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| <p>1 Monday, 9 July 2018</p> <p>2 (10.00 am)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to</p> <p>4 today's hearing.</p> <p>5 We are going to resume in a moment with Mr O'Keeffe,</p> <p>6 I think.</p> <p>7 MR MILLETT: Morning, Mr Chairman. Yes, please. If we can</p> <p>8 have the witness back in, please.</p> <p>9 BRIEN O'KEEFFE (continued)</p> <p>10 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY (continued)</p> <p>11 THE WITNESS: Good morning.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good morning, Mr O'Keeffe.</p> <p>13 THE WITNESS: Morning.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: Morning, Mr O'Keeffe. Thank you very much for</p> <p>15 coming back this morning.</p> <p>16 Mr O'Keeffe, can I just go back to something that we</p> <p>17 discussed Friday afternoon about the rescue on the 16th</p> <p>18 floor carried out by Firefighters Stern and Hippel.</p> <p>19 Just for the transcript, I would refer to pages 131</p> <p>20 to 132, where I asked you about the debrief they gave</p> <p>21 you when they came back down to the bridgehead.</p> <p>22 I asked you what impression you got from the debrief</p> <p>23 that Richard Hippel gave you about the success of the</p> <p>24 rescue, and you said:</p> <p>25 "It was unsuccessfully, I believe, and he was</p> <p>Page 1</p>  | <p>1 <b>A. That he had rescued somebody is the impression I got.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Right.</p> <p>3 <b>A. If I could put it in context, at that very time, we were</b></p> <p>4 <b>gravely understaffed in the bridgehead in the very</b></p> <p>5 <b>beginning of the change in the incident from being</b></p> <p>6 <b>a normal high-rise fire to one of multiple calls for</b></p> <p>7 <b>rescue, and as the bridgehead commander, I was trying to</b></p> <p>8 <b>process a significant amount of information, and</b></p> <p>9 <b>co-ordinate rescues and firefighting all at one time.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Yes.</p> <p>11 <b>A. It was as controlled as it could be, but to recall</b></p> <p>12 <b>individual conversations a year later -- it is quite</b></p> <p>13 <b>difficult for me to recall the exactness of what was</b></p> <p>14 <b>said.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Yes, I understand entirely.</p> <p>16 Looking back on it -- I don't want to press too hard</p> <p>17 if you don't remember -- is it possible that he did</p> <p>18 debrief to you that the mission to rescue the trapped</p> <p>19 man on the 16th floor had been successful?</p> <p>20 <b>A. It is possible.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Is it possible that therefore you didn't redeploy a crew</p> <p>22 to the 16th floor to rescue the man who had been</p> <p>23 reported as trapped?</p> <p>24 <b>A. It is possible.</b></p> <p>25 Q. But can you remember?</p> <p>Page 3</p> |
| <p>1 shocked that the 16th floor was on fire."</p> <p>2 Now, I just want to ask you something about that</p> <p>3 debrief.</p> <p>4 Mr Hippel has provided a statement to the inquiry,</p> <p>5 which we will obviously explore with him when he comes</p> <p>6 to give evidence, in which he says that he believed at</p> <p>7 the time that he had rescued a man, and that he thought</p> <p>8 that the man that he had rescued was the man that he had</p> <p>9 been asked to go and assist as having been reported</p> <p>10 trapped on the 16th floor. So he thought he'd rescued</p> <p>11 that man.</p> <p>12 Going back to it, when he came down and did his</p> <p>13 debrief, did he say anything to you to the effect that</p> <p>14 he had rescued the man he had been sent to rescue which</p> <p>15 was the subject of an FSG call?</p> <p>16 <b>A. I don't recall exactly what he said, but he said that he</b></p> <p>17 <b>had met -- he had found somebody else on the way up or</b></p> <p>18 <b>nearby. To that effect.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Right. Did --</p> <p>20 <b>A. The actual words -- I cannot recall the actual words</b></p> <p>21 <b>that he used.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Looking back on it, and just trying your best to</p> <p>23 remember, did Mr Hippel give you the impression that he</p> <p>24 had rescued the trapped male that he had been sent to</p> <p>25 rescue?</p> <p>Page 2</p> | <p>1 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>2 Q. All right, thank you very much.</p> <p>3 Now, on Friday afternoon, you and I were</p> <p>4 discussing -- and for the reference, it's pages 179 and</p> <p>5 180 of the transcript -- and you were telling us,</p> <p>6 Mr O'Keeffe, about the move of the bridgehead from the</p> <p>7 second floor to the third floor.</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Now, can I take you to your statement --</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. -- at page 13 and ask you to look at the third</p> <p>12 paragraph.</p> <p>13 You say there that you went back down to Richard</p> <p>14 Welch -- this is after your survey of the third floor</p> <p>15 which you describe in the second paragraph on that page</p> <p>16 and told us about on Friday afternoon at the transcript</p> <p>17 reference I gave -- and you say:</p> <p>18 "I spoke to him and said that the third floor was</p> <p>19 viable so he then gave the order to move the Bridgehead</p> <p>20 to the third floor. All the crews went there, we took</p> <p>21 all our breathing apparatus and all the information from</p> <p>22 the wall. I don't know how the information was moved,</p> <p>23 it may have been photographed."</p> <p>24 Now, just pausing there. In a sense, how else could</p> <p>25 it have been moved if not photographed?</p> <p>Page 4</p>   |

