <p>14 And you explain what happened.</p> <p>15 Might that have been the seventh floor, do you</p> <p>16 think?</p> <p>17 A. Could've been, yeah.</p> <p>18 Q. About that level. Firefighter Badillo has described</p> <p>19 meeting Firefighter Murphy at that level.</p> <p>20 A. Yeah, that would've been -- yeah, that's who we met.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you remember Firefighter Murphy by name or by station</p> <p>22 or is there any other --</p> <p>23 A. Both. Both. I know him quite well.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. So you remember that encounter, do you?</p> <p>25 A. Yes, I remember seeing --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 Q. Did you yourself say anything to Firefighter Murphy?</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. Was Firefighter Murphy with anybody?</p> <p>4 A. Yes, he was with his BA partner, but I don't know who that was.</p> <p>5</p> <p>6 Q. Did you recognise the firefighter or you just don't know?</p> <p>7</p> <p>8 A. I didn't look.</p> <p>9 Q. Just going back a little bit, on your journey down, did you meet any residents coming down?</p> <p>10</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Apart from the Murphy pair, did you meet any other firefighters coming up?</p> <p>13</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Roughly at what level did the air conditions in the stairway start to clear before you got to the bridgehead?</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18 A. It certainly wasn't before we met Firefighter Murphy, so somewhere between the eighth and the second.</p> <p>19</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 A. I'd say fairly close to the second, maybe a floor or two above it, it started to clear. I just remember when we got to the bridgehead, I knew we was nearly out and -- so, yeah, I can remember coming out and being able to see and stuff, so I guess, yeah, around that sort of</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 A. I didn't take it out my pocket. So we'd lost Chris. We was -- yeah, we was about halfway down, and I was fully aware that my whistle had been going for a while and I had a momentary thought of if I should send a message back, but it was -- I put it in my statement because it's a thought that went through my mind, but I didn't do anything about that.</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8 Q. Would you like to look at that bit in your statement --</p> <p>9 A. Not particularly.</p> <p>10 Q. -- page 8, two-thirds of the way down. You say:</p> <p>11 "I put myself in a corner of the stairwell because I did not want to be in anyone else's way if I didn't make it out. I tried to get my phone out of my pocket to text my mum but I couldn't get the phone out."</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15 A. Yeah, so that's when we lost Chris Dorgu. So I said to Dave, "Can you call for him because I don't have the energy to", and I remember he was kind of draped over the bannister with his head hanging down, and he kind of just shook his head, and I just sort of sat in the corner, and I thought maybe I should think about sending something back and I put my hand to my tunic, and I thought I won't, I'll leave it, and that's as far as I got. It was sort of a momentary thought.</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24 Q. Is there anything else you want to say about that moment?</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 space it started to clear.</p> <p>2 Q. Yes.</p> <p>3 Let me just ask it this way then: did there come a point on your journey down when you thought, "I don't actually need BA"?</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6 A. No, absolutely not.</p> <p>7 Q. Really?</p> <p>8 A. Yeah.</p> <p>9 Q. What about the conditions at the bridgehead when you did finally arrive? What were the air conditions like there?</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12 A. On the bridgehead they were fine, but there's no way myself or anyone else could have come down that staircase and survived without breathing apparatus on at that time that I was on the stairs.</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16 Q. We have you tallying in at 01.57.15. So you say by that time, essentially, do you, that the stairway was unusable without breathing apparatus?</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19 A. Yeah, definitely.</p> <p>20 Q. All the way from the 20th to just before the second?</p> <p>21 A. Yes, that was my experience of it, definitely.</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 Now, you had a moment on the stairwell where you lost Dorgu and when you pulled your phone out of your pocket?</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 A. (Indicated dissent).</p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 Mr Secrett, I only have a very few questions left for you, but I am conscious that you've been going for 45 minutes or so.</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6 A. I'd rather finish if we're not too far to go.</p> <p>7 Q. All right.</p> <p>8 A. If you're happy.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: How long do you think you have, Mr Millett?</p> <p>10</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: Ten minutes, I suppose.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, as long as you can finish by 1 o'clock. Can you do that?</p> <p>13</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: I can, yes. I'm slightly conscious that there may be other follow-up questions which I might be asked to ask.</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Let's see how we go.</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: I don't wish to detain Mr Secrett any longer than I need to.</p> <p>19</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do you feel all right?</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: Yeah.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: 15 minutes or so?</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>24 MR MILLETT: You came out of the tower, you explained. Can you describe what was going on outside when you came out</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 of the tower?</p> <p>2 A. Yeah, the scene had completely changed from when I went</p> <p>3 in. The fire had intensified, and there was a lot more</p> <p>4 people around. There was firefighters everywhere. When</p> <p>5 we went in, it was -- yeah, it was a completely</p> <p>6 different scenario.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you notice anything about which faces of the</p> <p>8 building the fire was now on?</p> <p>9 A. No, the main sort of face that I saw was the east</p> <p>10 elevation because of where we came out, and we went to</p> <p>11 lay on some wet grass -- on some grass and we just sort</p> <p>12 of stripped down and cooled off, and that's the sort of</p> <p>13 face that we was looking at, the east side.</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 I think you then go on to explain on page 9 how you</p> <p>16 assisted with moving a number of casualties from the</p> <p>17 tower over to the LAS holding centre by the leisure</p> <p>18 centre.</p> <p>19 A. Mm.</p> <p>20 Q. I'm summarising your evidence there.</p> <p>21 Did anybody give you instructions to do that or was</p> <p>22 that something you did off your own bat?</p> <p>23 A. So when we came out we was -- like I say, we just laid</p> <p>24 on the grass for 20 minutes just drinking water and just</p> <p>25 getting our composure back and energy back, and after</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 A. I'd say it was a male, probably about my age, probably</p> <p>2 mid-thirties, and fairly large build. And, yeah, they</p> <p>3 kind of had an arm and a leg each and I just went and</p> <p>4 supported his head while they carried him.</p> <p>5 Q. You don't know which floor or flat he was from?</p> <p>6 A. No, they just came out the tower with him.</p> <p>7 Q. Are you able to remember any details about which</p> <p>8 casualties you assisted with that had come from</p> <p>9 particular flats or floors?</p> <p>10 A. No, we weren't getting that information. It was -- no.</p> <p>11 Q. I just want to go back, then, to this question of lift</p> <p>12 keys and just ask you one or two further questions about</p> <p>13 lift keys?</p> <p>14 A. Mm-hm.</p> <p>15 Q. You told us at the start of your evidence that you'd not</p> <p>16 been to Grenfell Tower before.</p> <p>17 How did you think that the key you had would be the</p> <p>18 right one to use at Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>19 A. I had been there before just on a call-out. I hadn't</p> <p>20 done a familiarisation visit.</p> <p>21 Q. Quite right, quite right.</p> <p>22 A. It's a standard key. Yeah, it's called an express lift</p> <p>23 key and it's kind of an industry standard for sort of</p> <p>24 fire service operations. Lift cars could be any number</p> <p>25 of keys, but any fire service installation is generally</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 we'd been there for a while, someone from the LAS -- the</p> <p>2 London Ambulance Service -- came over and explained they</p> <p>3 needed help. They had like an initial point that was</p> <p>4 fairly close to the tower and they set up another --</p> <p>5 I don't know what their term for it is -- another sort</p> <p>6 of triage point over by the leisure centre, and they</p> <p>7 said they needed help getting casualties from basically</p> <p>8 there over to the leisure centre.</p> <p>9 Q. Roughly what time was that, do you remember? How long</p> <p>10 after you left the tower do you think that was?</p> <p>11 A. I'm trying -- 45 minutes.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember any of the casualties you assisted?</p> <p>13 A. A couple, yeah.</p> <p>14 Q. Are you able to give us any details? Do you feel able</p> <p>15 to give us any details?</p> <p>16 A. Yeah. I mean -- so when I got that information, I was</p> <p>17 unsure where the LAS guy was referring to. He kind of</p> <p>18 just said, "It's over there". So we got dressed --</p> <p>19 I think there was a couple of us. I think Dave was</p> <p>20 still with us at that point, or maybe he'd already gone,</p> <p>21 I'm not sure. I started walking over to where he</p> <p>22 pointed to and a crew came out of the tower carrying</p> <p>23 a member of the public, and I went over and assisted</p> <p>24 them with that casualty.</p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 an express key.</p> <p>2 Q. Do all drop keys operate all fire lifts?</p> <p>3 A. No, they don't.</p> <p>4 Q. Did you see or feel anything that might have led you to</p> <p>5 think that the key you had was just the wrong key?</p> <p>6 A. No, because, like I say, the fire service installations,</p> <p>7 they're called like firefighter switches, the correct</p> <p>8 key for that is the express key. So I suppose there is</p> <p>9 a chance it was a non-standard box that had been fitted,</p> <p>10 but that wasn't something that ran through my mind</p> <p>11 because I've never come across that.</p> <p>12 Q. Would the possibility of there being a non-standard box</p> <p>13 be something that you would expect to see on the ORD?</p> <p>14 A. I wouldn't expect to see that at all because if it was</p> <p>15 non-standard and it was known about, action would be</p> <p>16 taken to get it changed, rather than have it noted down</p> <p>17 and just leave it in situ. They're all firefighter</p> <p>18 express keys. If that knowledge had been known about,</p> <p>19 that would've been actioned rather than just putting</p> <p>20 a note on the MDT.</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: Very good, thank you.</p> <p>22 Mr Secrett, would you just give me a moment.</p> <p>23 Mr Secrett, I have no further questions for you.</p> <p>24 Mr Chairman --</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, you might need to have</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 a couple of minutes to consider whether there are any 2 questions from others. 3 MR MILLETT: I think there may be one, Mr Chairman -- 4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well -- 5 MR MILLETT: -- from a visual indication. 6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. 7 (Pause) 8 MR MILLETT: I'm not sure I like doing it by way of open 9 outcry, but ... 10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do you want me to rise for a bit? 11 MR MILLETT: Maybe you should rise. 12 If I can ask you to rise, Mr Chairman. 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Secrett, you and I will leave the 14 room for a few minutes while they discuss further 15 questions. Don't talk to anyone about your evidence, 16 but you're not going to have much time to do that. 17 THE WITNESS: Okay. 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You go with the usher and I'll be 19 right behind you. 20 (12.52 pm) 21 (A short break) 22 (12.57 pm) 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, I think Mr Secrett is just 24 coming. 25 MR MILLETT: I'm very grateful.</p> <p>Page 117</p>	<p>1 Dave Badillo or Chris Dorgu warned Firefighter Murphy 2 and the other firefighter about the conditions that 3 you'd entered above in the stairwell? 4 A. I don't know. I certainly didn't. You know, it was 5 kind of evident because where we was showing him, you 6 couldn't see anything, really. The visibility was sort 7 of next to zero. So he didn't need telling that; he 8 could see that for himself. 9 I don't know if there's any discussion about the 10 temperature spiking on the 20th floor. I certainly 11 wasn't in a position to have a conversation at that 12 point. 13 Q. No. 14 Did you ever find out from Firefighter Murphy what 15 his mission was, what he had been deployed to do? 16 A. No. 17 Q. Finally, in an answer you gave just before we broke, you 18 essentially said that nobody could've made it down the 19 stairwell at the time you came down without breathing 20 apparatus. 21 A. Mm. 22 Q. Was that information something that you passed on to 23 anybody once you got to the bridgehead? 24 A. I really can't remember if we was -- I really can't 25 remember. My memory from finding the doors is really,</p> <p>Page 119</p>
<p>1 (Pause) 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right? 3 MR MILLETT: Mr Secrett, I'm sorry to bring you back, I just 4 have a very few questions and they're all really about 5 your journey back down the tower from the 20th floor. 6 First of all, on your journey back down, did you 7 encounter any bodies of persons on the stairs? 8 A. No. The only thing that we did encounter was some 9 screaming coming from one of the floors. That was 10 within a lobby -- I can't tell you what floor it was -- 11 and we stopped and had a look, and I remember again, 12 wherever we was, it was real thick black smoke. I can 13 remember Dave opening the doors and we just couldn't see 14 anything, it was -- and we was calling out but the cries 15 for help had sort of gone quiet and, like I say, we was 16 dangerously low on air, so we didn't have time, 17 unfortunately, to explore that. 18 Q. Is that true generally of all the floors on the way down 19 as to why you didn't go into those lobbies and warn 20 people? 21 A. That's exactly right. If we had, you know, time and 22 air, we would've tried to help everyone, but it -- you 23 know, really was in trouble. 24 Q. Yes. Your conversation with Firefighter Murphy and his 25 colleague on the stairs, do you remember whether you or</p> <p>Page 118</p>	<p>1 really hazy, pretty much from that point on. I can 2 remember it quite clearly up until my breathing 3 apparatus wear, but afterwards -- I can't even remember 4 getting my tally out of the board. So I can't recall 5 any conversations that I may have had. We may have told 6 them, we may not have. I couldn't answer that. 7 Q. Do you remember having a clear thought in your head to 8 the effect that nobody could make it down from the 20th 9 floor to the bridgehead without breathing apparatus? 10 A. Yeah, like I say, I can remember coming down to the 11 bridgehead and seeing the doors and thinking: we're 12 here, made it out. And I think from that moment on, 13 that's when my -- I can remember bits, but it goes hazy 14 after that. 15 I can't -- like I say, I remember little bits and 16 pieces of it. I can't remember checking out of the 17 entry control. I know I did, but I can't remember it. 18 So I'm unable to recall any conversations I had. 19 Q. Did you have a debrief with Watch Manager O'Keeffe at 20 the bridgehead at that stage? 21 A. Again, I may have done. I can't remember it if I did. 22 He may be better equipped to answer that question for 23 you. I can't remember it if we did. 24 Q. Do you remember whether Chris Dorgu or Dave Badillo did? 25 A. I don't know.</p> <p>Page 120</p>

