

<p>1 Friday, 6 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 hear further from Mr O'Keeffe in</p> <p>6 a moment but, before we do, Mr Millett has something he</p> <p>7 needs to deal with.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman, thank you very much.</p> <p>9 Yesterday, I put to Mr O'Keeffe the response time</p> <p>10 for his appliance, and I put to him that it appeared to</p> <p>11 be outside the average response times which I'd taken</p> <p>12 from the London Fire Brigade's overview document which</p> <p>13 we got in May.</p> <p>14 In fact, that overview document is only describing</p> <p>15 average response times for the first and second</p> <p>16 responding vehicles and not any subsequent responding</p> <p>17 vehicles, even though part of the same initial response</p> <p>18 as part of a predetermined attendance.</p> <p>19 So I just wanted to make it clear that it is not</p> <p>20 suggested that, as the third arriving appliance,</p> <p>21 Mr O'Keeffe's appliance was outside the times for which</p> <p>22 we have evidence about average response times.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Thank you very much. Well,</p> <p>24 it's important to get that clear and I am grateful to</p> <p>25 you for doing so.</p> <p>Page 1</p>	<p>1 Perhaps I should just leave 20 seconds or so for</p> <p>2 people to do that.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>4 (Pause)</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: The video should be queued up at 1.12. Perhaps</p> <p>6 we can now go to that.</p> <p>7 Now, Mr O'Keeffe, what I am going to show you is</p> <p>8 a short video clip, and I would like you to listen out</p> <p>9 very carefully for what is being said, as well as to</p> <p>10 look very carefully at what is happening on the screen.</p> <p>11 A. Okay.</p> <p>12 Q. Right, if you could play that, please.</p> <p>13 (Video played)</p> <p>14 Right. Now, did you hear anybody calling something</p> <p>15 that sounded like "Mike, Mike"?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. What was that?</p> <p>18 A. I don't know actually, just someone calling the watch</p> <p>19 manager in charge, Mike Dowden.</p> <p>20 Q. If we could just play that again and see if we can get</p> <p>21 anything a bit more clearly from it. Just listen out</p> <p>22 again.</p> <p>23 A. Okay.</p> <p>24 Q. Also, watch what the fire is doing at the same time.</p> <p>25 (Video played)</p> <p>Page 3</p>
<p>1 Well, then, if we could have Mr O'Keeffe in, please.</p> <p>2 Thank you.</p> <p>3 BRIEN O'KEEFFE (continued)</p> <p>4 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (continued)</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, Mr O'Keeffe.</p> <p>6 THE WITNESS: Good morning, sir.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you happy to carry on?</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: I am happy to carry on, yes.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>10 Mr Millett.</p> <p>11 MR MILLETT: Mr O'Keeffe, good morning.</p> <p>12 A. Morning.</p> <p>13 Q. Thank you for coming back to us.</p> <p>14 Last night, I was attempting to show you some</p> <p>15 video -- a very short piece of video footage and the</p> <p>16 audio with it as well -- and I had better repeat,</p> <p>17 I suppose, for everybody's benefit, the trigger warning</p> <p>18 that we always give with videos of the building on fire</p> <p>19 and the audio that goes with it.</p> <p>20 What I'm about to show the witness is video and</p> <p>21 audio footage of Grenfell Tower on fire in the early</p> <p>22 part of that night, and so if anybody thinks they may</p> <p>23 find the images or the audio distressing, they should</p> <p>24 either leave the room here that they are in or else turn</p> <p>25 themselves away from the live stream as it's coming out.</p> <p>Page 2</p>	<p>1 Okay.</p> <p>2 A. It's difficult to pick it up. It's something about --</p> <p>3 possibly a number.</p> <p>4 Q. Yes. Yes.</p> <p>5 A. Well, as I spoke to you yesterday about, when I spoke to</p> <p>6 Watch Manager Dowden, following our discussion about the</p> <p>7 increase of pumps, I turned around and shouted to my</p> <p>8 pump operator, Firefighter Broderick, to make it six and</p> <p>9 an aerial. That could be that: make it six and</p> <p>10 an aerial.</p> <p>11 Q. It sounds -- I don't want to suggest this to you because</p> <p>12 we can all hear it, but let me ask you: might it be</p> <p>13 "Mike, Mike, make it six now"?</p> <p>14 A. It might be that, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Was it you, do you think, calling him to do that?</p> <p>16 A. No, I -- because I -- it might have been, in hindsight,</p> <p>17 but I recall it as me telling him, you know, advising as</p> <p>18 a fellow officer, to make it six.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 A. And as I said yesterday, he said, "Do you think</p> <p>21 I should?" And I said yes, and he said, "Okay, can you</p> <p>22 do that for me?" And the sequence that followed was me</p> <p>23 turning around and shouting to my driver -- because as</p> <p>24 you can hear, there was a lot of noise, and that's the</p> <p>25 pump operating on the fire engine, pumping water. It's</p> <p>Page 4</p>

<p>1 quite loud. And there was a lot of noise in the area as</p> <p>2 you will at any -- on the initial attendance at any</p> <p>3 incident, there is a lot of action and a lot of noise</p> <p>4 associated with it, so officers generally and</p> <p>5 firefighters shout instructions to each other or</p> <p>6 communicate by -- we use our radios, but more commonly</p> <p>7 at the very beginning we shout at each other.</p> <p>8 Q. Now, in the video --</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. -- and we can play it again -- we saw burning material</p> <p>11 coming down from the window.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. At that time -- so not very long after you'd arrived --</p> <p>14 do you remember looking up at the window and seeing</p> <p>15 burning material coming off?</p> <p>16 A. No, I remember flames coming out. There was no burning</p> <p>17 material coming off at that time. The flames were just</p> <p>18 coming out the window. There was energy behind -- when</p> <p>19 I say energy, there was -- when you have a compartment</p> <p>20 fire and it's developing and it's growing, it produces</p> <p>21 energy from the heat and it will push flame out any</p> <p>22 opening and pushes it about, and that's what I saw with</p> <p>23 the flame; that it wasn't just wispy flames, there was</p> <p>24 something burning. The kitchen was on fire, I'd</p> <p>25 imagine. And nothing burning -- material hanging down</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p>	<p>1 was put on, it was quite early on, relatively early on.</p> <p>2 And when they had knocked the jet off because, as I said</p> <p>3 yesterday, the BA crew had gone into the flat --</p> <p>4 Q. Yes.</p> <p>5 A. -- that's when I went to go to take over the bridgehead.</p> <p>6 Q. I see okay, so --</p> <p>7 A. That would've been when it was put back on afterwards.</p> <p>8 That's my understanding of it.</p> <p>9 Q. So you think that the covering jet we saw just there at</p> <p>10 about 1.15 was the second time the covering jet was</p> <p>11 applied, or do you not know?</p> <p>12 A. I do not know.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay.</p> <p>14 A. But it's close by. It's quite -- it's close by, so it's</p> <p>15 difficult for me to give you an accurate answer on that</p> <p>16 time-wise.</p> <p>17 Q. So you have your conversation with Mike Dowden just</p> <p>18 outside the front entrance to the building where you</p> <p>19 discuss the make-up.</p> <p>20 We know that he tasked you with going to run the</p> <p>21 bridgehead.</p> <p>22 A. He did, yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Was it in that same conversation that he did that?</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. I see. What happened immediately next? What did you do</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p>
<p>1 or falling.</p> <p>2 Q. I wonder if we can move the video on to the next</p> <p>3 sequence, just to see what we can see there and to see</p> <p>4 whether or not that was something you saw.</p> <p>5 So the next sequence is, I think, at 01.15. Yes</p> <p>6 that's the one. If you could just play that.</p> <p>7 (Video played)</p> <p>8 Right. Now, there are two things about that:</p> <p>9 obviously the burning, falling material --</p> <p>10 A. I understand, yes.</p> <p>11 Q. -- and then the jet starting up, it looks, and then</p> <p>12 going on to the exterior of the building.</p> <p>13 Did you see burning material like that coming off</p> <p>14 the building at any stage?</p> <p>15 A. I don't recall seeing it. It would've concerned me if</p> <p>16 I'd seen that, with that extent, because it looks like</p> <p>17 there's a crackling with the material and, you know,</p> <p>18 there's a chemical reaction there or a thermodynamic</p> <p>19 reaction going on, which is unusual.</p> <p>20 But the angle you are showing me is opposite to</p> <p>21 where I was standing; I was on the other side by the</p> <p>22 front of the building when I spoke to Mike Dowden. So</p> <p>23 he's obviously moved in that direction to speak to the</p> <p>24 firefighters.</p> <p>25 Now, when the original jet of water, covering jet,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 immediately next?</p> <p>2 A. I went -- I said, "Okay, I will" and I walked towards</p> <p>3 the front of the building, and I was side-on, looking at</p> <p>4 the big glass windows. And as I walked towards --</p> <p>5 I noticed that there was smoke in the lobby. There was</p> <p>6 a lot of light grey smoke in there. It wasn't thick</p> <p>7 there, thick smoke, but light and it was blowing out</p> <p>8 with force, so I knew there was something mechanical,</p> <p>9 like mechanical ventilation, pushing it out the front</p> <p>10 doors.</p> <p>11 Q. You mean the ground floor entrance to the building?</p> <p>12 A. Ground floor, yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Really?</p> <p>14 A. Ground floor entrance, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 You went to the lobby; how did you get into the</p> <p>17 lobby?</p> <p>18 A. I walked in.</p> <p>19 Q. The doors were open?</p> <p>20 A. As far as I remember, I just walked straight up.</p> <p>21 Q. At that stage, did you try to get entrance into the lift</p> <p>22 lobby within the building?</p> <p>23 A. Not the lift, because I asked Watch Manager Dowden if we</p> <p>24 had taken control of the fire lift and he said it wasn't</p> <p>25 working. And as I walked by, I could see a firefighter</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>

<p>1 trying to get it working still. I don't know who the 2 firefighter was, I just looked to my left and then 3 I went to go through the door to go up the stairs to the 4 second floor, or to the glass balcony or whatever it is. 5 Q. How did you get into the lift lobby? Did you need a fob 6 or was it open? 7 A. No, it was open. As far as I recall, I just walked 8 straight through. 9 Q. Right. 10 Can I just ask you to look at a photograph which we 11 looked at, I think, with an earlier witness, 12 Mr O'Hanlon, which is INQ00000178. I just want to see 13 if you can help me with the timing and the identity of 14 firefighters. 15 This is -- 16 A. That's Watch Manager Dowden. 17 Q. Right. Okay. Did you see him do that? Did you see him 18 come into the main entrance and -- 19 A. No, I didn't -- in the entire incident -- 20 Q. Yes. 21 A. -- I didn't see Watch Manager Dowden in the tower. 22 Q. You didn't? 23 A. No. 24 Q. I see. Okay. 25 A. I believe he was in there at some stage, but I didn't</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 9</p>	<p>1 tabard? 2 A. He will have the surcoat, yes, yellow and white surcoat, 3 with an insert in the rear of the surcoat indicating 4 that he's the incident commander. So he would be the 5 go-to guy or she would be the go-to person on the fire 6 ground wearing that as a focal point for command. 7 Q. Yes. 8 If you go to the next photograph, number 185 9 [INQ00000185], please, this is timed at 01.14.44 or so. 10 A. Yes, that's me. 11 Q. That's you again. And there are BA wearers going in, it 12 seems. 13 Do you know who they are? 14 A. No. 15 Q. Okay. 16 Then the next one is timed at 01.14.49, so just 17 a few seconds later, and it looks like you are holding 18 the door open for them. That's you, is it? 19 A. That's me. 20 Q. Okay. 21 A. I can't recognise the firefighters from this angle. 22 Q. Okay. No. 23 Now, just to go back to what you said a minute ago 24 about smoke in the lobby and you said it was coming out, 25 as it were, being forced out.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 11</p>
<p>1 see him. 2 Q. Right. 3 Then if you go to INQ00000184, this is a picture of 4 you, I think. 5 Let me ask you: that is timed at 01.14.03, subject 6 to adjustment -- 7 A. Yes, that's me. 8 Q. That's you? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. You are wearing a white helmet. 11 A. That's correct. I'm a watch manager; that's my normal 12 (inaudible). 13 Q. So that I'm clear, the white helmet is a watch manager 14 helmet? 15 A. Correct. Well, a white helmet is any rank above crew 16 manager. 17 Q. Right. 18 A. For example, watch manager, it's the band -- there's 19 a band on the helmet, a stripe, and it's like the 20 army: the higher you go up in the rank, you get more 21 stripes and rank markings. That's a single band. 22 A station manager, which is the next rank above me, will 23 have a wider band, a group manager will have a wide band 24 and a single band, and so on and so on and so on. 25 Q. The incident commander will have the white surcoat or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Did that give you any cause for concern at that stage? 3 A. Mild concern. You know, it's not entirely unusual to 4 find smoke travel in a building during fire, given the 5 proximity of the fire, which is on the fourth floor, but 6 it's an indicator, you know, of smoke travel. In 7 a compartmentalised building with fire doors and 8 lobbies, you wouldn't ordinarily get smoke travel unless 9 a door has been opened. 10 But I knew there was a crew who would have gone from 11 the bridgehead on the floor below with a jet, so that 12 would cause smoke to come out of the -- when they made 13 entry to the flat to go into the lobby and subsequently 14 down to the bridgehead. But the idea of the bridgehead 15 is that you're meant to be in a smoke-free environment, 16 because we don't wear breathing apparatus -- the 17 officers and the firefighters working in the bridgehead 18 don't wear breathing apparatus. 19 I hope that explains it to you, that there would be 20 smoke travel. 21 Q. Yes. 22 A. But there seemed to be a lot of smoke. 23 It was light, but I took it that maybe, perhaps, the 24 ventilation system which never appeared to work 25 beforehand had been repaired and it was just extracting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 12</p>

<p>1 smoke.</p> <p>2 Q. You say the ventilation system never appeared to work</p> <p>3 beforehand --</p> <p>4 A. Well, it was kicking in and out. I've never seen that.</p> <p>5 That would signify to me that it was like an engine</p> <p>6 trying to start up and stopping.</p> <p>7 Q. That was the breathing you referred to yesterday?</p> <p>8 A. Yes, it was like inhalation and exhalation.</p> <p>9 Q. You then went up to the second floor where the</p> <p>10 bridgehead was, and you describe that in your witness</p> <p>11 statement on page 7, in the middle of the paragraph.</p> <p>12 You say:</p> <p>13 "I walked through the lobby door and up the stairs</p> <p>14 which sort of went around on itself; to a glass walled</p> <p>15 balcony, which was the second floor level. I got to the</p> <p>16 balcony and I spoke to CM SECRETT asking, 'What have you</p> <p>17 got?' He said it was a fire, and I think he said in a</p> <p>18 kitchen."</p> <p>19 Now, you said this morning that you'd gone past</p> <p>20 somebody in the lift lobby still trying to work the</p> <p>21 lift.</p> <p>22 A. Yes, I don't know who it was, it was somebody trying</p> <p>23 to -- because that's what firefighters are: they are</p> <p>24 determined. Maybe he or she was detailed to try and get</p> <p>25 it to work, but I was focused on going to the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>	<p>1 Q. Then you go up there.</p> <p>2 Can you explain at that stage where the bridgehead</p> <p>3 had been set up?</p> <p>4 A. So the bridgehead had been set up -- on the second-floor</p> <p>5 level, you had this glass -- how would you describe</p> <p>6 it? -- balcony -- I call it a balcony -- and just inside</p> <p>7 that, in the corridor in the lobby, BA had been set up,</p> <p>8 meaning breathing apparatus entry control board, which</p> <p>9 had Firefighter De St Aubin as the operator and</p> <p>10 Chris Secrett, the crew manager, was in charge of the</p> <p>11 bridgehead.</p> <p>12 Q. You say you spoke with Mr Secrett on the balcony; was</p> <p>13 that where the bridgehead was, on the balcony?</p> <p>14 A. Close to it.</p> <p>15 Q. Where was Chris Secrett going? Was he standing there or</p> <p>16 was he coming away --</p> <p>17 A. He was standing there. He was doing his job.</p> <p>18 Q. How far away from the bridgehead was he?</p> <p>19 A. He was in the bridgehead.</p> <p>20 Q. Was the bridgehead on the balcony or --</p> <p>21 A. No, no, the balcony was quite close to the bridgehead,</p> <p>22 it was just the way it was situated. I believe -- I've</p> <p>23 seen some photographs of the inside --</p> <p>24 Q. Yes.</p> <p>25 A. -- and if you could show me a photograph, I could</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>
<p>1 bridgehead.</p> <p>2 Q. The person you saw on the balcony was definitely</p> <p>3 Chris Secrett, was it?</p> <p>4 A. I'm certain about it, yes.</p> <p>5 Q. You think somebody else, another firefighter, was also</p> <p>6 trying to get the lift to work?</p> <p>7 A. On the ground floor.</p> <p>8 Q. On the ground floor. That's your recollection, is it?</p> <p>9 A. That's correct, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay. We'll need to explore that.</p> <p>11 Do you know who that other firefighter was?</p> <p>12 A. (Indicated dissent).</p> <p>13 Q. Were they wearing BA?</p> <p>14 A. No.</p> <p>15 Q. Not wearing BA?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. Were they alone or with others?</p> <p>18 A. Alone.</p> <p>19 Q. They were alone. Right. Any other distinguishing</p> <p>20 features about that firefighter?</p> <p>21 A. Tall. Taller than me, anyway, but I'm not that tall, so</p> <p>22 tall.</p> <p>23 Q. Right. Well, we need to look for a tall firefighter.</p> <p>24 Fine.</p> <p>25 A. Many of them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 explain more clearly to you.</p> <p>2 Q. Yes, I can show you a plan.</p> <p>3 A. Okay, that's fine.</p> <p>4 Q. I could do that.</p> <p>5 If you could go, please, or be shown tab 5 of the</p> <p>6 master docs bundle. I'll just see if I can show you</p> <p>7 a plan of the second floor. This is MET00012593.</p> <p>8 If we just expand it. I showed Mr Secrett this</p> <p>9 yesterday morning. This is a plan of the second floor,</p> <p>10 Mr O'Keeffe, and you can see the atrium or ground floor</p> <p>11 in the bottom right-hand corner.</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. The stairs go up, and then there's the walkway gallery,</p> <p>14 which I think you're describing as the balcony.</p> <p>15 A. The walkway gallery is what I'm talking about. So</p> <p>16 inside the walkway gallery, in there, it's in the</p> <p>17 communal hall is where the bridgehead was set up.</p> <p>18 Q. Where do you think Mr Secrett was when you saw him and</p> <p>19 had this conversation?</p> <p>20 A. He was standing in the narrow section beyond the steps</p> <p>21 up.</p> <p>22 Q. So --</p> <p>23 A. There, yes.</p> <p>24 Q. I see. So you go out of the walkway gallery, turn right</p> <p>25 into that corridor there.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p>

<p>1 A. He may have been in a bit further, but it was in that 2 area. So it was either by the lifts -- I don't think we 3 were by the lifts, but in the communal hall he would've 4 been. 5 Q. That makes that much clearer. 6 Now, can you explain to us what the bridgehead 7 looked like at that time, in terms of -- 8 A. Calm. A working bridgehead, you know. There was 9 an entry control board set up. The BA wearers -- there 10 was two BA wearers. They had one line of hose working. 11 Q. Right. 12 A. And that was it. 13 Q. That was it. Was there anything missing from that? 14 A. Yes. 15 Q. What? 16 A. Well, it was an IEC pack that was missing, which 17 I mentioned to Chris. Apparently it was nearby but 18 hadn't been brought up, but I asked for it to be brought 19 to the bridgehead. This is when I took over as the 20 bridgehead commander. 21 Q. Yes. 22 Did you test the communications between the 23 bridgehead and Mike Dowden? 24 A. Yes, I spoke to Mike Dowden. 25 Q. How were those?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>	<p>1 alight?" He said he didn't really know but it wasn't 2 that bad. But they were making progress. 3 I said to him, "Okay, I'm taking over", and then 4 I detailed him -- I said, "What I want you to do is get 5 me a second line of hose with a BA crew to deploy 6 a backup jet, get me an IEC pack", and I think there was 7 one further crew in the lobby -- sorry, I forgot to 8 mention a further crew in the lobby at that time -- 9 which is Crew Manager Stern and Firefighter Hippel from 10 Kensington, who were standing by. So he went to do 11 that. 12 Q. You say: 13 "He told me, and I realised that it wasn't enough 14 and that back up crews were required." 15 Is that standard practice for all high-rise fires? 16 A. I can explain to you. 17 Q. Yes, please. 18 A. The initial attendance to a high-rise fire could be one 19 fire engine or it could be two fire engines, depending 20 on the first people to get there. That's -- not the 21 initial attendance -- yes, the initial attendance -- 22 Q. That's not the same as predetermined attendance? 23 A. No, no, no, no, it's the first people to attend, so it's 24 like the first police car to attend an incident. 25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>
<p>1 A. Good. They were good. 2 Q. Good, okay. 3 A. I mean, I'm sure we'll get to it, but there was quite 4 a lot of communication between the bridgehead and the 5 incident commander Mike Dowden initially. 6 Q. We will get to it, but initially there was no problem, 7 was there? 8 A. Afterwards, yes. 9 Q. Afterwards, but not at that stage. 10 A. Significant. 11 Q. Now, you say in the middle of page 7: 12 "I told him I was taking over from him as Bridgehead 13 Commander, as I was a rank senior to him." 14 A. Correct. And I had been detailed by the incident 15 commander, which I haven't put in there, but that's -- 16 yes. 17 Q. Right. 18 Did Crew Manager Secrett give you a handover 19 briefing? 20 A. He did. 21 Q. What did he tell you? 22 A. Well, I asked him, "What have you got?", which is how we 23 speak to each other. He said they had a job in the 24 kitchen. "What are you using?" He said, "We've got one 25 line of hose and a BA crew in there". "How much is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 A. It's essential that the first fire engine that arrives 2 puts in the building blocks for a successful attack on 3 a fire. And what we first have to do is we have to 4 secure water supply, so locate a hydrant, locate the 5 inlet, the dry riser or wet rising main. If it was 6 a wet rising main, we locate the pump room, et cetera. 7 We secure water to the building, which is what North 8 Kensington did, and set up a bridgehead. 9 The initial attack can be one line of hose. Our 10 national operation guidance stipulates that when 11 resources are low, a second jet should be laid out. In 12 reality, we like to do it all at once, to have two jets 13 up and running, but it's not always possible because of 14 the dynamics of firefighting and life risk. If we can 15 put in a safe system of work with one jet initially to 16 make an attack, the other one should be, if the PDA is 17 working correctly, have other appliances coming on, as 18 I was, to provide additional resources and backup. 19 Q. Okay. 20 A. Does that make --? 21 Q. Yes, thank you for that explanation. 22 So at that stage -- is this right? -- Crew Manager 23 Secrett had only deployed one -- 24 A. Correct. 25 Q. -- pair of BA wearers with one branch?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>

<p>1 A. That's correct.</p> <p>2 Q. And you wanted a second backup pair --</p> <p>3 A. Correct, and a third. I chose to put in another crew</p> <p>4 for hose management as well.</p> <p>5 Q. Why was that?</p> <p>6 A. Because it's difficult to manage hose. So hose, when</p> <p>7 it's charged, is unwieldy. If you've two jets, they</p> <p>8 kink around corners, they're very hard to move, and what</p> <p>9 can happen, if you've only got a BA crew on a jet, say</p> <p>10 45-millimetre charged two or three lengths of hose, it</p> <p>11 can be difficult because the BA crew will have to</p> <p>12 separate, which we don't like. Firefighters need to</p> <p>13 stay together for safety reasons and just to look out</p> <p>14 for each other.</p> <p>15 So if I'm going to a compartment fire and I've only</p> <p>16 got 2 metres of hose in there and I need 5 metres of</p> <p>17 hose in there, you know, I would have to go back as</p> <p>18 a firefighter and pull hose around the corner. It's</p> <p>19 very labour-intensive, and if you're in a fire</p> <p>20 compartment, if you've got guys backing you up to do</p> <p>21 that for you, it makes sense.</p> <p>22 Q. Right. I see.</p> <p>23 Now, I think you then go on to say that you</p> <p>24 committed a third crew.</p> <p>25 A. I did.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p>	<p>1 Q. Okay. 5 minutes, 10 minutes?</p> <p>2 A. Relatively quick, you know.</p> <p>3 Q. Who, do you remember, sent that message?</p> <p>4 A. Crew Manager Batterbee.</p> <p>5 Q. Batterbee?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. Right. Was that by BARIE radio?</p> <p>8 A. A BARIE radio, yes, I think. I can't remember exactly,</p> <p>9 but I contacted them, the BA crew, for a progress report</p> <p>10 or an update.</p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 A. And they said the fire's out, so I thought that was</p> <p>13 a good, swift attack and that we had gotten on top of</p> <p>14 it.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay. Then you say, four lines up from the bottom:</p> <p>16 "I asked Charlie BATTERBEE the Crew Manager from</p> <p>17 North Kensington, 'Charlie, is the fire out?' He said,</p> <p>18 'The fire is out.'"</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. Why did you have to ask him that question?</p> <p>21 A. That's what I always ask, you know, to clarify it. When</p> <p>22 you're at an incident, there's a lot going on, there's</p> <p>23 a lot of noise, a lot of activity, quite action centric.</p> <p>24 As a watch manager or an incident commander, I would</p> <p>25 always double, sometimes triple check issues regarding</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p>
<p>1 Q. Do you remember who they were?</p> <p>2 A. I do. So Hammersmith's pair, they were on the second</p> <p>3 jet, I believe, and one of my firefighters, who is very</p> <p>4 experienced, Firefighter Hippel -- he's done 30 years,</p> <p>5 he's quite a switched on guy -- he said to me, "Do you</p> <p>6 think we could give a hand?" I said, "Actually, guys,</p> <p>7 you can, go under air and help with hose management".</p> <p>8 Q. I see. So you had the first crew, Batterbee and Brown,</p> <p>9 second crew, Hammersmith firefighters Barton and</p> <p>10 O'Hanlon.</p> <p>11 A. Yes. They were there to protect the first crew.</p> <p>12 Q. Yes. And then you had the third crew -- is this</p> <p>13 right? -- doing hose management?</p> <p>14 A. Correct.</p> <p>15 Q. Richard Hippel, and another one?</p> <p>16 A. Jamal Stern.</p> <p>17 Q. Jamal Stern. Okay, we'll come back to what they do</p> <p>18 later on.</p> <p>19 Now, if we look at the bottom of page 7 of your</p> <p>20 statement, you say you received a message by radio from</p> <p>21 the BA crew that the fire was out.</p> <p>22 A. Correct.</p> <p>23 Q. How long after arriving at the bridgehead --</p> <p>24 A. Not long, actually. 5 minutes, 10 minutes. I don't</p> <p>25 know. It was pretty quick.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 fire spread. So it's a bit like the police; we repeat</p> <p>2 things twice so there's clarification on radio</p> <p>3 transmission. So I say, "Is the fire out?" and he goes</p> <p>4 "Yeah", and I say, "Can you confirm?", is what I would</p> <p>5 say, "Can you confirm the fire is out?" He answers,</p> <p>6 "Yes", which is how we speak.</p> <p>7 Q. So the way you remember it, did you radio him and he</p> <p>8 told you and then you asked for the confirmation --</p> <p>9 A. Yes, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. -- or did he radio down to you?</p> <p>11 A. He could possibly have radioed me, but we had this</p> <p>12 conversation on the radio.</p> <p>13 Q. Did you have any difficulties with communication or</p> <p>14 hearing him at that stage?</p> <p>15 A. None whatsoever, no.</p> <p>16 Q. Now, pausing there, we have in the ORR a message timed</p> <p>17 at 01.21.15, which is -- well, you can see it's about</p> <p>18 8 minutes after you came into the building.</p> <p>19 Would that be about right in terms of your</p> <p>20 recollection?</p> <p>21 A. Could be.</p> <p>22 Q. Okay.</p> <p>23 A. I don't know.</p> <p>24 Q. We also know that Batterbee tallied in at 01.32.11.</p> <p>25 So he then comes down. You say at the bottom of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p>