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| <p>1 <b>A. Because I didn't physically see it happening.</b></p> <p>2 Q. So when you say it may have been photographed, is that</p> <p>3 a recollection you have?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No, it's an assumption. It was the only way we could</b></p> <p>5 <b>move -- the FSG fire survival guidance information had</b></p> <p>6 <b>been, until that point, written on the wall. As we</b></p> <p>7 <b>couldn't physically move the wall, we'd have to</b></p> <p>8 <b>photograph it, and that's what we would do.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you remember who assisted you in moving the</p> <p>10 information from the wall from the second to the third</p> <p>11 floor?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No, and I'll tell you why: because I went to the third</b></p> <p>13 <b>floor then, before everybody had moved, with Group</b></p> <p>14 <b>Manager Goulbourne, Patrick Goulbourne, and Station</b></p> <p>15 <b>Manager Gareth Cook. And my understanding is that they</b></p> <p>16 <b>wanted to make an assessment of my assessment, as they</b></p> <p>17 <b>were senior officers, to make sure that I hadn't,</b></p> <p>18 <b>I suppose, misjudged or been too optimistic about</b></p> <p>19 <b>pushing upwards into the fire, and for them it would be</b></p> <p>20 <b>necessary for them to come with me and to -- I remember</b></p> <p>21 <b>having a conversation -- again, I don't remember the</b></p> <p>22 <b>exact conversation -- about the viability of pushing the</b></p> <p>23 <b>bridgehead upwards to that location. So I wouldn't have</b></p> <p>24 <b>seen the preparation to move.</b></p> <p>25 Q. I see. So the preparation to move was happening, was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 5</p> | <p>1 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>2 Q. What about forward information boards? How many of</p> <p>3 those did you have at that time?</p> <p>4 <b>A. We were using the wall. They were too small.</b></p> <p>5 Q. I see, okay.</p> <p>6 <b>A. As I mentioned to you originally, at the very beginning,</b></p> <p>7 <b>when the incident started to deteriorate,</b></p> <p>8 <b>Firefighter O'Beirne indicated to me that the forward</b></p> <p>9 <b>information board had become full and was no longer</b></p> <p>10 <b>usable, and I asked him to transmit or remove that</b></p> <p>11 <b>information onto the wall.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Yes.</p> <p>13 <b>A. Because we needed more space. The number of people</b></p> <p>14 <b>requiring rescue outstripped the ability to use the</b></p> <p>15 <b>template. So that was the system that we were</b></p> <p>16 <b>using: the wall, just drawing on the wall.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Just so I'm clear, the forward information board system</p> <p>18 never came back into operation?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Not to my knowledge. Not to my knowledge.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Right, okay. Thank you.</p> <p>21 Can I ask you now to turn on to page 14, and in the</p> <p>22 second paragraph there, you describe in some detail what</p> <p>23 happened with Firefighter Hill, whose ADSU, automatic</p> <p>24 distress signal, went off. In the next paragraph, you</p> <p>25 say:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 7</p> |
| <p>1 it, while you were on the third floor, having</p> <p>2 a discussion?</p> <p>3 <b>A. When I returned again to the third floor, yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. I understand.</p> <p>5 You then say in the next sentence:</p> <p>6 "We drew a system of FSG maps on the wall</p> <p>7 corresponding to the building and the number of people</p> <p>8 there."</p> <p>9 Who did the drawing?</p> <p>10 <b>A. That would be the entry control team, which would be</b></p> <p>11 <b>a number of firefighters and Watch Manager De Silvo --</b></p> <p>12 Q. Right.</p> <p>13 <b>A. -- who I detailed to manage that aspect of the</b></p> <p>14 <b>bridgehead, or those aspects of the bridgehead, which</b></p> <p>15 <b>would be breathing apparatus, entry control and fire</b></p> <p>16 <b>survival guidance recording and deployment, yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Okay.</p> <p>18 You then go on to say:</p> <p>19 "When the new Bridgehead was established, there were</p> <p>20 now four BA Boards in operation."</p> <p>21 Was that the first time that there were four?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I don't think so. I remember seeing quite a few. It</b></p> <p>23 <b>was quite an unusual sight to see so many live BA entry</b></p> <p>24 <b>control boards in one location.</b></p> <p>25 Q. That's, so that I am clear, BA boards for BA wearers?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 6</p>   | <p>1 "GM Richard WELCH was somewhere in the building and</p> <p>2 he was listening as he then came running up the stairs.</p> <p>3 He asked me what was going on and I explained. I had</p> <p>4 got an Emergency Team ready. GM WELCH asked me 'Should</p> <p>5 I initiate a Firefighter Emergency?' I responded to him</p> <p>6 that he should."</p> <p>7 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Now, he was group manager.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>10 Q. To your way of thinking, was he the incident commander</p> <p>11 at that point?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I thought he was.</b></p> <p>13 Q. You thought he was.</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Do you know why he asked you whether he should make that</p> <p>16 decision?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Because I had the information.</b></p> <p>18 Q. I see.</p> <p>19 <b>A. I transmitted a priority message from the -- first of</b></p> <p>20 <b>all, I tried to find Firefighter Hill to see if anybody</b></p> <p>21 <b>knew who he was and no one recognised the name. And we</b></p> <p>22 <b>had treated a firefighter who collapsed -- he was the</b></p> <p>23 <b>first one of many to collapse on that night -- who was</b></p> <p>24 <b>found in the stair, in the -- well, some part of the</b></p> <p>25 <b>building -- in a disorientated state. A BA crew brought</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 8</p>   |