<p>1 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much, Mr Secrett. 2 Can I just say you've been extremely helpful to us 3 and I'm very grateful to you for coming to the inquiry 4 and helping us with our investigations. 5 Thank you very much. 6 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. Thank you. 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, I would like to add my thanks. 8 Your evidence will be really helpful, and I'm sorry it's 9 been difficult for you at times giving it and it's gone 10 on so long, but we're really grateful to you for coming 11 along. 12 I'd like to say I've been very impressed, listening 13 to your account this morning, at the degree of bravery 14 you demonstrated on that night and complete disregard, 15 it seems to me, for your personal safety. 16 THE WITNESS: Thank you. 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Anyway, thank you very much for 18 coming along. 19 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, would you like to leave 21 us now? 22 THE WITNESS: Yes. 23 (The witness was released) 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's obviously a convenient moment 25 for us to break.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 Mr Millett. 2 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY 3 MR MILLETT: Mr O'Keeffe, hello. Could you please give your 4 full name to the inquiry? 5 A. Brien Anthony O'Keeffe. 6 Q. Can I say, first of all, thank you very much for coming 7 to the inquiry to assist us with our investigations. We 8 really do appreciate it? 9 A. Okay, thank you. 10 Q. If you have any difficulty understanding any of my 11 questions, which are supposed to be short and simple and 12 sometimes aren't, please tell me and I'll put the 13 question in a different way. 14 A. Okay. 15 Q. If at any stage you need a break or you want to sit 16 down, please feel free, just tell us and you can have 17 a break or sit down as the case may be. 18 A. Okay. 19 Q. Can I ask you, please, first of all, to take your 20 statement. You'll have that in one of two places. 21 First of all, there's a blue file in front of you and 22 you should find that statement in that blue file in 23 tab 10A. 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. But we're also going to work from the screen, and on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 We have another witness waiting to be called? 2 MR MILLETT: We do, and that is Watch Manager O'Keeffe from 3 331 Kensington. I know from my notes that he will 4 certainly occupy the afternoon and I suspect will go 5 into tomorrow, so there may be a conversation I need to 6 have with other people about timetabling. 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 8 We'll break now. We'll resume at 2.05 to give 9 everyone a full lunch hour and see where we get to. 10 Thank you very much, 2.05, please. 11 (1.05 pm) 12 (The short adjournment) 13 (2.05 pm) 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett. 15 Now, who are we going to hear from next? 16 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I'm now going to call Watch 17 Manager Brien O'Keeffe, if I may. 18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you. 19 MR MILLETT: Could we please have Mr O'Keeffe. 20 BRIEN O'KEEFFE (sworn) 21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr O'Keeffe. 22 You are comfortable giving your evidence standing, 23 I take it? 24 THE WITNESS: I am, sir. 25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Very good. Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 your desk in front of you on your right you'll have 2 a screen there. So what we do normally is throw the 3 statement up onto the screen and highlight bits that I'm 4 showing you. 5 A. Okay. 6 Q. So your statement is MET00013967, and attached to it are 7 also, I think, some contemporaneous notes of yours, 8 which you've exhibited as BOK/1, which is MET00005284, 9 and you've also got some exhibits which are at tab C, 10 which are some notes which you had from a pocketbook, 11 I think, which is LFB00001929, and some control 12 information form information, which is LFB00001961. 13 I've read those out so that they're read into the 14 record and people can access them publicly if they want 15 to from now. 16 A. Okay. 17 Q. To start with your statement, which is up there on the 18 screen, you'll see it's dated 5 March 2018, Mr O'Keeffe. 19 Have you read it recently? 20 A. I read it morning. 21 Q. Can you confirm for us that its contents are true? 22 A. They are true. 23 Q. Have you discussed your statement or your evidence -- 24 A. No. 25 Q. -- with anybody today before coming here?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. No.</p> <p>3 Can I start, then, with your position and your</p> <p>4 career.</p> <p>5 A. Okay.</p> <p>6 Q. You joined the London Fire Brigade, I think, in 1993.</p> <p>7 A. Correct, yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. And you've been an active firefighter since then;</p> <p>9 is that right?</p> <p>10 A. I have, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. You were promoted to crew manager in 1999.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. And then I think subsequently promoted to watch manager.</p> <p>14 A. That's correct.</p> <p>15 Q. When was that?</p> <p>16 A. Watch manager -- I'm just trying to remember -- would</p> <p>17 have been 2010 or 2011.</p> <p>18 Q. Right. And you're currently a watch manager on Red</p> <p>19 Watch at Kensington fire station?</p> <p>20 A. That's correct.</p> <p>21 Q. How long have you been at Kensington?</p> <p>22 A. Well, I went to Kensington, if I can remember back that</p> <p>23 far, about 2009, and I was on the White Watch there for</p> <p>24 about five years. I went to Chelsea fire station onto</p> <p>25 the Red Watch for about a year, and then returned again</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 what was your position and rank, was it watch manager?</p> <p>2 A. Watch manager, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 Now, in your statement, you say in terms of training</p> <p>5 that you're classed competent as a watch manager. Are</p> <p>6 there different competencies for different ranks?</p> <p>7 A. There are. For a crew manager and a watch manager it's</p> <p>8 level 1 command, which I think, off the top of my head,</p> <p>9 is up to four pumps at an incident, and level 2 command</p> <p>10 would be station manager and above.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 A. More complex incidents.</p> <p>13 Q. When were you last assessed for your watch manager</p> <p>14 competence prior to June 2017?</p> <p>15 A. Well, you do a refresher. It used to be a pass or fail;</p> <p>16 nowadays it's a sort of mentoring process where you</p> <p>17 have -- I can't remember the frequency, but you have</p> <p>18 a one-day incident command refresher where you'll be</p> <p>19 given CBT, or computer based training, scenarios, where</p> <p>20 you take command of incidents which have various levels</p> <p>21 of complexity.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay. Can you explain what training to be a watch</p> <p>23 manager involves?</p> <p>24 A. To be a watch manager, there are various facets,</p> <p>25 incident command being one, responding to incidents of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 to Kensington Red Watch.</p> <p>2 Q. Before Kensington in 2009, which fire stations in London</p> <p>3 did you serve from?</p> <p>4 A. Okay, so when I left Knightsbridge, it was for promotion</p> <p>5 reasons. I went to Euston fire station, White Watch.</p> <p>6 That was in 1999. And I stayed on the White Watch there</p> <p>7 for I think a year and a bit and I was promoted again to</p> <p>8 sub-officer, which is the equivalent of watch manager A</p> <p>9 rank at the moment. I went onto the blue watch.</p> <p>10 And then I moved to a specialist unit, multi-agency</p> <p>11 unit called Multi-agency Initial Assessment Team, which</p> <p>12 was a tri-service pilot post-9/11, where we had the CBRN</p> <p>13 threat, or perceived threat, working with the police and</p> <p>14 the LAS.</p> <p>15 Then I went into the London Fire Brigade CBRN team,</p> <p>16 chemical biological radiation nuclear team, which again</p> <p>17 was a specialist unit.</p> <p>18 I went from there to Dockhead fire station, so back</p> <p>19 to a fire station for -- I think that was -- I can't</p> <p>20 remember the year, 2008, onto the green watch there.</p> <p>21 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>22 Would it be fair to say that you are an extremely</p> <p>23 experienced firefighter?</p> <p>24 A. I am, yes. Well, I am experienced.</p> <p>25 Q. And as at the night of 13/14 June 2017, Mr O'Keeffe,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 various types, command and control, understanding</p> <p>2 command and control, and then there is the</p> <p>3 administrative side and human resources side, so</p> <p>4 personnel management, which is a very big part of being</p> <p>5 a watch manager.</p> <p>6 Q. You mention incident command; are you familiar with the</p> <p>7 London Fire Brigade incident command policies?</p> <p>8 A. I am.</p> <p>9 Q. And incident command communication policies?</p> <p>10 A. I am, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Have you been trained on those policies?</p> <p>12 A. I have.</p> <p>13 Q. What training did you receive on those policies prior to</p> <p>14 or most recently prior to June 2017?</p> <p>15 A. Well, most recently or just in general?</p> <p>16 Q. Let's start with general.</p> <p>17 A. In general, when you go for promotion to the next rank</p> <p>18 up, we'll say, you go on practical exercises where you</p> <p>19 are taught and mentored and assessed, and you take</p> <p>20 command of simulated incidents with fire engines and</p> <p>21 personnel, and your ability to command and control at</p> <p>22 operational incidents, from fires to car crashes,</p> <p>23 et cetera, is developed and assessed.</p> <p>24 Q. And if you look at your statement on page 2, you say --</p> <p>25 this is a quarter of the way down the page:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

<p>1 "The officer development programme includes 2 simulated fires in basements and high rise buildings." 3 Do you see that? 4 A. That is correct, yes. 5 Q. "During this, I took the role of Incident Commander and 6 was as assessed in terms of 'Command and Control' and in 7 my strategic decision making and operational tactics." 8 When do you think you had the officer development 9 programme training that you're referring to there? Can 10 you give a date? 11 A. Could I give a date ... That particular type of 12 training, the last time I had that would have been 13 about -- I can't give you an exact date, but it was 14 outside of London and it was about five years ago. 15 Q. Did it involve incident command training at a high-rise 16 event or incident? 17 A. Yes, I think so. 18 Q. Right. 19 A. I can't be absolutely certain, but I think so. There 20 were -- the facilities were there, which are buildings. 21 I think it's in Bristol. 22 Q. I was going to ask you, where was it? In Bristol? 23 A. I think it was in Bristol. I think so. On the 24 outskirts of Bristol in an industrial estate where they 25 had sections of road, buildings which weren't really</p> <p>Page 129</p>	<p>1 the compartment fighting the fire. But it's also to 2 protect or to address fire spread because it's 3 unpredictable -- can be unpredictable, I should say. 4 The options of using external firefighting, although 5 limited with high-rise, we would employ the use of 6 covering jets, as we call them, which is to address fire 7 breaking out of windows or roofs. Mainly in domestic -- 8 not high-rise, but low-rise domestic premises. 9 Q. Now, in your statement, you go on to say: 10 "I underwent specific high rise training within 6 11 months prior to Grenfell Tower. This included the 12 recent procedural changes and the introduction of the 13 High Rise FIRE Bag." 14 You say within six months prior to Grenfell Tower; 15 do you remember more precisely when that training was 16 given to you? 17 A. Not precisely. My training records would indicate when 18 that was done. It's mainly the fire bag -- the 19 high-rise bag came I believe after Grenfell Tower as 20 opposed to before it. 21 Q. But -- 22 A. I don't recall us having that deployment or that 23 facility on the night. 24 Q. Okay. 25 So just taking it in stages, you say you underwent</p> <p>Page 131</p>
<p>1 high-rise but we would use them to implement high-rise 2 procedures. 3 Q. Right. 4 A. To simulate, you know, the policy guidance or national 5 operational guidance policies and directives on the 6 tactics that we use with high-rise fires. 7 Q. That training that you did at Bristol, did it involve 8 a multi-pump fire, a fire involving -- 9 A. Yes, two appliances, which is multi-pump -- well, not 10 many. They don't have the facilities. You'd have two, 11 maybe three. 12 Q. Right. Did that training involve any aspect of exterior 13 fire spread on a high-rise building. 14 A. No. 15 Q. Did any aspect of that training you did involve what 16 an incident commander should do if compartmentation in 17 a high-rise building should fail? 18 A. No. 19 Q. Did any aspect of that training involve forming 20 an alternative strategy in case the fire became out of 21 control in a high-rise building? 22 A. Well, it was discussed. Fire does break out of 23 compartments and we have tactics which involve more than 24 one BA crew, having a second crew backing up the first 25 crew for support. That's to protect the firefighters in</p> <p>Page 130</p>	<p>1 specific high-rise training within six months prior to 2 Grenfell Tower. 3 Do you remember where that training took place? 4 A. At our station. 5 Q. Was it classroom training or was it -- 6 A. It was classroom training and then familiarisation with 7 the contents and then trying it to see how it feels, how 8 to deploy the equipment on it. 9 Q. What was the content of the specific high-rise training 10 that you recall? 11 A. How to use the equipment, mainly. 12 You know, they use different items in this type of 13 rucksack to carry items to the bridgehead, and it was 14 just how to deploy it. Yes, that's it. 15 Q. I see. So the specific high-rise training you had in 16 that period six months or so prior to Grenfell Tower was 17 all about the new equipment, was it? 18 A. It was all about -- just theoretical, mainly. 19 Q. Right. What particular equipment? You mentioned 20 equipment; what particular equipment were you being 21 trained on during that training programme? 22 A. Well, this is after -- prior to Grenfell? 23 Q. Yes. 24 A. We were using the hose, breaking-in kit, BA, just 25 everything that we use at a bridgehead.</p> <p>Page 132</p>