<p>1 page 7 of your statement:</p> <p>2 "I asked the BA crews to come and see me because</p> <p>3 that's my manner, to make face-to-face contact."</p> <p>4 A. Correct.</p> <p>5 Q. "I asked Charlie BATTERBEE the Crew Manager from North</p> <p>6 Kensington, 'Charlie, is the fire out?' He said, 'The</p> <p>7 fire is out.'"</p> <p>8 We discussed that a minute ago as if that was</p> <p>9 a radio discussion. I'm just wondering whether in</p> <p>10 fact --</p> <p>11 A. This was a face-to-face discussion.</p> <p>12 Q. That was a face-to-face discussion?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. I see. But the message that you've just been talking</p> <p>15 about was one over the radio?</p> <p>16 A. On the radio, and then I said, "Come and see me" -- over</p> <p>17 the radio I said, "Come and see me", which is -- again,</p> <p>18 it's not uncommon for an incident commander to do that</p> <p>19 or sector commanders.</p> <p>20 Q. Right, okay. I probably rushed you a little bit here,</p> <p>21 so let me just see --</p> <p>22 A. You have a bit, actually, I was going to explain.</p> <p>23 Q. Yes.</p> <p>24 A. There was radio -- this is --</p> <p>25 Q. Let's take it slowly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p>	<p>1 he came straight to see me because I wanted him to come</p> <p>2 and see me. I was standing to the right of the BA board</p> <p>3 and I just said to him face-to-face, "Can you confirm</p> <p>4 the fire's out?" He said "Yes". I said, "Good job".</p> <p>5 Or something along those lines.</p> <p>6 Q. When you had that face-to-face conversation had he yet</p> <p>7 tallied back in?</p> <p>8 A. No.</p> <p>9 Q. I see. Did he tally back in after that conversation?</p> <p>10 A. After that conversation, because I told him to go and do</p> <p>11 a fire ground A test because things had gone wrong</p> <p>12 during the conversation. As I was speaking to him,</p> <p>13 things started to -- information started coming in and</p> <p>14 I heard shouts and screams as we were talking.</p> <p>15 Q. You say that in your statement at the bottom of page 7.</p> <p>16 We'll come to that in just a moment.</p> <p>17 Just before we do, after that conversation, before</p> <p>18 he tallied in, did you see him then tally in?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. You didn't.</p> <p>21 A. I told him to go, do a fire ground A test. I had more</p> <p>22 urgent matters to attend to immediately.</p> <p>23 Q. What about Firefighter Brown?</p> <p>24 A. Didn't see him.</p> <p>25 Q. Didn't see him?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p>
<p>1 A. So every fire we would go to, if it's extinguished, just</p> <p>2 this very specific detail, I would say every experienced</p> <p>3 watch commander or operational officer will ask for</p> <p>4 verification of details over the radio first and then</p> <p>5 face-to-face.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 A. Because it is a very important communication. If you</p> <p>8 say the fire's out, that's a big communication. It's</p> <p>9 an important one.</p> <p>10 Q. Yes, I understand.</p> <p>11 So just to take it a bit more in stages than we</p> <p>12 were: you have the discussion over the radio.</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Either he radios you or you radio him.</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. He tells you the fire is out, you ask him to confirm, he</p> <p>17 says yes.</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. We have that radio message timed at 01.21.15. He then</p> <p>20 comes down to the bridgehead -- is this right?</p> <p>21 A. Correct.</p> <p>22 Q. And you then have a face-to-face debrief?</p> <p>23 A. He's still wearing breathing apparatus, because he's</p> <p>24 come to see me, which is I think polite of him, he</p> <p>25 could've gone to the BA board and shut down first, but</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 A. No.</p> <p>2 Q. So you didn't have a debrief with him?</p> <p>3 A. No, my assumption is that Danny Brown,</p> <p>4 Firefighter Brown, went to the BA board. Again, it's</p> <p>5 an assumption. I would say they had a conversation and</p> <p>6 Charlie probably said, "I'm going to talk to the watch</p> <p>7 manager" and -- yes.</p> <p>8 Q. Yes.</p> <p>9 We have a tally in time for Firefighter Batterbee of</p> <p>10 1.32.11, so we know that he did tally in.</p> <p>11 Just to go back and press a little bit, do you think</p> <p>12 the conversation that you had with him about what he'd</p> <p>13 seen, the fire being out, was before he tallied in?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. It was. Okay.</p> <p>16 A. When you say "tallied in", that's not the terminology we</p> <p>17 use; "shut down" is what we say. You shut down your</p> <p>18 set, meaning after you've had a wear, you shut it down</p> <p>19 and you report to entry control and you get your tally</p> <p>20 back. You're using the terminology "tally in"; we don't</p> <p>21 use that. We say you put a tally into the entry control</p> <p>22 board. I'm being pedantic here, but is that what you</p> <p>23 mean?</p> <p>24 Q. It is. We have a number of times on our telemetry data,</p> <p>25 one of which is "Tally in (to bodyguard)", another is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p>

<p>1 "End of wear time", another is "Bodyguard switched off"</p> <p>2 and another one is "Logged off".</p> <p>3 A. Yes. Well, logged off -- you should be logged off</p> <p>4 immediately. Once you go back to the entry control</p> <p>5 board, you shut your set down and then you're logged off</p> <p>6 by the entry control officer and you're given your tally</p> <p>7 back.</p> <p>8 Q. We don't have times for logging off for that, but we</p> <p>9 have him tallying in to bodyguard at 01.32.11, end of</p> <p>10 wear 01.29.03 and his bodyguard switched off at</p> <p>11 01.29.42?</p> <p>12 A. Well, that's accurate.</p> <p>13 Q. Yes, it's accurate. It comes from established telemetry</p> <p>14 data. So I've been using tally in to bodyguard --</p> <p>15 A. That's fine. That's okay.</p> <p>16 Q. All right. Thank you.</p> <p>17 A. You're not a firefighter, so you wouldn't know.</p> <p>18 Q. No, no. Not yet!</p> <p>19 So that's the tally-in time.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. You think the conversation you had was before that.</p> <p>22 Okay.</p> <p>23 Now, you then say -- well, sorry, let me just ask</p> <p>24 you this: you had a face-to-face discussion with him.</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p>	<p>1 do an A test quickly because I needed more BA wearers.</p> <p>2 I knew I would because I had information that the fire</p> <p>3 was jumping.</p> <p>4 Q. I was about to ask you: when you say "it all changed",</p> <p>5 can you just describe for us what changed?</p> <p>6 A. It went from being a calm, good job, you know, the</p> <p>7 fire's out, to people screaming and shouting. The radio</p> <p>8 starts. My handheld radio started going with a message</p> <p>9 saying the fire's jumping. I don't know which</p> <p>10 firefighter it was, but somebody said there's fire on</p> <p>11 the fifth or the sixth, or there's fire on the fifth,</p> <p>12 there's fire on the fifth, and he kept repeating it in</p> <p>13 an excited, or in an alarmed way.</p> <p>14 Q. First of all, you say there was screaming and shouting.</p> <p>15 Who was --</p> <p>16 A. Shouting and a couple of screams upstairs. I could hear</p> <p>17 it.</p> <p>18 Q. Right. I'm sorry --</p> <p>19 A. Consternation is how I describe it.</p> <p>20 Q. So you, standing on the bridgehead, second floor --</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. -- where you showed us, could hear screams?</p> <p>23 A. Yes, a scream, shouts, and general commotion.</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 A. And the radio started operating.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p>
<p>1 Q. Do you remember whether Charlie Batterbee, during that</p> <p>2 discussion, said anything to you about seeing falling,</p> <p>3 burning material?</p> <p>4 A. No, no, absolutely not.</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 In his oral evidence, Charlie Batterbee said that he</p> <p>7 did report to you that he had seen fire on the exterior.</p> <p>8 A. He didn't.</p> <p>9 Q. He didn't tell you?</p> <p>10 A. No, he didn't tell me that, no. He told me the fire was</p> <p>11 out. That was it.</p> <p>12 Q. That was it?</p> <p>13 A. That was it.</p> <p>14 Q. Are you clear in your --</p> <p>15 A. Absolutely certain about it.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 Then at the bottom of page 7, you say:</p> <p>18 "And then, in what seemed like seconds, but was</p> <p>19 probably a minute later, it all changed. There was</p> <p>20 consternation and shouting. The atmosphere changed very</p> <p>21 quickly and everything seemed immediately different."</p> <p>22 Where was Charlie Batterbee at that moment?</p> <p>23 A. Couldn't tell you. I would say -- well, I could tell</p> <p>24 you, but I don't know physically where he was, but he</p> <p>25 was on his way back to do an A test. I've asked him to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 Q. The screaming, shouting and general commotion, was that</p> <p>2 coming from firefighters or from others?</p> <p>3 A. Probably -- I'd say some of the shouts were coming from</p> <p>4 firefighters, but from residents also.</p> <p>5 Q. Right. And did residents start coming down?</p> <p>6 A. Not immediately, but very soon they did.</p> <p>7 Q. Right. We'll come to this shortly, but let --</p> <p>8 A. Okay. Quite a lot happened in that 5 minutes. So much</p> <p>9 happened. Different things -- everybody started moving</p> <p>10 really quickly, the noise became elevated, and the level</p> <p>11 of alarm became elevated.</p> <p>12 Q. Let's see if I can try and take this in bits.</p> <p>13 A. Okay, that's fine.</p> <p>14 Q. So fifth floor, you say -- and you said in your</p> <p>15 statement -- the crew transmitted that there was smoke</p> <p>16 on the fifth floor.</p> <p>17 A. Correct.</p> <p>18 Q. Did you get that information?</p> <p>19 A. I did.</p> <p>20 Q. Who did you get that from?</p> <p>21 A. Don't know, a firefighter. Can't remember which one it</p> <p>22 was.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay. From your fire ground radio?</p> <p>24 A. Correct.</p> <p>25 Q. Was the firefighter who gave you that information inside</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p>

<p>1 the tower?</p> <p>2 A. Inside the tower.</p> <p>3 Q. Right. Did you know that a firefighter had gone up</p> <p>4 above the fire floor to --</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. -- investigate?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 A. And the reason I don't know that is because we were the</p> <p>10 third machine to arrive, and if firefighters from North</p> <p>11 Kensington were inside the tower, which I would expect</p> <p>12 them to be to help their colleagues, then I -- but</p> <p>13 I wouldn't know where they were exactly.</p> <p>14 Q. At this stage, Alex De St Aubin was running the BA entry</p> <p>15 control.</p> <p>16 A. He was, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you know whether he said anything about knowing that</p> <p>18 a firefighter had gone up?</p> <p>19 A. No, he didn't say anything about it.</p> <p>20 Q. Did Mr Secrett tell you --</p> <p>21 A. No.</p> <p>22 Q. -- that someone had gone up into --</p> <p>23 A. No, no.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay.</p> <p>25 To be clear, you say the crew transmitted there was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p>	<p>1 A. I can't recall, but I can recall about a minute later</p> <p>2 calling him on my radio and exactly what we said to each</p> <p>3 other.</p> <p>4 Q. What was that?</p> <p>5 A. Well, I sent the crew that came down to me to</p> <p>6 investigate. I must say, I wasn't overly concerned</p> <p>7 because you will get smoke travel. As far as I was</p> <p>8 concerned, they had extinguished the fire and, in doing</p> <p>9 so, some smoke had gone -- during the process, smoke had</p> <p>10 travelled up to the fifth floor. So, again, that's not</p> <p>11 unusual at a fire, so I sent a BA crew to investigate.</p> <p>12 Q. But you also said that you heard screaming and</p> <p>13 consternation.</p> <p>14 A. Yes, shouts and general consternation or -- yeah, noise.</p> <p>15 And I sent the BA crew there and they went there really</p> <p>16 quickly -- it seemed like seconds to me -- and they</p> <p>17 actually reported to me that they were on the sixth</p> <p>18 floor.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. We're getting ahead a bit too quickly. Can</p> <p>20 I just take it slightly more slowly.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Because I know there's a lot that happened and I just</p> <p>23 want to try and take it in pieces.</p> <p>24 A. There was a lot that happened, yes.</p> <p>25 Q. You say you had a conversation with Mike Dowden by radio</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p>
<p>1 smoke on the fifth floor?</p> <p>2 A. Mm.</p> <p>3 Q. Smoke or anything more than smoke?</p> <p>4 A. Smoke.</p> <p>5 Q. So no reference to fire on the fifth floor?</p> <p>6 A. There was other information, they seemed alarmed, but</p> <p>7 I can't remember what it was, but they said smoke and</p> <p>8 they said heavy smoke-logging. And then I had a BA crew</p> <p>9 come to me, which was Crew Manager Stern and</p> <p>10 Firefighter Hippel came -- well, they were under air,</p> <p>11 they came down to the bridgehead and they said to me,</p> <p>12 "Governor, someone said there's a fire on the fifth</p> <p>13 floor".</p> <p>14 Q. Right. I'm going to come back to that in just a moment,</p> <p>15 but before I do, can I ask you: when you heard</p> <p>16 a firefighter tell you by your fire ground radio that</p> <p>17 there was smoke on the fifth floor, did you communicate</p> <p>18 that to Mike Dowden?</p> <p>19 A. I did, yes. I think I did. I think I most certainly</p> <p>20 would've done, but I can't recall exactly what I said to</p> <p>21 him.</p> <p>22 Q. How did you or do you think you communicated that to</p> <p>23 him?</p> <p>24 A. By radio.</p> <p>25 Q. Right. Did he respond, do you remember?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p>	<p>1 a minute later, after being told that there was smoke on</p> <p>2 the fifth floor. Could you just tell me --</p> <p>3 A. No. When there was smoke reported, I would've said to</p> <p>4 him there's smoke reported. That's the sort of thing</p> <p>5 you would say to your colleague or incident commander.</p> <p>6 Q. Did he respond to that?</p> <p>7 A. I can't remember.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay.</p> <p>9 A. I do not remember if there was -- quite a lot of radio</p> <p>10 traffic then.</p> <p>11 Q. Then you say you committed Stern and Hippel to go to the</p> <p>12 fifth floor.</p> <p>13 A. When I say committed, I retasked them. They were in BA</p> <p>14 already.</p> <p>15 Q. Where were they standing?</p> <p>16 A. They came down to face me in the bridgehead.</p> <p>17 Q. Right. You say they came down --</p> <p>18 A. The stairs. They stood at the entrance to the stairs to</p> <p>19 the third floor.</p> <p>20 Q. Had they already been up?</p> <p>21 A. Yes. They'd been hose management.</p> <p>22 Q. How far up in the building had they gone to do hose</p> <p>23 management?</p> <p>24 A. On the fourth floor.</p> <p>25 Q. They were on --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p>

<p>1 A. If you're hose managing, you would be between the third 2 and fourth floor at that time. 3 Q. Would they have been under air -- 4 A. They were under air, yes. 5 Q. -- at that point? 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Do you know why they came back down to the bridgehead? 8 A. Because they wanted to tell me there was a problem. 9 They could hear the radio just as well as I could. 10 Possibly they had seen something. I don't know exactly. 11 But they're experienced people, those two guys, and they 12 came and said to me, quite clearly, there's reports -- 13 they said reports of fire on the fifth floor as opposed 14 to smoke. The radio transmission said smoke; they said 15 fire and smoke, as I recall. 16 Q. I see. 17 A. On the fifth floor. 18 Q. So let me see if I can get this right. 19 You'd already tasked Hippel and Stern to go to do 20 hose management on the fourth floor? 21 A. On the fire floor, yes. 22 Q. On the fire floor. 23 A. Well, between, you know, to help out with the hose. 24 Q. Yes, and they were doing that under air. 25 A. Correct.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 37</p>	<p>1 "I spoke to Jamal STERN via the Fire ground radio. 2 I can't remember exactly what he said but it was 3 something like 'It's fucked! It's going! It's completely 4 smoked out, on this floor.' 5 A. That's what he said. 6 Q. That's what he said? 7 A. More or less. He was quite alarmed -- really alarmed, 8 actually. 9 Q. Okay. What did you tell them to do? 10 A. Well, I immediately transmitted the message to the 11 incident commander. 12 Q. Right. 13 A. I said it's jumping, "The fire's jumping, Mick", as 14 I know him as, and he said, "I know, I know, I can see 15 it on the outside, I can see it on the outside", he 16 said, and it wasn't because he wanted me to understand 17 what he was saying; he was heightened or his senses were 18 heightened. I said, "It's jumping, it's jumping, it's 19 going on the fifth and the sixth", and he said, "I know, 20 I can see it jumping on the outside". It was happening 21 simultaneously that he could see what was happening 22 outside, whereas I could see -- or hear, not see, 23 hear -- what was happening on the inside. 24 Q. I see. 25 So when you had been told by Jamal Stern on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 39</p>
<p>1 Q. So they had already tallied out, as I call it. 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. Yes. And we have their times of tallying out at 4 01.17 -- that's not to the nearest second, 01.17 or 5 so -- and then you say they heard the message over the 6 radio that there was -- 7 A. They heard something. They saw something or they heard 8 something -- 9 Q. So they came down to the bridgehead. 10 A. -- that concerned them enough to come and see me 11 personally. 12 Q. Then they come to the bridgehead and you then tell them 13 to do what? 14 A. Go and tell me what's happening on the fifth floor. 15 Q. Right. 16 A. As quickly as you can. 17 Q. Going back to your statement, they then go up and you 18 say they went to the fifth; is this right? 19 A. They went past -- they went to the fifth and, as I found 20 out later, not that night, they went to the fifth and 21 they continued to the sixth. 22 Q. Did they stop on the fifth, do you know? 23 A. I don't know. 24 Q. They went to the sixth, and you say in your statement, 25 two lines down from the top of page 8:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 sixth floor, you reported that to Mike Dowden and you 2 had a conversation about that? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. He said, "I know, I can see it's jumping on the 5 outside"? 6 A. I told him to make pumps eight, or I advised him to make 7 pumps eight. I said, "Make it eight, make it eight", 8 and he said, "I'm doing it, I'm doing it", and then 9 I said to him -- okay, I'll let you ... 10 Q. We'll come to that. 11 Before we do, were you concerned at that stage? 12 A. Extremely. 13 Q. What were you concerned about? 14 A. The fire spreading up into other apartments. I thought 15 we'd get on top of it. We've had fire spread before, 16 and my plan was to flood it with BA and then 17 firefighting equipment to get hold of it. That's what 18 we do. 19 Q. Now, at that stage, just summarising it, we have you at 20 the bridgehead knowing there's fire on the fifth and 21 sixth floor, and we've got Mike outside who can see 22 what's happening outside. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. Did you have a discussion with Mike Dowden about 25 evacuation of the fifth floor or sixth floor?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 40</p>

<p>1 A. Not at that time.</p> <p>2 Q. Is there a reason why that wasn't a subject for</p> <p>3 discussion?</p> <p>4 A. The reason was, my understanding of it is that as</p> <p>5 a bridgehead commander, I'm faced with spread and</p> <p>6 possibly other persons involved, and the fire's moving</p> <p>7 really quickly, I mean rapidly, but I thought we'd get</p> <p>8 it, so my communication with him was to give me</p> <p>9 everybody he had spare on the fire ground in BA now with</p> <p>10 firefighting kit.</p> <p>11 Q. You say "I thought we'd get it"; do you mean that you</p> <p>12 thought you'd be able to extinguish the fire without any</p> <p>13 evacuation?</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. What made you think that?</p> <p>16 A. Experience.</p> <p>17 Q. Had you experienced fire spread of this nature before?</p> <p>18 A. Not that quickly.</p> <p>19 Q. So in the light of the fact that you hadn't seen fire</p> <p>20 spread that quickly before, how did your experience help</p> <p>21 you to decide that you shouldn't evacuate at that stage?</p> <p>22 A. Because I thought it had jumped two floors. We already</p> <p>23 had two BA crews with jets in. We had one BA crew come</p> <p>24 out. We already had two charged jets in there. And if</p> <p>25 I was to have additional jets and crews -- I knew what</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>	<p>1 We'll come back at 10.30, please.</p> <p>2 (10.21 am)</p> <p>3 (A short break)</p> <p>4 (10.30 am)</p> <p>5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, while we are waiting for</p> <p>6 Mr O'Keefe, I think it would be sensible if we ran for</p> <p>7 another, say, 40 minutes or thereabouts and then had</p> <p>8 another break for the witness's benefit.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: Yes, I think so. If we can now have him back.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think he is on his way.</p> <p>11 (Pause)</p> <p>12 Are you comfortable to carry on?</p> <p>13 THE WITNESS: I am, certainly, yes.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think we'll all benefit from a few</p> <p>15 breaks during the morning, so I've asked Mr Millett to</p> <p>16 find a convenient moment in about 40 minutes. Do you</p> <p>17 think that's all right?</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, we'll do that.</p> <p>20 MR MILLETT: Mr O'Keefe, thank you.</p> <p>21 Now, I just want to go back to what we were looking</p> <p>22 at before the break, which is a discussion you had with</p> <p>23 Mike Dowden about rescue.</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. Now, my question is: against the context of you having</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>
<p>1 we had on the fire ground at that time -- I thought we</p> <p>2 would stop it, at least try to stop it.</p> <p>3 And you're asking me about why we didn't discuss</p> <p>4 evacuation -- well, we did of sorts about 30 seconds</p> <p>5 after that.</p> <p>6 Q. What was that discussion?</p> <p>7 A. Rescues.</p> <p>8 Q. Rescues?</p> <p>9 A. It's a type of evacuation, but it's a rescue, multiple</p> <p>10 rescues.</p> <p>11 Q. Who did you have that discussion with?</p> <p>12 A. Mike Dowden.</p> <p>13 Q. Do you remember what you said to him?</p> <p>14 A. Not exactly. We had multiple calls started coming in</p> <p>15 immediately. I wasn't aware the fire was jumping up</p> <p>16 through the building. And -- can I have a break?</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Absolutely. Of course you can. Absolutely.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, you'd like to take</p> <p>19 a break now?</p> <p>20 THE WITNESS: Yes, I would.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course, we'll do that.</p> <p>22 10 minutes?</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>25 Don't discuss your evidence, please.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 sent Hippel and Stern up and they've reported to you, do</p> <p>2 you think the discussion you had with Mike Dowden or</p> <p>3 Mick Dowden about rescue was after you'd heard Jamal and</p> <p>4 Stern report to you that there was fire on the sixth</p> <p>5 floor?</p> <p>6 A. Not immediately afterwards.</p> <p>7 Q. How long afterwards, do you think?</p> <p>8 A. I can't exactly say, but not long. We started getting</p> <p>9 calls, people in the building, because the fire was</p> <p>10 spreading.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. Can you tell us what you said to Mike Dowden</p> <p>12 about rescue?</p> <p>13 A. That we were receiving -- I said that we were receiving</p> <p>14 calls from people saying that their family members were</p> <p>15 trapped by smoke, or they were affected by smoke. And</p> <p>16 that would indicate to him that we would need to start</p> <p>17 putting in a rescue operation. That was the</p> <p>18 conversation.</p> <p>19 Q. So you said that him, that you were receiving calls?</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. What did he say to you?</p> <p>22 A. Well, they were also receiving calls outside.</p> <p>23 Q. Right. Just pausing there then. Where were you</p> <p>24 receiving calls from?</p> <p>25 A. On the radio. I believe Firefighter De St Aubin got</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p>