1 him to the bridgehead. He was treated at the bridgehead  
2 by us with oxygen, and the crew that found him, I asked  
3 them to remove him from the bridgehead because I didn't  
4 have time or space to treat an injured firefighter and  
5 I wanted him to get medical care, so he was removed.

6 But what actually happened was his tally from his BA  
7 set, which had been apparently abandoned somewhere in  
8 the upper part of the building, was still in the the  
9 board, and when his BA set went into alarm, one of the  
10 BA entry control officers shouted to me "Governor, we've  
11 got somebody going into alarm, one tally, Firefighters  
12 Hill's", and I told everybody to shut up and listen,  
13 does anyone know Firefighter Hill? Everyone said no.  
14 I got on the radio asking if people knew a  
15 Firefighter Hill to come back to me immediately. No one  
16 came back.

17 So Group Manager Welch was listening to that when he  
18 heard my message -- it was a priority message, in  
19 fact -- and he came running up the stairs and he said,  
20 "What's going on?" I told him. And as far as I was  
21 concerned, as the bridgehead commander, we were missing  
22 a firefighter.

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. So he shouted to me -- there was a lot of noise in the  
25 building at the time -- "Should I now declare

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1 firefighter emergency?" I said to him, "Yes, you should  
2 now declare a firefighter emergency". It was done in  
3 a very officious way. It is quite a significant thing  
4 to do at an incident.

5 Q. Yes, I see. He made the command decision but you had  
6 the information?

7 A. Without a doubt, he made the command decision, yes,  
8 I wouldn't give a senior officer any -- no.

9 Q. I understand.

10 Just to go back to command at the bridgehead, is it  
11 right that at some point Group Manager Pat Goulbourne  
12 joined you at the third-floor bridgehead?

13 A. He came up beforehand. He may have been there at other  
14 times, but he came up with Station Manager Cook, and --  
15 yes, we were on the bridgehead then.

16 Q. What role did he play at the bridgehead?

17 A. None, not that I was aware of.

18 Q. So he was coming back and fourth, was he, but you were  
19 in charge?

20 A. On a couple of occasions, yes.

21 Q. If you go on at page 14, you say, towards the bottom:

22 "It was during this time [this is the rescue of  
23 Firefighter Hill] that the Bridgehead crews and I were  
24 shown mobile phone video footage of the building's  
25 exterior. We could see that the entire building was

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1 alight, just above the third floor."

2 A. Yes, that's correct.

3 Q. Do you remember who showed you that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Who?

6 A. Station Manager Cook.

7 Q. Cook.

8 A. He wasn't the only one, but he was the one I remember,  
9 because he said, "Look, this is what it looks like now,  
10 guys". It was important information for us, because we  
11 were in the tower; we couldn't see the outside of the  
12 building. We could feel the heat, you know, I could  
13 feel there was a general heat in the building and you  
14 could feel, I suppose, the energy. It's difficult to  
15 describe, but the entire building was alight and we were  
16 inside it, so it has a certain -- there was a certain  
17 physicality to it, and I was amazed when I saw the  
18 footage, to be honest with you.

19 Q. Was the footage media footage or --

20 A. It was video footage, yes.

21 Q. On a --

22 A. On a mobile phone.

23 Q. On a television programme or ...?

24 A. I don't know, but it was -- no, it could've been  
25 a personal video, I don't know. But it was very good

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1 footage. Possibly media because the shot was taken from  
2 a distance. But it shocked us, because to this point we  
3 were focused on our jobs of command and control and  
4 search and rescue, and to see the whole building alight  
5 just stunned us.

6 Q. Have you ever seen anything like that in your career?

7 A. No, ever. I've never been in a building that was  
8 entirely alight before. I've been in buildings which  
9 were pretty much alight, but not like that, you know?

10 Q. So you say you were stunned.

11 A. Mm.

12 Q. Is it the case that incident commander's hadn't been  
13 keeping you at the bridgehead informed and updated as to  
14 what was going on on the exterior?

15 A. No, I wouldn't say that, it's just that we didn't have  
16 a visual. We were told.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Firefighters are a great communicators, and that's  
19 everybody, because that's how we work together, and  
20 every crew that was coming in, all the fresh crews, were  
21 telling us, "The whole place is going". What does that  
22 mean until you actually see it?

23 Q. I see.

24 A. You know? So to see it visually compounded the verbal  
25 communication.

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3 (Pages 9 to 12)