<p>1 Q. Right. What was new about the fire bag that you've</p> <p>2 referred to?</p> <p>3 A. What was new about it?</p> <p>4 Q. Yes, that you didn't have at Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>5 A. What was new about it was its portability. It has</p> <p>6 a dividing breach, a control dividing breach, which is</p> <p>7 a piece of tubing, metal tubing, with one inlet and two</p> <p>8 outlets, with a lever that controls flow through either</p> <p>9 section, which -- and it's about -- well, it's portable,</p> <p>10 small, useful.</p> <p>11 We had door stops, these devices which can keep</p> <p>12 a door open, if we need to.</p> <p>13 Hose brackets, if we get a broken hose, we get</p> <p>14 a hose bandage that we can use those.</p> <p>15 Tags, I believe, which we can use to identify</p> <p>16 identifiable apartments or locations that we can place</p> <p>17 on a door.</p> <p>18 And off-hand, I can't really remember anything else</p> <p>19 in the bag, to be honest with you.</p> <p>20 There is a branch in the bag, a quick attack branch,</p> <p>21 which is a nozzle.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you have any of that equipment on your pump when you</p> <p>23 attended Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>24 A. No. We didn't have the equipment in a bespoke bag like</p> <p>25 that. It also has these straps for carrying hose rather</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 Q. Yes.</p> <p>2 A. Not the materials. We talk about materials, but it's</p> <p>3 more about the tactics we use and issues surrounding</p> <p>4 wind currents, you know, the height of the building</p> <p>5 where you get stronger winds and eddies, you know, wind</p> <p>6 eddies, how it can affect fire spread or fire movement</p> <p>7 or increase the ferocity of a fire.</p> <p>8 So we talked about that. We thought about this.</p> <p>9 But not the building materials specifically. Although</p> <p>10 we have a training package on modern methods of</p> <p>11 construction, which talks about different materials used</p> <p>12 nowadays as opposed to traditional methods of</p> <p>13 construction, which are steel and concrete.</p> <p>14 Q. In that training on modern methods of construction, is</p> <p>15 there any discussion about insulation or cladding or</p> <p>16 exterior structures?</p> <p>17 A. Not that I can recall, no. Insulation, perhaps, but not</p> <p>18 cladding.</p> <p>19 Q. Right. You say insulation, perhaps; what part of the</p> <p>20 training involves --</p> <p>21 A. Well, you know, it's quite an in-depth package, training</p> <p>22 package. I'm not a builder, and you would have to be</p> <p>23 an engineer to appreciate the contents -- or</p> <p>24 a structural engineer to appreciate the contents of --</p> <p>25 it's not the contents of the package, but to get a true</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 than putting the hose under your arm, rolled up hose.</p> <p>2 You have these straps that you can put through with</p> <p>3 carrying handles which makes it easier to carry. We</p> <p>4 didn't have that. So we would've had the items or</p> <p>5 similar items of equipment separately on the fire</p> <p>6 engine.</p> <p>7 Q. I see. Okay.</p> <p>8 Do you know what prompted the fire bag to be brought</p> <p>9 in?</p> <p>10 A. I do. It's been around for years. People have been</p> <p>11 making up their own fire bags for years unofficially.</p> <p>12 Q. What made it official? What prompted it --</p> <p>13 A. Research and development.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 Now, in terms of training, I am just going to ask</p> <p>16 you a few more specific questions --</p> <p>17 A. Okay.</p> <p>18 Q. -- about incident command if I can.</p> <p>19 Were you ever trained as an incident commander on</p> <p>20 knowledge, skills and understanding of the impact of</p> <p>21 fire on a building's construction when it's a high-rise</p> <p>22 building?</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. You were?</p> <p>25 A. Yes -- you mean the construction of?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 appreciation of how these materials interact.</p> <p>2 Q. Yes.</p> <p>3 Did you ever get training relating to high-rise</p> <p>4 incidents on the subject of effective call-handling and</p> <p>5 management of fire survival guidance?</p> <p>6 A. On fire survival guidance, yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Right. What was that training?</p> <p>8 A. So that training was -- there's a policy on fire</p> <p>9 survival guidance calls and how the operational officers</p> <p>10 and firefighters should respond to fire survival</p> <p>11 guidance calls.</p> <p>12 Q. Did you get training on how to communicate with the</p> <p>13 control room and how to respond to messages from the</p> <p>14 control room?</p> <p>15 A. Correct, we have, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Did you ever get training so far as high-rise was</p> <p>17 concerned on evacuation and casualty removal tactics?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. You didn't?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. Did you ever get training as an incident commander at</p> <p>22 a high-rise on how you understand when or if a partial</p> <p>23 or total evacuation strategy might become necessary?</p> <p>24 A. It's in the policy. It's one passage in a policy --</p> <p>25 I can't remember the number of the policy -- probably in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 high-rise -- you can maybe tell me the policy. 2 Q. 633. 3 A. 633, I've heard you say it over the last few weeks. But 4 there's a particular passage in there which -- you'll 5 have to bear with me on this one -- 6 Q. It's not a memory test at all. 7 A. Well, it says that in the event that the incident 8 commander thinks that the stay-put policy -- or building 9 should be evacuated, the officer should first contact 10 the officer of the watch who is in charge of Brigade 11 control or dispatch and explain the reason why that 12 person is of that opinion, because it goes against, 13 I believe, national operational guidance. 14 For example, if I was in charge of an incident, 15 I couldn't decide just to evacuate the whole building if 16 I was -- without consulting I suppose someone of 17 a senior rank. 18 Q. Right. 19 Did you ever get training on how to make a judgment 20 about whether to abandon, fully or in part, a stay-put 21 policy -- 22 A. No. 23 Q. -- at a high-rise building? 24 A. No. 25 Q. You never did?</p> <p>Page 137</p>	<p>1 lightweight, portable, and they are used quite 2 extensively -- well, I don't know if they are still 3 used, but extensively in commercial buildings. 4 Q. Yes. 5 A. And the issue with this particular material became 6 an issue with us following a fatality of a firefighter 7 at an incident where the unseen -- if I can just put it 8 simply, fire could travel unseen within the layers of 9 a wall and could lead to a catastrophic collapse. 10 So that material, I can't remember what it was 11 called, but that sort of thing we would be told about 12 because it is of concern to us, but not about PVC 13 windows. 14 Q. Right. 15 There may be some confusion about the use of the 16 words "sandwich panels". I just want to be clear: is 17 that the same, in your understanding, as an infill 18 panel? 19 A. Is it? I don't know. 20 Q. I'm asking you. 21 A. I've never heard of the infill panel term. 22 Q. Maybe someone else can answer that question. 23 But in general terms, maybe using the sandwich panel 24 as an example, would you say you got training in how to 25 look out for particular architectural or construction</p> <p>Page 139</p>
<p>1 A. No. 2 Q. Okay. 3 Sorry to keep asking the same kind of question about 4 training, I just have a few more left, but were you ever 5 trained, when you got incident commander training, about 6 how to look out for unexpected failure or non-existence 7 of internal compartmentation in a high-rise block? 8 A. Internal compartmentation in a high-rise block, as in 9 what to do in the event of a failure? 10 Q. Yes. How to look out for and what to do in the event of 11 early unexpected failure. 12 A. Not really. Not specifically. 13 Q. Right. 14 Did you ever get training as an incident commander 15 in how to consider the impact of building materials such 16 as plastic or aluminium window frames or uPVC? 17 A. No. Not about specific materials. 18 Q. Right. 19 A. Other than -- so, for example, the fire service had and 20 still has issues with sandwich panels, which are filled 21 with combustible materials that are there -- so they 22 are, like, say, a wall section in here, and if you 23 wanted to subdivide this room, you could bring in 24 a sandwich panel and it has like a veneer, but contained 25 in the veneer there's a filling, and they're</p> <p>Page 138</p>	<p>1 features that might promote the spread of fire? 2 A. Yes. Issues that concern us are types to roof 3 structures, materials used in buildings like wood, we 4 thought about that, you know, particularly under 5 construction. And the issues surrounding glass, you 6 know, failure of a high-rise building, glass failing and 7 then causing either death or injury. These are all 8 building materials that will concern us operationally 9 that we will address and discuss extensively in training 10 and operationally we'd go through it. 11 Stone -- it's all more traditional stuff that we are 12 concerned about, stone, how that reacts in fires, and 13 steel when it fails, spawning of concrete. But not 14 about PVC windows. 15 Q. Not PVC windows. 16 A. No. 17 Q. Did you ever get training as an incident commander 18 attending a high-rise as to risks posed by exterior 19 cladding systems? 20 A. No. 21 Q. Have you heard of a fire at Shepherds Court? 22 A. I've heard of it, yes. 23 Q. Did you attend at Shepherds Court? 24 A. No. 25 Q. Are you aware of any education or slide show or training</p> <p>Page 140</p>