<p>1 some information. I think some firefighters came down.</p> <p>2 I can't recall exactly, there was so much activity.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 A. And Crew Manager Stern and Firefighter Hippel reported</p> <p>5 to me that they had information that somebody was</p> <p>6 trapped on the 16th floor.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. That's --</p> <p>8 A. Which I found very, very unusual.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay. That jumps ahead in time a little bit far.</p> <p>10 A. Okay.</p> <p>11 Q. We'll definitely come back to that because it's</p> <p>12 important.</p> <p>13 But just in terms of the discussion that you had</p> <p>14 with Mike Dowden, you were getting the information, you</p> <p>15 said, I think, through Alex De St Aubin. Do you know</p> <p>16 where he was getting that information from?</p> <p>17 A. I would say on his radio.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you remember him receiving it on his radio?</p> <p>19 A. No.</p> <p>20 Q. Do you remember any firefighters coming at that stage,</p> <p>21 so still early on, to the bridgehead with pieces of</p> <p>22 paper?</p> <p>23 A. No, not with pieces of paper. It didn't happen that</p> <p>24 quickly.</p> <p>25 Q. Do you know where Mike Dowden was getting his</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p>	<p>1 Q. What did you think about how far further the fire might</p> <p>2 spread?</p> <p>3 A. As I said earlier on, I thought we could get it, because</p> <p>4 that's normally what happens. If the compartmentation</p> <p>5 in a building is correct and functioning as it should</p> <p>6 do, it should stop the spread of fire. Occasionally you</p> <p>7 will get adaptations to a building where services are</p> <p>8 installed or, for whatever reason, a fire door is</p> <p>9 damaged. That would undermine the integrity of the</p> <p>10 compartmentation.</p> <p>11 So if it did spread, those could be the reasons.</p> <p>12 I genuinely thought it was spreading on the inside, but</p> <p>13 Mike or Watch Manager Dowden said to me, "I can see it</p> <p>14 jumping on the outside", and then I had firefighters</p> <p>15 very quickly running in telling me what's actually</p> <p>16 happening on the outside.</p> <p>17 Q. What did you think at that moment about whether</p> <p>18 compartmentation was holding?</p> <p>19 A. I thought it had failed internally just between a couple</p> <p>20 of flats.</p> <p>21 Q. You thought it failed --</p> <p>22 A. Possibly going up, you know, the communal stairwell.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 A. Something unseen had broken out. That is normally what</p> <p>25 happens. You get hidden fire travel -- it's quite</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p>
<p>1 information from about people?</p> <p>2 A. Main scheme radio and then from his driver, who was on</p> <p>3 the initial command pump.</p> <p>4 Q. Did you have a conversation with Mike Dowden about</p> <p>5 evacuation or --</p> <p>6 A. No.</p> <p>7 Q. Was there a discussion, for example, about evacuating</p> <p>8 everybody on the fifth floor or everybody on the sixth</p> <p>9 floor?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Can you help, why didn't you discuss that?</p> <p>12 A. I would say the circumstances were exceptional.</p> <p>13 Something was happening -- well, we'd never seen this</p> <p>14 before or experienced it at the rate it was happening.</p> <p>15 I think that was to the forefront, certainly to my</p> <p>16 thoughts, and I wasn't looking at the building from the</p> <p>17 outside, which I would imagine was quite dramatic, for</p> <p>18 want of a better word. It was quite severe, probably</p> <p>19 a better word.</p> <p>20 Q. Yes.</p> <p>21 Now, on page 8 of your statement, you say, after</p> <p>22 Jamal and Stern had reported to you what they found on</p> <p>23 the sixth floor, four lines down:</p> <p>24 I knew then that there was fire spread.</p> <p>25 A. Yes, I did.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 common -- in voids and that had broken out and just</p> <p>2 (Clicks) went.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay, so your view, just to summarise it -- I hope</p> <p>4 I have this right -- is that you thought at that time</p> <p>5 that compartmentation had failed and it had failed</p> <p>6 internally?</p> <p>7 A. Locally, locally.</p> <p>8 Q. Internally?</p> <p>9 A. Inside. That was my understanding, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Did that prompt any thoughts about whether there was</p> <p>11 then a risk of further failure of compartmentation</p> <p>12 internally higher up the building than the sixth floor?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. Why is that?</p> <p>15 A. Not to the extent where it went that quickly. That's my</p> <p>16 honest answer, or my accurate answer.</p> <p>17 Q. At that stage -- you think you've got internal</p> <p>18 compartmentation failure in the building, fire on two</p> <p>19 floors above the fire floor --</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. -- what did you think was the correct procedure now to</p> <p>22 follow in order to deal with what you have in front of</p> <p>23 you?</p> <p>24 A. Bring in additional resources and extinguish the fire.</p> <p>25 Q. So firefighting?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p>

<p>1 A. Attack the fire.</p> <p>2 Q. Attack the fire.</p> <p>3 You then go on to say in the fifth line down from</p> <p>4 the top of page 8:</p> <p>5 "Some of the residents started self-evacuating."</p> <p>6 A. They did.</p> <p>7 Q. "They looked frightened and had black smoke marks on</p> <p>8 their faces."</p> <p>9 A. They did, that's correct.</p> <p>10 Q. "From that moment onwards, we just started carrying out</p> <p>11 rescues."</p> <p>12 Just in terms of residents, were they coming past</p> <p>13 you at the bridgehead?</p> <p>14 A. They were being escorted past me by firefighters.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay. All of them or were some of them self-evacuating?</p> <p>16 A. Some of them by themselves, some of them were being</p> <p>17 escorted by firefighters. They looked confused and</p> <p>18 frightened.</p> <p>19 Q. What did the black smoke marks tell you about how the</p> <p>20 fire was behaving?</p> <p>21 A. That the smoke was travelling. They'd gone through</p> <p>22 smoke. They'd been in smoke or walked through smoke to</p> <p>23 exit the building.</p> <p>24 Q. Did it look as if they were suffering seriously from</p> <p>25 smoke inhalation?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p>	<p>1 to be found on the higher floors?</p> <p>2 A. What it told me is that there was smoke -- there was two</p> <p>3 floors involved and these people were possibly from</p> <p>4 those floors.</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 How long roughly after Crew Manager Batterbee had</p> <p>7 left the bridgehead did you see -- sorry, let me ask the</p> <p>8 question in a different way.</p> <p>9 Did you see the residents coming down past you with</p> <p>10 smoke inhalation before or after Crew Manager Batterbee</p> <p>11 had left the bridgehead?</p> <p>12 A. Afterwards.</p> <p>13 Q. Next question: how long afterwards, do you think?</p> <p>14 A. Three or four minutes.</p> <p>15 Q. Right. Thank you.</p> <p>16 You then say in your statement:</p> <p>17 "From that moment onwards, we just started carrying</p> <p>18 out rescues."</p> <p>19 When you say "just" --</p> <p>20 A. Well, that's just the way I speak. That's what we were</p> <p>21 doing. We're firefighting and rescues.</p> <p>22 Q. I was going to ask you: you say firefighting and</p> <p>23 rescues.</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. So it wasn't only rescues; it was firefighting as well.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p>
<p>1 A. Not seriously, but significant -- it doesn't take much</p> <p>2 smoke to either -- well, to injure somebody.</p> <p>3 Q. Do you know which floors these residents had come down</p> <p>4 from?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you speak to any of them?</p> <p>7 A. I didn't speak to the residents; I was speaking to</p> <p>8 firefighters.</p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 As you've told us, some of them were</p> <p>11 self-evacuating; what did that tell you about whether</p> <p>12 the building's stay-put policy was still a safe policy</p> <p>13 to pursue?</p> <p>14 A. Can you repeat the question?</p> <p>15 Q. You could see some of these residents self-evacuating.</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Did that tell you anything about whether the building --</p> <p>18 A. That they wanted to leave the building; there was smoke</p> <p>19 and they were frightened.</p> <p>20 Q. Yes, but did that tell you anything about whether the</p> <p>21 building's stay-put policy was still a safe policy to</p> <p>22 pursue?</p> <p>23 A. No, I wasn't thinking about that.</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 Did that tell you anything about where the smoke was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 A. No, it was firefighting and rescues. I was still, as</p> <p>2 a bridgehead commander, pursuing the orthodox way of</p> <p>3 fighting a high-rise fire. All I was doing was</p> <p>4 increasing my resources or asking for additional</p> <p>5 resources. I was dealing with a problem, you know.</p> <p>6 It's a dynamic situation, a fire, and it can change and,</p> <p>7 you know, we try to adapt our procedures. But by and</p> <p>8 large we stick with the fundamentals of high-rise</p> <p>9 firefighting.</p> <p>10 Q. Did you prioritise firefighting over rescue or rescue</p> <p>11 over firefighting or both the same?</p> <p>12 A. It was simultaneous action. That's what it was. But</p> <p>13 our prime directive or purpose is saving lives, so that</p> <p>14 would come before anything else.</p> <p>15 Q. Absolutely.</p> <p>16 Did you give firefighters who were coming to the</p> <p>17 bridgehead and being committed under air instructions as</p> <p>18 to rescue?</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. What were those instructions?</p> <p>21 A. The floor number, flat number and number of persons and</p> <p>22 the conditions -- I mean smoke and fire conditions. So</p> <p>23 the information is quite succinct in that it will tell</p> <p>24 you which floor the flat is on and the flat number and</p> <p>25 the number of persons in the flat and, if available,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p>

<p>1 conditions.</p> <p>2 Q. Now, I'd like to try and be as precise as I can with you</p> <p>3 about the timing of when you started to receive that</p> <p>4 information.</p> <p>5 Roughly how long after you started carrying out</p> <p>6 rescues, that decision was made to carry out rescues,</p> <p>7 did you start getting information about flat and floor</p> <p>8 number?</p> <p>9 A. Pretty immediately, actually. From residents, people</p> <p>10 telling us -- physically telling us -- "So-and-so's in</p> <p>11 this flat or on this floor, can you go and get them?"</p> <p>12 And information on the radio. It was all happening at</p> <p>13 once very quickly, you know.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. I'm sorry to --</p> <p>15 A. No, that's fine, I understand your questions.</p> <p>16 Q. -- pick this apart a bit.</p> <p>17 So were there residents coming down who were</p> <p>18 stopping at the bridgehead and saying to you, "So-and-so</p> <p>19 is on floor" --</p> <p>20 A. No, the firefighters were telling us. They were getting</p> <p>21 information from the residents as they were bringing</p> <p>22 them out and they were telling us.</p> <p>23 Q. Just in terms of that information, the BA wearers coming</p> <p>24 down with residents, communicating that to you, was that</p> <p>25 being recorded on the bridgehead anywhere in any way?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>	<p>1 Q. -- with a chinagraph?</p> <p>2 A. The time came when Firefighter O'Beirne shouted to me,</p> <p>3 so he was over by the lift doors and I was committing</p> <p>4 people, giving them information, the firefighters, up</p> <p>5 the stairs, and he said, "Governor, look", he shouted to</p> <p>6 me and he said it's full, and it was actually full,</p> <p>7 which is highly unusual.</p> <p>8 Q. I was going to ask you: have you ever seen that before?</p> <p>9 A. Never.</p> <p>10 Q. Right. Okay, so let's just pause there with that --</p> <p>11 A. Okay.</p> <p>12 Q. -- and just go back to the other source of information</p> <p>13 you were getting about persons trapped in the building.</p> <p>14 You said it had come from residents, you've explained</p> <p>15 that, but it had also come from elsewhere. I think you</p> <p>16 said through the radio.</p> <p>17 A. Also at this time was -- well, a good officer turned up,</p> <p>18 Watson, Watch Manager Watson from Hammersmith.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 A. I know you haven't asked me too much about the radio</p> <p>21 traffic yet.</p> <p>22 Q. Not yet.</p> <p>23 A. I am sure you will. Watch Manager Watson is a very calm</p> <p>24 individual, very composed, good officer. He started</p> <p>25 giving me information. He became my go-to guy to pass</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p>
<p>1 A. To my understanding it was on the forward information</p> <p>2 board, which is a piece of -- it's something we use,</p> <p>3 it's a template, and there's -- I think it's four</p> <p>4 separate parts. It's quite large -- about the size of</p> <p>5 this lectern, actually -- and there's information for</p> <p>6 plans, high-rise map and locations of individuals</p> <p>7 requiring rescue or locations within the building of</p> <p>8 fire.</p> <p>9 So what you do -- it's just like a copy book,</p> <p>10 laminated copy book.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. So you're recording information onto that.</p> <p>12 Who was doing the recording, do you remember?</p> <p>13 A. At the very beginning?</p> <p>14 Q. Yes.</p> <p>15 A. Firefighter De St Aubin was recording it on the BA</p> <p>16 board, I would imagine, I would guess, because I can't</p> <p>17 remember if we had a FIB -- I know I asked for a FIB,</p> <p>18 a forward information board, but --</p> <p>19 Q. After that?</p> <p>20 A. After that was Firefighter O'Beirne.</p> <p>21 Q. That was on the board.</p> <p>22 Did there come a time when either Alex De St Aubin</p> <p>23 or Firefighter O'Beirne started recording information on</p> <p>24 the wall --</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 information to Watch Manager Dowden and to get</p> <p>2 information from the fire ground outside.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay.</p> <p>4 A. So what he was doing is running up and down the stairs,</p> <p>5 and then he started to bring pieces of paper with</p> <p>6 information on fire survival guidance calls.</p> <p>7 Q. Right. Now, we've gone quite far ahead.</p> <p>8 A. I understand that.</p> <p>9 Q. That's okay. It's good, we can capture it.</p> <p>10 Roughly what time did Watch Manager Watson appear on</p> <p>11 the bridgehead?</p> <p>12 A. I can't give you a time, I --</p> <p>13 Q. Was it a long time after you'd started collecting the</p> <p>14 fire survival guidance calls?</p> <p>15 A. Not a long time, but too long for me. I was alone.</p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 A. As an officer, I was quite over -- I was overtasked</p> <p>18 is --</p> <p>19 Q. When he did arrive -- we can get the times perhaps</p> <p>20 another way --</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. -- where was he standing?</p> <p>23 A. On the balcony.</p> <p>24 Q. Okay. And he was giving his information that he was</p> <p>25 getting to you, was it?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>

<p>1 A. To us.</p> <p>2 Q. To you --</p> <p>3 A. Us collectively. He would be handing that information</p> <p>4 to Justin O'Beirne, or Firefighter O'Beirne, I would</p> <p>5 imagine.</p> <p>6 Q. So the communication was Watson-O'Beirne, was it?</p> <p>7 A. Pardon?</p> <p>8 Q. The communication was between Mr Watson and Firefighter</p> <p>9 O'Beirne?</p> <p>10 A. And me.</p> <p>11 Q. And you?</p> <p>12 A. And everybody else who was on the bridgehead at that</p> <p>13 time.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. Was that by radio or ...?</p> <p>15 A. No, verbally. Face-to-face.</p> <p>16 Q. Was he shouting?</p> <p>17 A. No, speaking. He doesn't shout.</p> <p>18 Q. Right. Where was he getting that information from?</p> <p>19 A. From the fire ground.</p> <p>20 Q. By what method of communication?</p> <p>21 A. I'd say face-to-face, knowing him.</p> <p>22 Q. Right. We'll have to explore that a little bit later.</p> <p>23 But just coming back, then, to page 8 and quite</p> <p>24 early on, I think, in the incident, you then go on to</p> <p>25 say:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p>	<p>1 more BA to respond to what was happening and conduct</p> <p>2 rescues."</p> <p>3 Then you say:</p> <p>4 "I told him 'Pumps 8' on the radio, to increase</p> <p>5 attendance and he said, 'I'm doing it. I'm doing it. I</p> <p>6 made Pumps 8'."</p> <p>7 Now, we have a time for pumps eight, but I just want</p> <p>8 to be clear about the smoke in the stairwell.</p> <p>9 Do you think that you got the information from</p> <p>10 Hippel and Stern about smoke in the stairwell before the</p> <p>11 discussion about pumps eight or after?</p> <p>12 A. No, it was afterwards.</p> <p>13 Q. I see, okay.</p> <p>14 Right.</p> <p>15 Now, on pumps eight, doing your best to remember,</p> <p>16 when you spoke to him, had he already made pumps eight</p> <p>17 or was he telling you --</p> <p>18 A. I think, you know, great minds think alike, and he's</p> <p>19 an operational watch manager like myself. I can recall</p> <p>20 walking backwards while I was speaking to him onto the</p> <p>21 balcony to look to try and see what was going on</p> <p>22 outside. I saw a big sheet of flame falling down</p> <p>23 outside the building, and I saw him running on the</p> <p>24 radio.</p> <p>25 So two things unusual: a big sheet of flame falling</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p>
<p>1 "It became very clear that there was significant</p> <p>2 smoke in the main stairwell."</p> <p>3 A. Yes, it did.</p> <p>4 Q. How did you discover that?</p> <p>5 A. Crew Manager Stern and Firefighter Hippel, when they</p> <p>6 reported to me that they received a fire survival</p> <p>7 guidance call to the 16th floor -- I think it was the</p> <p>8 16th floor, I think it's on my statement -- when they</p> <p>9 went there, they reported to me -- and I don't think it</p> <p>10 was by radio, I think it's when they came back because</p> <p>11 the comms weren't really working when the firefighters</p> <p>12 went up higher -- that it was on fire.</p> <p>13 Q. So that information came down to you by radio from</p> <p>14 Hippel and Stern?</p> <p>15 A. And I think I radioed that -- I know I got that</p> <p>16 information to -- actually, I did radio to Watch Manager</p> <p>17 Dowden and that's when I said to him make it 10, make</p> <p>18 pumps 10, and he said, "I'm doing it, I'm doing it".</p> <p>19 Q. You're about 5 minutes ahead of me, which --</p> <p>20 A. I'll slow down.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's all right.</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: No, that's fine.</p> <p>23 So you radio down to Mike Dowden, you say.</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. "... as I realised very quickly that we required much</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 down and a watch manager actually running, which we</p> <p>2 don't see, which you shouldn't do. I don't mean that</p> <p>3 because we're lazy; you have to be calm, remain calm and</p> <p>4 composed and take in information. It's command and</p> <p>5 control. If a watch manager is running, there's</p> <p>6 something seriously wrong.</p> <p>7 Q. Really?</p> <p>8 A. Yeah.</p> <p>9 Q. Okay.</p> <p>10 Now, in terms of timing, the short incident log has</p> <p>11 the make pumps eight message timed at 01.19.08.</p> <p>12 A. Okay.</p> <p>13 Q. We've looked earlier on at the message coming down to</p> <p>14 the BA entry control about the fire in flat 16 put out</p> <p>15 at 1.21. So it looks --</p> <p>16 A. So that tallies in with the next bit of information from</p> <p>17 that crew on 16.</p> <p>18 Q. Right. Just in terms of the order of things, though, it</p> <p>19 looks as if the message to make pumps eight, or the</p> <p>20 decision to make pumps eight that you discussed with</p> <p>21 Mike Dowden, actually happened before you were told that</p> <p>22 the fire in flat 16 was out?</p> <p>23 A. Okay, that's a time issue. You know, for me, it's quite</p> <p>24 compressed, that moment, and throughout the night</p> <p>25 I don't know any -- I didn't -- I didn't look at my</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p>

<p>1 watch once, actually. I didn't have time to.</p> <p>2 Q. No, I understand.</p> <p>3 Now, just in terms of that, though, I think you're</p> <p>4 saying -- correct me if I'm wrong -- you wouldn't</p> <p>5 disagree with that, if I was to put those times to you</p> <p>6 and say --</p> <p>7 A. It seems like it's out of sequence but, you know, that's</p> <p>8 how I remember it: the make pumps eight went when</p> <p>9 I found out the fire had jumped to the fifth and sixth.</p> <p>10 The make pumps 10 would have been when we started</p> <p>11 getting FSGs or fire survival guidance calls elsewhere</p> <p>12 in the building.</p> <p>13 Q. Yes.</p> <p>14 Now, in your statement on page 8 you say in the</p> <p>15 middle of the page:</p> <p>16 "As I was speaking to WM DOWDEN, I walked out onto</p> <p>17 the glass balcony. I could see flames falling down</p> <p>18 outside the building and I thought 'that's odd'."</p> <p>19 Just pausing there, was that the first time that</p> <p>20 you'd seen flaming material coming off it?</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. What were your thoughts about that?</p> <p>23 A. That we had a problem, a big problem.</p> <p>24 Q. Was it something you'd ever seen before?</p> <p>25 A. Because it wasn't just a particle, it was like -- so the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p>	<p>1 A. No, no. Before this event, I had -- I mean, everyone</p> <p>2 knows about cladding. No, we didn't have that</p> <p>3 awareness; it wasn't our reality. I know new building</p> <p>4 materials are being developed constantly, but the</p> <p>5 majority of the fires the London Fire Brigade attends</p> <p>6 are in traditional structures, or have been previously,</p> <p>7 but I think that's changing.</p> <p>8 Q. While we're on that subject, can I just ask a question.</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. At any time in late 2016/early 2017, really in the</p> <p>11 months leading up to Grenfell Tower, do you remember</p> <p>12 ever seeing or hearing about a letter that the London</p> <p>13 Fire Brigade had written to London local authorities</p> <p>14 about tall buildings and the risk of fire spread on the</p> <p>15 exterior?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. Okay.</p> <p>18 Now, you then go on in the next paragraph to say, on</p> <p>19 page 8:</p> <p>20 "Seconds later, when I realised that we were losing</p> <p>21 the fire or that the fire was getting away from us,</p> <p>22 I transmitted, 'Make Pumps 10, Mick. Make Pumps 10.'</p> <p>23 He said, 'I'm making Pumps 10' and sounded very</p> <p>24 excitable."</p> <p>25 Now, the short incident log has us with that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p>
<p>1 front of the desk here? It was that size and it was on</p> <p>2 fire and it was falling (Indicates). And it was</p> <p>3 diagonal. I can remember it now, so -- yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Right. I am trying to get an idea of the size of the</p> <p>5 front of the desk.</p> <p>6 A. That's quite significant --</p> <p>7 Q. 5 by 3.</p> <p>8 A. -- on fire, falling from a building. Whereas when</p> <p>9 I walked into the building, it was a flat fire.</p> <p>10 Q. Had you ever seen anything like that before?</p> <p>11 A. Yes. On a building that's been fully involved, they</p> <p>12 fall apart.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 A. So, not -- I mean, I've seen that -- just to be specific</p> <p>15 here -- have I ever seen anything like that at the</p> <p>16 beginning of an incident or where I didn't know that the</p> <p>17 building was on fire outside? No.</p> <p>18 Q. Had you ever seen flaming bits falling off a building so</p> <p>19 early on in an incident?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. What did that tell you about how the fire was</p> <p>22 developing?</p> <p>23 A. That it was developing rapidly.</p> <p>24 Q. Did it tell you anything about what it was that was</p> <p>25 burning?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 message, make pumps 10, at 01.24.29.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. You say:</p> <p>4 "... I realised that we were losing the fire ..."</p> <p>5 Did you discuss that thought with Mike Dowden?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. What did --</p> <p>8 A. He was frantic.</p> <p>9 Q. What did you say to him?</p> <p>10 A. I can't remember the exact words. It was frantic</p> <p>11 traffic between him and I. I was -- I suppose it was</p> <p>12 a priority message I sent from the bridgehead for</p> <p>13 everybody in BA now, is actually what I said. I said,</p> <p>14 "Everyone you've got spare, I want them now". I wanted</p> <p>15 them, you know -- we were out-gunned completely. It</p> <p>16 just happened so quickly.</p> <p>17 Q. Sure. And that message went to Mike Dowden, did it?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. Did you think that pumps 10 would give you enough</p> <p>20 resources to cater for what you were seeing in front of</p> <p>21 you?</p> <p>22 A. I suppose in the 60 seconds afterwards, no.</p> <p>23 Q. Right. Did you think about going straight to 25?</p> <p>24 A. I wasn't outside. I couldn't see what he was seeing.</p> <p>25 He did though; he made it up really quickly. From that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p>

<p>1 moment onwards, from make pumps 10, that actually would</p> <p>2 be a good idea of when Paul Watson, the watch manager,</p> <p>3 turned up.</p> <p>4 Q. Yes.</p> <p>5 A. Because I couldn't get in contact with Watch Manager</p> <p>6 Dowden after that. It was great difficulty.</p> <p>7 Q. After what?</p> <p>8 A. After the pumps 10. Immediately afterwards, there</p> <p>9 was -- the radios just went full of traffic and I just</p> <p>10 couldn't transmit any more information.</p> <p>11 Q. Right. So after pumps 10, that's 1.24.29, you say</p> <p>12 that's when you lost contact with Mike Dowden?</p> <p>13 A. That's when we had difficulty. That's when it began.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 After that -- 1.24.29 -- how soon after that did</p> <p>16 Watch Manager Watson appear on the scene at the</p> <p>17 bridgehead?</p> <p>18 A. Pretty soon afterwards.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 A. You can find out, if I can offer just one bit of</p> <p>21 information, by looking at Golf 361 booking stage 3 at</p> <p>22 the incident. He was the officer in charge of that</p> <p>23 appliance, and I would imagine he had a good look around</p> <p>24 for himself to see what was going on and then spoke to</p> <p>25 the incident commander, Watch Manager Dowden, and then</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p>	<p>1 You then go on to say:</p> <p>2 "There was some light smoke on the second floor but</p> <p>3 it was acrid which stung my eyes and throat. I have</p> <p>4 never encountered it in my life."</p> <p>5 Now, just pause there.</p> <p>6 This is light smoke at the bridgehead, is it?</p> <p>7 A. When the doors were opening, it wafted in. There wasn't</p> <p>8 a lot of it, but it was acrid. And the "I have never</p> <p>9 encountered it in my life" is the police interviewer</p> <p>10 filtering what I'm saying. I didn't really say that,</p> <p>11 that I've never encountered -- because I've encountered</p> <p>12 most types of smoke in my 25 years in the Fire Brigade.</p> <p>13 I think that is a bit dramatic from the police officer.</p> <p>14 She was a very good interviewer, I hasten to add,</p> <p>15 but police officers sometimes filter what you say, and</p> <p>16 I know I had an opportunity to review that document, but</p> <p>17 I didn't pay any great attention to these -- there are</p> <p>18 inaccuracies throughout the document, but they're not</p> <p>19 significant.</p> <p>20 Q. Just to get your recollection as you stand here.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Was there anything about the smoke that stands out in</p> <p>23 your memory?</p> <p>24 A. It was acrid, but smoke is often acrid.</p> <p>25 Q. What did that tell you, if anything, about what was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p>
<p>1 being tasked to come and see me.</p> <p>2 Q. Yes. Thank you.</p> <p>3 We have G361 status 3 at 01.25.06, just to give you</p> <p>4 a time fix on that, so only about a minute later.</p> <p>5 Is that consistent with your recollection?</p> <p>6 A. Probably consistent, yes.</p> <p>7 Q. You say also you called for additional BA and additional</p> <p>8 BA control boards. Did those arrive?</p> <p>9 A. They did. I asked for additional BA boards, additional</p> <p>10 IEC packs, additional hose, breaking-in kit --</p> <p>11 everything we needed to try and stop the fire.</p> <p>12 Q. You then go on to say at the middle of the last</p> <p>13 paragraph on page 8:</p> <p>14 "At this point, conditions in the building were</p> <p>15 deteriorating very rapidly."</p> <p>16 A. They were, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. Are you talking about smoke spread or --</p> <p>18 A. Yeah.</p> <p>19 Q. Yes.</p> <p>20 A. Fire spread, actually.</p> <p>21 Q. And fire spread as well?</p> <p>22 A. Well, the FSG calls were saying there was fire on</p> <p>23 multiple floors.</p> <p>24 Q. Yes, we see that at the top of page 9, and we'll come to</p> <p>25 that in a moment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 burning?</p> <p>2 A. Well, normally with acrid smoke it's plastic or</p> <p>3 rubber-based, which I know we'll get to, but that's what</p> <p>4 you get from plastics -- you know, as you know, there</p> <p>5 are many types, and rubber. They're oil-based but there</p> <p>6 are also chemicals in them, toxic chemicals, and</p> <p>7 byproducts, like hydrogen cyanides. So as soon as that</p> <p>8 gets in your throat or eyes, it will sting you because</p> <p>9 it's poison.</p> <p>10 Q. Is that what you were experiencing?</p> <p>11 A. Briefly, yes, but I'm used to that sort of thing. The</p> <p>12 "I have never experienced this in my life" is a slight</p> <p>13 exaggeration, that one.</p> <p>14 Q. We can take that as we find it, then.</p> <p>15 Did you communicate to anybody that you could now</p> <p>16 smell even a small amount --</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. -- of acrid smoke?</p> <p>19 A. No, it's normal in a structural fire.</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 You say at the bottom of page 8, three lines up from</p> <p>22 the bottom:</p> <p>23 "Of course, what I couldn't see was that outside the</p> <p>24 flames had gone up outside the building."</p> <p>25 At that stage, when you were make pumps 10, is that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p>