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| <p>1 Q. Right.</p> <p>2 When you saw it visually and got the impression of</p> <p>3 what was happening when viewed from the outside, did you</p> <p>4 have any thoughts about any change to the strategy you</p> <p>5 were adopting?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No. If I could just impress upon you, my function as</b></p> <p>7 <b>a bridgehead commander is to co-ordinate search and</b></p> <p>8 <b>rescue and firefighting, and that's what I was</b></p> <p>9 <b>determined to carry on doing, despite what was going to</b></p> <p>10 <b>happen, you know, throughout the incident.</b></p> <p>11 Q. You say in the next sentence:</p> <p>12 "At the same time the Bridgehead was becoming very</p> <p>13 hot and more smokey."</p> <p>14 <b>A. It was.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Did that suddenly happen or was that something that had</p> <p>16 been gradually building up?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, that was just the way it was, you know. I mean,</b></p> <p>18 <b>there was a lot of rescues going on at the time. You</b></p> <p>19 <b>could hear people saying, "Casualty, casualty" -- that's</b></p> <p>20 <b>the shout we use to give priority to the crews coming</b></p> <p>21 <b>down with people. And I could see -- because I'd taken</b></p> <p>22 <b>up a position where I could see the BA wearers, I could</b></p> <p>23 <b>see the BA control teams, who were on the right-hand</b></p> <p>24 <b>side of me, and I was able to turn to the stairwell and</b></p> <p>25 <b>I could see people coming down with casualties. When</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 13</p>  | <p>1 <b>clean air or as best as we could, and everyone started</b></p> <p>2 <b>to run.</b></p> <p>3 <b>I didn't hear -- when we have an emergency</b></p> <p>4 <b>evacuation, we use -- it's like a referee's whistle,</b></p> <p>5 <b>every firefighter carries one, an Acme Thunderer</b></p> <p>6 <b>whistle. If you hear it, the signal, short blasts, we</b></p> <p>7 <b>all do it so everyone hears like a chain reaction.</b></p> <p>8 <b>I didn't hear that; I just saw people running. And --</b></p> <p>9 <b>yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Okay.</p> <p>11 You referred a moment ago to a firefighter kicking</p> <p>12 in a door on the third floor and smoke coming out.</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Do you remember whereabouts in the third floor that was?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I do.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Where?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Southeast.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Southeast?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Okay.</p> <p>21 <b>A. Specifically remember it.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Okay. Do you remember seeing fire or hearing about fire</p> <p>23 in that apartment?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I saw smoke in there, a lot thicker than where we were,</b></p> <p>25 <b>and I remonstrated with the firefighter, you know, not</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 15</p>  |