<p>1 package or programme or any intelligence that the London 2 Fire Brigade was giving people about the lessons learnt 3 from Shepherds Court? 4 A. No. 5 Q. No, right. 6 Now, if you go back to your statement at page 2, you 7 say that you attended a serious fire at Trellick Tower 8 just halfway down the page. 9 A. That's correct, yes, that was in April. 10 Q. That was in April? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. That's my first question. That was in April. 2017, was 13 it? So just six weeks or so before -- 14 A. Six weeks before Grenfell, yes. 15 Q. You say you were the incident commander on this 16 incident. 17 A. I was, yes. 18 Q. Were there any particular lessons that you, as 19 an incident commander, took away from Trellick Tower? 20 A. Yes, there were. 21 Q. Could you just tell us what they were? 22 A. Do you want to know what happened and the lesson -- 23 okay. 24 Q. Just in brief terms -- 25 A. In brief terms --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 agent as to -- 2 A. Yes, one of my officers was detailed to speak to the 3 concierge, who didn't have much information. We sought 4 out plans, I think there was a premises information box, 5 to locate the pump room. I wasn't familiar with 6 Trellick Tower; it was not on my station's ground. And 7 we looked for information, is what we did, we looked for 8 information to remedy the problem. 9 Q. In the end, who gave you the information about the pumps 10 so that you could get them fixed? 11 A. Well, in the end it was fixed by more luck than anything 12 else. An officer turned up -- he arrived at the scene, 13 I should say -- and I don't have a photograph of the 14 pump room, but there were quite a lot of valves and 15 switches and he just kept on trying different things, 16 and by luck, I think, more than -- well, luck and 17 judgment -- he's an experienced officer -- we managed to 18 get the pumps working. But it was deemed -- there was 19 an investigation, as you would expect, afterwards, and 20 it was a component of the pumps that had actually 21 failed, it was defective. 22 So he was able to bypass the failure or the part 23 that failed, but it took 25 minutes to do it. 24 Q. Right. 25 Was there any information about the wet rising main</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 Q. -- what were the take-aways? 2 A. I'll just tell you very briefly, as the incident 3 commander, there was a fire on the 27th floor, 4 a fully-vented fire, meaning the flames were coming out. 5 It was quite a well-developed fire, meaning it was, you 6 know, quite a big fire. Trellick Tower has a wet rising 7 main system with pumps, a pump room within the building, 8 and when I went there and when the bridgehead asked for 9 water, the pumps had failed. 10 So what that actually means is that we couldn't get 11 water up to the fire floor, and that was for nearly -- 12 I think it was about 25 minutes while we were trying to 13 fix the problem with the pumps. 14 Now, we're not pump engineers, so I sent someone, 15 another officer who was there, with a brief: fix it. 16 And then I increased the attendance to eight pumps. 17 The lesson I've learned is to practise for failure 18 of pumps in high-rise buildings. We discussed it. 19 I discussed the issue afterwards with senior officers 20 who came to see me at the station. They wanted my 21 opinion on how we will address that particular problem. 22 It's one I hadn't faced before. 23 Q. Can I just follow up on that. Did anybody at that 24 incident, when you realised the wet rising pump had 25 failed, seek information from the building owner or</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 pump on the operational database or the mobile data 2 terminal? 3 A. That was addressed. The location of it was the only 4 information. 5 Q. Right. 6 A. Not how to repair it. 7 Q. No. 8 Do you think the information you had on the 9 operational risk database or the mobile data terminal 10 was enough to enable you to sort the problem out? 11 A. Not for a defective pump, no. 12 Q. Would you expect it to be? 13 A. I would now, yes. 14 Q. Right. 15 While you waited for the pump problem to be sorted 16 out, do you remember, was there an evacuation of 17 Trellick Tower in whole or in part? 18 A. People were self-evacuating. I think the 19 firefighters -- I can't recall, actually, but people 20 were self-evacuating. 21 Q. How many staircases are there at Trellick? 22 A. I'd go for -- hazard a guess. The fire was on the 27th, 23 I think there were probably another three floors above 24 that, so maybe 30 floors. I can't remember. 25 Q. No, how many stairs, how many escape stair routes?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>2 Q. Now, on page 2 you've just discussed Trellick, but</p> <p>3 a little bit lower down in the same paragraph, you say:</p> <p>4 "I have attended many, possibly 100s of high rise</p> <p>5 fires during my career."</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. "Grenfell Tower would have had a generic high rise fire</p> <p>8 fighting plan which would include procedures when fire</p> <p>9 escapes a compartment."</p> <p>10 Could you just explain about this generic</p> <p>11 firefighting plan.</p> <p>12 Where would this plan be found?</p> <p>13 A. On the operational risk database.</p> <p>14 Q. When you speak of a generic firefighting plan, can you</p> <p>15 just explain what you mean?</p> <p>16 A. Well, the generic firefighting plan is -- the high-rise</p> <p>17 firefighting procedures would be the generic plan. So</p> <p>18 in the operational risk database, part of the</p> <p>19 information that you would get from that, you know,</p> <p>20 along with hazards and the size and dimensions and</p> <p>21 location of hydrants and so on, you will have a tactical</p> <p>22 plan. So the officer completing would be able to --</p> <p>23 sorry, looking at it, would be able to see if there are</p> <p>24 any specific features or unusual, you know -- it would</p> <p>25 state if the building had -- I haven't seen the plan,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 a familiar kind of document?</p> <p>2 A. It is. We use the same template for all premises we</p> <p>3 visit.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 A. So it has a standardised template.</p> <p>6 Q. If it had been updated after 2009, would you expect the</p> <p>7 date in the top box, where you see the "Date Effective</p> <p>8 From" or the "Date Documented", to be itself updated or</p> <p>9 would it still hold the October 2009 date?</p> <p>10 A. Well, it will be dated from the time it was updated.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. Right.</p> <p>12 Do you remember ever seeing this document?</p> <p>13 A. Pardon?</p> <p>14 Q. Do you remember ever seeing this particular document --</p> <p>15 A. No. No, I may have seen it, but there are so many</p> <p>16 operational plans, there are many, many premises, that</p> <p>17 I couldn't recall specifically seeing the one for</p> <p>18 Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>19 Q. I was going to ask you, on the night of the fire, either</p> <p>20 en route or at the fire ground --</p> <p>21 A. No, I didn't get time because I was in contact</p> <p>22 en route -- I was in -- well, discussing the location</p> <p>23 with my crew, and as I got -- well, I'm sure you'll ask</p> <p>24 me anyway, but as I got nearer to the premises, trying</p> <p>25 to contact the incident commander en route.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 but if it would have a stay-put policy or a procedure or</p> <p>2 where the alarm panel might be located.</p> <p>3 So what to do in the event of attending.</p> <p>4 Q. Let me just see if I can show you what we have for</p> <p>5 Grenfell, what we've been told there is for Grenfell,</p> <p>6 and just see if it is what you would recognise as what</p> <p>7 you would call a generic high-rise firefighting plan.</p> <p>8 If you could go to tab 13 of the documents bundle,</p> <p>9 Mr Documents Manager, that should be the ORD. It's</p> <p>10 LFB00003116.</p> <p>11 Let's see if I can follow this up a little bit.</p> <p>12 There it is on the screen, LFB ORD. Is that kind of</p> <p>13 document familiar to you, Mr O'Keeffe?</p> <p>14 A. It is yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Just turning the pages, that's the first page, you'll</p> <p>16 see from the top of the first page it's dated</p> <p>17 15 February 2017, and if you go on in it, three pages</p> <p>18 in, you come to something called "Tactical Plan".</p> <p>19 A. That's -- that is the (inaudible).</p> <p>20 Q. Let's just get there. That's the address and hazards.</p> <p>21 Then if you could turn to the next page, please,</p> <p>22 there's something called tactical plan, which looks like</p> <p>23 it was effective from 30 October 2009 and then</p> <p>24 documented on the same day.</p> <p>25 Just looking at that as a document, is that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 Q. In your experience, doing the best you can with this</p> <p>2 document dated 30 October 2009, would it be normal to</p> <p>3 leave an operational risk database not updated for</p> <p>4 seven years or so?</p> <p>5 A. Okay. Premises are assessed on a scale of risk, and</p> <p>6 particularly life risk as well. From that risk</p> <p>7 assessment, we have a schedule, and depending on the</p> <p>8 challenges of a risk, premises will need to be visited</p> <p>9 within a certain time frame.</p> <p>10 So, for example, a high risk premises would, as</p> <p>11 I recall, needed to be visited -- it would be four times</p> <p>12 a year, once per watch, one visit per watch per year, so</p> <p>13 that's four watches in the London Fire Brigade, so that</p> <p>14 would be very high risk premises.</p> <p>15 Q. Right. Those are 7(2)(d) visits?</p> <p>16 A. They are 7(2)(d) visits.</p> <p>17 Q. In terms of this document, before we leave it, you say</p> <p>18 in your statement that it would have a generic high-rise</p> <p>19 firefighting plan which would include procedures when</p> <p>20 a fire escapes a compartment.</p> <p>21 Now, given that this is the kind of document you're</p> <p>22 talking about, I just wonder whether we can together</p> <p>23 search for the plan which would include procedures when</p> <p>24 a fire escapes a compartment.</p> <p>25 A. Well, ordinarily, in the tactical plan you would list</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 the type of policies applicable to that premises.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 A. So you would list high-rise firefighting, possibly</p> <p>4 compartment firefighting or firefighting compartments,</p> <p>5 and that will form part of your tactical plan. And you</p> <p>6 may list unusual aspects or challenges that you might</p> <p>7 face at that particular address.</p> <p>8 Q. I see. I just wonder whether we can together find any</p> <p>9 reference in this document, even generically, to</p> <p>10 procedures when a fire escapes a compartment.</p> <p>11 On that page there, where you see site details, can</p> <p>12 you see any details of that nature? Just go through it.</p> <p>13 You've got "Number of People at Risk", "Operational</p> <p>14 Hazards", "Communications", "Fixed Installations".</p> <p>15 A. Well, I can see one issue there: coanda effect.</p> <p>16 Q. What does that tell you?</p> <p>17 A. Well, coanda effect describes how a fire would travel</p> <p>18 out of a window or an aperture on a building. And I may</p> <p>19 be incorrect here, but the coanda effect is how a fire</p> <p>20 will move along the surface of a building, and that</p> <p>21 would indicate that that would be an issue for crews to</p> <p>22 watch out for when they attend.</p> <p>23 Q. Is the coanda effect an effect that you invariably find</p> <p>24 on a high-rise?</p> <p>25 A. No, it's a possibility.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 Do you know whether there was any procedure for what</p> <p>2 would happen if a fire escapes a compartment in place</p> <p>3 for Grenfell Tower itself?</p> <p>4 A. No.</p> <p>5 Q. When you attended on the night, did you ask whether</p> <p>6 there was such a procedure in place?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. Can I ask, why is that? Why didn't you?</p> <p>9 A. Because I was focused on operations. I was focused on</p> <p>10 gathering information on what was on fire, whether there</p> <p>11 were people involved, and any other issues that needed</p> <p>12 to be addressed operationally.</p> <p>13 I was focused on deploying my crews and going to the</p> <p>14 bridgehead to take over the bridgehead, to support Watch</p> <p>15 Manager Dowden the incident commander.</p> <p>16 Q. Absolutely. We'll come to that in some detail in</p> <p>17 a minute.</p> <p>18 A. Okay.</p> <p>19 Q. Before we do, can I just ask you, still on your</p> <p>20 experience, Mr O'Keeffe, at page 2 of your statement,</p> <p>21 two-thirds of the way down, just before the second last</p> <p>22 paragraph break, you say:</p> <p>23 "After the fire at Lakanal House in 2009 we received</p> <p>24 extensive training in Coanda Effect and High Rise</p> <p>25 Firefighting with an emphasis on fire spread."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 Q. It's a possibility. Okay.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. If you turn the page, Mr Documents Director, and then</p> <p>4 look at these three items, "Route Access", "Site Access"</p> <p>5 and then "En Route Considerations".</p> <p>6 Do you see anything there's which could constitute</p> <p>7 procedures when a fire escapes a compartment?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. And when it says at the bottom under "En Route</p> <p>10 Considerations":</p> <p>11 "This building has a 'stay put' policy."</p> <p>12 How much would that tell you?</p> <p>13 A. That would tell me that the building has a policy -- or</p> <p>14 the policy for people in the building is that -- or the</p> <p>15 advice, I should say, is that in the event of a flat</p> <p>16 fire, people should not evacuate the building, you know.</p> <p>17 That the building has a structure that would prevent</p> <p>18 fire spread; it'd compartmentalise it. That's how</p> <p>19 I would interpret that information.</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 A. So just to put it simply in one sentence, in the event</p> <p>22 of a fire, people are being advised or the advice to</p> <p>23 give them is to stay put. Not the people in the fire</p> <p>24 compartment.</p> <p>25 Q. No, I understand.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 A. Yes, it was theoretical training.</p> <p>2 Q. That was my next question.</p> <p>3 A. I knew you were going to ask me that. Theoretical</p> <p>4 training, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Right. Well, classroom at Kensington, was it?</p> <p>6 A. Well, to be honest with you, it was documents, but the</p> <p>7 main package was the Lakanal presentation, and it wasn't</p> <p>8 so much as a training package, more than</p> <p>9 a familiarisation package. So it gave like audio-visual</p> <p>10 description of events from the beginning of the fire to</p> <p>11 the spread of the fire to the operational response to</p> <p>12 the cause and effect of why the fire spread.</p> <p>13 It's quite a big training package, quite a lot of</p> <p>14 material to take in, but it described what effect or</p> <p>15 what could happen should a fire break out, and if the</p> <p>16 conditions were such that it would promote the spread of</p> <p>17 fire.</p> <p>18 Q. When was the training that you've just referred to?</p> <p>19 A. I don't recall the specific date.</p> <p>20 Q. Did you get it once or was it a repeated course?</p> <p>21 A. Well, the actual presentation was once and then it would</p> <p>22 also -- I would also include it in the training I would</p> <p>23 give to my watch and in discussion, while reading policy</p> <p>24 and descriptions of what happened, and it would be all</p> <p>25 consideration -- as a consideration, because that was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 quite a catastrophic event, and how to deal with it.</p> <p>2 Q. Were you taught about exterior fire spread in any part</p> <p>3 of that course?</p> <p>4 A. Taught -- I would say made aware of.</p> <p>5 Q. What is it that you became aware of as a result of that</p> <p>6 course?</p> <p>7 A. Well, you know, it was a hot day, people's windows open,</p> <p>8 the coanda effect, that was the -- I won't say buzzword,</p> <p>9 but that was the word that was used quite regularly as</p> <p>10 one of the reasons. Internal smoke and fire spread as</p> <p>11 well, with communal walkways and pathways, or hallways,</p> <p>12 I should say.</p> <p>13 Could you remind me of the question, please?</p> <p>14 Q. Let me ask it a slightly different way: did the course</p> <p>15 address in particular what happens when a fire in</p> <p>16 a high-rise block spreads outside the compartment of</p> <p>17 origin?</p> <p>18 A. It describes what happens.</p> <p>19 Q. It describes what happens?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Did it teach you about tactics?</p> <p>22 A. No, not really. Tactics -- more of an awareness. As</p> <p>23 I said, it wasn't really a training package. It didn't</p> <p>24 specifically say this or they didn't say, "This is what</p> <p>25 you do to address this issue", other than to use the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 Q. On both occasions, did you actually go into the</p> <p>2 building?</p> <p>3 A. Only as far as the lobby. We couldn't get beyond the</p> <p>4 lobby due to the -- well, the first occasion I couldn't</p> <p>5 get into the building itself because of security, we had</p> <p>6 to wait for a resident, on the second occasion we got in</p> <p>7 as far as the lobby and eventually some of the guys got</p> <p>8 upstairs when a resident let him in. There was no</p> <p>9 audible alarm actuating on both occasions.</p> <p>10 Q. You say on the first occasion you had to wait for</p> <p>11 a resident. Why, was that to get a fob key from them?</p> <p>12 A. To get a fob key, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. How long did you have to wait?</p> <p>14 A. I don't recall.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 A. Too long, in my opinion.</p> <p>17 Q. Too long. Did that tell you anything about what might</p> <p>18 have to happen if you were summoned to Grenfell Tower in</p> <p>19 the event of a real fire?</p> <p>20 A. Well, it did -- well, I mean, the Fire Brigade attends</p> <p>21 incidents regularly at premises which are barred to us</p> <p>22 or secured and we break the doors, we break the glass or</p> <p>23 we break whatever doors and it would've slowed us down,</p> <p>24 but we would've got in there.</p> <p>25 Q. If you needed to find a fob key in a hurry, where would</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 aerial appliances as water towers, which we do anyway.</p> <p>2 But it wasn't a specific training package.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay. And how recently prior to Grenfell Tower did any</p> <p>4 part of that package get delivered or redelivered to you</p> <p>5 as a training package?</p> <p>6 A. It wasn't.</p> <p>7 Q. Can I turn to another subject, which is prior visits to</p> <p>8 Grenfell Tower. You cover this at the bottom of page 2</p> <p>9 and the top of page 3 of your statement you say:</p> <p>10 "... I've been to Grenfell Tower on two previous</p> <p>11 occasions in the last twelve months, both to automatic</p> <p>12 fire alarm activations."</p> <p>13 When you say last 12 months, do I assume the</p> <p>14 12 months prior to the fire?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Automatic fire alarm activations I think we understand</p> <p>17 from other witnesses is when a fire alarm goes off and</p> <p>18 that's communicated to you remotely through a controller</p> <p>19 or station?</p> <p>20 A. Remotely to our control -- from a control connected to</p> <p>21 Grenfell Tower, I would say alarm system, so they would</p> <p>22 send us the notification that there's an emergency to</p> <p>23 respond to an automatic fire alarm actuating, and on</p> <p>24 both occasions I've attended, there was no incident of</p> <p>25 note.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 you look?</p> <p>2 A. A fob key -- if there was a concierge there, we'd ask</p> <p>3 the concierge. If there's no concierge there, it's only</p> <p>4 residents really.</p> <p>5 Q. Without a concierge, I think you're saying you're</p> <p>6 reliant on the residents to give you a fob key to get</p> <p>7 in?</p> <p>8 A. Or a key holder, a responsible person. So what the Fire</p> <p>9 Brigade does is when we're called to an address where we</p> <p>10 can't get access to, we send a message to our control</p> <p>11 requesting attendance of a key holder, which is a person</p> <p>12 who either could live nearby or remotely to bring us</p> <p>13 a key to allow us access.</p> <p>14 Q. In your experience, does that tend to hold things up?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, it does.</p> <p>16 Q. Is that a problem?</p> <p>17 A. It can be a problem, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Now, in the fourth line down from the top of page 3,</p> <p>19 first main paragraph, you say:</p> <p>20 "I thought Grenfell Tower was a new building. That</p> <p>21 was the impression I got from looking at it."</p> <p>22 When you went, how good a look did you get at the</p> <p>23 exterior?</p> <p>24 A. I had a good look at the exterior.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you notice anything about the exterior?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>

<p>1 A. I did; it had a modern look to it, plasticky, you know, 2 the sort of thing you get with modern buildings: glass 3 and plastic. 4 Q. You say in the next sentence: 5 "I wasn't aware that the exterior had cladding." 6 A. No, I thought it was a new-build. 7 Q. You thought it was a new-build? 8 A. Yes. I wasn't aware -- I mean, now I know it was 9 a 1970s building, but because it had been fitted with 10 a new exterior, it looked to me like a modern 11 construction. 12 Q. When you went along, did you look at any active or 13 passive fire safety measures? 14 A. As I said previously, we couldn't get into the building, 15 and when we did, we couldn't get access. But there was 16 a ventilation system there, something like a ventilation 17 system, which wasn't working properly both times I was 18 there. 19 Q. Right. 20 A. But passive or active systems, no, not that I was aware 21 of. 22 Q. In the third paragraph down, one-third of the way down 23 page 3, you say: 24 "We could never get any information when we 25 attended."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 What happened? 2 A. No answer, no response. 3 Q. What time of the day was both visits? 4 A. Very difficult to tell you that, but I know one was at 5 night. 6 Q. One was at night? 7 A. Yes. 8 Q. And the other, do you remember? 9 A. I don't recall. 10 Q. You say: 11 "... we never managed to speak to anyone, no one 12 ever picked up." 13 What happened, did the number ring off or ring out? 14 A. The number would ring off, yes, and we would continue 15 our investigations, which could include a 360-degree 16 walk around the building to look for any visual signs of 17 anything untoward and speak to residents and investigate 18 as best as we could without getting access to the 19 building. 20 Q. Do you remember whether the number that the Fire Brigade 21 was supposed to ring in order to get hold of somebody on 22 those occasions had a name or organisation attached to 23 it? 24 A. I think an organisation, I can't recall. 25 Q. Okay. And the fact that you couldn't get hold of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 A. We couldn't -- 2 Q. Let me read that, if I may. 3 A. Sorry. 4 Q. "There was never any response from the persons 5 responsible for the building. There was possibly a 6 telephone number there but we never managed to speak to 7 anyone, no one ever picked up. We did try but no one 8 ever responded." 9 Now, I showed you all of that because I have some 10 questions. 11 These are the two occasions or so you went along in 12 the 12 months prior to the Grenfell Tower fire; is that 13 right? 14 A. That's correct. 15 Q. Right. And on each occasion, did you try to get hold of 16 somebody? 17 A. Not me personally because I don't carry a mobile phone 18 with me, but we tried from the scene to call a number, 19 and it was a number, I believe, somewhere on the 20 building to call in the event you need to get 21 a responsible person there. 22 Q. So let me piece this through. So one of your crew rang 23 the number -- 24 A. Correct. 25 Q. -- that was apparently available. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 name or organisation, was that something that you went 2 back to the station and recorded anywhere? 3 A. I spoke to my colleagues about it. I think I spoke to 4 North Kensington about it. I don't recall genuinely if 5 I spoke to any individual. 6 Q. Did you raise it with your station manager at 7 Kensington? 8 A. I spoke to other officers about it, said we couldn't get 9 any access there, but it's not uncommon. 10 It's not uncommon to have contact numbers at 11 buildings which don't answer the phone when you call. 12 That's not uncommon. 13 Q. You say it's not uncommon; is it uncommon when the 14 building is owned by the local authority? 15 A. Sorry, is it uncommon or is it common that we wouldn't 16 get an answer? 17 Q. Yes. 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. It's common that you wouldn't get an answer? 20 A. That's correct, yes. Sometimes you would get an answer, 21 depending on the premises you were at, you might get 22 a 24-hour answer or an answer. Quite often not. 23 Q. Right. 24 On your previous visits, do you remember whether you 25 saw a panel or premises information box or some source</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 160</p>