<p>1 right, that you couldn't see?</p> <p>2 A. That's correct.</p> <p>3 Q. But --</p> <p>4 A. I couldn't see, no.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. Did you have any clue at that stage that the</p> <p>6 exterior of the building was on fire?</p> <p>7 A. Yes. The firefighters told me.</p> <p>8 Q. So you knew it but you couldn't see it?</p> <p>9 A. Yes. We look out for each other, so we pass</p> <p>10 information, there's a constant stream of information.</p> <p>11 It's very important, so if something changes on the fire</p> <p>12 ground, it is communicated.</p> <p>13 The textbook will say the incident commander must</p> <p>14 communicate any changes -- the incident commander is</p> <p>15 busy doing other -- command and control. The</p> <p>16 firefighters communicate with each other really well, so</p> <p>17 if they know there's a hazard within, you know, any</p> <p>18 incident, they'll tell each other so you don't get</p> <p>19 caught out by it and injured.</p> <p>20 So the firefighters coming up to me are telling me</p> <p>21 that it had jumped up outside the building and it was</p> <p>22 going up towards the roof.</p> <p>23 Q. And was going up towards the roof, right.</p> <p>24 At the top of page 9 you say:</p> <p>25 "At the Bridgehead we then began to receive multiple</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>	<p>1 building?</p> <p>2 A. Trying to, trying to access the building.</p> <p>3 Q. So when you say you were getting calls, that's not from</p> <p>4 control, that's information from --</p> <p>5 A. Not directly from control, no. The system we use, sir,</p> <p>6 is the incident command pump will receive fire survival</p> <p>7 guidance from our control and transmit that to the</p> <p>8 incident commander or someone helping the incident</p> <p>9 commander, and that's transmitted to the fire sector.</p> <p>10 Q. Yes. You explain, in fact, exactly that just halfway</p> <p>11 down the first paragraph on page 9. You say:</p> <p>12 "The information is then transmitted to either the</p> <p>13 Brigade appliance in attendance or a Command Unit,</p> <p>14 stating the location, flat number, floor, number of</p> <p>15 persons involved and their location within the</p> <p>16 building."</p> <p>17 That's how it gets to the command unit, and the</p> <p>18 command unit is either the incident command pump -- is</p> <p>19 this right? -- or a full-blown CU?</p> <p>20 A. A full-blown CU. It's the initial command pump. So as</p> <p>21 soon as control hears that we're making -- first of all,</p> <p>22 if control have multiple calls, you get a command unit</p> <p>23 anyway. They're on a PDA of I think make pumps four,</p> <p>24 and lots of triggers, you know. Persons involved, you</p> <p>25 will always get a command unit. So the command unit</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>
<p>1 requests of rescue from residents and at the same time,</p> <p>2 I began to receive Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) calls."</p> <p>3 Just to be clear on timing again, if I can, was that</p> <p>4 before or after the make-up to 10 pumps?</p> <p>5 A. Before.</p> <p>6 Q. Before. Long before?</p> <p>7 A. I would say not very long before, but long before, yes.</p> <p>8 That's why I -- I mean, making pumps 10 at a high-rise</p> <p>9 fire wouldn't be that unusual if the fire is spreading,</p> <p>10 but --</p> <p>11 Q. Yes.</p> <p>12 A. Yes, it was before</p> <p>13 Q. You use the expression "fire survival guidance calls".</p> <p>14 You go on to say:</p> <p>15 "An FSG call is where a member of the public, who</p> <p>16 has a fire in their building, calls Fire Brigade</p> <p>17 Control."</p> <p>18 And you go on to explain the advice that is given.</p> <p>19 These fire survival guidance calls you were getting,</p> <p>20 is that what we discussed before, the information that</p> <p>21 you were getting either from the BA wearers coming down</p> <p>22 with residents or through the communication --</p> <p>23 A. Correct, and people coming back into the building, or</p> <p>24 trying to get back into the building.</p> <p>25 Q. From the fire ground, and people coming back into the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 would've been there pretty quickly, I think.</p> <p>2 Q. Right. You say a command unit is on a PDA for four</p> <p>3 pumps --</p> <p>4 A. No, there are triggers.</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 A. It depends on the level of command required and</p> <p>7 communication systems required, so that's what they are.</p> <p>8 It's a mobile command centre.</p> <p>9 Q. Yes. So are you saying -- so I can place this in</p> <p>10 policy -- when multiple calls are received, a command</p> <p>11 unit is ordered up automatically?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. Right. For those who are interested, that is in</p> <p>14 mobilisation policy 412.</p> <p>15 A. There is a mobilisation policy. I wouldn't know what</p> <p>16 the number is off hand, but I've read it.</p> <p>17 Q. It's paragraph 2.14, for those who are interested in it.</p> <p>18 But that is what you know, is it?</p> <p>19 A. Yes. So you have the initial command pump which is the</p> <p>20 go-to focal point for the incident, which is the -- so</p> <p>21 you have, for example, Golf 271, Golf 272. One of those</p> <p>22 appliances will be pumping and the other appliance will</p> <p>23 be used as a command unit, staffed by a command support</p> <p>24 officer, which could be a firefighter, and that's where</p> <p>25 people book in when they come with the roll call board</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>

<p>1 and that's where all the radio traffic comes through.</p> <p>2 So it's a temporary -- well, mostly a temporary command</p> <p>3 post.</p> <p>4 Q. We're going to have a break in just a few minutes,</p> <p>5 Mr O'Keeffe, but before we do, can I ask you: how, when</p> <p>6 you have multiple calls, does the FSG information</p> <p>7 normally go from the command unit to the bridgehead?</p> <p>8 What's the normal route of communication?</p> <p>9 A. The normal route of communication would be by radio.</p> <p>10 Q. Direct?</p> <p>11 A. If it's possible.</p> <p>12 Q. So CU, radio channel --</p> <p>13 A. They get the information from -- they have a dedicated</p> <p>14 emergency line which we use for FSG calls, and then you</p> <p>15 have -- it's staffed by officers, additional officers,</p> <p>16 and that information is recorded. But it can be brought</p> <p>17 to the bridgehead physically, which is probably better,</p> <p>18 and it's recorded on the forward information board, and</p> <p>19 it's used to -- so you'd have the information logged on</p> <p>20 what -- it's an FSG poster, which is a large format.</p> <p>21 That can be brought to the bridgehead. But it's</p> <p>22 recorded in quadruple -- I think quadruple forms.</p> <p>23 Q. Yes.</p> <p>24 A. So the forms can be handed out to various people, but it</p> <p>25 would be transmitted as well.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p>	<p>1 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: So we were discussing before the break,</p> <p>3 Mr O'Keeffe, the normal system of communication, and</p> <p>4 I just want to get from you the system of communication</p> <p>5 of fire survival guidance information from the CU, the</p> <p>6 command unit, to the bridgehead during the various</p> <p>7 different stages of the incident while you were at the</p> <p>8 bridgehead.</p> <p>9 A. Okay.</p> <p>10 Q. Just first of all, at the very start, what was the</p> <p>11 method of communication of fire survival guidance</p> <p>12 information from the CU?</p> <p>13 A. At the very start, verbally and on the radio.</p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 A. Thereafter it was pieces of paper.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 A. As I recall.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 A. And --</p> <p>20 Q. Who would bring the pieces of paper to the bridgehead,</p> <p>21 do you remember?</p> <p>22 A. Various people as the incident progressed, but Watch</p> <p>23 Manager Watson was the guy that was facilitating</p> <p>24 supporting us in the bridgehead.</p> <p>25 Q. What would you do with the information on the pieces of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p>
<p>1 Q. Transmitted as well. So --</p> <p>2 A. That was happening at the very beginning of the fire at</p> <p>3 Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>4 Q. So at the very beginning it was coming by radio, was it?</p> <p>5 A. Radio and verbally.</p> <p>6 Q. And verbally?</p> <p>7 A. And pieces of paper.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Right. We'll pursue that a little bit more</p> <p>9 later on.</p> <p>10 I wonder whether now may be convenient for a break.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. We'll have another break now,</p> <p>12 Mr O'Keeffe.</p> <p>13 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you, sir.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll all have a bit longer. We'll</p> <p>15 have quarter of an hour, back at 11.25, and please don't</p> <p>16 talk to anyone about your evidence.</p> <p>17 Thank you very much.</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right 3.25, please.</p> <p>20 (11.10 am)</p> <p>21 (A short break)</p> <p>22 (11.25 am)</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr O'Keeffe?</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 paper?</p> <p>2 A. Transcribe it onto the forward information board, and</p> <p>3 when that became too full, I instructed Firefighter</p> <p>4 O'Beirne -- the word I used was "sling it", put that</p> <p>5 information up on the wall.</p> <p>6 Q. In general terms, when you had information from inside</p> <p>7 the building from firefighters either coming back down</p> <p>8 to the bridgehead or by radio, was there a way of</p> <p>9 recording that?</p> <p>10 A. With the information they would bring to me, if they</p> <p>11 gave me a flat number, that would go on to the --</p> <p>12 I would send them to the BA guys to give that</p> <p>13 information. They'd have to give that information</p> <p>14 anyway when they were closing down their sets. So they</p> <p>15 would give that information to the, I suppose, FSG</p> <p>16 recorder and the entry control officer.</p> <p>17 Q. What would happen to that information after that point?</p> <p>18 A. It would be recorded and the next crew to come would be</p> <p>19 given that information and assigned that -- if there was</p> <p>20 a known area where somebody needed rescuing, you would</p> <p>21 immediately assign a crew to it. Or that's what I was</p> <p>22 doing.</p> <p>23 Q. Supposing firefighters came down -- just in general</p> <p>24 terms at the moment -- and said to you, "Well, we've</p> <p>25 gone up to flat X and can't find anybody in there" or</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p>

<p>1 "Gone up to flat X and can't get in or can't get onto 2 that floor" and have come down, so that it was 3 an unsuccessful deployment -- 4 A. Yes, which happened throughout the night. 5 Q. Yes -- would that information be recorded, first of all? 6 A. It would be recorded, yes. 7 Q. Where would that be recorded? 8 A. It was recorded on the wall, as far as I'm aware. 9 Q. Would that information then be fed back to ultimately 10 Brigade control? 11 A. Well, I was feeding the information to Watch Manager 12 Watson, because I wasn't able to use the radio any 13 longer, wasn't able to transmit it, and my understanding 14 was he would bring any important information back to the 15 fire ground outside. 16 Q. So to your recollection, information about successful or 17 failed deployments would be fed back through the method 18 of communication? 19 A. Various methods of communication. 20 Q. Can you just describe those for us? 21 A. Verbally, face-to-face, "Can you pass this information 22 on", or written down. I didn't write anything down 23 myself because I was too busy, I didn't have time to 24 write, but I did speak to Watch Manager Watson quite 25 a lot during the incident.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p>	<p>1 A. That was just after Watch Manager Dowden was making up 2 the incident as quickly as he could, but the resources 3 hadn't arrived yet, and we had committed pretty much all 4 of our equipment and people. Not everybody, of course, 5 as we had to have support on the fire ground and 6 elsewhere, but as many as we could possibly commit, we 7 did. 8 Q. What was he recording at this forward post, this staging 9 area? 10 A. What was he what? 11 Q. What was he recording? Was he recording information? 12 A. Quite possibly, I don't know. He was listening to me 13 quite a lot. He is a really good guy. If you ask him 14 for something, he understands it readily and was trying 15 to get me what I -- or get us what we needed on the 16 bridgehead. 17 Q. Right. 18 Was he communicating with anybody in the lobby of 19 the building on the ground floor? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. Who was that, do you know? 22 A. I don't know. There was a lot of activity in the lobby. 23 A lot of times I looked down the stairs or into the 24 lobby, there was quite a bit of activity, firefighters 25 and so on.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p>
<p>1 Q. Right, and he would go where with that information? 2 A. Downstairs. He kept going back up and down. He did 3 a lot of walking, running. 4 Q. To whom would he communicate the information? 5 A. Watch Manager Watson. 6 Q. All right. 7 Did you have any discussions with Mike Dowden or any 8 later incident commanders about particular failed 9 deployments that you were learning about? 10 A. Yes. 11 Q. Who? 12 A. Group Manager Welch. 13 Q. We'll come to him. 14 Now, do you remember Watch Manager Watson setting up 15 a BA staging area on the mezzanine? 16 A. Mm, I do. 17 Q. What sort of point in the night was that? How long 18 after he arrived, perhaps, was that? 19 A. Pretty immediately after he arrived because I told him 20 we had nothing left, and I was on the radio asking for 21 resources, I wasn't getting any response. I was getting 22 frustrated because I had multiple, multiple calls for 23 rescue and I couldn't commit anybody else. I had nobody 24 else left. And that was -- if I could just explain why. 25 Q. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you know where Watson was getting the information 2 that he was passing to you? 3 A. From the fire ground. 4 Q. From the fire ground? 5 A. He would've been getting that from -- we would assign as 6 many as we can spare to manage the information coming 7 in. 8 Q. He was bringing slips of paper in to you? 9 A. Yes, just information, slips of paper. 10 Q. Do you know where he was getting the information that he 11 was recording on these slips of paper? 12 A. From the -- the exact location I don't know because 13 I was inside, but he would be getting it from people who 14 were getting the information from Brigade control, who 15 were manning the phones, and they were given this 16 precise information to officers on the fire ground. He 17 was then getting the information and either bringing it 18 himself or sending people with the information to us. 19 Q. Right. 20 Did you know whether that information had been 21 prioritised so that what you were getting was -- 22 A. Of course. 23 Q. -- in a priority -- 24 A. That is the priority. 25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p>

<p>1 A. FSG -- when you have an FSG incident, it becomes the 2 priority. 3 Q. Right. 4 But I think you are saying you don't know exactly 5 where Watson was getting the information? 6 A. No, you'd have to ask him that himself, sir. 7 Q. Do you know whether Watson was receiving pieces of paper 8 from somebody else or creating the pieces of paper? 9 A. Receiving. I do know that; he was receiving. 10 Q. He was essentially a back and forth messenger -- 11 a runner? 12 A. He wasn't -- well, that would be disingenuous, to say he 13 was a runner, because -- 14 Q. It's a rude word, I suppose, but -- 15 A. No, no, it's okay, he was a runner, and later on in the 16 incident, even though he was a watch manager, he was 17 a runner, yes. 18 Q. Right. 19 Now, page 9, you describe, five lines down, stay-put 20 advice. You say: 21 "In this case, the advice would have been to stay 22 put. This is because high-rise buildings are generally 23 meant to be constructed so that fires will be contained 24 to the fire floor ..." 25 A. That's correct.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>	<p>1 I said, "No". 2 Q. Right. 3 A. And he said, "Why not?" And I said the standard 4 duration guys were either in danger of getting killed 5 themselves or couldn't reach the upper floors. They 6 were running out of air really quickly. 7 Q. That was the problem you communicated to him? 8 A. That was my big problem and he said okay, and he said 9 "What do you need? What do we need?" I said EDDBA, 10 extended duration breathing apparatus. And he said, 11 "How much?" And I said, "All of it." And he said, "We 12 can't do that." I said, "Governor, we need all of it, 13 we need it now, everything." And I elaborated like 14 I was trying to sell the idea to him. I said, "Get all 15 the FRUs here, get the CBRN", I said there's loads of 16 guys with an EDDBA ticket, as I have, which is 17 a qualification in London. I said, "We need them here 18 now, otherwise we're not going to reach these people." 19 That's why -- that was the -- and he thought -- I could 20 see him thinking, he was listening, and he said, "Okay, 21 we'll do that", and he ran back downstairs. 22 Q. Okay. 23 A. He also said, "I'm taking over as fire sector 24 commander." That was the first thing he said. 25 Q. In fact, we have the first deployment of EDDBA wearers --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>
<p>1 Q. "... and so it's far safer for residents of high-rise 2 blocks to stay in their, supposedly, protected 3 apartments until Firefighters can come and rescue them." 4 When you first started getting fire survival 5 guidance calls, did you know what advice was being given 6 by the control room operators to individual residents 7 who were calling? 8 A. No, I didn't, and on that point, I asked at one point, 9 when Group Manager Welch had arrived, and one of my many 10 discussions with him that night was, "Governor, have 11 they lifted the policy yet? The stay-put advice." And 12 he said, "I don't know." 13 Q. Yes. You cover that in your statement. 14 When he arrived, looking ahead, did he agree with 15 you that the stay-put policy should be changed? 16 A. We didn't have that type of discussion. We had 17 a different discussion when he arrived. Do you want to 18 know when I first saw him? 19 Q. Yes. 20 A. He ran up the stairs -- again, to see a group manager 21 running is unusual -- and he said -- I can't remember 22 the exact words, he said, "B" -- using the initial for 23 my name, he's obviously found out who I am -- "What are 24 you doing?" -- which is normal, you know, what 25 tactics -- and the gist was "Is it working?" And</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 there's no need to look at the telemetry data -- at 2 around 1.56? 3 A. Paddington? 4 Q. Yes. Paddington, a five-firefighter crew from 5 Paddington. 6 A. A line rescue crew. A line ops crew. I remember. 7 Q. Crew Manager Wigley. 8 A. Crew Manager Wigley, yes. 9 Q. Was that before or after Group Manager Welch arrived at 10 the bridgehead? 11 A. Before. 12 Q. So you did have some EDDBA available, did you? 13 A. Earlier on I said to Watch Manager Dowden, "Get some 14 EDDBA here" and he said, "I'm doing it anyway." He was 15 already thinking like I was. I think he ordered a 16 couple of FRUs for line ops, as far as I understand, and 17 he had a plan to use them for something. 18 Q. Now, just going back to the question -- we'll come back 19 to Group Manager Welch later on -- about advice being 20 given to the control room, you say you didn't know what 21 it was. 22 A. No. 23 Q. What assumption did you make, or did you make 24 an assumption, about what the advice was being given -- 25 A. I would say the assumption -- it is just</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p>

<p>1 an assumption -- was that the advice was to stay put.</p> <p>2 Q. Did you have any thoughts about whether that continued</p> <p>3 to be --</p> <p>4 A. I did have thoughts. I thought nobody would make it</p> <p>5 down the stairs, so that was the only advice -- the</p> <p>6 stairs were smoke-logged completely, and my BA crews</p> <p>7 were suffering and they were in BA, and I knew that it</p> <p>8 would be dangerous for anyone not in breathing apparatus</p> <p>9 to be in that stairwell, and it was the only means of</p> <p>10 going up or coming down, escaping from the building.</p> <p>11 And it was an assumption, and that's why I asked</p> <p>12 Group Manager Welch. It was an assumption that people</p> <p>13 were being told to stay put.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 Was there a way in which you could communicate with</p> <p>16 the control room about what you or your BA wearers were</p> <p>17 seeing and experiencing in the stairs?</p> <p>18 A. All that information was fed down to the incident</p> <p>19 commander through Watch Manager Watson and other</p> <p>20 officers.</p> <p>21 Q. That's the link you had with the control room?</p> <p>22 A. Not just him, but other officers, and the firefighters</p> <p>23 who were coming -- who had been committed, and they were</p> <p>24 being battered, so ...</p> <p>25 Q. Now, just to come back to Richard Welch, halfway down</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 85</p>	<p>1 about the same time.</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. That might help you remember. How soon after that, that</p> <p>4 deployment, do you remember Richard Welch coming to the</p> <p>5 bridgehead and you --</p> <p>6 A. Pretty soon afterwards. Not immediately, but I mean</p> <p>7 he -- when he would've turned up, he would've had to</p> <p>8 make his assessment of what was going on. And there was</p> <p>9 a lot going on. So he would've gone to the command unit</p> <p>10 to book in. He would've spoken to officers, you know,</p> <p>11 collecting information, trying to formulate a plan. You</p> <p>12 know, he's a senior officer and that's what he would do.</p> <p>13 Q. And you say:</p> <p>14 "... I had a conversation with Richard WELCH as</p> <p>15 regards the change in advice for the Stay Put</p> <p>16 Policy ..."</p> <p>17 A. Yes, I can't remember the exact time that was.</p> <p>18 Q. So he comes to the bridgehead, and is this conversation</p> <p>19 about stay put at that stage when he first comes to the</p> <p>20 bridgehead to talk to you?</p> <p>21 A. As I said -- no, no, no, it wasn't. When he came first</p> <p>22 it was, "What are you doing? Is it working?" "No."</p> <p>23 "What do we need? Okay, I'll do that."</p> <p>24 Q. That was the EDBA discussion?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 87</p>
<p>1 page 9, you say:</p> <p>2 "I think it was about 0200 - 0230 hours that I had a</p> <p>3 conversation with Richard WELCH as regards the change in</p> <p>4 advice for the Stay Put Policy. I can't recall the</p> <p>5 exact details of this conversation ..."</p> <p>6 A. It was a question.</p> <p>7 Q. Okay. Can I just show you your evidence up there, you</p> <p>8 say:</p> <p>9 "... I can't recall the exact details of this</p> <p>10 conversation but it wouldn't have changed our Search and</p> <p>11 Rescue tactics but would have added an element of</p> <p>12 potential unpredictability to our operations. We</p> <p>13 wouldn't have known where people were."</p> <p>14 Just taking this in stages.</p> <p>15 Richard Welch, when he arrives, what status did he</p> <p>16 have? Was he incident commander or what?</p> <p>17 A. I was a bit confused about that because he told me he</p> <p>18 was fire sector commander, which was my job at the time.</p> <p>19 As bridgehead commander, you're fire sector commander.</p> <p>20 But he's quite a senior officer to me, so I was under</p> <p>21 the impression that he had taken over the entire</p> <p>22 incident.</p> <p>23 Q. Now, to put it in timing terms, we have him status 3 at</p> <p>24 01.57.21. We also have your deployment of this</p> <p>25 five-person or five-firefighter Paddington EDDBA crew at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 Q. Did he then go away and come back?</p> <p>2 A. Yes. Throughout the night he'd run downstairs, come</p> <p>3 back, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Then you have this conversation as regards "the change".</p> <p>5 How did that conversation go? How did the subject of</p> <p>6 changing the stay-put policy come up?</p> <p>7 A. I brought it up.</p> <p>8 Q. What did you say?</p> <p>9 A. I asked him a question.</p> <p>10 Q. What was the question?</p> <p>11 A. Is the stay put -- I can't remember the exact question,</p> <p>12 but has the stay-put policy been lifted or is it going</p> <p>13 to be lifted? Something like that.</p> <p>14 Q. Why did you ask that question?</p> <p>15 A. Because the fire was out of control.</p> <p>16 Q. Just trying to get your thought processes, the fire</p> <p>17 being out of control, why did you think that it might be</p> <p>18 necessary to change the stay-put policy?</p> <p>19 A. It's a good question. Because the fire had</p> <p>20 outstripped -- the event had outstripped our ability to</p> <p>21 rescue everybody, on the information I had at the time.</p> <p>22 Q. So changing from stay put, what did you think at the</p> <p>23 time the advice should be changed to?</p> <p>24 A. I didn't have an opinion, other than if people started</p> <p>25 to evacuate, there would become multiple casualties in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 88</p>