| <p>1 <b>I'd hear that, I'd look. Doors are opening, you know,</b></p> <p>2 <b>you'll get smoke travel downwards as people start to</b></p> <p>3 <b>egress from the building.</b></p> <p>4 Q. And then you go on to say:</p> <p>5 "Suddenly a signal was given to evacuate. I don't</p> <p>6 who called this. There was a lot of shouting and people</p> <p>7 running away from the Bridgehead."</p> <p>8 Was it about that time that you moved the bridgehead</p> <p>9 down to the ground floor?</p> <p>10 <b>A. It was an evacuation. It was an emergency evacuation.</b></p> <p>11 <b>To be honest with you, I just saw -- at my position,</b></p> <p>12 <b>I saw -- the first time I saw the firefighters looked</b></p> <p>13 <b>like they were panicking, and everyone just ran. On my</b></p> <p>14 <b>left-hand side, they started running, and there was</b></p> <p>15 <b>a general alarm raised. And I looked further and there</b></p> <p>16 <b>was a guy came running up. I don't know who it was,</b></p> <p>17 <b>whether it was a firefighter or an officer, because he</b></p> <p>18 <b>had no helmet on, and he was just saying, "Get out, get</b></p> <p>19 <b>out, the fire's around us". I thought he said it was</b></p> <p>20 <b>below us.</b></p> <p>21 <b>There was smoke there. I knew there was smoke in</b></p> <p>22 <b>the -- so we were in the lobby of the third floor and</b></p> <p>23 <b>I knew there was smoke in the apartments there because</b></p> <p>24 <b>one of the firefighters had kicked the door open earlier</b></p> <p>25 <b>on and it was full of smoke, but I shut it to keep us in</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 14</p> | <p>1 <b>to do things like this unless you get an order or</b></p> <p>2 <b>instruction to do it because I felt it would compromise</b></p> <p>3 <b>us. And, you know, he was just -- he was curious.</b></p> <p>4 <b>I don't know what he said to me at the time. But I had</b></p> <p>5 <b>a quick look around the apartment, there was nobody in</b></p> <p>6 <b>there, I just shut the door and, you know, that was</b></p> <p>7 <b>that.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Right. How was the smoke in that flat?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Grey smoke. But, you know, we knew there was a fire</b></p> <p>10 <b>nearby.</b></p> <p>11 Q. So when you came down to the ground floor, as you</p> <p>12 describe in the third paragraph on page 15 --</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. -- what were the conditions like down on that floor?</p> <p>15 <b>A. A bit hectic, I thought.</b></p> <p>16 Q. In terms of the air quality.</p> <p>17 <b>A. It was okay. The air quality was okay.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right.</p> <p>19 <b>A. At that time.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Before you went down there, you say at the very top of</p> <p>21 page 15, in the second line:</p> <p>22 "I asked my crew to use their mobile phones to</p> <p>23 photograph all the information on the walls."</p> <p>24 <b>A. That's correct, yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. They did that, did they?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 16</p> |