<p>1 of information?</p> <p>2 A. No, I didn't, because we would look for information and</p> <p>3 it was just a wall plate with a number or a sticker with</p> <p>4 a number.</p> <p>5 Q. If you needed the plans for Grenfell Tower urgently, did</p> <p>6 you know where you might be able to find them?</p> <p>7 A. Operational risk database on the MDT on our appliances.</p> <p>8 There should be a plan of the building.</p> <p>9 Q. Right. Okay, what kind of detail of plan would you</p> <p>10 normally expect there to be of a building like</p> <p>11 Grenfell Tower on the ORD?</p> <p>12 A. Dimensions and the floor layout.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 A. Or floors layout, types of layout.</p> <p>15 Q. Actually a drawing --</p> <p>16 A. We prefer a simple line drawing rather than</p> <p>17 an architect's drawing. So we prefer less detail, so we</p> <p>18 can clearly see the shape of the building and where</p> <p>19 access and egress is and so on.</p> <p>20 Q. So I have your evidence, you would normally expect the</p> <p>21 ORD for a high-rise to contain a simple line drawing of</p> <p>22 the plans of the building?</p> <p>23 A. There is a space in it for plans if the plan is</p> <p>24 available. They're not always available.</p> <p>25 Q. I see.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 got back to Kensington --</p> <p>2 A. No.</p> <p>3 Q. -- in any way?</p> <p>4 Did your crewmates hear it as well?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you discuss it between you?</p> <p>7 A. Always, yes. Always, on both occasions we discussed it.</p> <p>8 It was a strange -- an odd system to have in a building.</p> <p>9 Q. You didn't get to the bottom of what it might have been?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you raise this strange breathing system --</p> <p>12 A. With my fellow officers, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you raise that with your station manager?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Why is that, do you know?</p> <p>16 A. I didn't think it had any great relevance.</p> <p>17 Q. Tell me, when you went there, did you see an automatic</p> <p>18 operating vent panel or system?</p> <p>19 A. No, I didn't see anything like that. It came from above</p> <p>20 our heads in the lobby. There was -- yes, I didn't see</p> <p>21 a panel.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay. So nobody showed you how to operate the AOV</p> <p>23 system?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 You say two-thirds of the way down page 3:</p> <p>2 "There was a ventilation system in the building."</p> <p>3 And you go on to explain that it was an unusual one,</p> <p>4 you say:</p> <p>5 "It appeared unusual, because it seemed to kick in</p> <p>6 and out and create this wind, this pressure within the</p> <p>7 lobby area. It caught my attention when I was there</p> <p>8 because it was like the building was breathing. There</p> <p>9 was a mechanical sound and wind, which came from above.</p> <p>10 It was like an exhalation, a pressure of wind, then an</p> <p>11 inhalation. It was a strange, I've never experienced it</p> <p>12 before. This happened even when the lobby doors were</p> <p>13 closed."</p> <p>14 You say:</p> <p>15 "I've experienced ventilation systems before and it</p> <p>16 sounded like a ventilation system that was mis-firing,</p> <p>17 or wasn't working properly. It was like a slow paced</p> <p>18 sigh, where the 'exhalation' lasted 4-5 seconds. Then</p> <p>19 it would stop and there would be a whooshing noise and</p> <p>20 an 'inhalation'."</p> <p>21 I read that out in full to you so that everyone can</p> <p>22 pay attention to it, but is that something you've ever</p> <p>23 experienced before?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. You say not. Is that something you recorded when you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 At the top of page 4 -- well, before I go on, could</p> <p>2 I just ask you something.</p> <p>3 Mr Chairman, I'm going to do this and I think we'll</p> <p>4 probably take a break after that if I can.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: You say you've never been on a 7(2)(d) visit to</p> <p>7 North Kensington --</p> <p>8 A. To Grenfell.</p> <p>9 Q. To Grenfell Tower. Can I just ask you to look at the</p> <p>10 policy, which is policy 633, which you'll find in tab 4</p> <p>11 of the policies bundle. I want just to ask you about</p> <p>12 appendix 1, which is on page 19 of 28.</p> <p>13 Are you familiar with that list or that --</p> <p>14 A. I can't see it at the moment.</p> <p>15 Q. Sorry, let me put the question again, I'm sorry.</p> <p>16 I rather gave the game away.</p> <p>17 Appendix 1, 7(2)(d), are you familiar with that</p> <p>18 appendix?</p> <p>19 A. I am, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Have you had training on it and how to go about making</p> <p>21 yourself familiar with the features in it?</p> <p>22 A. Training, on the job training, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 A. And theoretical training from reading policies.</p> <p>25 Q. Now, it says:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 "During 7(2)(d) visits personnel should ensure they 2 are familiar with the following and their impact on 3 firefighting and search and rescue operations ..." 4 In your experience as a crew manager then watch 5 manager in London, and latterly in Kensington, when you 6 went on a 7(2)(d) visit, would you go through all of 7 these items on the check-list, making sure that the 8 visiting personnel were familiar with all of them, or 9 would you just go to one or two or a selection? 10 A. You would go through most of them, I'd say, if not all 11 of them. 12 Q. All right. Thank you. 13 Can I then go back to your statement and ask you to 14 look at the top of page 4. I think we've probably 15 covered this, which is your difficulty in accessing the 16 building. But in the second paragraph, you say: 17 "A normal route into such a building for us would be 18 via a 'drop key' access where we have a lift key." 19 So the drop key is the same as the lift key, is it? 20 A. It's an express lift key. 21 Q. Okay. 22 A. Yeah, it's the same. 23 Q. It's the same thing? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. If you were attending an event, an incident, would you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 A. Depending on the type of lift. 2 Q. Right. 3 What would the procedure be if there was no drop key 4 available to get you past the electronic security 5 system? 6 A. Well, there's a couple of things you can do: you can 7 press every buzzer, if there are buzzers there, and wake 8 everybody up, or just call everybody, which is what 9 I normally do. You have to get inside, so we'll try all 10 the buzzers on the front door first if there are 11 multiple buzzers, or one. If not, we'll contact control 12 to get a key holder. If there's no key holder 13 available, which is quite often the case nowadays, we'll 14 try and gain access to the building in other ways, 15 either by opening a window -- we try not to cause too 16 much damage. 17 It's only -- I suppose the only other option is to 18 break the front door, which we have powers to do under 19 the Fire Services Act if we think there's a fire inside, 20 but just for an alarm actuation, it's unlikely that you 21 would cause any breakage. 22 So the options are residents, by contacting them via 23 the front doorbell, or control to get a key holder, or 24 make an entry through another means. 25 MR MILLETT: Right. Thank you very much.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 have an express key with you on the appliance or -- 2 A. Yes, in the lift key wallet. Ordinarily the 3 firefighters carry their own. 4 Q. Right. So ordinarily firefighters carry their own, but 5 there's also one -- is this right? -- on the appliance? 6 A. There should be one, yes. 7 Q. Would that key -- obviously it's an express key for the 8 lift, but would it also give you access into the 9 building through an electronic security fob system? 10 A. No. 11 Q. What is a drop key? 12 A. It's the same as an express key. It's a key. When you 13 put it into the aperture, that part of the key is hinged 14 and it drops down and it activates the lock mechanism. 15 Q. I see. 16 A. Or in the event of opening a front door, it overrides 17 the electronic system. Not in every premises, but some 18 premises have them. 19 Q. So the drop key, which is this express key, has two 20 functions: it gets you past an electronic security 21 system, most of the time -- 22 A. It can do. It gives you access to -- 23 Q. -- and also operate the lift? 24 A. Yes, or it can open a lift door. 25 Q. Okay. Because --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 Mr Chairman -- 2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Is that a good point? 3 MR MILLETT: A very good point for a break; I'm about to 4 turn to a totally different topic. 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr O'Keefe, we're going to have 6 a short break now for 10 minutes. Please don't discuss 7 your evidence with anybody else. 8 THE WITNESS: I won't. 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll resume at 3.20. Now go with 10 the usher. 11 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much. 12 (Pause). 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: 3.20, please. 14 (3.10 pm) 15 (A short break) 16 (3.20 pm) 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr O'Keefe, happy to 18 carry on? 19 THE WITNESS: Yes. 20 MR MILLETT: Mr O'Keefe, I was going to ask you a little 21 bit more about this breathing ventilation system that 22 you described so graphically at the foot of page 3 of 23 your statement. 24 Could I just take you back to it, two lines up from 25 the bottom, because I skipped ahead a bit but I need to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 go back. You say:</p> <p>2 "There were no audible alarms under this system and</p> <p>3 it appeared that people were quite nonchalant about it."</p> <p>4 Who were the people that you're referring to?</p> <p>5 A. Residents in the building were the people.</p> <p>6 Q. The building people?</p> <p>7 A. The residents in Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay, the residents. What about builders? Did you see</p> <p>9 any builders?</p> <p>10 A. No, no, no.</p> <p>11 Q. So the people you're referring to are residents.</p> <p>12 Okay. Going back to training, and training in stay</p> <p>13 put, were you ever trained in what you should do if stay</p> <p>14 put was to be abandoned or departed from and evacuation,</p> <p>15 full or part --</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. -- adopted as a strategy instead? No?</p> <p>18 A. Only what I read in the policy.</p> <p>19 Q. Right. But were you ever trained on what you should do</p> <p>20 if you decide: well, stay put's not working, we need to</p> <p>21 do something else? Were you ever trained on the</p> <p>22 something else?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Right. After Lakanal, was there any training or</p> <p>25 increased awareness as to the safety or security of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 operational risk database with that information.</p> <p>2 Q. When you were doing a 7(2)(d) visit, going around the</p> <p>3 building looking at these various features, would you</p> <p>4 take a notebook round with you and note what you were</p> <p>5 seeing as you went?</p> <p>6 A. You'd take a risk matrix. So it's a list of</p> <p>7 identifiable risks or hazards. You also take a template</p> <p>8 with you, which is a hard copy of the operational risk</p> <p>9 database. So you would fill in the blank spaces with</p> <p>10 the information on water supplies, hazards, residency,</p> <p>11 and so on.</p> <p>12 Q. What about any particular hazards that you happen to</p> <p>13 see?</p> <p>14 A. There is a section on hazards.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 Moving forward then to the call-out to</p> <p>17 Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. You deal with this in the last-but-one paragraph on</p> <p>20 page 4, and in the last paragraph you say:</p> <p>21 "We were mobilised at 0055 hours on 14 June 2017."</p> <p>22 Before you'd done that, you say you had detailed all</p> <p>23 the jobs out to the individuals, that's in the</p> <p>24 last-but-one paragraph.</p> <p>25 Can you explain what you mean when you say you'd</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 maintaining a stay-put policy?</p> <p>2 A. There was, as I mentioned previously, the Grenfell --</p> <p>3 or, sorry, the Lakanal presentation, I think it's</p> <p>4 called.</p> <p>5 Q. Were you aware of the stay-put policy and its wisdom and</p> <p>6 safety being revisited as a result of the coroner's</p> <p>7 recommendations at Lakanal House?</p> <p>8 A. It was certainly a point for discussion amongst</p> <p>9 operational staff, but not training.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay.</p> <p>11 Just before the break we looked also at that long</p> <p>12 list of things that you're supposed to look at on</p> <p>13 a 7(2)(d) visit.</p> <p>14 In your experience, when you go on a 7(2)(d) visit,</p> <p>15 you look at the things, some or all of them, on the list</p> <p>16 that we looked at as appendix 1 to policy 633. What</p> <p>17 would your normal practice be, as a watch manager on</p> <p>18 such a visit, when you had done a visit once you got</p> <p>19 back to the station? What would you do with the</p> <p>20 information?</p> <p>21 A. Put it on the system, the station computers. Put it on</p> <p>22 the operational risk database, so update it. So, for</p> <p>23 example, if there were changes or something new or</p> <p>24 a notable risk or a new person, new responsible person,</p> <p>25 you would add that to -- you would update the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 detailed all the jobs out to the individuals? How was</p> <p>2 that done?</p> <p>3 A. In the Fire Brigade we have roll call at the</p> <p>4 commencement of a shift or duty where the individual</p> <p>5 roles are allocated to firefighters and jobs, you know,</p> <p>6 station routines, routine work requirements and so</p> <p>7 forth. I would do that as a watch commander. So you</p> <p>8 have role call, and that's it. You make sure</p> <p>9 everybody's present and you give the individuals their</p> <p>10 instructions.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 Where were you, do you remember, when you received</p> <p>13 the mobilisation call?</p> <p>14 A. I was upstairs in the mess.</p> <p>15 Q. You say in the last paragraph, first line:</p> <p>16 "The audible alarm sounded and the teleprinter</p> <p>17 started to print out the message."</p> <p>18 Where is the teleprinter located in Kensington?</p> <p>19 A. Ground-floor office/watch room. It's normally in the</p> <p>20 watch room, which is in a lot of fire stations</p> <p>21 a separate room with a desk, a computer screen and</p> <p>22 a printer, and when we are dispatched or informed of</p> <p>23 an incident, all of the lights automatically come on in</p> <p>24 the station and there is an audible instruction on us to</p> <p>25 respond -- it doesn't tell you what you're responding</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p>