<p>1 the stairs and we would have great difficulty in finding</p> <p>2 out where people were, because when you have an FSG, you</p> <p>3 know where someone is, and if they are protected, you</p> <p>4 know you have a destination, X or Y flat, number of</p> <p>5 people. But if people start evacuating when the entire</p> <p>6 building's on fire, or most of it's on fire and the only</p> <p>7 way down is impossible, that would have been -- well,</p> <p>8 a huge catastrophe for -- well, it would've really</p> <p>9 impeded our rescue operations.</p> <p>10 Q. And that's the sense you get from what you say --</p> <p>11 A. If my guys didn't know where people were, I couldn't</p> <p>12 say, "Well, go to this floor". You just have, as we did</p> <p>13 afterwards, people deceased in the stairwell and various</p> <p>14 parts of the building.</p> <p>15 Q. At the stage you're having your conversation with</p> <p>16 Group Manager Welch, were you in favour of changing the</p> <p>17 stay-put policy or against it?</p> <p>18 A. No, I didn't -- I wasn't in favour. I was wondering, it</p> <p>19 was a question. I needed to know what was going on.</p> <p>20 Q. I see.</p> <p>21 A. It is very important for me to know what kind of</p> <p>22 movement is happening in the building, what advice is</p> <p>23 being given.</p> <p>24 Q. So do I understand your evidence to be that your</p> <p>25 conversation with him was exploratory; you just</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p>	<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you comfortable?</p> <p>2 A. I am, just sweaty palms. That's okay; it's everybody in</p> <p>3 the room, sir.</p> <p>4 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think you're right.</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: I just want to see if I can get a time on this</p> <p>6 and then we'll go back, but in the middle of page 11,</p> <p>7 just after you've discussed a deployment and information</p> <p>8 you got from Murphy and Cornelius -- this is floor 14 --</p> <p>9 you say:</p> <p>10 "By this time the situation had deteriorated even</p> <p>11 further. This was very early on in the incident and the</p> <p>12 fire was developing so rapidly that BA crews were</p> <p>13 finding it difficult to get beyond the twelve[sic]</p> <p>14 floor."</p> <p>15 A. Correct.</p> <p>16 Q. Was that before or after you had this question and</p> <p>17 answer discussion with Group Manager Welch about</p> <p>18 changing the stay-put advice?</p> <p>19 A. Before.</p> <p>20 Q. Before. Okay.</p> <p>21 Now, I want to just look, if I can, at a number of</p> <p>22 particular deployments and see if you can help me with</p> <p>23 them.</p> <p>24 A. Okay.</p> <p>25 Q. Is that all right?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p>
<p>1 wanted --</p> <p>2 A. Exploratory, yes.</p> <p>3 Q. Did he tell you, when you had that conversation, what</p> <p>4 the status of the stay-put advice was?</p> <p>5 A. No, at that time it was a question and an answer. It</p> <p>6 wasn't a conversation, per se. Not being disrespectful</p> <p>7 here, but it was just a very short exchange between he</p> <p>8 and I, which we had many, many throughout the entire</p> <p>9 incident.</p> <p>10 Q. I'm sure.</p> <p>11 A. That was the exchange. And he said, "I don't know."</p> <p>12 Q. Do you know whether he went and discussed that question</p> <p>13 with anybody else?</p> <p>14 A. You'd have to ask Group Manager Welch that, sir.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 At that stage, in terms of priorities, you've had</p> <p>17 this question and answer with Group Manager Welch, were</p> <p>18 you prioritising firefighting or search and the rescue</p> <p>19 or were they the same --</p> <p>20 A. Search and rescue.</p> <p>21 Q. Search and rescue.</p> <p>22 Jumping ahead a little bit, on page 11 of your</p> <p>23 statement, in the middle of the page, you refer to</p> <p>24 a time I think quite early on in the incident.</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 A. It's absolutely fine, yes.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay. The first one is about a rescue -- well, a trip</p> <p>3 to the 20th floor.</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. Were you at the bridgehead when Crew Manager Secrett and</p> <p>6 Firefighters Badillo and Dorgu left the bridgehead to go</p> <p>7 to the 20th floor to perform a rescue?</p> <p>8 A. I would have been, but I wasn't aware they went there.</p> <p>9 Q. You weren't aware?</p> <p>10 A. No.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Were you aware that an FSG call was in progress with</p> <p>13 a 12-year-old girl on the 23rd floor?</p> <p>14 A. Most likely, because we had multiple calls at that time,</p> <p>15 so if you asked me the number of a floor or flat,</p> <p>16 I wouldn't be able to tell you.</p> <p>17 Q. Right. So let me just see if I can get a time on this.</p> <p>18 If you go to the operational response report and</p> <p>19 turn to page 59 and 60, 59 first of all, we see at</p> <p>20 01.35.24, Operations Manager Norman -- she's in the</p> <p>21 control room at Stratford -- rings the team leader,</p> <p>22 Watch Manager Meyryk, on CU8.</p> <p>23 A. Yes.</p> <p>24 Q. There's a conversation she has.</p> <p>25 Then over the page we have a summary here of the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p>

<p>1 information that is passed to CU8, and the source of 2 that is it's admin call and Vision. 3 You'll see that the floor number of the fourth entry 4 down is number 23, and there are two adults and eight 5 children. Remarks: smoke going into the flat. 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Now, that's at that time. 8 Do you remember getting information at the 9 bridgehead, whilst you were in charge of it, after -- or 10 just after that time, about a number of people on floor 11 23? 12 A. Can you just remind me of the time? 13 Q. Well, that information comes in at 01.35.24. 14 A. Not specifically, but there was -- no, is the answer. 15 As with the BA crews that were going up, again, 16 I wouldn't be able to keep tabs on them because I wasn't 17 the entry control officer, although I was briefing 18 people. But I didn't have -- I clearly can't recall any 19 specific numbers or flats. Well, maybe one or two. 20 Q. Do you remember having any discussion with firefighters 21 Secrett, Badillo and Dorgu as they went up the tower? 22 A. No. 23 Q. Did you -- 24 A. Sorry, go on. 25 Q. Did you learn from them while they were up the tower</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>	<p>1 into the building up the stairs from the bridgehead who 2 weren't telling you or Alex De St Aubin where they were 3 going or what they were doing? 4 A. That did happen. 5 Q. It did happen? 6 A. It did happen, throughout the incident. 7 Q. Throughout the incident? 8 A. On a few points where I was maintaining control, command 9 and control, and I remember one specific incident where 10 a crew from Hammersmith went past the entry control 11 point with their tallies in their BA sets, which 12 I observed, and I sent a crew manager after them, Crew 13 Manager Tilsley from Paddington, to get them back and to 14 book in correctly. 15 Q. Right. How far into the incident? 16 A. I couldn't tell you. 17 Q. Just focusing on this trio of firefighters going to the 18 20th floor, we have them leaving the bridgehead at 01.33 19 or so, 01.33.57. 20 Do you remember whether after that time, when they'd 21 gone, any further FSG information came to the bridgehead 22 about floor 23? 23 A. It rings a bell. 24 Q. It rings a bell? 25 A. Yes, but I can't -- floor 23 does ring a bell.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p>
<p>1 about the conditions they discovered once they got to 2 the 20th floor? 3 A. No. 4 Q. Or conditions in the stairwell? 5 A. Not me personally, but they may well have briefed the 6 entry control officer on return, which I would suggest 7 they did. 8 Q. Right. 9 Just to pin this down, in time, we have the dispatch 10 time or the tally-out time for Secrett, Dorgu and 11 Badillo at about 1.33. Just to be clear, for 12 Firefighter Secrett, his telemetry data shows that the 13 tally-out time for him was 01.33.57, and the others 14 01.33.33 and 01.35.01. So that's the time they tally 15 out, but I think you've told us that you didn't have 16 a discussion with them about what they were doing when 17 they went up? 18 A. That's correct, I didn't. I can't recall it, but there 19 were a lot of BA crews -- well, everybody available at 20 that time was going up, and I don't specifically 21 remember speaking to any of that crew. 22 Q. Do you remember whether Alex De St Aubin spoke to that 23 crew? 24 A. You'd have to ask Firefighter De St Aubin, sir. 25 Q. Do you remember whether there were BA crews going up</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 Q. Any particular flat number? 2 A. No. I will say that numbers of flats, floors, times, 3 throughout the incident, except with one exception, 4 where I kept FSG notes in my tunic and retrieved them 5 the following week, that's the only time stamp that 6 I have from the entire incident, other than when I went 7 in and came out of the tower. 8 Q. Right. 9 Can you help us with when the FSG call came in about 10 a flat on the 23rd floor? 11 A. No, sir, I can't. I can't give you the time at all. 12 Q. What about a call in relation to a flat on the 20th 13 floor, 175, do you remember -- 14 A. I believe so, possibly. I don't know. 15 Q. Do you know when that -- 16 A. I remember my first BA crew but -- no, they went to the 17 16th floor, sorry, it was a different -- 18 Q. I am going to some to the 16th floor in a minute, but 19 just on -- there are two calls that are in progress -- 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. -- to tell you, after 1.30, and after 1.30 I'll show you 22 the CU8 information about -- 23 A. Okay. 24 Q. -- the flat on the 23rd floor. 25 The flat on the 20th floor, 175, you say that's FSG</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>

<p>1 information which rings a bell.</p> <p>2 Do you remember, having received FSG information</p> <p>3 about flat 175, what you did with that information?</p> <p>4 A. I can answer by saying that all information -- FSG</p> <p>5 information, sorry -- received at the bridgehead was</p> <p>6 acted upon -- was recorded and acted upon by committing</p> <p>7 BA crews.</p> <p>8 Q. Do you remember whether the information about flat 175</p> <p>9 on the 20th floor was received by you at the bridgehead</p> <p>10 before the trio -- Secrett, Badillo and Dorgu -- had</p> <p>11 left the bridgehead?</p> <p>12 A. No, I don't remember.</p> <p>13 Q. Having received the information about flat 175 on the</p> <p>14 20th floor, did you then instruct a BA crew to go to</p> <p>15 that flat?</p> <p>16 A. At that time?</p> <p>17 Q. Yes.</p> <p>18 A. If I had a BA crew, yes, they would've been committed.</p> <p>19 Most likely, at that time, we had run out.</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 Do you remember the trio of Secrett, Badillo and</p> <p>22 Dorgu coming back down to the bridgehead?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. You don't?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>	<p>1 status 3, and then you would add, say, a time lapse</p> <p>2 of minutes while Watch Manager De Silvo was being</p> <p>3 briefed, you know, on the fire ground, and then she was</p> <p>4 escorted up to the bridgehead by -- or accompanied,</p> <p>5 I should say, by Watch Manager Watson, Paul Watson, and</p> <p>6 when she came I was very happy to see another watch</p> <p>7 manager and so I detailed her to get a grip, is the word</p> <p>8 I used, on the BA procedures and the FSG.</p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 Now, we have Crew Manager Secrett coming down to the</p> <p>11 bridgehead with an end of wear time of 01.57. We have</p> <p>12 Badillo with an end of wear time of about the same and</p> <p>13 also Dorgu. So just before 2 o'clock, a trio of BA</p> <p>14 wearers come down to the bridgehead. I know you say you</p> <p>15 didn't have a debrief with any of them.</p> <p>16 Do you remember any firefighter at around that time</p> <p>17 coming down to the bridgehead dangerously low on air?</p> <p>18 A. Yes. They all did. Most of them.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 A. That's the way it became initially, yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you remember a firefighter coming down with metabolic</p> <p>22 heat stress?</p> <p>23 A. No.</p> <p>24 Q. Do you remember firefighters coming down dangerously low</p> <p>25 on air and going out of the bridgehead without</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>
<p>1 Q. Do you remember a discussion with Crew Manager Secrett</p> <p>2 about a trip that he'd made to --</p> <p>3 A. No, definitely not.</p> <p>4 Q. -- the 20th floor. What about Badillo?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. What about Dorgu?</p> <p>7 A. No.</p> <p>8 Q. Are you clear in your recollection?</p> <p>9 A. I'm quite clear, yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Would --</p> <p>11 A. Not that I can recall. I mean, I've got quite a good</p> <p>12 recall on events generally speaking. I don't recall</p> <p>13 that.</p> <p>14 Q. Yesterday you were quite clear that your practice would</p> <p>15 be to have a face-to-face debrief with any BA wearer who</p> <p>16 had gone up into the building.</p> <p>17 A. If possible, yeah. If it was important information,</p> <p>18 certainly. Which is what I tried to do to a point where</p> <p>19 I became overwhelmed by the amount of people giving me</p> <p>20 information. Fortunately for me there was another watch</p> <p>21 manager, De Silvo, who was detailed to come to the</p> <p>22 bridgehead to assist, and she took over the FSG -- well,</p> <p>23 I detailed her to take over the FSG.</p> <p>24 Q. How soon was that after you had started?</p> <p>25 A. Well, you'd have to look at when Golf 341 booked</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 debriefing you?</p> <p>2 A. No. I wouldn't allow that to happen.</p> <p>3 Q. You wouldn't allow that to happen?</p> <p>4 A. Not if I was aware of what was happening, I wouldn't</p> <p>5 allow it.</p> <p>6 Q. I was going to say, because we have this trio of</p> <p>7 firefighters, they go up to the 20th floor to perform</p> <p>8 a rescue, they don't succeed because they can't find</p> <p>9 anybody in the flat, they run out of air -- we've heard</p> <p>10 evidence about this -- and come down a smoky stairway,</p> <p>11 at least one of them very low on air, and then leave the</p> <p>12 bridgehead and not do a debrief with you. I am trying</p> <p>13 to get a feel on whether that was something you</p> <p>14 remember.</p> <p>15 A. I don't remember seeing them at all. They may have</p> <p>16 spoken to the people on the BA boards, which I would say</p> <p>17 definitely happened.</p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 Do you recall any firefighter coming down to you</p> <p>20 before 2 o'clock and saying the stairwell is completely</p> <p>21 smoke-logged?</p> <p>22 A. Yes.</p> <p>23 Q. Who was that?</p> <p>24 A. Firefighter Murphy and Firefighter Cornelius, Crew</p> <p>25 Manager Stern and Firefighter Hippel. Particularly</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>

<p>1 Firefighter Murphy from my -- who was one of my guys at 2 the time from Kensington, and Firefighter Cornelius. 3 Q. We are going to look at that deployment in some detail 4 in a moment. 5 A. Okay. 6 Q. But when they did come down to you and tell you that, 7 did that indicate to you that residents in the building 8 needed to be told by the control room about those 9 conditions? 10 A. Certainly. 11 Q. And that BA wearers going up to perform rescues and 12 evacuations needed to make sure that they could get 13 those residents down the stairwell in some way? 14 A. Without a doubt, but the issue of bringing -- at this 15 time, I still -- we don't have any facilities to bring 16 people through smoke without injuring them. Sorry, 17 smoke of that intensity and that degree of 18 smoke-logging. 19 Q. Right. 20 A. Otherwise my guys wouldn't be wearing breathing 21 apparatus. This is a highly irrespirable atmosphere, 22 toxic, and you won't get very far. 23 Q. If the conditions on the 20th floor that Secrett, Dorgu 24 and Badillo had discovered -- thick smoke in flat 176, 25 thick smoke in the lobby, thick smoke in the stairway</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p>	<p>1 Q. We have them tallying out of the bridgehead at 1.56 and 2 1.57 or so. Would that be about right in terms of -- 3 A. That would be, yes. 4 Q. -- your recollection? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. Do you remember where they were tasked to go? 7 A. They were tasked to go to the roof. 8 Q. Whose idea was that? 9 A. Incident commander. 10 Q. Who was that at that stage? 11 A. Watch Manager Dowden, I believe. 12 Q. What were they going to do on the roof? 13 A. Set up a line, a drencher system or set up a series of 14 lines with their special skills -- for a drencher. 15 Q. You say special skills, did that particular crew have 16 particular drencher -- 17 A. Their brief was to go and set up a line -- a system of 18 lines to secure people or to secure equipment on the 19 roof. 20 Q. You say lines; do you mean ropes? 21 A. Ropes, yes. Sorry, we call them lines in the Fire 22 Brigade. Ropes, yes. They are rope specialists. 23 Q. Right, okay. And how would that work, or how was it 24 supposed to work? 25 A. I don't know. I didn't give the -- it wasn't my plan.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>
<p>1 right down to just before the bridgehead, as Crew 2 Manager Secrett told us yesterday -- in the light of 3 those conditions that were there, as he said, before 4 2 o'clock, what advice should the control room be giving 5 to callers who are trapped in their flats? 6 A. A description of events -- a description of the 7 conditions. 8 Q. Right. Was it important for control room themselves to 9 know precisely what was happening inside the building? 10 A. Of course, yes, very important. I would suggest that 11 that crew went to the incident commander, who was their 12 officer anyway. If they didn't brief me, they would've 13 spoken to the entry control board, and they would 14 certainly, I would say -- yes, certainly -- spoken to 15 their watch manager. 16 Q. Right. 17 Now, we're going to take a break in just 18 a few minutes. 19 A. Okay. 20 Q. Can I just ask you about a particular deployment. 21 Do you remember the first deployment of EDBA? 22 A. Yes. 23 Q. And that was a deployment of a five-person or 24 five-firefighter Paddington team. Do you remember that? 25 A. That's correct, yes. Paddington's line crew, yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 I didn't give the instruction. 2 Q. Do you think it was a feasible strategy? 3 A. No. 4 Q. Why is that? 5 A. Why? The building from the -- as far as I was concerned 6 at that time, there were multiple seats of fire from the 7 16th floor all the way up, and they wouldn't have made 8 it. 9 Q. Right. 10 A. I told them that. I said to them, from my perspective, 11 inside the tower, I don't think it's a good idea. 12 I didn't believe it was a good idea, but I can 13 understand the logic of it. But the actuality was, 14 I said to them, to Crew Manager Wigley, I said, "Phil, 15 I don't think it's a good idea, I don't think you're 16 going to make it." 17 Q. Right. 18 Did you think there might have been a better use 19 for -- 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. -- the EDBA than using it to go to the roof? 22 A. Rescue. Rescue. 23 Q. Rescue? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Did you tell Phil Wigley that?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p>

26 (Pages 101 to 104)

<p>1 A. Something along those lines, and he said to me, "Well, 2 I've been instructed by the incident commander." 3 I said, "Well, fair enough." So I knew they had a long 4 travel distance so I told them not to start up 5 immediately, which goes outside policy, BA ... 6 Sorry, I need to take some water. 7 He had some young firefighters with him, so they 8 were less experienced. I knew it was a very hazardous 9 journey, so I said to them, "Look, start up when you see 10 thick smoke, not now. So give me your tallies, and get 11 up as many floors as you can into the building, if you 12 are going to get to the roof, and then start up and look 13 after each other." 14 Q. Did they start up to go to the roof? 15 A. They didn't start up there. They gave me their tallies 16 and then they walked as far as they could into the tower 17 with their equipment. 18 Q. How far did they get, do you know? 19 A. You'd have to ask them that. I don't know. I can't 20 recall. I know they carried out a rescue instead. They 21 never made it to the roof. They weren't going to 22 anyway; it was never going to happen. 23 Q. Were you able to stay in radio contact with them? 24 A. No. 25 Q. Did you try?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p>	<p>1 You have given us a very clear picture of the 2 development of smoke in the stairwell. 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. So have other witnesses. 5 Could you please be shown page 87 of the operational 6 response report. 7 If we just focus on 01.58, the time there, it says 8 that between 01.39 and 01.58, which is the time when you 9 were managing the bridgehead, the following residents 10 have either been rescued assisted out or self-evacuated 11 from Grenfell Tower, and then there is a list of 20 12 individuals, and the source of that is various different 13 notes. 14 I just want to ask you: given that 20 individuals 15 come out between 1.39 and 1.58, how did they manage to 16 get through the lobbies and down the stairs if they were 17 so completely smoke-logged? What was the method by 18 which they -- 19 A. Well, they were either carried or assisted. 20 Q. Right. What about their breathing? 21 A. They would've been -- they would've had smoke 22 inhalation. 23 Q. Right. Was there any way of being able to assist 24 residents who were being evacuated with -- 25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p>
<p>1 A. I tried. It would be good to ask the entry control 2 officers these questions. I think Watch Manager 3 De Silvo might have been there at that time, although 4 I don't know. 5 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, it may be appropriate now to have 6 another break. 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. 8 THE WITNESS: Thanks very much. 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr O'Keeffe, we'll come back at 10 12.20. All right? 11 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you very much. 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No discussion of your evidence. 13 THE WITNESS: Of course. 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. 15 12.20, then, please. 16 (12.07 pm) 17 (A short break) 18 (12.20 pm) 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think Mr O'Keeffe is just on his 20 way. 21 MR MILLETT: Very good. 22 (Pause) 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr O'Keeffe? 24 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. 25 MR MILLETT: Mr O'Keeffe, thank you for coming back to us.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 Q. -- their breathing through smoke? 2 A. The firefighters started doing that, taking off their 3 own masks and putting them on people. 4 Q. Right. 5 A. Whilst they were in the smoke. 6 Q. Okay. 7 Given what you've told us earlier about the 8 conditions of the building by about 2 o'clock in terms 9 of smoke-logging, how safe would it have been for 10 individuals to evacuate from their flats and come down 11 the stairwell? 12 A. It would've been unsafe, dangerous. 13 Q. Right. What would that mean to your way of thinking at 14 the time about the stay-put policy and whether it should 15 change? 16 A. Sorry, can you ask me that question again? 17 Q. Yes, of course. 18 Did that fact, the fact that it would be unsafe, 19 have any impact on how you viewed the safety or 20 otherwise of the stay-put policy? 21 A. I wasn't thinking about the stay-put policy for most of 22 the time I was in there; I was thinking about rescuing 23 people. 24 Q. Right. And how would one rescue a resident in the 25 middle of the tower at that time?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>

<p>1 A. With great difficulty.</p> <p>2 Q. Of course --</p> <p>3 A. But how? Physically take the person out and hope that</p> <p>4 you can get downstairs with them. I know from</p> <p>5 firefighters who were rescuing people that people were</p> <p>6 collapsing while they were being rescued and they had to</p> <p>7 be carried the rest of the way. So they were taken out</p> <p>8 into the smoke because there was no other option and</p> <p>9 then they would lose consciousness, and then they would</p> <p>10 be carried down by the firefighters, rescued.</p> <p>11 Q. Now, I'm going to ask you in a moment or two about some</p> <p>12 specific rescues.</p> <p>13 Before I do, I just have a few more general</p> <p>14 questions about information flows at the bridgehead.</p> <p>15 A. Okay.</p> <p>16 Q. First of all, did you brief firefighters before they</p> <p>17 were committed?</p> <p>18 A. Not all the firefighters, no. I did until Watch Manager</p> <p>19 Louisa De Silvo turned up, yes.</p> <p>20 Q. What kind of information were you able to give those</p> <p>21 firefighters you did brief?</p> <p>22 A. The number of the floor, number of the flat, number of</p> <p>23 people requiring rescue and the conditions believed --</p> <p>24 if known, the conditions in that area, on that floor.</p> <p>25 Q. Just to be clear, where were you getting that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p>	<p>1 travelling up through the conditions they were in and</p> <p>2 everything else. So the brief would be -- pretty much</p> <p>3 used up all the firefighting equipment rapidly -- would</p> <p>4 be to do search and rescue, extraction or whatever you</p> <p>5 want to call it. But find the location, locate the</p> <p>6 person and bring them out.</p> <p>7 Q. When firefighters returned to the bridgehead -- we've</p> <p>8 heard a little bit of this specifically with the</p> <p>9 Secrett, Badillo, Dorgu trio -- in general terms, did</p> <p>10 they debrief with you?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. They didn't?</p> <p>13 A. I cannot recollect speaking to North Kensington's crew.</p> <p>14 Q. No, but what about other crews? Did you generally</p> <p>15 debrief with other --</p> <p>16 A. If I had the opportunity, but quite often, if they were</p> <p>17 bringing down a casualty, you won't stop to speak to</p> <p>18 somebody on the bridgehead. Every casualty that was</p> <p>19 brought down was brought straight out the building as</p> <p>20 rapidly as possible for medical treatment.</p> <p>21 Q. When they came back to the bridgehead without having</p> <p>22 carried out a rescue, or where their deployment had not</p> <p>23 been successful for the purpose for which they had been</p> <p>24 sent, did you debrief with them?</p> <p>25 A. They would come and seek me out ordinarily and tell</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p>
<p>1 information from?</p> <p>2 A. From other firefighters. That was it, yes. And some</p> <p>3 FSG --</p> <p>4 Q. Some FSG.</p> <p>5 A. -- information, where a resident would open a door and</p> <p>6 see smoke and then that would be -- because with fire</p> <p>7 survival guidance, our operators stay on the line with</p> <p>8 the person indefinitely, and that person will relay the</p> <p>9 information back to our controller, who will relay that</p> <p>10 back to the command people, who will relay that back up</p> <p>11 to the fire sector or search and rescue sector.</p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 In each case, whenever you briefed a crew to go up</p> <p>14 into the tower, did you make it clear for what purpose</p> <p>15 you were sending them, firefighting, rescue?</p> <p>16 A. Absolutely, yes.</p> <p>17 Q. What was it in each case?</p> <p>18 A. Initially, as I stated, I was committing crews with</p> <p>19 firefighting equipment, until we ran out of it, we</p> <p>20 didn't -- we just -- and additional to that -- it's not</p> <p>21 a simple answer, but additional to that, firefighters</p> <p>22 were becoming compromised, meaning they were running out</p> <p>23 of air, carrying a lot of equipment, which can be up to</p> <p>24 50 kilograms, including a BA set and fire kit, so</p> <p>25 an individual would be carrying that upwards, vertically</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 me -- which happened quite a lot -- that they couldn't</p> <p>2 make it to the fire flats.</p> <p>3 Q. Did they give you information about what the conditions</p> <p>4 were like that they did encounter?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you record that information?</p> <p>7 A. It would've been recorded on the BA board.</p> <p>8 Q. Okay. And --</p> <p>9 A. Or on the FIB or on the wall.</p> <p>10 Q. The BA board being the forward information board?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. And on the wall. Was that information then communicated</p> <p>13 back to the incident commander?</p> <p>14 A. As I said, my point of contact was Watch Manager Watson</p> <p>15 for quite a lot of the -- so I was feeding him</p> <p>16 information and he would take it back.</p> <p>17 Q. Were you confident that that information about the</p> <p>18 conditions in the tower was --</p> <p>19 A. Confident?</p> <p>20 Q. -- going further back up the chain?</p> <p>21 A. I wouldn't say confident. I would hope that was being</p> <p>22 transmitted.</p> <p>23 Q. Did the information that you were getting from</p> <p>24 firefighters who had gone into the tower and had come</p> <p>25 down, as it were, empty handed, without having carried</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p>