<p>1 to -- that we mobilised to, so it is a mobilising -- it</p> <p>2 says "Mobilise, mobilise". So that's audible.</p> <p>3 The assigned duty person, which is always someone</p> <p>4 from the on-duty watch, an operational firefighter, will</p> <p>5 go with the driver to where this information is being</p> <p>6 printed or available and make an assessment and</p> <p>7 respond -- dispatch the appliance.</p> <p>8 So there's a response -- you have to acknowledge,</p> <p>9 an acknowledgement button on the screen, so that control</p> <p>10 know that you have read the message. And --</p> <p>11 Q. Does that make you status 1?</p> <p>12 A. No. You are status 1 already. When you're at a fire</p> <p>13 station, status 1 is when you're not responding to</p> <p>14 an incident. You are available.</p> <p>15 Q. I see, you are available but haven't responded. Right.</p> <p>16 A. The crew will then go to the fire appliance, or fire</p> <p>17 engine, and there's a button box -- or, sorry,</p> <p>18 a computer screen, touch screen, on the fire engine with</p> <p>19 various status numbers, and status 2, when this is</p> <p>20 pressed, informs control that the appliance is mobile to</p> <p>21 the incident.</p> <p>22 Q. When the printer went, did you go and pick up the</p> <p>23 message?</p> <p>24 A. Not me personally. I went to the fire engine and</p> <p>25 I looked on the screen at the information.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 firefighters use -- we use -- to identify incident</p> <p>2 locations. So it's a large -- like you would find in</p> <p>3 the A to Z. It's a street map, and they were looking on</p> <p>4 the map to try and locate the incident address.</p> <p>5 Q. Is it normal not to be able to locate a property from</p> <p>6 the information that comes through on the mobile data --</p> <p>7 A. It can be, if the information is vague.</p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 Now, you then go on, and in the third paragraph on</p> <p>10 page 5 we pick it up with you en route to the incident,</p> <p>11 and you say:</p> <p>12 "... I briefed my crew with the incident details</p> <p>13 from the information I had on the MDT terminal ..."</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Could you see any information on the MDT terminal about</p> <p>16 Grenfell Tower other than the location?</p> <p>17 A. Well, I looked at the map. There's a map as well. You</p> <p>18 can switch between the views. I looked at the map.</p> <p>19 Q. Sure.</p> <p>20 A. And --</p> <p>21 Q. But did you see any other information apart from the</p> <p>22 location?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 Was the information that you got about</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 Q. Did somebody bring you the message?</p> <p>2 A. One of the firefighters brought me the message.</p> <p>3 Q. So you did it on the screen. Do you remember what the</p> <p>4 message said?</p> <p>5 A. I don't exactly. Fire -- it did say fire -- and the</p> <p>6 address.</p> <p>7 Q. It gave you fire and the address. Did it give you any</p> <p>8 other information?</p> <p>9 A. The map reference, who was attending, so the appliances</p> <p>10 that were attending or being mobilised to the incident.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 A. Time of call, time of mobilisation and the incident</p> <p>13 number.</p> <p>14 Q. You say at the bottom of the page, page 4, just a line</p> <p>15 up from the bottom:</p> <p>16 "He [that's the motor driver] and Firefighter HIPPEL</p> <p>17 were looking at the map."</p> <p>18 First of all, the motor driver, I think that is</p> <p>19 Firefighter Broderick.</p> <p>20 A. Firefighter Ben Broderick, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. We have to be careful, there are two Brodericks.</p> <p>22 A. I'm aware of that.</p> <p>23 Q. He's Ben. He and Firefighter Hippel were looking at the</p> <p>24 map. Which map were they looking at?</p> <p>25 A. In the watch room we've got a large-scale map which the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 Grenfell Tower from the mobile data terminal about as</p> <p>2 full as you would normally expect?</p> <p>3 A. It was.</p> <p>4 Q. Right.</p> <p>5 Did it give you any information about the height of</p> <p>6 the building?</p> <p>7 A. It may have said high-rise, I can't recall.</p> <p>8 Q. Did it give you information about the number of floors?</p> <p>9 A. No.</p> <p>10 Q. Anything about dry rising main locations?</p> <p>11 A. No. That would be on the operational risk database</p> <p>12 which you can interrogate, normally when you get there</p> <p>13 because it's quite -- well, on the way to an incident,</p> <p>14 as the watch manager, you are quite busy, listening to</p> <p>15 the radio, speaking to the firefighters, looking at</p> <p>16 directions and so on.</p> <p>17 Q. Did the MDT give you any information about the fact that</p> <p>18 there was a single staircase?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Anything about the fact that there was cladding on the</p> <p>21 exterior?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. What about the standing advice to residents, was there</p> <p>24 anything in the MDT about that?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 Q. No.</p> <p>2 A. Not that I was aware of.</p> <p>3 Q. What about the need for a drop key to be able to obtain</p> <p>4 access --</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. -- past -- not that either?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 Did you feel that the information that you had on</p> <p>10 the mobile data terminal that you saw on the way to</p> <p>11 Grenfell Tower was enough to prepare you for the</p> <p>12 incident?</p> <p>13 A. En route, it was sufficient for address and incident</p> <p>14 location.</p> <p>15 Q. On arrival, did you feel that that information was</p> <p>16 sufficient?</p> <p>17 A. No, because on arrival you will normally get the driver</p> <p>18 of the appliance, resources permitting, to interrogate</p> <p>19 the operational risk database, so I will ask my driver,</p> <p>20 "Have a look for any plans, have a look at the ORD".</p> <p>21 Q. Did you ask Ben Broderick to interrogate --</p> <p>22 A. No, because I saw a building on fire. I contacted</p> <p>23 en route -- as we're getting nearby, I heard some radio</p> <p>24 traffic which indicated to me there was a fire, which</p> <p>25 I informed my crew about, and from the information</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 riser and it's fifty metres for wet rising main."</p> <p>2 Now, having heard the earlier arriving crews from</p> <p>3 North Kensington setting into the dry rising main</p> <p>4 outlet, did you have any thoughts or assumptions about</p> <p>5 how high the building was?</p> <p>6 A. Well, I knew it was a high-rise. I knew it was a --</p> <p>7 that it was -- if they set into a riser, as they say, it</p> <p>8 will be a dry riser, and that it was a high-rise</p> <p>9 building, so I told my guys that they had just set in,</p> <p>10 they've got a job. Not exactly the words I used, but</p> <p>11 similar to the words I used.</p> <p>12 Q. You heard that they'd set into a riser, so you say</p> <p>13 because they were charging it with water, you knew it</p> <p>14 was a dry riser?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Having heard that it was a dry riser, did you have any</p> <p>17 thoughts about how high the building was?</p> <p>18 A. Not specifically how high the building was, but I knew</p> <p>19 it was a high-rise building.</p> <p>20 Q. Would the fact that you were being told or you worked</p> <p>21 out that they were setting into a dry rising main have</p> <p>22 told you that it must be a high-rise but not more than</p> <p>23 50 metres in height?</p> <p>24 A. Again, I wouldn't make that numerical decision on the</p> <p>25 height of the building other than it's a high-rise.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 I listened to on the handheld radio, I contacted the</p> <p>2 incident commander.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 In your briefing to the crew en route, do you</p> <p>5 remember what you told them?</p> <p>6 A. Yes, I was looking at the map, which is a live map, and</p> <p>7 the fire engines in London have a GPS and the call signs</p> <p>8 come up on the screen as you're looking at the map, and</p> <p>9 when people book in to an incident, it goes live on the</p> <p>10 map. So I said to my crew North Kensington's pair had</p> <p>11 booked in, meaning they were in attendance.</p> <p>12 Q. Right. Did you say anything else to your crew?</p> <p>13 A. No. Not that I can recall.</p> <p>14 Q. You didn't remind them of any particular high-rise</p> <p>15 procedures that they should be aware of?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay.</p> <p>18 Now, at the bottom of page 5 of your statement,</p> <p>19 after you discuss in the paragraph before that the riser</p> <p>20 and the fact that you knew that this was a dry rising</p> <p>21 main, you say:</p> <p>22 "A rising main in a high-rise building is a</p> <p>23 requirement. If you build a building over certain</p> <p>24 height or complexity you are required, by law, to put in</p> <p>25 a vertical pipe. I think its eighteen metres for a dry</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 Q. Right. Did you ever discover that Grenfell Tower in</p> <p>2 fact exceeds 67 metres in height?</p> <p>3 A. I did discover that, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. When did you discover that?</p> <p>5 A. After the fact.</p> <p>6 Q. Is that information that you would expect to be</p> <p>7 contained in the operational risk database?</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. That the building, although it's 67 metres, only has</p> <p>10 a dry rising main?</p> <p>11 A. You wouldn't have that the way you put it, you wouldn't</p> <p>12 have it like that; you would have it as it has a dry</p> <p>13 riser, it has outlets, it would tell you the location of</p> <p>14 the outlets and nearby hydrants, but it wouldn't tell</p> <p>15 you in the way you've said it, "instead of". It</p> <p>16 wouldn't say that. It would just say it has a dry</p> <p>17 riser.</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 We're going to talk about the arrival at Grenfell.</p> <p>20 Did you know the current response target time for</p> <p>21 a second appliance is 8 minutes?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. You did?</p> <p>24 A. Yes, I think it's 8 minutes.</p> <p>25 Q. Do you know that the average response time in 2017 in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 180</p>

<p>1 the LFB for a second appliance was 6 minutes and 48 2 seconds? 3 A. No, I don't. 4 Q. We have that information from the LFB. 5 A. Okay. 6 Q. Now, according to the short incident log -- let me just 7 take you to it. It's tab 23 of the documents bundle. 8 If you could just turn to page 8. We see halfway down 9 is a box which contains the appliances, and then, 10 working across from the left-hand side, call sign, 11 station, status, et cetera. Do you see that? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. You see G331, which was your pump ladder -- 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. -- and you were mobile to incident at 00.56.46. And 16 then on scene at 01.08.33. 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Do you see that? So according to this document, which 19 is the short incident log created by the London Fire 20 Brigade, it took you some 13 minutes between being 21 mobile and being on scene. Is that about right? 22 A. I couldn't say that's about right, but if it says it 23 here -- I don't know the accuracy of this document, but 24 what I would say is that it's a good distance away from 25 our station.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 181</p>	<p>1 Q. Right. 2 Now, on page 6 of your statement, in the third 3 paragraph, you say that when you arrived you saw 4 significant flames coming from the building. We'll just 5 look at that. You say: 6 "As we approached, I could see significant flames 7 coming from the building with energy." 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. "It was a well developed fire in a flat." 10 Now, you say "As we approached"; can you just give 11 me an idea of where you were sitting? I am assuming you 12 were sitting in the nearside front of the cab. 13 A. Nearside front of the cab, correct. 14 Q. With the driver on your right? 15 A. That's right, yes. 16 Q. So as you approached -- do you remember which road -- 17 A. I don't know the name of the road. 18 Q. Which direction? 19 A. It's the one that arrives at the main entrance side of 20 Grenfell Tower. 21 Q. Right. 22 A. I forget the name of the road. 23 Q. When you first caught sight of the fire, you've got the 24 cab windows in front of you, where was the fire? Which 25 direction was the fire in, in terms of --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 183</p>
<p>1 Q. Right. I was going to ask you: your time to arrival at 2 the incident seems on this document to be way outside 3 the target time and more than double the 2017 average. 4 A. I can only guess or assume that the booking in of 5 status 3 wasn't done immediately, which is the -- when 6 we attend an incident, the on-board computer is used to 7 press a touch screen and book an appliance status 3 in 8 attendance. I don't know. 9 Q. Do you have any particular recollection about whether 10 the length of time it took you to get from Kensington 11 fire station to the fire ground was particularly long? 12 A. No. 13 Q. You don't. 14 A. Not once we left the station, no. 15 Q. Do you know when Ben Broderick pressed the button that 16 meant that your pump ladder was showing status 3? 17 A. No. 18 Q. You don't. Okay. 19 When you arrived, did you have any thoughts about 20 contacting the persons responsible for the building as 21 you had done on previous visits? 22 A. No, because it's an operational response, so my first 23 point of contact is the incident commander, or the first 24 incident commander, which is Watch Manager Dowden. My 25 responsibility is to contact him first.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 182</p>	<p>1 A. To my right. 2 Q. To your right? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Okay. 5 A. Diagonally, I would say. 6 Q. So on the driver's side, effectively? 7 A. Well, yeah, in that direction. 8 Q. In that direction. Okay. 9 And how far from the tower did you park? 10 A. Well, three appliance lengths away or two appliance 11 lengths away. 12 Q. Whereabouts in relation to the tower did you park, do 13 you think? 14 A. We parked to the front and side of the fire side. So 15 looking at the front and to the side is where we parked, 16 if that makes sense. If I can see a map, I could 17 probably -- 18 Q. I was going to show you a map, exactly. There isn't one 19 exhibited to your statement, but we might be able to do 20 it on the basis of the exhibit, the last witness, 21 Mr Secrett. If I can ask you to be shown MET00013086. 22 That's Mr Secrett's markings, and he explained 23 yesterday in his evidence where 271 and 272 were parked. 24 So 271 was parked to the south of the tower by that 25 U-shape which is added under the walkway. That's 271.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 184</p>

<p>1 Then 272 he said he thought was parked by the X on the 2 east side. 3 Where do you think 331 was parked, Mr O'Keeffe, when 4 you arrived? 5 A. Which was -- if you could tell me which is the front 6 entrance of the building, I could give you -- 7 Q. Yes, absolutely. The front entrance is to the south. 8 It is not a wonderful map. We do have better maps -- 9 A. Okay, so we would have been parked -- where you have 10 got -- you just had your cursor there. So to the 11 southeast. 12 Q. So you see there's an "M" letter there? 13 A. Yes, we wouldn't have been that close. We were back 14 further than that. 15 Q. How far back further, do you think? 16 A. Not too far back. 17 Q. So about where the little cross is? 18 A. Yes, about that, on the road. 19 Q. Right, that's very helpful. 20 Was that near a hydrant, do you know? 21 A. I couldn't tell you. 22 Q. Right. Is there a particular reason why Ben Broderick 23 parked the appliance there? 24 A. Because it was the only access road we knew. We didn't 25 know the area that well. It's not on our fire ground.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 185</p>	<p>1 A. I thought it was still contained in the compartment. 2 Q. Now, you then say in your statement in the fourth 3 paragraph down on page 6: 4 "I detailed my BA crew to report immediately to the 5 Entry Control Point at the Bridgehead." 6 A. That's correct. 7 Q. "I approached WM DOWDEN. We were situated at the front 8 right-hand side of the building." 9 And to be clear, whereabouts was that in relation to 10 the main entrance, do you remember? 11 A. Southeast. 12 Q. Southeast. 13 And you say: 14 "I asked him which floor the fire was on and he 15 replied that it was on the fourth floor and that a BA 16 crew were about to be committed." 17 A. Correct. 18 Q. Then you say he's already set up a bridgehead, and then 19 you say this: 20 "I asked Watch Manager DOWDEN if he had 'made up' 21 the incident, meaning had he asked for additional 22 resources to attend." 23 Just pausing there, why did you ask that question? 24 A. It's a normal question I would ask -- I asked him quite 25 a lot of questions when I turned up rapidly.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 187</p>
<p>1 We had trouble finding the address on the map in the 2 first place. So one of the guys mentioned that road, 3 whatever the road name was, I don't recall what it was 4 called now, but that was the access road we used. 5 Q. We have your incident status 3 arrival time, as I've 6 shown you, as 01.08.33. 7 Can you just describe for us when you first arrived 8 and you say you saw significant flames coming from the 9 building, were those flames still within the flat, do 10 you think, or were they -- 11 A. My recollection is that they were coming out the window, 12 but not a whole lot, but sufficiently. 13 Q. Coming out of the window? 14 A. Yes, the window was either breached or open. 15 Q. And could you see smoke? 16 A. No, I could see flame. 17 Q. Did you see anything falling from the window? 18 A. No. 19 Q. What was the colour of the flame? 20 A. Orange. 21 Q. Did you see anything about it that was spreading? 22 A. Not at all, actually. 23 Q. Did you have any thoughts about whether the fire was 24 still contained within its compartment or whether the 25 compartment was broken?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 186</p>	<p>1 Q. Did you? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Could you tell us what questions you asked him? 4 A. I asked him if there were any persons involved. He said 5 no. And -- 6 Q. Sorry, just pause there. Why did you ask him that? 7 A. Because it's important to know if we need to do rescues. 8 Q. Is that a standard question you'd ask or was there 9 something -- 10 A. Standard. It's the first thing I look at when I go to 11 an incident, any fire. 12 Q. I see. Was there anything in particular about what you 13 could see about the fire -- 14 A. It's a residential block, that's why. 15 Q. So any persons reported. What other questions did you 16 ask him? 17 A. Have you set up a bridgehead? He said yes. I asked him 18 had he secured a fire lift. He said no, because it 19 wasn't working. 20 Q. Right. 21 A. I asked him if he had made it up or increased the 22 attendance, and I recall he said to me, "No, do you 23 think I should", and I said to him, "Well, I think you 24 should", and he said, "Okay, can you do that for me?" 25 And he said -- no, I said, "I think you should make it</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 188</p>

<p>1 pumps six, get a six-pump attendance". And he said, 2 "Yeah, okay, do you think I should?" And he said, "So 3 can you do that for me?" He said, "Can you also get 4 an aerial appliance?" So he added that to our 5 discussion. And I said, "Yeah, I'll get that done for 6 you". Which is a very normal occurrence for another 7 officer turning up at the scene in support of an officer 8 already there.</p> <p>9 Q. Just going back to this question of making it up to 10 a six-pump attendance. You're aware, I think, that the 11 normal predetermined attendance for a high-rise block 12 fire is four appliances?</p> <p>13 A. Well, I don't think it was on that night, you know, 14 I think it was just three on the high-rise that night.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 A. That's my recollection of it.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay. That's your recollection. There were three. 18 There is other material, which I don't want to show to 19 you necessarily, that it was originally three and then 20 the control room realised that it was a high-rise and 21 put another --</p> <p>22 A. I know Hammersmith were mobilised onto it also to make 23 it a four-pump attendance.</p> <p>24 Q. That's right. But just in terms of standard policy, 25 were you aware as of June 2017 that the PDA, the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 189</p>	<p>1 A. I didn't tell him to make it; I advised him. No, 2 I asked him, had he made it up, probably the words 3 I used, and he said, "No, do you think I should?"</p> <p>4 Q. Yes.</p> <p>5 A. So I just said, "I think you should". And the time 6 would be the time it took me to walk from the appliance 7 to where he was standing.</p> <p>8 Q. How long was that, do you think?</p> <p>9 A. 60 seconds, minute and a half.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 Was it you who advised him to make it six or was six 12 the number he came up with?</p> <p>13 A. I suggested that he make it six.</p> <p>14 Q. Yes, of course.</p> <p>15 A. He didn't come up with a number. I said, "I think you 16 should make pumps six". He suggested to add an aerial 17 to the make-up.</p> <p>18 Q. In your statement, you say: 19 "I said to him 'Make Pumps 6', he said, 'Okay. I'll 20 make Pumps 6, can you do it for me?'"</p> <p>21 Is that the way you remember it?</p> <p>22 A. I remember exactly how I said it. I said -- more or 23 less exactly -- I said, "I think you should make it" -- 24 he said, "Do you think I should", I said --</p> <p>25 Q. Sorry, go a bit more slowly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 191</p>
<p>1 predetermined attendance --</p> <p>2 A. Yes, I would be aware it was a four-pump attendance, 3 yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. So at that stage you'd seen three pumps in 5 attendance. Did you know that Hammersmith, as the 6 fourth pump, was en route, was an oncoming appliance?</p> <p>7 A. I don't recall if I knew Hammersmith were en route.</p> <p>8 Q. When you went to Mike Dowden and you advised him to make 9 it up to six, what was it about the fire that prompted 10 you to make it up to six?</p> <p>11 A. It seemed to have a lot of energy. I had a pair of 12 fresh eyes on the incident and my assessment was that it 13 needed more resources.</p> <p>14 Q. What did you think you needed those resources for at 15 that stage?</p> <p>16 A. For additional breathing apparatus and for fire ground 17 assistance, but for additional BA.</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 Now, in terms of time, to get a time stamp on it, 20 I wonder if you can help us. We've got you arriving 21 status 3 at 1.08, which may be a little bit late in 22 terms of the time after you --</p> <p>23 A. Okay.</p> <p>24 Q. -- arrive, but how long after you arrived did you tell 25 or advise Mike Dowden to make pumps six?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 190</p>	<p>1 A. Sorry, I'm going a bit quickly, I'll slow down a bit. 2 I said to him, "I think you should make it six", and 3 he said, "Do you think so?" I said yes, and he said, 4 "Okay, so can you do that for me?" And he said, "Also, 5 can you please add an aerial appliance".</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 Now, I am just going to ask you something by 8 reference to a video. Two things, I think, arise from 9 that.</p> <p>10 First of all, are you all right to look at a video 11 of the building on fire --</p> <p>12 A. I am.</p> <p>13 Q. -- on the night?</p> <p>14 A. I am.</p> <p>15 MR MILLETT: Secondly, Mr Chairman, I need therefore to give 16 the trigger warning, if I can.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, please.</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: So I am going to show a very short clip of 19 Grenfell Tower on fire on the night, which also has some 20 important audio attached to it. Therefore, if anybody 21 is going to think that they find this distressing in any 22 way, then they should either leave this room now -- and 23 we'll allow 30 seconds for that to happen -- or if 24 they're watching by live stream, they should get 25 themselves away from the live stream. This will take</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 192</p>

<p>1 about five or so minutes.</p> <p>2 So I'll allow 30 seconds to elapse while people do</p> <p>3 that if they want to.</p> <p>4 Meanwhile, Mr Documents Director, if you could just</p> <p>5 queue up the Luke Bisby fire spread video at 01.12.</p> <p>6 Right, Mr Chairman, we'll start, shall we?</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think that's all right. Get</p> <p>8 going, yes.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: Right.</p> <p>10 Now, what I'm going to do, Mr O'Keeffe, is I'm going</p> <p>11 to play this to you not more than twice, unless you want</p> <p>12 me to play it again, but I want you to listen out very</p> <p>13 carefully to somebody shouting something, and at the</p> <p>14 same time just see what's happening in front of you.</p> <p>15 A. Okay.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay? If we can get the volume up as high as we can,</p> <p>17 Mr Documents Director, that would be great.</p> <p>18 Right so start.</p> <p>19 (Video played -- no audio)</p> <p>20 Right. Can we ...</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You want the audio, don't you?</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: We want the audio for this. I wonder what's</p> <p>23 happened ...</p> <p>24 (Pause)</p> <p>25 No. Right. I don't want to take up time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 193</p>	<p>1 which is what we are up here to stop, so I just didn't</p> <p>2 think the resources were sufficient that if it did grow,</p> <p>3 we would have sufficient resources on the ground to deal</p> <p>4 with it.</p> <p>5 Q. Now, you said that you advised him to call for an aerial</p> <p>6 appliance?</p> <p>7 A. No, no, no, he suggested that himself.</p> <p>8 Q. Sorry, I misunderstood.</p> <p>9 A. I suggested make it six pumps or machines, and he said,</p> <p>10 "Can you also get me an aerial?"</p> <p>11 Q. So he asked you -- okay.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you think it was the right thing to do?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Why is that?</p> <p>16 A. Because it gives you more options. It's a high-rise</p> <p>17 building. It gives you more options, should you need</p> <p>18 it. They used to be on the PDA system on a</p> <p>19 predetermined attendance to a high-rise, but it stopped,</p> <p>20 which I thought was a bad idea when that was taken off</p> <p>21 the PDA for high-rise buildings, or for a lot of fires,</p> <p>22 actually.</p> <p>23 Q. Just pause there. When was that?</p> <p>24 A. I can't recall the exact date.</p> <p>25 Q. Do you know why that was?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 195</p>
<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: The problem might be solved in just</p> <p>2 a moment.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Mr O'Keeffe, would you just give us a minute or</p> <p>4 two while we sort this out.</p> <p>5 (Pause)</p> <p>6 I think, perhaps, rather than taking up time with</p> <p>7 this, we'll sort this out overnight and come back to</p> <p>8 this particular piece of evidence tomorrow.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Can you do that?</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Yes, I can. So we won't show that video now,</p> <p>11 we'll go back to it in the morning, otherwise it may</p> <p>12 take a little longer than we need.</p> <p>13 Now, at the point at which you advised Mike Dowden</p> <p>14 to make pumps six, did you have any thoughts about how</p> <p>15 the fire was developing? You say it had a lot of</p> <p>16 energy; did you have any thoughts about how --</p> <p>17 A. That it was a developed fire.</p> <p>18 Q. It was a developed fire.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Did you think about whether it might develop further?</p> <p>21 A. There is always a potential for a fire to develop</p> <p>22 further.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you have any thoughts about compartmentation holding</p> <p>24 or the risks of it being breached?</p> <p>25 A. Well, I thought that it could grow in size as a fire,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 194</p>	<p>1 A. I don't know. I think probably -- no, I couldn't answer</p> <p>2 that. You'd have to ask a senior officer or somebody in</p> <p>3 a higher pay grade than me, really, about why it was</p> <p>4 actually taken off.</p> <p>5 Q. You say an aerial would give you more options.</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Would that be options to fight an exterior fire at</p> <p>8 height?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. And --</p> <p>11 A. Options for rescue.</p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 A. Options for using it as a viewing tower to get a better</p> <p>14 overview of the incident. A very versatile piece of</p> <p>15 equipment.</p> <p>16 Q. Was it already going through your mind, even at that</p> <p>17 stage, that you might need to be conducting rescues at</p> <p>18 height or fighting the exterior fires at height?</p> <p>19 A. No, not in the way you have put it, but there's always</p> <p>20 a potential.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay.</p> <p>22 I think you then discuss which aerial you would need</p> <p>23 with Ben Broderick.</p> <p>24 A. Ben Broderick asked me, "Which aerial do you want?"</p> <p>25 There are aerial ladder platforms, which are more like</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 196</p>

<p>1 a cherry-picker type of arrangement with hydraulic</p> <p>2 hinged arms, or a turntable ladder, which is quite</p> <p>3 a large ladder, extendable and, in my opinion,</p> <p>4 a better -- well, for London, a better bit of kit</p> <p>5 because of the narrow streets. It's easier to manoeuvre</p> <p>6 and get to work.</p> <p>7 Q. At the top of page 7, after the discussion about which</p> <p>8 one, you say:</p> <p>9 "Honestly, I didn't care which type of ladder so</p> <p>10 I said, 'Just the closest one' ..."</p> <p>11 A. Well, the closest one, yes.</p> <p>12 Q. "... which would have been Paddington."</p> <p>13 A. I did say Paddington as well.</p> <p>14 Q. You --</p> <p>15 A. So that's what happened.</p> <p>16 Q. You did. So you knew already there was an aerial --</p> <p>17 A. I knew they were the closest to us. I work with</p> <p>18 Paddington quite a lot.</p> <p>19 Q. Does the fact that you wanted the closest one available</p> <p>20 tell us anything about the urgency of the need for an</p> <p>21 aerial?</p> <p>22 A. It's a fire. It's an urgent affair, you know. For</p> <p>23 expediency, it makes sense to get the closest resource</p> <p>24 that's available, and that's Paddington.</p> <p>25 Q. Because it just struck me that if it was always the case</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 197</p>	<p>1 How quickly did you expect the aerial that you had</p> <p>2 asked Ben Broderick to get from Paddington to arrive?</p> <p>3 A. Well, given that Paddington is a neighbouring station</p> <p>4 and on the availability, meaning that it wasn't already</p> <p>5 assigned to an incident, I would expect the aerial to</p> <p>6 get there -- I can't give you an exact time, but quickly</p> <p>7 enough.</p> <p>8 Q. Because, in fact, we do have an arrival time of status 3</p> <p>9 for the aerial at 01.32, and given that it was ordered</p> <p>10 at 01.13 or 01.14, that's a period of about 18 minutes.</p> <p>11 A. That's quite long.</p> <p>12 Q. I was going to ask you.</p> <p>13 A. That's quite long for -- again, they're not on --</p> <p>14 they're unwieldy appliances, but it seems like a long</p> <p>15 time.</p> <p>16 Q. Were you aware of any particular problems in the aerial</p> <p>17 arriving at Grenfell?</p> <p>18 A. No.</p> <p>19 Q. Getting access to the tower?</p> <p>20 A. Oh, access? Yes. So when we went there previously, the</p> <p>21 road going to Grenfell Tower for me looked like</p> <p>22 a service road, and we had difficulty with the</p> <p>23 appliances going down. So when you had the convergence</p> <p>24 of several machines, there became an issue with -- it's</p> <p>25 a very narrow winding space which seemed to be</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 199</p>
<p>1 that you would always go for the closest, why would you</p> <p>2 have a debate about what kind of platform you needed?</p> <p>3 A. Because that's the way he viewed it, because</p> <p>4 Ben Broderick -- I suppose he wanted me to be more</p> <p>5 specific. He wasn't sure -- well, that's just the way</p> <p>6 he is, I guess. Which is good for a firefighter to do</p> <p>7 that because sometimes officers aren't able to specify</p> <p>8 or don't specify, so he was just doing the right thing,</p> <p>9 I suppose.</p> <p>10 Q. Now, the original request was -- if we look at tab 23 of</p> <p>11 the documents bundle, at page 17 -- at 01.13.39 was "IUP</p> <p>12 G331 MAKE PUMPS SIX AND ONE HP".</p> <p>13 "HP" is high platform, I think, isn't it?</p> <p>14 A. I didn't send the message.</p> <p>15 Q. No. Okay, what's HP?</p> <p>16 A. I just said -- Paddington's one is a TL. I just said</p> <p>17 get the nearest one.</p> <p>18 Q. Then a minute or so later, at 01.14.12, there's</p> <p>19 an amendment to one aerial. Do you know anything about</p> <p>20 that change?</p> <p>21 A. Well, you'll have to ask Mr Broderick about that. He</p> <p>22 may have amended it himself, by radio.</p> <p>23 Q. You didn't have anything to do with that change?</p> <p>24 A. No, I just asked him to transmit the message.</p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 198</p>	<p>1 overcrowded with adjoining buildings. I would say it</p> <p>2 was poor access.</p> <p>3 Q. Yes. And what particular access difficulties did the</p> <p>4 aerial appliance had, do you remember?</p> <p>5 A. I don't. I don't know because I was inside the tower by</p> <p>6 this stage, when it arrived.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 Is it normal to use an aerial appliance for external</p> <p>9 firefighting in a high-rise residential building before</p> <p>10 the time that it has been confirmed that there's no</p> <p>11 longer any rescuable life in the building?</p> <p>12 A. If there's fire spread, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 A. Or depending on what the incident commander wants</p> <p>15 an aerial for. As I mentioned previously, it could be</p> <p>16 used for different purposes.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay.</p> <p>18 Now, at this point -- 01.13/01.14, you've called for</p> <p>19 an aerial, originally an HP, for that extra optionality,</p> <p>20 fighting a fire at height, rescue -- did you have any</p> <p>21 thoughts about whether the stay-put policy, the standing</p> <p>22 stay-put policy in place at Grenfell Tower, remained</p> <p>23 appropriate?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. Did you have any discussion with Mike Dowden about that?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 200</p>