<p>1 out their mission, did that information make you</p> <p>2 consider firefighting tactics and any change you needed</p> <p>3 to make in it?</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. What?</p> <p>6 A. I told the guys to stop starting up at the bridgehead</p> <p>7 and to travel as far as they could to extend the</p> <p>8 duration of their sets.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you discover how far up into the tower they could</p> <p>10 get without breathing apparatus?</p> <p>11 A. One particular crew went seven floors, but that was</p> <p>12 later on when the fire had vented. Initially, I don't</p> <p>13 know.</p> <p>14 Q. Were you monitoring what floors firefighters were able</p> <p>15 to reach and not able to reach as you went?</p> <p>16 A. You had a general sense of the limitations of what they</p> <p>17 were doing or how far they could travel.</p> <p>18 Q. Right. And after the first of half an hour or so of</p> <p>19 your being on the bridgehead, were you able to continue</p> <p>20 to maintain contact with the relevant incident</p> <p>21 commander?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Right. So at what point do you think you lost reliable</p> <p>24 radio contact with the incident commander?</p> <p>25 A. Just after pumps 10.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p>	<p>1 A. I was informed about it.</p> <p>2 Q. When was that?</p> <p>3 A. Early on in the incident.</p> <p>4 Q. Right. You say you made an inquiry; what made you make</p> <p>5 the inquiry?</p> <p>6 A. Just what was going on outside, you know. I mean, we</p> <p>7 were speaking to each other constantly, and I think</p> <p>8 I was in the tower for about 8 hours, so in that 8-hour</p> <p>9 window, there's such an amount of information that</p> <p>10 I cannot recollect individual conversations. Some</p> <p>11 I can, some I can't. The really important ones, that</p> <p>12 I think were important, I can because they're stamped on</p> <p>13 my mind; the others, no.</p> <p>14 Q. Okay. Did there come a time when you understood that</p> <p>15 the chain of communication from the command unit to the</p> <p>16 bridgehead had changed?</p> <p>17 A. Yeah, in a degree, when I started getting pieces of</p> <p>18 paper coming up, I knew that the radio transmissions</p> <p>19 were becoming difficult.</p> <p>20 Q. Right.</p> <p>21 A. And it was more expedient to have someone to deliver the</p> <p>22 information in person.</p> <p>23 Q. Did you ever talk to Daniel Egan?</p> <p>24 A. Never, no. Not during the incident. I know Daniel Egan</p> <p>25 reasonably well, station manager, but, no, I didn't see</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p>
<p>1 Q. You said before, just after pumps 10.</p> <p>2 Do you know why you lost reliable radio contact at</p> <p>3 that stage?</p> <p>4 A. Well, I would say that the radio traffic was</p> <p>5 considerable, and that Watch Manager Dowden, who at one</p> <p>6 stage was managing a 25-pump incident, was entirely</p> <p>7 occupied with that incident, and it would have been very</p> <p>8 difficult for him to take time to use his radio when he</p> <p>9 had this unfolding in front of him.</p> <p>10 Q. Okay, so --</p> <p>11 A. And also -- just to finish, sorry, just to finish.</p> <p>12 Q. Please.</p> <p>13 A. When there's a lot of radio traffic, it's very difficult</p> <p>14 to transmit any information or to get -- it just</p> <p>15 overwhelms it.</p> <p>16 Q. Now, you've given us a lot of information about the use</p> <p>17 of the forward information board, the sources of that</p> <p>18 information and the wall.</p> <p>19 Did you know at the time about a firefighter, a crew</p> <p>20 manager, doing an exercise of collating and</p> <p>21 cross-checking fire survival guidance information that</p> <p>22 he was getting on a car bonnet on the fire ground?</p> <p>23 A. I heard about it, yes, I did make an inquiry and, yes,</p> <p>24 there was, yes. I don't know exactly who it was.</p> <p>25 Q. No. You said you made an inquiry.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 him.</p> <p>2 Q. At the foot of page 9 of your statement, you refer to</p> <p>3 residents coming up to you and giving you information</p> <p>4 and you had to stop them physically.</p> <p>5 A. Yes, that was very early on. That was at the very</p> <p>6 beginning.</p> <p>7 Q. I was going to ask you.</p> <p>8 A. The police statement jumps around a bit, but that was at</p> <p>9 the very beginning of the incident.</p> <p>10 Q. That's helpful, thank you.</p> <p>11 The information that you got from residents, you say</p> <p>12 at the very bottom:</p> <p>13 "I took flat numbers from two of them, but the other</p> <p>14 people just threw their keys at me. They had no numbers</p> <p>15 on them so I didn't know which flats the kids were in."</p> <p>16 A. That is right.</p> <p>17 Q. "In the end, crews physically took them out of the</p> <p>18 building."</p> <p>19 Just in terms of that information, did you record</p> <p>20 that information anywhere?</p> <p>21 A. Not me personally, no.</p> <p>22 Q. Did anybody else?</p> <p>23 A. I don't -- I think the -- I directed the information</p> <p>24 towards one of the firefighters that was there with the</p> <p>25 BA board, but I can't recall exactly, so I cannot give</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p>

<p>1 you an approximate answer to that.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 A. My concern at that very moment -- and it was in the</p> <p>4 moment -- was preventing people from going back into the</p> <p>5 fire, and they come up the stairs in a state of anxiety,</p> <p>6 and I had enough on my plate dealing with what was</p> <p>7 dealing with unfolding, so I turned around to them and</p> <p>8 said, "No, you can't come in". And we had this</p> <p>9 discussion where one lady was trying to -- she was quite</p> <p>10 upset, she wanted to go back in, and I was trying to</p> <p>11 persuade her in the gentlest way I could that it wasn't</p> <p>12 possible.</p> <p>13 Q. Right.</p> <p>14 A. So I asked -- it came to overwhelm me a bit. Not</p> <p>15 emotionally at that time -- it did later, but --</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you all right dealing with this</p> <p>17 now?</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: I'll take a break one second to take a sip of</p> <p>19 water.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Have a pause.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: I'm okay, I'll just have a pause, yes.</p> <p>22 (Pause)</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Take your time.</p> <p>24 A. So I asked some firefighters to escort the residents</p> <p>25 back down the stairs. That's what happened. It</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 117</p>	<p>1 stated that he was taking over. I briefed him and</p> <p>2 discussed the current situation with him. I told him</p> <p>3 that SDBA crews were unable to reach persons on the</p> <p>4 upper floors and said that this was a job where EDBA was</p> <p>5 required."</p> <p>6 That discussion, was that the first conversation you</p> <p>7 had with Richard Welch?</p> <p>8 A. Correct, it was the very first -- that was the very</p> <p>9 first conversation I had with him that night.</p> <p>10 Q. So that was the question and answer --</p> <p>11 A. One of many, but that's the first.</p> <p>12 Q. Right, I see.</p> <p>13 You then go on to say:</p> <p>14 "Richard WELCH asked me how much EDBA was required</p> <p>15 and I said, 'All of it.' And he said that wasn't</p> <p>16 possible but I said that we needed all of the EDBA in</p> <p>17 London; we had to have it. He said, 'Really?' and I</p> <p>18 replied said 'Everything'. He said 'Ok, I'll get EDBA.'</p> <p>19 He's a good Officer Richard WELCH. I've never worked</p> <p>20 with him before but he seemed like a very practical man</p> <p>21 and I communicated quite well with him. He let me carry</p> <p>22 on doing what I was doing."</p> <p>23 Is that the discussion you gave evidence about</p> <p>24 a little earlier on this morning --</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 119</p>
<p>1 happened very quickly, over -- how long does it take to</p> <p>2 persuade someone that they can't go back into</p> <p>3 a building?</p> <p>4 Q. Yes.</p> <p>5 Just a couple of questions about something you gave</p> <p>6 some evidence about earlier on about a discussion with</p> <p>7 Richard Welch about EDBA.</p> <p>8 A. Yes.</p> <p>9 Q. At the bottom of page 11, you say you have a discussion</p> <p>10 with the incident commander -- this is six lines up from</p> <p>11 the end of page 11 -- about EDBA. Is that the</p> <p>12 discussion you are referring to that you had with</p> <p>13 Group Manager Welch or is that a different discussion?</p> <p>14 A. No, that's a different discussion. That was earlier on,</p> <p>15 earlier on in the incident.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 A. That's not the discussion I had with Group</p> <p>18 Manager Welch.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 Then just pursuing this a bit more.</p> <p>21 A. Okay.</p> <p>22 Q. At the bottom of page 12 -- and this is just, in time,</p> <p>23 when you say that Andy Walton had appeared -- you say:</p> <p>24 "I continued with my team as before. At some point</p> <p>25 Group Manager Richard WELCH arrived at Bridgehead and</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 Q. -- about the first, as it were, question and answer?</p> <p>2 A. That is correct.</p> <p>3 Q. Okay. Is it at that point, do you think, that he then</p> <p>4 went off and summoned all the EDBA he could get his</p> <p>5 hands on?</p> <p>6 A. He wouldn't have done that personally; he would've got</p> <p>7 someone to do it for him.</p> <p>8 Q. I just want to get a time fix on that if we can.</p> <p>9 If you could please be shown tab 23, the short</p> <p>10 incident log. We think we have a time for this, but</p> <p>11 I just want to see if you can help me with it.</p> <p>12 If you turn, please, to page 23. At 02.42.03, there</p> <p>13 is an informative message which says, halfway down:</p> <p>14 "MAJOR INCIDENT DECLARED HIGH RISE PROCEDURE</p> <p>15 IMPLEMENTED ..."</p> <p>16 Et cetera.</p> <p>17 Then:</p> <p>18 "... TL ALP EDBA MAIN CONTROL FSG ..."</p> <p>19 Now, that, I think, is the first reference we've</p> <p>20 seen here to EDBA.</p> <p>21 Would that be about the time when you had your</p> <p>22 discussion with Richard Welch?</p> <p>23 A. No, I don't think so. That's an informative message, as</p> <p>24 you can see, and when you send a description of an</p> <p>25 incident, you have got to include the equipment being</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 120</p>

<p>1 used currently at that time.</p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 We've seen an early deployment of EDBA with the</p> <p>4 Paddington five-man crew --</p> <p>5 A. That's correct.</p> <p>6 Q. -- just before 2 o'clock, so there was clearly EDBA</p> <p>7 equipment on the fire ground at that stage.</p> <p>8 Can I just ask you: would it be necessary</p> <p>9 specifically to order EDBA or would some pumps from some</p> <p>10 stations have EDBA already with them?</p> <p>11 A. You have to order it.</p> <p>12 Q. You have to order it?</p> <p>13 A. Specifically.</p> <p>14 Q. So do you know how the Paddington five-man crew came to</p> <p>15 have EDBA with them by 1.57? Was there a specific</p> <p>16 order --</p> <p>17 A. Because the incident commander requested two FRUs. If</p> <p>18 you look previously for an assistant message sent</p> <p>19 earlier, you would've seen a request for two -- I think</p> <p>20 it was two -- fire rescue units.</p> <p>21 Q. So --</p> <p>22 A. That's why that -- the fact that they were being used</p> <p>23 would be included in the informative. I don't know what</p> <p>24 time I spoke to Richard Welch and had that conversation</p> <p>25 with him and I don't know what time the -- I will guess</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p>	<p>1 like "all EDBA sets" is -- and I may be wrong about</p> <p>2 this -- but there's a turning out message which starts</p> <p>3 at 03.55, turning out with message for EDBA. Would that</p> <p>4 reflect a general call for all EDBA?</p> <p>5 A. Turning out is a mobilisation, it's the fact they've</p> <p>6 been turned out.</p> <p>7 Q. What would that tell us about how many --</p> <p>8 A. What you need to find, sir, is the assistance message</p> <p>9 for when it was requested from the fire ground to</p> <p>10 increase EDBA attendance.</p> <p>11 Q. Well, let me just show you, and I'm sorry to labour this</p> <p>12 a bit.</p> <p>13 A. It's okay.</p> <p>14 Q. Page 24 of the short incident log, the very top of the</p> <p>15 page, at 03.05.51, that says:</p> <p>16 "... RPE UNIT WITH EDBA APPROX 1 HOUR THESE ARE</p> <p>17 BEING ORDERED AS THE BA SUPPORT UNITS."</p> <p>18 Can you interpret that for us?</p> <p>19 A. That's a bulk carrier, that's not FRUs there, so --</p> <p>20 I forget the actual terminology. Or we have units in</p> <p>21 the Fire Brigade with ED -- BA support units which will</p> <p>22 bring fresh BA sets to the fire ground in a pod.</p> <p>23 Q. What does that tell you, if anything, about whether the</p> <p>24 discussion you'd had with Mr Welch, Group Manager Welch,</p> <p>25 about getting all EDBA sets had been actioned?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>
<p>1 a priority message was sent for additional EDBA.</p> <p>2 Q. We have a message at 01.29.46:</p> <p>3 "... MAKE PUMPS 20 FRU X 2."</p> <p>4 A. There you go. That's it.</p> <p>5 Q. Right, okay.</p> <p>6 A. What Watch Manager Dowden is asking for is a 20-pump</p> <p>7 attendance and two FRUs. We use the terminology, "Make</p> <p>8 pumps 20 and FRUs 2", that's how we speak. It's radio</p> <p>9 discipline.</p> <p>10 Q. How many EDBA sets would there be on one FRU?</p> <p>11 A. I think four.</p> <p>12 Q. So two FRUs, eight?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Which would account for how there were five EDBA</p> <p>15 wearers.</p> <p>16 A. There might have been five on the FRU that night.</p> <p>17 I couldn't go into the detail of it.</p> <p>18 Q. That's helpful.</p> <p>19 So when an informative message comes, "EDBA", what</p> <p>20 does that tell us? What does it tell us about how many</p> <p>21 EDBAs are on order?</p> <p>22 A. Informative message merely states that it's in use.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay.</p> <p>24 A. Not how many.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay. I think the first message I have with anything</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 A. That would be -- I would say that would be after they</p> <p>2 were requested.</p> <p>3 Q. Right.</p> <p>4 A. So you have to go before that to find the moment where</p> <p>5 a priority message was sent to request make-up FRUs so</p> <p>6 many, and the CBRN team, which was the chemical,</p> <p>7 biological, radiation and nuclear team, they're EDBA --</p> <p>8 that's where they use EDBA, in that department, they</p> <p>9 would've been ordered on at the same time.</p> <p>10 Q. We'll look at that over lunch.</p> <p>11 A. Okay.</p> <p>12 Q. Can I start then by asking you about a specific</p> <p>13 briefing, and this is Hippel and Stern to the 16th</p> <p>14 floor.</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Now, at page 10 in paragraph 3 on that page you</p> <p>17 describe -- it's about a third of the way down the</p> <p>18 page -- you committed one crew, Jamal Stern and</p> <p>19 Firefighter Hippel, to the 16th floor "because I had</p> <p>20 information that there was somebody who needed rescuing</p> <p>21 up there".</p> <p>22 First of all, what was that information, do you</p> <p>23 remember?</p> <p>24 A. A resident had told -- I believe had informed the crew</p> <p>25 that there was a -- or somebody had informed the crew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p>

<p>1 that there was a resident had approached them and that 2 somebody was believed trapped in that area with smoke. 3 Q. We looked at the telemetry data for Hippel and Stern 4 earlier, and we have them tallying out of entry control 5 at 01.17 or so. 6 So is it right that the information that there was 7 somebody on the 16th floor who needed rescuing was 8 before that? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. When they tallied out did you give Stern and Hippel 11 a briefing? 12 A. No, they were under air already. They were originally 13 committed as the hose management crew. 14 Q. In fact, you said earlier on this morning that they were 15 the hose management crew, and in your statement on 16 page 8 at the top you say you had already sent them to 17 the fifth floor and then they went to the sixth floor. 18 So the information about rescue on the 16th floor 19 came to you, did it, while they were under air in the 20 building? 21 A. Correct. 22 Q. Were you then able to communicate with them? 23 A. Yes. I don't recall the exact communication but they 24 were redeployed, because I didn't believe there was any 25 fire on the 16th -- or I wasn't aware of any fire on the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>	<p>1 A. No, that was well before that. They were utilised to 2 reconnoitre that area. That was much earlier on -- that 3 was before, I should say. They were detailed to go and 4 check for fire spread and that had been reported to me. 5 Q. Let me see if I can get the chronology then. On page 8 6 at the top they tell you by radio that it's completely 7 smoked out on this floor. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. I think you said that was the sixth floor. 10 A. That was the sixth floor, yes. 11 Q. So when you briefed them to go to the 16th floor, having 12 had the FSG information, was that after Stern had come 13 back to you and told you it was smoked out on the sixth 14 floor? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. How long after, do you think? 17 A. I couldn't tell you. 18 Q. Long, short, minutes? 19 A. Short. 20 Q. So we can pinpoint that a bit better. 21 And you tell him to go to the 16th floor. Does he 22 respond, Jamal Stern? 23 A. I don't recall. 24 Q. You say in your statement that you had information that 25 there was someone who needed rescuing there. Sorry,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>
<p>1 16th floor at that time because it was so instantaneous, 2 what was going on. 3 Q. I see. So they didn't come back down to the 4 bridgehead -- 5 A. No. 6 Q. -- they were in the building and you communicate -- 7 which of the firefighters did you communicate over the 8 radio with, do you remember? 9 A. Crew Manager Stern, I believe. 10 Q. Stern. And -- 11 A. I can't remember for certain. 12 Q. Which channel were you on? 13 A. That would've been 6. I was switching between 1 and 6. 14 Q. Did you have any difficulties getting hold of him? 15 A. Afterwards, yes. Not then. But afterwards, when they 16 went up into the tower, I personally couldn't 17 communicate with anybody. 18 Q. Where were they, do you think, in the building when you 19 first told them that you had an FSG for a rescue on the 20 16th floor? 21 A. I couldn't tell you. 22 Q. Was it before or after they told you that, "It's fucked, 23 it's going"? 24 A. Afterwards. 25 Q. And they were on the sixth floor at that stage?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 I am back on page 10, a third of the way down, you say, 2 "I had information". 3 What form did you have that information in? 4 A. I don't recall because I was getting so much information 5 at that time. 6 Q. Do you remember whether it was a piece of paper or a 7 message from -- 8 A. It wasn't a piece of paper, it would've been either 9 verbally or a message to me on the radio. 10 Q. Verbally. Do you remember whether it was verbally from 11 somebody coming up from the lobby or a firefighter 12 coming down? 13 A. I don't recall. 14 Q. Now, what about communications with Justin O'Beirne? Is 15 it possible that the information you gave as to 16 Justin O'Beirne who passed it on to Hippel and Stern? 17 A. Possibly. 18 Q. When you deployed firefighters Hippel and Stern did you 19 give them the flat number? 20 A. I don't recall. I think it was the location. I don't 21 recall, actually. 22 Q. So when you say you had information on the 16th floor, 23 is that the totality -- 24 A. No, I genuinely can't remember the details of numbers 25 very much other than I knew they went to the 16th floor.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p>

32 (Pages 125 to 128)

<p>1 Q. Do you know roughly where in the building the flat that 2 they were going to was? 3 A. No. 4 Q. Which side of the building? 5 A. No. 6 Q. No, you didn't. 7 Were you aware at that stage that the fire had 8 spread from the east facade? 9 A. No. 10 Q. You had communications with Hippel and Stern as they 11 went up, I think you said. 12 A. Before they went, yes. 13 Q. Before they went. 14 A. And then when they came back down. 15 Q. I may have misunderstood you and it's my fault, but when 16 they were in the tower -- 17 A. They were in the tower. 18 Q. -- I thought you told us earlier that you told them to 19 go to the 16th floor once they were up in the tower. 20 A. Yeah, they were in the tower, they were still under air, 21 they hadn't closed down. I will deploy them because 22 I had information there was fire -- there was smoke, 23 sorry, on the 16th floor. 24 Q. Let me just go back then, I may have confused you and 25 I'm sorry if I have.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p>	<p>1 A. The 16th floor. 2 Q. The whole of it? 3 A. It was completely smoked out, and he said he didn't see 4 flame but he could feel intense heat. 5 Q. Do you know how far into the 16th floor Richard Hippel 6 went? 7 A. No, I can't recall actually. 8 Q. Do you think he told you? 9 A. Probably, knowing Richard, yes, he's quite exact. 10 Q. Were you satisfied that you'd got as full a debrief from 11 Richard Hippel -- 12 A. Not a full, no. 13 Q. -- that you could have done? 14 A. It wasn't a calm environment at that time, it was -- 15 there were multiple rescue operations just commencing or 16 in the process and I was trying to manage that at the 17 bridgehead. So when firefighters would come to me and 18 give me information, I would -- it wouldn't be all, you 19 know, a very complex, long description, it would be -- 20 the required information is: there is fire on the 16th 21 floor which could culminate in that. 22 Q. Did Jamal Stern tell you about what he had experienced? 23 A. I don't recall. 24 Q. What impression did you get from the debrief that 25 Richard Hippel gave you about the success of the rescue?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p>
<p>1 When you gave them the instructions to go to the 2 16th floor, where were Hippel and Stern? 3 A. I don't know. They were in the tower. 4 Q. They were in the tower, but they weren't at the 5 bridgehead? 6 A. No, they weren't at the bridgehead, no. 7 Q. So you communicated with them by radio, as you've said? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. That's what I thought. When you did that, did you know 10 that they were with a resident? 11 A. No. 12 Q. Did you know that they were with the son of the man that 13 Hippel and Stern were going to rescue on the 16th floor? 14 A. Well, that would make sense. 15 Q. But did you know that? 16 A. No, I didn't. 17 Q. Do you remember Stern and Hippel coming back down to the 18 bridgehead after going to the 16th floor? 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. Do you remember a debriefing? 21 A. I remember what Dick Hippel said, or Richard, 22 Firefighter Hippel said to me. 23 Q. What was that? 24 A. It was on fire. He was shocked. 25 Q. What was on fire?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 A. It was unsuccessful, I believe, and he was shocked that 2 the 16th floor was on fire. 3 Q. Did you record anywhere the information about the 4 deployment? 5 A. I don't recall. I don't remember. 6 Q. Is it something you would have recorded on the forward 7 information board? 8 A. It would've been, yes. 9 Q. Or on the wall? 10 A. It would've been recorded, but not by me, because they 11 would have to go then to the entry control officer. 12 I had Justin O'Beirne there as well and a lot of people 13 assisting and they would've got that information and put 14 it on the wall at this stage. 15 Q. Do you know what happened to that information that the 16 deployment had been unsuccessful after it had been 17 debriefed to you by Richard Hippel? 18 A. Not precisely, but it would've been -- well, I would've 19 known about it and the incident commander would've been 20 informed also. But I was unable to communicate with the 21 incident commander at that time. I did briefly tell him 22 the floor -- that the 16th floor was on fire and that's 23 when I urged him to make pumps 10. 24 Q. Did you indicate to the incident commander that there 25 was a failed rescue on that floor?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p>

<p>1 A. One of many, yes. I can't remember that one 2 specifically but I was indicating to Watch Manager 3 Watson, who was transporting that information outwards. 4 Q. So your communication to the incident commander was via 5 Watch Manager Watson? 6 A. And other officers. 7 Q. Which other officers? 8 A. I don't recall. 9 Q. But so far as you're concerned, you passed back up the 10 communication chain the fact that the rescue mission to 11 the 16th floor had not succeeded? 12 A. Yes, because I deployed another BA team there more or 13 less immediately. 14 Q. Well, I was about to ask you that, that was my next 15 question. 16 Having discovered that this deployment with Hippel 17 and Stern had not been successful to the 16th floor, did 18 you deploy another team? 19 A. I did immediately, yes, when they became available. 20 I think it was Ealing, as far as I know. 21 Q. Ealing, do you think? 22 A. I believe so. 23 Q. Just before we break, I wonder if we can just identify 24 that in the -- 25 A. If you could say the name of the officer in charge,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p>	<p>1 Q. I can't at the moment see an Ealing crew until -- 2 A. Well, I don't know if it was Ealing, but I remember 3 committing another crew to that flat. 4 Q. Well, perhaps we can chase that up ourselves internally 5 and come back to you -- 6 A. Okay. All right. 7 MR MILLETT: -- after the break. 8 Is now a convenient time for a break? 9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. We'll have a break now. 10 Again, please don't talk to anyone about your evidence 11 and we'll resume at 2 o'clock. 12 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you very much. 13 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much. 14 (Pause) 15 Thank you all very much. 2 o'clock, please. 16 (12.57 pm) 17 (The short adjournment) 18 (2.00 pm) 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. I think Mr O'Keeffe is just on 20 his way now. 21 MR MILLETT: Very good. 22 (Pause) 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett. 24 MR MILLETT: Mr O'Keeffe, thank you for coming back. 25 A. Yes, sir.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p>
<p>1 I could probably identify it. 2 Q. -- telemetry data. You think it was Ealing? 3 A. Possibly. 4 Q. Well, we have Hippel and Stern decoupling from bodyguard 5 at -- well, it's a bit difficult because the times are 6 all over the place -- but the end of their wear time we 7 have as 01.38. 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. Would that be about right in terms of your recollection? 10 They come down -- 11 A. Yes, it would be about right. 12 Q. Right. There's a re-briefing at around that time, 13 a Kensington and two from Hammersmith, Brodrick, 14 Broderick and Sephton. 15 A. Okay, they -- possibly -- they weren't the crew that 16 went there. They would possibly have gone to another 17 FSG within the building. 18 Q. Right. 19 A. Or firefighting. 20 Q. We don't, I think, have an Ealing deployment. We have 21 an Acton deployment at 01.52.51. 22 A. So Ealing, who were the crews in Ealing? 23 Q. Well, perhaps I'll look at this over the lunch break and 24 come back to you. 25 A. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 Q. Can I ask you, first of all, a question about these 2 FRUs. 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. And I think I was suggesting to you that the general 5 call had gone out for full EDBAs a little bit later than 6 perhaps was the case. 7 Can I ask you to look, please, at the short incident 8 log in tab 23 of the bundle and go to page 22. 9 This is an entry at 02.16.58: 10 "Make up. 11 "CU8 FROM DAC OLOUGHLIN MAKE FRU X 10." 12 A. That will be the call for the FRUs, EDBA. 13 Q. Given that we've got -- I don't need to show it to 14 you -- Group Manager Welch booking in at status 3 at 15 01.57 -- 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. -- and we have that make-up at FRU 10, does that help 18 you in timing -- 19 A. Yes, that would be the time he would've walked -- he 20 would've gone away from me. I think it would've been 21 a point for discussion amongst the senior officers 22 attending, and then the decision was made as a result of 23 that to make FRUs 10. 24 Q. Right, thank you. 25 Now, I want to go back just to follow up one or two</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p>