<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. Did he say anything to you about it?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. At that stage -- again 01.13/01.14 -- could you see</p> <p>5 anybody self-evacuating out of the tower?</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Can I turn to the next question, which is the covering</p> <p>8 jet.</p> <p>9 Page 7 of your statement. There you say, in the</p> <p>10 second paragraph, five lines down from the top:</p> <p>11 "At this point, Firefighters MURPHY and CORNELIUS</p> <p>12 set up a covering jet and put water on the outside of</p> <p>13 the building immediately."</p> <p>14 Did you tell them to do that?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you know who did?</p> <p>17 A. So my recollection is that while I was talking to Watch</p> <p>18 Manager Dowden -- he may have given the instruction</p> <p>19 before I arrived, but while I was speaking to him, one</p> <p>20 of the firefighters shouted, "Get a covering jet on".</p> <p>21 I could hear -- I don't know who it was, and then there</p> <p>22 was a lot of firefighters shouting to each other and</p> <p>23 they very quickly deployed the covering jet.</p> <p>24 I know my two guys, Des and Charlie -- well, sorry,</p> <p>25 Firefighter Murphy and Firefighter Cornelius -- went on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 201</p>	<p>1 were you standing?</p> <p>2 A. I was standing facing Watch Manager Dowden and I was</p> <p>3 looking at the building front and side on.</p> <p>4 Q. Front and side on.</p> <p>5 A. And looking down slightly from a slight elevation at the</p> <p>6 firefighters below on the walkway at the base of the</p> <p>7 building.</p> <p>8 Q. Could you see the fire flat clearly?</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. At the stage when the covering jet went on at the start,</p> <p>11 what was the fire doing then?</p> <p>12 A. It was venting out of the window.</p> <p>13 Q. Could you see any flaming debris or sparks --</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. -- falling from the window space at that stage?</p> <p>16 A. No, I don't think there was at this stage. It had</p> <p>17 just -- no, there wasn't.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you see the covering jet being applied more than</p> <p>19 once?</p> <p>20 A. No, because when the information came to us or to the</p> <p>21 fire ground, in fact, that the crews had entered the</p> <p>22 apartment, I recall hearing someone shouting, "Knock the</p> <p>23 jet off, they're in, they're in, knock the jet off",</p> <p>24 meaning the jet of water, and the guys knocked it off</p> <p>25 immediately.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 203</p>
<p>1 to the covering jet. So I was looking over Watch</p> <p>2 Manager Dowden's shoulder at the fire and at the</p> <p>3 activity of the jet going on and being set up and</p> <p>4 applied to the building.</p> <p>5 That was before I went into the bridgehead.</p> <p>6 Q. Okay. Where exactly were they applying the covering</p> <p>7 jet, do you remember?</p> <p>8 A. I do. They were applying it to the side and above</p> <p>9 the -- to the left-hand side of the window as you're</p> <p>10 facing it. I think it went in through the window at one</p> <p>11 stage but there was no information that there were any</p> <p>12 firefighters in the compartment at the time, and it went</p> <p>13 briefly above the compartment.</p> <p>14 Q. Right. But where was the --</p> <p>15 A. The window.</p> <p>16 Q. In the main, where was the jet being aimed, above or</p> <p>17 below?</p> <p>18 A. In the main, to the side and then to the top and --</p> <p>19 well, it was on for a very brief moment, actually.</p> <p>20 Q. How long would you say the jet was on for, the covering</p> <p>21 jet?</p> <p>22 A. That's a hard one to recall. Between 30 seconds and</p> <p>23 a minute.</p> <p>24 Q. At the time the covering jet was being deployed, did you</p> <p>25 have a good look at the -- well, first of all, where</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 202</p>	<p>1 Q. When you say, "They're in, they're in", what --</p> <p>2 A. Crews are in the compartment. The firefighting crews</p> <p>3 who had gone from the bridgehead were in the</p> <p>4 compartment. I saw -- I think it was possibly a BA</p> <p>5 lamp, slight movement in the compartment.</p> <p>6 Q. When you say the compartment, do you mean the flat or --</p> <p>7 A. Flat.</p> <p>8 Q. -- the room within the flat?</p> <p>9 A. The room within the flat.</p> <p>10 Q. The room within the flat, in this case a kitchen.</p> <p>11 A. Well, that's all I could see at that time.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay. So room within the flat. Then you say -- that's</p> <p>13 why I ask you -- four lines down from the top of that</p> <p>14 paragraph on page 7:</p> <p>15 "Just at that point, a radio message was transmitted</p> <p>16 that the BA crews were entering the flat so WM DOWDEN</p> <p>17 gave the order for the ground crew, to knock off the</p> <p>18 covering jet."</p> <p>19 First of all, the radio message was transmitted --</p> <p>20 did you hear the message yourself?</p> <p>21 A. No, I heard the guys -- I know Mike Dowden had his</p> <p>22 radio, and I didn't hear what was said, and I heard guys</p> <p>23 simultaneously shout, "Knock the jet off".</p> <p>24 Q. Did you have your own fire ground radio on?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 204</p>

<p>1 Q. Was it tuned to channel 1?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Could you not hear on channel 1?</p> <p>4 A. I was busy speaking to Mike Dowden and watching the</p> <p>5 fire.</p> <p>6 Q. But you heard the radio message come on to his radio?</p> <p>7 A. I heard a radio transmission, that's the best I can</p> <p>8 recollect. I don't remember the words at all. But what</p> <p>9 I was listening to, I was focused on, was the fire and</p> <p>10 the firefighters shouting instructions to each other.</p> <p>11 Q. When you say in your statement the BA crews were</p> <p>12 entering the flat --</p> <p>13 A. Well, flat, the --</p> <p>14 Q. -- I think you mean the kitchen.</p> <p>15 A. I mean the kitchen, or the flat, you know -- yeah, the</p> <p>16 flat.</p> <p>17 Q. Well, you say flat. Let's try and be accurate.</p> <p>18 A. Okay.</p> <p>19 Q. There's a distinction in timing between going into the</p> <p>20 flat and going into the kitchen, which is important.</p> <p>21 So can you try and remember whether the message was</p> <p>22 that they were going into the flat or going into the</p> <p>23 compartment?</p> <p>24 A. No, I could only say that they said they were inside.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay. All right. And the crew then knocked off the --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 205</p>	<p>1 A. Hindsight is a fine thing. If I thought something was</p> <p>2 combustible, I would've applied more than one covering</p> <p>3 jet to it.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. That was a hindsight question, as you rightly</p> <p>5 say.</p> <p>6 A. Well, I can only answer in hindsight, sir.</p> <p>7 Q. The reason I ask it is because does that tell us what</p> <p>8 was in your mind at the time about what the exterior</p> <p>9 building comprised?</p> <p>10 A. To me, it didn't look combustible. I didn't know it</p> <p>11 was.</p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, it's just before 4.15. I would</p> <p>13 like, before I --</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you going on to another topic?</p> <p>15 MR MILLETT: I am, but I also would like, before moving on</p> <p>16 to it, to show the video spread, in two parts actually,</p> <p>17 but I think in fairness to other people, we need to make</p> <p>18 sure that it runs, and I don't want to spend time now --</p> <p>19 it's late in the day -- so we could put this off to</p> <p>20 first thing tomorrow morning.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: It would be sensible to make sure it</p> <p>22 will run before you try again.</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Exactly. Exactly. So I am going to ask for</p> <p>24 a break now, if that's not inconvenient, and to resume</p> <p>25 again tomorrow morning.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 207</p>
<p>1 A. Crew outside knocked off the covering jet.</p> <p>2 Q. They knocked off the covering jet.</p> <p>3 Now, Mr Dowden in his statement says that he</p> <p>4 realised the jet was having no effect, so he instructed</p> <p>5 the crew to turn it off.</p> <p>6 Is that what happened, to the best of your</p> <p>7 recollection?</p> <p>8 A. My recollection is that the crew shouted to turn the jet</p> <p>9 off. He may well have done but I didn't hear him.</p> <p>10 Q. Right.</p> <p>11 We also heard Mr Secrett say that he gave a message</p> <p>12 by radio to Mr Dowden not to apply the covering jet</p> <p>13 because the initial BA crews --</p> <p>14 A. Quite possibly. His radio may have activated but</p> <p>15 I didn't hear the actual words used.</p> <p>16 Q. If you had known at the time that the building had</p> <p>17 cladding on it which was, as we've seen, liable to catch</p> <p>18 fire --</p> <p>19 A. Combustible.</p> <p>20 Q. You used the word.</p> <p>21 A. Combustible, it's a fire service term.</p> <p>22 Q. If you'd known that at the time, would you have allowed</p> <p>23 the covering jet to be knocked off?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. What would you have done instead?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 206</p>	<p>1 Now, Mr O'Keeffe, is that inconvenient to you?</p> <p>2 THE WITNESS: No, I'm here to help you.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Very good. Thank you very much. I have no</p> <p>4 further questions for this evening.</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Before we break, are you about to</p> <p>6 make another application?</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Not knowingly.</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: What time are we going to start?</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: Oh, yes, I see.</p> <p>10 Well, I do this with some trepidation, Mr Chairman,</p> <p>11 but can I ask for it to be 9.30 tomorrow morning again,</p> <p>12 just to make sure we get a good day at it. There are</p> <p>13 a number of reasons for that.</p> <p>14 First of all, it's Friday and the sooner we finish,</p> <p>15 the better.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm sure we'd all agree with that,</p> <p>17 yes.</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: Secondly, I think there are people who arranged</p> <p>19 to go up the tower tomorrow afternoon. Now, I can't</p> <p>20 guarantee to have finished before that happens, but</p> <p>21 I would like to have done my best.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think the sensible thing is,</p> <p>23 disagreeable although it may be to some, to start early.</p> <p>24 If people have visits to the tower arranged, I think it</p> <p>25 would be sensible for them to tell you, and through you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 208</p>

<p>1 to tell me, and then we'll ensure that we don't</p> <p>2 interfere with those visits.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Okay.</p> <p>4 Mr Chairman, before this witness goes, I just have</p> <p>5 an urgent statement made to me by somebody and something</p> <p>6 I need to clarify with the witness tonight.</p> <p>7 Now, I don't know whether it's necessary to do so or</p> <p>8 not --</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm sorry, Mr O'Keeffe.</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: That's okay, sir.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: -- but I think I should do it so it's done.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Go on then.</p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: I put to you a point about the length of time</p> <p>14 it took you to arrive, and it's been suggested to me</p> <p>15 that I did so on the basis that you were the second</p> <p>16 responder, and I didn't mean to do that.</p> <p>17 Which responder were you?</p> <p>18 A. We're on the first attendance. We were first</p> <p>19 responders. We weren't the second -- we weren't</p> <p>20 an additional, we were on the original call.</p> <p>21 Q. Right. And in terms of --</p> <p>22 A. So we call it the initial attendance.</p> <p>23 Q. And in terms of how many appliances were there before</p> <p>24 you when you arrived, how many was that, do you</p> <p>25 remember?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 209</p>	<p>1 the usher.</p> <p>2 (Pause)</p> <p>3 Thank you very much, 9.30 tomorrow, please.</p> <p>4 (4.15 pm)</p> <p>5 (The hearing adjourned until Friday, 6 July 2018 at 9.30 am)</p> <p>6 INDEX</p> <p>7 CHRISTOPHER SECRETT (continued)1</p> <p>8 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY1</p> <p>9 (continued)</p> <p>10 BRIEN O'KEEFFE (sworn)122</p> <p>11 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY123</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 211</p>
<p>1 A. Two.</p> <p>2 Q. So you were the third to arrive?</p> <p>3 A. Correct.</p> <p>4 Q. Out of four?</p> <p>5 A. Correct.</p> <p>6 MR MILLETT: Right. Thank you.</p> <p>7 I hope that clarifies the matter for whoever wanted</p> <p>8 it clarified.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right?</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, yes.</p> <p>11 Thank you very much, Mr O'Keeffe.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr O'Keeffe, we are going to break</p> <p>13 now for the day.</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Sorry I have to ask you to come back</p> <p>16 again tomorrow, and I hope 9.30 isn't too early.</p> <p>17 THE WITNESS: I've got three young kids, so that's late!</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Okay, well, the only other thing</p> <p>19 I mention is please don't talk to anyone about your</p> <p>20 evidence overnight.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: I won't, sir.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: And we'll look forward to seeing you</p> <p>23 tomorrow morning.</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. If you go with</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 210</p>	

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