<p>1 things on the Hippel/Stern rescue or attempted rescue on 2 the 16th floor.</p> <p>3 First of all, from your knowledge, do you know 4 whether Hippel and Stern were at any time with the 5 resident that they met on the stairs?</p> <p>6 A. No, I don't know that.</p> <p>7 Q. You don't know. Okay. I may have suggested to you 8 inadvertently that Hippel and Stern were with him.</p> <p>9 A. I couldn't tell you.</p> <p>10 Q. About that rescue, can I ask you to look at a photograph 11 and be shown, I think it is, tab 50 in the documents 12 bundle. Mr Documents Director, it's MET00015642.</p> <p>13 This is a photograph we've seen before earlier this 14 week which was taken, I think, by Justin O'Beirne, and 15 we'll just wait until it comes up.</p> <p>16 Now, this is a photograph taken by Justin O'Beirne, 17 as he tells us, and his evidence is that it was taken at 18 02.17.</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. So a minute or so after the FRU make-up we've just seen, 21 by coincidence.</p> <p>22 Could you just look at it with me -- hang on, is 23 that the right one? -- I'm not sure that's the right 24 one. Would you just give me a moment.</p> <p>25 (Pause)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p>	<p>1 which was JOB/8.</p> <p>2 (Pause)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Could you give the reference again?</p> <p>4 MR MILLETT: Yes, MET00013074.</p> <p>5 Yes, now, do you recognise that writing, that set of 6 inscriptions?</p> <p>7 A. Not specifically. It would be what's written on the 8 wall by our guys in the bridgehead.</p> <p>9 Q. Do you know who was writing that up?</p> <p>10 A. Again, it would be either -- well, not just Firefighter 11 O'Beirne, but other individual firefighters and 12 an officer, Watch Manager De Silvo, who came to the 13 bridgehead, who were working on the bridgehead, as part 14 of that team.</p> <p>15 Q. Can you help me with a particular inscription there. On 16 the bottom right-hand corner you see, written at 17 an angle from bottom-left to top-right, "113 8 people 14 18 floor".</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. There it is in enlarged form.</p> <p>21 First of all, whose writing was that, do you 22 remember?</p> <p>23 A. I don't remember.</p> <p>24 Q. Do you know when that was written there?</p> <p>25 A. I don't.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p>
<p>1 First of all, if you could help us with this, it 2 says "16th" up there -- well, let me ask you a prior 3 question: do you know whose writing that is?</p> <p>4 A. Well, I would say it's either Justin O'Beirne or Watch 5 Manager Louisa De Silvo.</p> <p>6 Q. And that information was coming from where, do you 7 think?</p> <p>8 A. Okay. I don't know exactly the time that Watch Manager 9 De Silvo came to the bridgehead. But when she came to 10 the bridgehead, I detailed her to take control of BA 11 control and FSG information.</p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 A. Before she came to the bridgehead, I had detailed 14 Firefighter O'Beirne to utilise the wall to write up the 15 FSG information because, as he had indicated to me, the 16 forward information board was full, and when he did so, 17 I instructed him to write it on the wall. So I don't 18 know whose writing it is.</p> <p>19 Q. We'll come back to that photograph in a minute. I'm 20 sorry, it's my fault, I've taken you to the wrong 21 photograph.</p> <p>22 A. Okay.</p> <p>23 Q. But the information you've just given us about that 24 photograph is important. I'll come back to it shortly.</p> <p>25 If you go, please, to the photograph at MET00013074,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 Q. Do you know the circumstances in which that came to be 2 written there?</p> <p>3 A. It would be a fire survival guidance call.</p> <p>4 Q. That would be a fire survival guidance --</p> <p>5 A. That would be the circumstances.</p> <p>6 Q. Right. It says "113 8 people" --</p> <p>7 A. I remember when we had to -- when we eventually ended up 8 in the lobby, having eight people in the vicinity still. 9 But not that specific writing. I don't know who wrote 10 it.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Can I just then go back to the photograph I was 13 showing you before, which is at MET00015642.</p> <p>14 If we can enlarge it halfway down, it says: "113 15 14th [floor]" --</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. -- with a tick next to it, "BA". What does that tick 18 mean?</p> <p>19 A. That it's been searched, I would guess, but I didn't put 20 the tick there, so I don't know.</p> <p>21 Q. All right.</p> <p>22 If we just pan out and just go back to the list, 23 a little higher up you can see 133, 16th floor. Do you 24 see that?</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p>

<p>1 Q. Do you remember the circumstances in which that came to</p> <p>2 be written there?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. Now, that's the 16th floor.</p> <p>5 Do you think that that came to be written there</p> <p>6 after Stern and Hippel had reported to you that they had</p> <p>7 not been able to make a rescue on the 16th floor?</p> <p>8 A. I couldn't say.</p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 Then if you look at MET00015624, which is</p> <p>11 a different photograph, I'll see if I can just cover</p> <p>12 this off, this is more fire survival guidance written on</p> <p>13 the wall. Looking again at floor 16 -- it looks like</p> <p>14 a different wall and a different set of numbers. Can</p> <p>15 you help with that?</p> <p>16 A. No. I know that the -- because I detailed people to</p> <p>17 write on the walls, that they were writing on the walls,</p> <p>18 but because I was so involved with other activities,</p> <p>19 I -- that's why I delegated this work to another watch</p> <p>20 manager, who was sent to assist me at the bridgehead.</p> <p>21 Q. You see it says "16 133" there, in a ring. Do you</p> <p>22 remember --</p> <p>23 A. Can you enlarge that, please?</p> <p>24 Q. Yes.</p> <p>25 A. I can't see.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 141</p>	<p>1 First of all, let's start with the end of wear time</p> <p>2 for Hippel and Stern, and we see in the blue column at</p> <p>3 the right-hand side of the screen that the end of Hippel</p> <p>4 and Stern's wear time is 01.38.35 and 01.38.40.</p> <p>5 A. Okay.</p> <p>6 Q. How soon after their end of wear time do you think you</p> <p>7 dispatched the next set of BA wearers to the 16th floor?</p> <p>8 A. Immediately.</p> <p>9 Q. Right.</p> <p>10 A. Or as soon as one was available.</p> <p>11 Q. Right. So we're looking for a dispatch now at about</p> <p>12 that time.</p> <p>13 Now, looking down on the tally-out time in the green</p> <p>14 column, we've got a trio of BA wearers from Kensington</p> <p>15 and two from Hammersmith, Broderick, Brodrick and</p> <p>16 Sephton, tallying out at 1.38, 1.38.02 and 1.27. Do you</p> <p>17 think that might have been who you sent next?</p> <p>18 A. I don't know.</p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 What about the five from Paddington, Hammersmith and</p> <p>21 Paddington, Wolfenden, James and Felton, Benjamin,</p> <p>22 et cetera, in blue?</p> <p>23 Do you think you sent five firefighters up to the</p> <p>24 16th floor?</p> <p>25 A. I wouldn't say I sent five up there. The ... again,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 143</p>
<p>1 Q. It will be enlarged.</p> <p>2 "16", and that looks like "133" there with a ring</p> <p>3 round it and a smudge next to it. Can you help with</p> <p>4 when that was put there?</p> <p>5 A. No.</p> <p>6 Q. Whether that was after Hippel and Stern --</p> <p>7 A. I don't know.</p> <p>8 Q. You don't know. Okay. We may have to come back to</p> <p>9 those photographs later.</p> <p>10 Can I then finish off this Hippel and Stern</p> <p>11 deployment.</p> <p>12 You said before the lunch break that as soon as they</p> <p>13 came down without having made the rescue on the 16th</p> <p>14 floor, you deployed another set of firefighters and you</p> <p>15 thought they were from Ealing.</p> <p>16 A. Well, I -- look, the system was such that if a rescue</p> <p>17 was not carried out by a crew that was detailed to carry</p> <p>18 out the rescue, a subsequent crew would be committed to</p> <p>19 the same -- until we could get a rescue or not.</p> <p>20 Q. Right, could you please be shown telemetry data in tab 1</p> <p>21 of the the documents bundle. We can see the end of wear</p> <p>22 time for Hippel and Stern at 01.38.35 and 01.38.40.</p> <p>23 No, that's not -- sorry, that's not the right</p> <p>24 document.</p> <p>25 Tab 1, the telemetry data. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 I couldn't tell you.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay. Well, rather than guessing, do you remember</p> <p>3 whether the next set of firefighters you sent to the</p> <p>4 16th floor was a pair or whether it was a group larger</p> <p>5 than a pair?</p> <p>6 A. I don't remember.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 You said you thought it was Ealing but, having</p> <p>9 thought about it again, do you remember what station</p> <p>10 they were from?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 So can I now turn to the next deployment, Murphy and</p> <p>14 Cornelius?</p> <p>15 A. Yes.</p> <p>16 Q. On page 10, you say, going back to your statement,</p> <p>17 a third of the way down:</p> <p>18 "I committed another crew, a four-person crew,</p> <p>19 Firefighters MURPHY and CORNELIUS and two others, who I</p> <p>20 can't recall, to go to flat 111 on the fourteenth floor</p> <p>21 where there was one adult male FSG."</p> <p>22 So that's a four-person team.</p> <p>23 If you just go back to the telemetry data, we can</p> <p>24 see their time of dispatch. I'm sorry to have taken it</p> <p>25 off the screen.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 144</p>

<p>1 Cornelius tallies out at 01.51, if you look at the 2 green column, and Desmond Murphy at 01.51.24. It looks 3 as if they've gone as a pair, but do you think the other 4 two below them, Campbell and Mills from Paddington, also 5 went with them? 6 A. I don't recall, but I do know they got split up on the 7 way up. 8 Q. Right. 9 A. They were going up with two other firefighters, one -- 10 Q. Okay. 11 A. Yeah. 12 Q. Just using Cornelius and Murphy, then, we have their 13 tally-out time at 01.51, more or less. That would be 14 about right, would it? 15 A. I actually met them when they came down. 16 Q. I will come to when they came down in just a minute. 17 Let me ask you some questions about what they discover 18 when they go up. 19 They go up. When they go up there, are you able to 20 speak to them? 21 A. Not on the way up, no. Before they went up, yes, but 22 not on the way up. 23 Q. What brief did you give them before they went up, do you 24 remember? 25 A. I told them to take firefighting equipment. They took</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p>	<p>1 take it they gave you a debriefing? 2 A. Yes. It was quite a troubled one because they were in 3 very bad shape. 4 Q. They were in bad shape? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. And just in terms of their time at which they came back 7 to the bridgehead, if we just look at the telemetry data 8 again at tab 1 and look at their tally-out time, we have 9 that in there as unrecorded, but an end of wear time, if 10 you look at the blue column, of 02.18.35 and 02.19.34. 11 Given that they tallied out at 01.51 or so, what 12 would that tell you about how long they'd been up there 13 and how easy it had been for them? 14 A. It had been very difficult for them. They couldn't -- 15 Q. We can see -- 16 A. Go on. 17 Q. We can see -- no, continue, sorry. 18 A. No, you carry on. 19 Q. You can see their final pressure there of 53 for Charles 20 Cornelius and 78.47 for -- 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. -- Desmond Murphy. Is that -- 23 A. That's quite low. 24 Q. That's quite low? 25 A. Yes. Your low pressure warning whistle sounds at</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 147</p>
<p>1 quite a lot of firefighting equipment. I said there's 2 a fire, reports of fire, not just smoke, and that they 3 had one individual in -- I cannot remember the number of 4 the flat, adult male. And they were to -- firefighting, 5 search and rescue. 6 Q. Right. 7 A. It's an FSG call, fire survival guidance call. 8 Q. You said you had reports of actual fire in that flat? 9 A. Yeah, that's why I sent them with the firefighting 10 equipment. 11 Q. Do you remember recording or having recorded on the wall 12 or any of those walls by the bridgehead information that 13 there was fire in that flat? 14 A. I -- not me personally, no. 15 Q. Okay. 16 They go up. 17 A. Yes. 18 Q. Then they come back down again, and you say at the top 19 of page 11 of your statement: 20 "The BA crew of Firefighters MURPHY and CORNELIUS 21 then returned to the Bridgehead, without the other two 22 crew members. They didn't know where they had gone. 23 They looked exhausted and reported to me that they had 24 reached Flat 111 and found the male occupant." 25 Pausing there, when they came back down, are we to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 146</p>	<p>1 84 bar. 2 Q. Yes. 3 A. And you have got 12 minutes to get out, really. 4 Q. And you say they were in quite bad shape? 5 A. They were in bad shape, yes. 6 Q. Could you just expand on what you mean by that? 7 A. I could. They had abandoned their firefighting kit 8 above. They didn't think they were going to make it out 9 alive. That's what they said to me. That's what 10 Firefighter Murphy said to me. They looked really 11 shaken. They said that they couldn't see any of the 12 door numbers, they didn't know which floor they were on, 13 and I specifically remember Firefighter Murphy telling 14 me that he had to use his firefighter's hand lamp to go 15 up close to where a floor number -- to try and find out 16 where they were. 17 Q. Really? 18 A. That they had found the individual of the flat but, 19 because of the density -- and when they went there, they 20 found another seven people from various flats who came 21 to them for help. They were unable to take the eight 22 people out. 23 Q. Right. 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Do you need a pause? 25 A. Just give me a moment, please.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 148</p>

<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Of course.</p> <p>2 (Pause)</p> <p>3 A. So I knew I had eight people now on that floor in one</p> <p>4 flat. They put the people in the flat which they deemed</p> <p>5 to be the least smoky flat and they reported that to me.</p> <p>6 As far as I recall, I deployed another BA crew</p> <p>7 immediately to that area. I don't know -- I'm really</p> <p>8 sorry, but at this point I can't remember most of the</p> <p>9 crews. I only know this because Firefighters Cornelius</p> <p>10 and Murphy are from my watch and they're friends of</p> <p>11 mine.</p> <p>12 Q. Just focusing on where they had found the other seven,</p> <p>13 was that in the same flat --</p> <p>14 A. Same floor.</p> <p>15 Q. Same floor, but in the same flat as the male occupant,</p> <p>16 flat 111 --</p> <p>17 A. Same floor, not the same flat, the same floor. They</p> <p>18 kicked the door in, I believe, and they found -- I won't</p> <p>19 say his name because I don't really want to say his</p> <p>20 name, I don't think it's relevant -- at the moment,</p> <p>21 I should say ...</p> <p>22 Q. It's okay, take your time.</p> <p>23 A. I'm okay.</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Just take it at your own pace.</p> <p>25 (Pause)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p>	<p>1 Welch about EDBAs?</p> <p>2 A. Before.</p> <p>3 Q. It was before?</p> <p>4 A. Certainly was before.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. Long before?</p> <p>6 A. I don't know.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 So based on their tally or their end of wear time</p> <p>9 that we've seen, you can't tell us, can you, who the</p> <p>10 incident commander was?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. When you say you passed it on to the incident commander,</p> <p>13 can you tell us what you did?</p> <p>14 A. Well, I couldn't make any comms. I was in contact with</p> <p>15 various officers who were coming to the bridgehead.</p> <p>16 I was giving them information and I was giving</p> <p>17 information -- any information I had. They would also</p> <p>18 give that information -- Firefighters Cornelius and</p> <p>19 Murphy would give that information to the entry control</p> <p>20 board and whoever was running that system at the time.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you think that Watch Manager De Silvo recorded the</p> <p>22 information that Murphy and Cornelius had given to you?</p> <p>23 A. If she was there, she certainly would have.</p> <p>24 Q. Can I just ask you to look at a photograph again.</p> <p>25 I think it's one we looked at a moment ago, but coming</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>
<p>1 A. And so they placed -- the only thing they could do was</p> <p>2 place people in a place which they considered to be safe</p> <p>3 at that time and they told them that somebody would come</p> <p>4 back to get them.</p> <p>5 MR MILLETT: Yes.</p> <p>6 You then say, halfway down page 11:</p> <p>7 "I passed on the information I received from</p> <p>8 Firefighters MURPHY and CORNELIUS to the Incident</p> <p>9 Commander and to WM De SILVO."</p> <p>10 A. I believe she was there then.</p> <p>11 Q. Now, in terms of passing it on to the incident</p> <p>12 commander, do you remember who that was at that stage?</p> <p>13 A. I asked for the -- I asked for them to bring that</p> <p>14 information out to the incident commander, and that</p> <p>15 would be recorded on the bridgehead for briefing other</p> <p>16 crews. That's really -- it was hectic at that time.</p> <p>17 Q. Do you remember the name of the incident commander at</p> <p>18 that point?</p> <p>19 A. I think it was Watch Manager Dowden. I don't know how</p> <p>20 many pumps it was at this stage or who had taken over.</p> <p>21 I wasn't aware of what was going on outside the tower.</p> <p>22 Q. Do you remember that a major incident had been declared?</p> <p>23 A. I wasn't made aware of that at all.</p> <p>24 Q. Was the conversation or the debrief you had with Murphy</p> <p>25 and Cornelius after your conversation with Group Manager</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>	<p>1 back to it. It's [MET00013074].</p> <p>2 Again, this may not be the right one, so we may have</p> <p>3 to look at one or two others. Are you all right with</p> <p>4 that, Mr O'Keeffe?</p> <p>5 A. I am.</p> <p>6 Q. Let's start with that one.</p> <p>7 Yes. So we looked at this before. This is where we</p> <p>8 see "113 8 people 14 floor", bottom-right there.</p> <p>9 Having been through the story now telling us about</p> <p>10 the debrief you got from Murphy and Cornelius, can you</p> <p>11 explain that writing on that wall there?</p> <p>12 A. Well, floor 9, flat 65 would be Soho's crew of four, and</p> <p>13 their names are there. I can't see the writing at the</p> <p>14 end. Three rooms.</p> <p>15 Johnson and Roots, 14th floor --</p> <p>16 Q. I'm sorry, I'm going to interrupt you. It's the writing</p> <p>17 which isn't in a ring or box that we looked at a minute</p> <p>18 ago. If it can be enlarged, please.</p> <p>19 A. Yes, please.</p> <p>20 Q. It's in the bottom right-hand corner of the picture. So</p> <p>21 "113 8 people 14 floor", there. That writing on the</p> <p>22 wall there.</p> <p>23 A. That's the flat they would've been put into.</p> <p>24 Q. Do you think that -- I don't want you to speculate.</p> <p>25 A. No, that would be it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p>

<p>1 Q. That would be it?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. That would be what, De Silvo recording --</p> <p>4 A. That would be the recording of the information that</p> <p>5 they'd given over.</p> <p>6 Q. Right, okay. So we have it. Okay.</p> <p>7 A. Okay.</p> <p>8 Q. Then you say you detailed another BA crew to rescue the</p> <p>9 occupants of floor 14?</p> <p>10 A. Yes. Yes, I did.</p> <p>11 Q. Are you ready to go on or would you like a break?</p> <p>12 A. I can go on.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay, all right.</p> <p>14 A. I'm okay.</p> <p>15 Q. Okay. Now, just to put you back in your statement, this</p> <p>16 is just before halfway down on page 11, you say:</p> <p>17 "I then detailed another BA crew to rescue the</p> <p>18 occupants of floor 14."</p> <p>19 Was that an urgent matter for you?</p> <p>20 A. Everything was urgent.</p> <p>21 Q. Right. I just want to try and see if I can get</p> <p>22 an indication of who that might have been in that crew.</p> <p>23 First of all, do you remember what you said when you</p> <p>24 briefed the new BA crew?</p> <p>25 A. No. To be -- as I cannot recollect briefing the new</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 153</p>	<p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Just a minute, Mr Millett, are we</p> <p>2 looking at the right part?</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: BA Time Line (3).</p> <p>4 Great, thank you.</p> <p>5 If you look at the top of that now you'll see</p> <p>6 a block of five firefighters, three from Lambeth, one</p> <p>7 from Chelsea, one from Soho, all tallying out at 02.24</p> <p>8 and 02.26 and then 02.27.</p> <p>9 A. Yes, I recognise one there.</p> <p>10 Q. Does that trigger --</p> <p>11 A. A few of the names, actually.</p> <p>12 Q. Does that trigger a recollection in whether or not that</p> <p>13 group was the group --</p> <p>14 A. No, they weren't. They were the group that found the</p> <p>15 firefighter who was lost.</p> <p>16 Q. I see.</p> <p>17 A. I remember distinctly when they came they brought the</p> <p>18 firefighter with them.</p> <p>19 Q. I don't want to fish around in this seeing if I can</p> <p>20 prompt a recollection.</p> <p>21 Let me leave it this way: do you remember the size</p> <p>22 of the BA contingent that you sent in order to rescue</p> <p>23 the occupants of floor 14?</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. You don't.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 155</p>
<p>1 crew, it may have been Watch Manager De Silvo or</p> <p>2 somebody that briefed that crew on where -- on the</p> <p>3 location, because when Chelsea's Watch Manager De Silvo</p> <p>4 arrived, because of the volume of information and to</p> <p>5 control that information, I put watch manager -- her,</p> <p>6 Louisa De Silvo, in charge of that task specifically.</p> <p>7 Q. I see.</p> <p>8 We have some evidence from witness statements that</p> <p>9 a firefighter called Orchard and Herrera were briefed to</p> <p>10 go to the 14th floor, to go to flat 111.</p> <p>11 A. Okay.</p> <p>12 Q. Is that something that rings a bell with you?</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. It doesn't.</p> <p>15 What about the names Juggins and McAlonen?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. No?</p> <p>18 Can I just show you an entry in the telemetry data</p> <p>19 again?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, of course.</p> <p>21 Q. If you go to the bottom of "BA Time Line (3)" and</p> <p>22 there's a white box of five BA wearers, three from</p> <p>23 Lambeth, one from Chelsea and one from Soho, Evans,</p> <p>24 Bloxham, Herrera, Ferguson and Orchard, who tally out</p> <p>25 at --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 154</p>	<p>1 Do you remember what happened when that second crew</p> <p>2 that you had briefed came back to the bridgehead?</p> <p>3 A. No.</p> <p>4 Q. Do you think you had a debrief with them?</p> <p>5 A. No. I didn't, no.</p> <p>6 Q. Did anybody else have a debrief with them, do you think?</p> <p>7 A. You'll have to ask Watch Manager Louisa De Silvo for</p> <p>8 that one.</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: Right.</p> <p>10 Now, jumping ahead, if I can, in your statement --</p> <p>11 I am going to go on to a different document.</p> <p>12 Now, you've been going for 30 minutes. I think it's</p> <p>13 probably time for a short break.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would that be a good thing?</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: I think it would be.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, I thought you might.</p> <p>17 We'll have a break for 10 minutes. Back here at</p> <p>18 2.40, no discussing your evidence.</p> <p>19 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>21 2.40, then, please.</p> <p>22 (2.32 pm)</p> <p>23 (A short break)</p> <p>24 (2.40 pm)</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You all right, Mr O'Keeffe?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 156</p>

<p>1 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, I think I can say</p> <p>3 without too much fear of contradiction that we're all</p> <p>4 feeling the heat a bit. I'm sure Mr O'Keeffe is. I am,</p> <p>5 and maybe you are and others too.</p> <p>6 So I think what we should do is to finish this</p> <p>7 afternoon's session by 3.15. If you reach a natural</p> <p>8 point before then or a little bit before then --</p> <p>9 MR MILLETT: It will be welcome.</p> <p>10 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: -- we'll take that, otherwise we'll</p> <p>11 finish at 3.15 and I think give you a bit of respite.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.</p> <p>13 MR MILLETT: Yes, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>14 Mr O'Keeffe, thank you very much.</p> <p>15 Can I take you to page 15 of your witness statement.</p> <p>16 I am going to just ask you to look at the bottom of</p> <p>17 that page, and I want just to give you enough</p> <p>18 opportunity to look at that so we can identify perhaps</p> <p>19 when in time these things are happening.</p> <p>20 You say, eight lines up from the bottom:</p> <p>21 "It was also apparent now that all BA crews were</p> <p>22 EDBA crews. There was a lot of noise and shouting in</p> <p>23 the lobby. I was continually handed pieces of paper by</p> <p>24 runners because the comms were no longer working. We</p> <p>25 had the very old-fashioned, but dependable, method of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 157</p>	<p>1 Q. -- you were getting, when did you start getting pieces</p> <p>2 of paper like this?</p> <p>3 A. (Nodded assent).</p> <p>4 Q. When did you start getting these pieces --</p> <p>5 A. When did I start?</p> <p>6 Q. Yes.</p> <p>7 A. Those pieces of paper? When I was on the ground floor,</p> <p>8 in the lobby.</p> <p>9 Q. So when the bridgehead was on the ground floor in the</p> <p>10 lobby?</p> <p>11 A. That was towards the -- well, that was the latter stages</p> <p>12 of the incident.</p> <p>13 Q. Yes. So you weren't -- is this right? -- getting pieces</p> <p>14 of paper like this before that?</p> <p>15 A. I think I may have. I didn't have them in my tunic.</p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 A. I just happened to put these together because there were</p> <p>18 so many coming, and I -- I didn't deliberately --</p> <p>19 I probably did at the time, I don't recall, I put them</p> <p>20 in a bundle and put them in my leggings or my tunic, my</p> <p>21 firefighting kit.</p> <p>22 Q. Who was giving you these pieces of paper?</p> <p>23 A. Mainly Watch Manager Watson.</p> <p>24 Q. Where were you standing when he was giving them to you?</p> <p>25 A. I was standing at the end of the stairs, at the very</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 159</p>
<p>1 people physically getting numbers from the Command Unit,</p> <p>2 and then running the gauntlet of debris and other things</p> <p>3 coming down on them to then give me pieces of paper into</p> <p>4 my hand. All of these numbers went onto the wall and it</p> <p>5 grew and grew. I kept all of these pieces of paper and</p> <p>6 put them into my trouser pocket. After the incident, I</p> <p>7 took them from my pocket and carefully unstuck them from</p> <p>8 each other. They have subsequently been handed to the</p> <p>9 LFB accident investigators."</p> <p>10 Now, we think we have those as -- just help me --</p> <p>11 LFB00001929, if we can just have a look at that.</p> <p>12 A. Yes, that's the -- so that was in the lobby when we had</p> <p>13 to evacuate the third floor bridgehead. I believe it</p> <p>14 was an emergency evacuation. And that would have been</p> <p>15 around 4 o'clock. I remember seeing the -- the reason</p> <p>16 I know this is you have 04.20 on one of them and 04.05,</p> <p>17 which is the time of the morning it was. So at that</p> <p>18 time we had -- well, before that, the entire bridgehead</p> <p>19 was evacuated, and these pieces of paper were being</p> <p>20 handed to me directly and I was putting them -- I drew</p> <p>21 a map on the wall of the tower, a pictogram, and I was</p> <p>22 transcribing this information onto the wall.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay. Let me see if I can piece this together, then.</p> <p>24 So these pieces of paper --</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 158</p>	<p>1 beginning of the stairs in the lobby.</p> <p>2 Q. In the lobby, the ground-floor lobby?</p> <p>3 A. Ground floor, yes.</p> <p>4 Q. Where was Watch Manager Watson getting them from?</p> <p>5 A. He would have been getting them from the side -- if you</p> <p>6 put a map up, I could probably -- the firefighters had</p> <p>7 broken in a new -- so not the front of the building,</p> <p>8 which was the south side, it would've been the west --</p> <p>9 possibly the west -- western side, there was a door.</p> <p>10 They made an opening there which was the only safe</p> <p>11 access at that time into the building, or semi-safe</p> <p>12 access, and he was picking up -- I believe picking up</p> <p>13 the paper. So they were -- somebody would run to the</p> <p>14 door and hand it to him and he would run to me, give it</p> <p>15 to me, or walk to me.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you know who it was that was writing this information</p> <p>17 on these pieces of paper?</p> <p>18 A. I don't.</p> <p>19 Q. Is it what was happening that these pieces of paper with</p> <p>20 writing already on them was being given to Watch Manager</p> <p>21 Watson --</p> <p>22 A. Who was then giving them to me.</p> <p>23 Q. Then giving them to you.</p> <p>24 And you don't know where -- or do you know where --</p> <p>25 the person who gave this information to Watch Manager</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 160</p>

<p>1 Watson got it from?</p> <p>2 A. I will tell you that those pages are from an officer's</p> <p>3 notebook. We all carry them in our tunics for recording</p> <p>4 reasons. So they were being written on this, on these</p> <p>5 pieces of paper, and they were being handed to me</p> <p>6 individually. So I would then transcribe that</p> <p>7 information onto the wall and then brief oncoming EDBA</p> <p>8 crews of, for example, 14th floor, 112, 14th floor, 113</p> <p>9 and so on.</p> <p>10 Q. The time of 04.10 --</p> <p>11 A. 04.10, 04.20, 04.05, around that time.</p> <p>12 Q. Was that the time, to your understanding, that that</p> <p>13 information had been recorded --</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. -- when the person who wrote this on there wrote it?</p> <p>16 A. Yes, without a doubt. There would be a delay of</p> <p>17 a couple of minutes while the information was being</p> <p>18 transported to me.</p> <p>19 Q. Right. You can see 04.30 on the right-hand side, "82",</p> <p>20 it looks like "11th", "3 pers"?</p> <p>21 A. Three persons, yes.</p> <p>22 Q. Did you get much information in addition to what we see</p> <p>23 on these pieces of paper --</p> <p>24 A. No.</p> <p>25 Q. -- about the number of people in particular apartments?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 161</p>	<p>1 Now, we have some evidence that a watch manager</p> <p>2 called Alan Moore ran slips from outside the tower from</p> <p>3 a crew manager up to the bridgehead and gave them to</p> <p>4 a watch manager he thinks might have been you.</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. He did the same thing when he got to the ground floor.</p> <p>7 Does that trigger a recollection? Do you remember that?</p> <p>8 A. Yes. Watch Manager Watson wasn't the only person giving</p> <p>9 the information, but towards the latter part, he was the</p> <p>10 only person coming in with information. But other</p> <p>11 officers were handing me slips. If I can contextualise,</p> <p>12 this was, you know, an 8-hour span.</p> <p>13 Q. No, I understand.</p> <p>14 A. It was a deluge of information.</p> <p>15 Q. I understand.</p> <p>16 To the best of your understanding, was there any</p> <p>17 kind of prioritisation being applied to these --</p> <p>18 A. They were all prioritised. Every fire survival guidance</p> <p>19 call has the same level of priority. They have the same</p> <p>20 heightened state of urgency. It's as quick as you can</p> <p>21 and as best as you can.</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 Can I just ask you to look at one or two other</p> <p>24 documents. First of all, LFB00001951, which is</p> <p>25 a standard form control information form, 6178.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 163</p>
<p>1 A. Yes, so in 122 -- I mean, looking at the paper now, yes,</p> <p>2 we would've had number of persons or not.</p> <p>3 Q. Yes.</p> <p>4 A. As the case is. But when you were given a flat number,</p> <p>5 you know there are people in there.</p> <p>6 Q. Did you understand that this meant -- just take for</p> <p>7 example 04.10 -- list of flats on the 14th floor there,</p> <p>8 did that mean to you that there was still residents --</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. -- in those flat at 04.10?</p> <p>11 A. Yes.</p> <p>12 Q. Right. So you took that information into your hand.</p> <p>13 What did you do with it?</p> <p>14 A. So I drew a pictogram of the tower on the wall next to</p> <p>15 me and I put these numbers on the wall in an order that</p> <p>16 I could understand and I could brief the crews with.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you brief the crews with it?</p> <p>18 A. Yes.</p> <p>19 Q. What did you tell them. Do you remember? Take for</p> <p>20 example 04.10, flat 113, for example.</p> <p>21 A. Well, okay, you're going to flat 12 -- sorry, flat 92 on</p> <p>22 the 12th floor, and that would be -- there would be more</p> <p>23 to the briefing than that, but the specifics of life</p> <p>24 risk, that's it, and where they are.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 162</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. That's got "133" scribbled out and it says "left", and</p> <p>3 then "134 + 135 16".</p> <p>4 Do you recognise that handwriting?</p> <p>5 A. No, I don't recognise the handwriting.</p> <p>6 Q. Do you recognise the document?</p> <p>7 A. I do recognise the document.</p> <p>8 Q. Could you explain what that is?</p> <p>9 A. That document is carried in all front-line appliances,</p> <p>10 operational fire engines. As you can see on the top,</p> <p>11 there are four copies, and when fire crews receive</p> <p>12 information from our control on fire survival guidance</p> <p>13 now in progress, meaning they have persons confirmed</p> <p>14 trapped within a building, usually the driver of the</p> <p>15 appliance -- but if not, somebody available, a</p> <p>16 firefighter or officer -- would put the information on</p> <p>17 this form.</p> <p>18 Q. Do you remember receiving documents such as this when</p> <p>19 you were managing the bridgehead?</p> <p>20 A. Possibly, I don't remember.</p> <p>21 Q. Right, let's see if the next one triggers</p> <p>22 a recollection.</p> <p>23 LFB00001961. Same kind of form. This one says:</p> <p>24 "Premise number: 142 + 143 17 floor."</p> <p>25 At the top someone has written "Priority", which I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 164</p>

<p>1 imagine is, "Priority", 5 persons, it looks like, in 2 142. The time is 04.13. 3 Do you remember receiving this document? 4 A. Again, possibly. The only reason I know that the other 5 documents -- that I received the smaller ones is because 6 I found them a week later in my tunic. I hadn't 7 remembered getting them. 8 Q. Right. I see. So you found these in your tunic, did 9 you, afterwards, this -- 10 A. Yes, when we go to incidents where -- this was quite 11 an involved one, our fire gear gets contaminated by 12 various reasons, and the correct procedure is to have it 13 cleaned. We keep a stock in stations, so you would put 14 it in for specialist cleaning. And we keep a lot of -- 15 we keep a lot of personal items and notebooks in our 16 fire gear, so I was taking all the stuff out of my 17 pockets before I submitted it for cleaning and I found 18 those documents, which I considered important -- 19 Q. Yes. 20 A. -- to any subsequent inquiry, so I gave them to our own 21 senior management team, who forwarded them to the 22 police. 23 Q. Yes, I see. Okay. 24 Just going back a little bit earlier in time in the 25 evening, could I just ask you to be shown page 41 of the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>	<p>1 we've discussed, and flat 182 on the 21st floor. 2 Do you remember anything about fire survival 3 guidance coming in after that time in relation to 4 flat 182 on the 21st floor? 5 A. Not specifically, but I remember there being multiple 6 calls. So I don't know if -- again, I mention it again, 7 Watch Manager De Silvo, who was managing the FSG on the 8 bridgehead, she may be able to shed more light on it, or 9 firefighters O'Beirne or De St Aubin. 10 Q. Yes. 11 A. Amongst other officers. 12 Q. Yes. Just to case that one down just a little bit 13 further, if you could just be shown MET00015625. This 14 is the photograph I showed you before. It's 15 a Justin O'Beirne photograph which he took just before 16 moving from the bridgehead at 3.08 am. That's what he 17 told us. 18 A. That's when the bridge was evacuated, and I asked my 19 crew to photograph the wall, which they did. We had to 20 save the information, bring it with us. So we grabbed 21 the breathing apparatus boards and took photographs of 22 what was on the wall and brought it with us to the 23 ground floor. 24 Q. Yes. 25 In that photograph, can you just see it says, just</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p>
<p>1 ORR. This is the operational response report at 2 01.26.54. 3 I just want to ask you one or two questions to see 4 how far we can go. 5 A. Okay. 6 Q. With this information, it may not be that far, but let's 7 see. 8 It's a call recorded by Brigade control at 01.26.54 9 from flat 186 on the 21st floor. 10 Do you remember being on the bridgehead when that 11 fire survival guidance information came through? 12 A. No. I mean, if it was 01.26, I was on the bridgehead, 13 but I don't remember that specific information. 14 Q. No. 15 A. Can I just say, there were hundreds of calls coming 16 through. 17 Q. And then at 01.38.38, we have a call -- this is page 67 18 of the operational response report, I wonder if you 19 could just be shown that -- being taken by Fire Brigade 20 control which is flat 183 on the 21st floor. 21 Again, the same question, do you remember anything 22 about that? 23 A. No. 24 Q. Page 81, if we just look at that. There's a call there 25 timed at 01.50.49 relating to flat 133 on floor 16,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p>	<p>1 below the top of the list, "21", and then there's a tick 2 next to "204", and then "182" has a circle around it and 3 a tick through it. 4 Do you know what the circle around it means? 5 A. No, I don't, but -- I don't, no. I can only guess and 6 I don't want to do that. I can only, you know, make 7 an experienced guess, but nevertheless a guess. So, no, 8 I don't. 9 Q. And the tick through it, do you know what that 10 represents? 11 A. Well, when I was doing similar work downstairs, a tick 12 would mean it's searched, a cross would either mean 13 deceased or rescued. 14 Q. Right. If you continue on page 81 in the operational 15 response report, it says ... 16 (Pause) 17 I'm sorry, I've given you a wrong reference and got 18 my own wrong reference, so we won't ask, but in general 19 terms, were you aware of requests coming through from 20 control to prioritise calls? 21 A. In general terms, yes. 22 Q. Was there a message that had come through to prioritise 23 based on smoke density? 24 A. The priority would be on normally proximity to fire, or 25 it'd be density of the smoke, you know. If information</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>

<p>1 was received from the residents that there was fire 2 nearby, that would be given priority, yes. 3 Q. I have a question about an early evacuation. Do you 4 remember a man coming out of a flat on the second floor 5 in the very early stages of the fire? 6 A. People did come down in the very early stages of it. 7 Some were okay. 8 Q. Right. 9 A. Because there wasn't anything -- the severity hadn't 10 developed at that time. 11 Q. Do you remember somebody coming out of a flat on the 12 second floor and being told to go back into his flat? 13 A. No. 14 Q. Do you remember somebody making a 999 call and being 15 told someone's coming to get you? 16 A. I beg your pardon? 17 Q. In that flat, a flat on a low floor. 18 A. On the second floor? 19 Q. Yes. 20 A. Well, that's where we were, on the second floor, and 21 I don't remember that, no. 22 Q. Right, okay. 23 Can I just ask you to go back to one more picture, 24 which is MET00015642. We looked at it a number of times 25 in relation to different flats. I'm sorry to keep</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 169</p>	<p>1 Q. Thank you. 2 Now can I then ask you about how high firefighters 3 could get into the building, starting at page 11 of your 4 statement. I think we've covered this before, but 5 I just want to start from this point. 6 You say three-quarters of the way down page 11: 7 "Our BA crews were reporting that they were unable 8 to reach the upper floors, before reaching their 9 turn-around time." 10 You say you transmitted that to the incident 11 commander. Do you remember which incident commander it 12 was that you told that to? 13 A. Richard Welch, Group Manager Welch. 14 Q. Right. Would that be at the same time as this earlier 15 conversation about EDDB -- 16 A. Yes. 17 Q. Right. 18 A. If I can remind you, he said, "What are you doing, what 19 tactics or activity are you employing?" And I told 20 him -- I can't remember the exact words of the entire 21 conversation, except that it wasn't working, we couldn't 22 successfully reach certain areas, and that to do that 23 would require at the very minimum extended duration 24 breathing apparatus crews to give us more -- well, more 25 resources to do that.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 171</p>
<p>1 jumping about, but you'll see on this, if you look at 2 the whole -- there. 3 Three-quarters of the way down you can see "122 15th 4 smoke", do you see that? 5 A. Sorry, can you repeat that? 6 Q. You can see that there it says "BA 122 15th smoke". 7 A. Okay, that would signify that in flat 122 on the 15th 8 floor it was smoke, either in the vicinity or in the 9 flat. 10 Q. That's what I was going to ask you: do you think it 11 refers to smoke within the flat? 12 A. You'd have to ask the control operators about that one. 13 Q. Can you help us as to where the information about smoke 14 would've come from? 15 A. That came from the occupant of the flat to our control 16 and then to us via the usual circuitous route. 17 Q. From the occupant of the flat through the control 18 room -- 19 A. Correct. 20 Q. -- to the command unit and then through the fire ground, 21 moving its way up to you there? 22 A. Yes, that's how fire survival guidance works or calls 23 work. 24 Q. So it was via fire survival guidance calls? 25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 170</p>	<p>1 Q. Yes. And then over the top of the next page, you say, 2 page 12, that you made the decision to allow BA crews to 3 go past entry control point without going under air. 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. "This is way outside Policy but we weren't reaching and 6 rescuing people because crews were running out of air." 7 A. That's correct. 8 Q. I see. So given the conditions in the stair, do you 9 think that actually saved much time for those 10 firefighters? 11 A. Yes. 12 Q. It did? How much further do you think that enabled them 13 to get -- 14 A. I don't know. My information is that you could get up 15 to a certain level where it became really difficult with 16 smoke, you know, really smoke-logged. I can't remember 17 the actual level. So I thought if I extended the 18 duration of the standard duration BA crews, it would 19 give them the safety margin and more air to allow them 20 to either try and rescue or at least get back out 21 themselves. 22 Q. Yes. 23 You go on to say lower down in that paragraph, that 24 was a hard decision -- 25 A. It was.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 172</p>

43 (Pages 169 to 172)

<p>1 Q. -- and increased danger to the BA crews themselves.</p> <p>2 Then you say:</p> <p>3 "I also detailed the BA crews to commit without</p> <p>4 firefighting media and breaking-in kit because we didn't</p> <p>5 have enough of it."</p> <p>6 So does that mean you're sending firefighters up</p> <p>7 into the building without water?</p> <p>8 A. Correct, yes. We ran out of firefighting equipment,</p> <p>9 specifically branches, very early on, and I remember at</p> <p>10 one point -- I remember the moment very clearly, I had</p> <p>11 about eight or nine fresh BA wearers on the balcony, and</p> <p>12 I was talking to Watch Manager Watson, and I looked</p> <p>13 along and I said, "Okay, you got all the equipment,</p> <p>14 where are the branches?" He said, "We don't have any</p> <p>15 left." There were so many calls coming in for rescue</p> <p>16 that I made the decision, I said, "I can't wait any</p> <p>17 longer, we have to commit."</p> <p>18 Q. Do you remember whether any firefighters were taking BA</p> <p>19 sets up for residents to wear on the way down?</p> <p>20 A. No.</p> <p>21 Q. You don't remember that?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay.</p> <p>24 A. What I did tell the firefighters, because one did</p> <p>25 challenge me -- and rightly so -- about not taking</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 173</p>	<p>1 the vicinity of our Bridgehead."</p> <p>2 When did the light smoke appear in the vicinity of</p> <p>3 the bridgehead? You described earlier --</p> <p>4 A. Again, only when doors were opening and it wasn't</p> <p>5 permanent.</p> <p>6 Q. Right. Then you say:</p> <p>7 "A Station Manager then arrived at the Bridgehead</p> <p>8 and said to me that he was taking over and asked who was</p> <p>9 in charge. I didn't know who he was at the time, but I</p> <p>10 now know him as SM Andy WALTON. I briefed him that I</p> <p>11 was in charge ..."</p> <p>12 Then you say:</p> <p>13 "... we then had a robust discussion, he stayed</p> <p>14 there only a very short time. Then he left and we</p> <p>15 didn't see him again."</p> <p>16 I read that all to you because there's a number of</p> <p>17 questions.</p> <p>18 First of all, you say you had a robust discussion</p> <p>19 with him; can you explain what the discussion was about?</p> <p>20 A. Not entirely, but he appeared agitated and he wasn't</p> <p>21 calm.</p> <p>22 Q. Right.</p> <p>23 A. I wanted to keep calm control of the bridgehead.</p> <p>24 I believe he said he wanted people to go down the</p> <p>25 stairs. We had at that time rescues going on. My</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 175</p>
<p>1 firefighting kit upwards. He probably didn't know the</p> <p>2 circumstances that we were in at that time, but I just</p> <p>3 said to him, look, there is a lot of equipment abandoned</p> <p>4 throughout the building by other crews, the initial</p> <p>5 crews dropped their kit everywhere, and to use that.</p> <p>6 Q. Right. I see.</p> <p>7 This dropped kit, was that on the stairwell?</p> <p>8 A. Yes. In the lobbies and the stairwell. Probably mainly</p> <p>9 in the lobbies.</p> <p>10 Q. Did that assist or not assist the exit route?</p> <p>11 A. I don't know.</p> <p>12 Q. Okay.</p> <p>13 Mr O'Keeffe, is it all right if I just ask you</p> <p>14 5-minutes' more questions?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, go on. Glad you asked me, thank you!</p> <p>16 Q. I can see the clock and you can't.</p> <p>17 I just want to talk about what happened when Station</p> <p>18 Manager Andy Walton came to the bridgehead. In the</p> <p>19 middle of page 12, you say:</p> <p>20 "A Station Manager then arrived at the</p> <p>21 Bridgehead ..."</p> <p>22 Well, me take a step back, you say:</p> <p>23 "Crews began reporting that it was zero visibility</p> <p>24 and extremely hot and that they were unable to determine</p> <p>25 floor, or flat numbers. Light smoke was now apparent in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 174</p>	<p>1 judgment was that we should stay put, and I said that to</p> <p>2 him and I said that I was in charge, even though --</p> <p>3 I know he's a senior rank to me -- he wasn't -- it</p> <p>4 wasn't an argument as such, but just me firmly telling</p> <p>5 him we were staying there.</p> <p>6 Q. What did you say to him, do you remember?</p> <p>7 A. "I am in charge here of the bridgehead". He asked who</p> <p>8 was in charge of the bridgehead, I said, "I am."</p> <p>9 Q. Okay. Did you say anything to him about the stay-put</p> <p>10 policy?</p> <p>11 A. No.</p> <p>12 Q. Right. Did you say anything to him about what tactics</p> <p>13 were being adopted by way of search and rescue inside</p> <p>14 the building?</p> <p>15 A. No.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you remember what information you were able to give</p> <p>17 to Station Manager Walton about the process you had in</p> <p>18 place at the bridgehead?</p> <p>19 A. I just told him multiple FSG calls.</p> <p>20 Q. Did you give him an impression of how successful some of</p> <p>21 the deployments had been?</p> <p>22 A. No, but I assumed that he would know that we were</p> <p>23 carrying out rescues.</p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 A. I just took it for granted that he would have been</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 176</p>

<p>1 appraised elsewhere.</p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 In terms of timing, let me see if I can get the</p> <p>4 timing of this.</p> <p>5 Walton, do you have this discussion with him prior</p> <p>6 to your discussion with Group Manager Welch?</p> <p>7 A. Yes.</p> <p>8 Q. I see. And do you remember whether the discussion you</p> <p>9 had with Walton was prior to pumps being made 40?</p> <p>10 A. What time were pumps made 40?</p> <p>11 Q. Pumps were made 40 at, I believe, 02.04.</p> <p>12 A. Yes, that would've been before that.</p> <p>13 Q. Right. Before I mislead you with that, let's get</p> <p>14 absolute clarity on that.</p> <p>15 Yes, well, unfortunately the short incident log says</p> <p>16 02.03, make pumps 25. Now, that's clearly a mistake,</p> <p>17 but that's about the time when pumps were made 40,</p> <p>18 according to another log we have.</p> <p>19 A. I wasn't made aware it was made pumps 40. I was far,</p> <p>20 far too involved in what we were doing in the tower.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay, all right.</p> <p>22 But at any rate, it was before you say you had your</p> <p>23 discussion with Group Manager Welch --</p> <p>24 A. That's correct.</p> <p>25 Q. -- about EDBA?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 177</p>	<p>1 after the initial conversation about EDBA --</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. -- did he just leave you to carry on with what you were</p> <p>4 doing?</p> <p>5 A. He let me carry on with what I was doing, but he kept</p> <p>6 coming back -- he came back about -- after that. He</p> <p>7 came back to -- and I had the discussion about moving</p> <p>8 the bridgehead up to the third floor.</p> <p>9 Q. And did he then become bridgehead commander?</p> <p>10 A. Well, I'm assuming if you're a fire sector commander,</p> <p>11 you're in charge of the bridgehead, but I continued</p> <p>12 doing what I was doing on the bridgehead. He would come</p> <p>13 back occasionally.</p> <p>14 Q. Was there a time when Group Manager Welch and a man</p> <p>15 called Patrick Goulbourne took over at the bridgehead?</p> <p>16 A. No, I'll tell you what happened. I suggested to</p> <p>17 Group Manager Welch that we can move the bridgehead up</p> <p>18 further.</p> <p>19 Q. Right.</p> <p>20 A. And he said okay, you know, and I said, well, what</p> <p>21 I would do is I would reconnoitre with another Crew</p> <p>22 Manager Sephton from Hammersmith to look at the</p> <p>23 viability above the second floor, so we went to the</p> <p>24 third and fourth and tried to go to the fifth, but the</p> <p>25 fifth was a no-goer. The fourth had -- well, the fourth</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 179</p>
<p>1 A. In fact, I will tell you that the discuss with</p> <p>2 Group Manager Welch, quite soon after I had a discussion</p> <p>3 with Station Manager Walton, very soon afterwards,</p> <p>4 within about 5 minutes.</p> <p>5 Q. Right.</p> <p>6 You say he left after a short time; do you know what</p> <p>7 he went off to do?</p> <p>8 A. I don't. He was busy.</p> <p>9 Q. He was busy?</p> <p>10 A. I don't know where he went.</p> <p>11 Q. He basically left you doing what you were doing?</p> <p>12 A. Yes.</p> <p>13 Q. I see.</p> <p>14 Did you know that he went off to manage the queue of</p> <p>15 BA wearers on the balcony?</p> <p>16 A. No.</p> <p>17 Q. Did you have any ongoing connection or role with Andy</p> <p>18 Walton after that?</p> <p>19 A. Pardon?</p> <p>20 Q. Did you have any ongoing connection or role to play with</p> <p>21 Andy Walton after he left you?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 (Pause)</p> <p>25 Similarly, once Group Manager Welch had left you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 178</p>	<p>1 was on fire, so we couldn't use that as a bridgehead.</p> <p>2 The lobby had a lot of black rolling smoke in it. So we</p> <p>3 went to the third floor, and the third floor looked</p> <p>4 okay, so I went back to Group Manager Welch and then</p> <p>5 he -- well, I said, "We can do this, we can put it</p> <p>6 there", and he said okay, and then Group Manager</p> <p>7 Goulbourne and a Station Manager Cook came up to the</p> <p>8 third floor with me, I suppose to verify my judgment,</p> <p>9 and they had to as senior management, and that's how</p> <p>10 that was established.</p> <p>11 Whilst we were there, Station Manager Cook received</p> <p>12 the fire survival guidance call on his Airwave radio,</p> <p>13 from -- coming from the third floor.</p> <p>14 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Would that be a good point,</p> <p>16 Mr Millett?</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: That would be as good a point as any.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right.</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much. Yes.</p> <p>20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr O'Keeffe, we're going to stop</p> <p>21 there for the afternoon, but before I let you go, we've</p> <p>22 just got to sort something out.</p> <p>23 Mr Millett, I take it you have a few more questions</p> <p>24 you would like to ask Mr O'Keeffe?</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: I have a few more questions continuing on the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 180</p>

1 theme we've just been on, just to try to break that up
2 a bit more, but not much more after that. I think in
3 terms of time I don't want to be more than another
4 30 minutes with Mr O'Keeffe.
5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr O'Keeffe, you've given us
6 a lot of very useful evidence already, but as you've
7 heard, Mr Millett is not quite satisfied; he'd like to
8 ask you about a few other things. So can I trouble you
9 to come back on Monday morning?
10 THE WITNESS: That's fine. I'll come back on Monday.
11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: These are long days; I think we'll
12 start at 10 o'clock on Monday.
13 MR MILLETT: Yes.
14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: So could you be here ready to resume
15 at 10 o'clock on Monday?
16 THE WITNESS: Yes.
17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Although I'm sure a lot of people
18 would like to talk to you about what's been going on and
19 so on, could you remember not to talk about your
20 evidence or the circumstances.
21 THE WITNESS: Yes.
22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the
23 usher, I will look forward to seeing you on Monday
24 morning.
25 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

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1 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much.
2 (Pause)
3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Now, Mr Millett, is there anything
4 else we need to deal with?
5 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I cannot think of anything at the
6 moment. No, there isn't.
7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, thank you very much.
8 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much. Thank you.
9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll stop there for the day.
10 I'm sorry it's been a rather warm day. I've tried
11 to improve the temperature without a great deal of
12 success, as you will have realised, but I hope perhaps
13 we can do better next week.
14 Anyway, I look forward to seeing you all on Monday
15 morning at 10 o'clock. Thank you.
16 (3.18 pm)
17 (The hearing adjourned until Monday, 9 July 2018 at
18 10.00 am)
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