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| <p>1 <b>A. They did.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Do you remember who did that?</p> <p>3 <b>A. I think if you refer back to the evidence from last</b></p> <p>4 <b>week, it was Justin O'Beirne, because you said in his</b></p> <p>5 <b>evidence there were photographs of the wall. I didn't</b></p> <p>6 <b>know until that time, until you said it last week, that</b></p> <p>7 <b>it was Justin O'Beirne. But when the guys ran and they</b></p> <p>8 <b>left, I stopped my guys running because we had all the</b></p> <p>9 <b>BA boards and that information on the wall, and I asked</b></p> <p>10 <b>someone to use a camera -- just showing my age -- and</b></p> <p>11 <b>they didn't laugh but they just looked at me funnily,</b></p> <p>12 <b>and I said, "Actually, a mobile phone". So one of them</b></p> <p>13 <b>photographed it. I don't know who did it, but now</b></p> <p>14 <b>I know it was Firefighter O'Beirne.</b></p> <p>15 Q. And at that stage, the move from the third floor --</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. -- to the ground floor --</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>19 Q. -- do you know in general terms what firefighting</p> <p>20 strategy was being adopted?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I don't. When we moved to the ground floor, the</b></p> <p>22 <b>information I received was that Group Manager</b></p> <p>23 <b>Pat Goulbourne was the fire sector commander, meaning he</b></p> <p>24 <b>was in overall command of what was happening in the</b></p> <p>25 <b>tower.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 17</p> | <p>1 Q. "... assisted by two new Crew Managers, to record all</p> <p>2 FSG information and numbers."</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. "I drew a crude map on the wall and transcribed all the</p> <p>5 new and received fire survival guidance numbers and</p> <p>6 information."</p> <p>7 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>8 Q. "I just drew a crude map and put lines out to the side</p> <p>9 to all the corresponding flat numbers and corresponding</p> <p>10 numbers of people. I began to fill the whole wall very</p> <p>11 rapidly. Glynn WILLIAMS from Fulham was also doing the</p> <p>12 same thing on another wall, in the different section of</p> <p>13 the lobby."</p> <p>14 Now, just pausing there. There is quite a lot of</p> <p>15 information there that I just want to unpick with you,</p> <p>16 if I can.</p> <p>17 First of all, do you remember who the new crew</p> <p>18 managers were?</p> <p>19 <b>A. I don't remember his name. I know the guy to speak to,</b></p> <p>20 <b>but I couldn't think -- in fact, he may have been</b></p> <p>21 <b>a temporary watch manager. He was wearing -- I think he</b></p> <p>22 <b>had a yellow helmet on, but they were two new guys who</b></p> <p>23 <b>were helping us out. One guy was quite a blocky guy,</b></p> <p>24 <b>quite well-built, dark hair, don't remember his name.</b></p> <p>25 <b>Worked with him, great help. Really needed at the time.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 19</p> |
| <p>1 <b>I know at this stage it was only EDBA, so that would</b></p> <p>2 <b>be a significant change in the activity. No standard</b></p> <p>3 <b>duration crews any longer. That was apparent to me.</b></p> <p>4 <b>I know of Group Manager Goulbourne was trying to</b></p> <p>5 <b>introduce firefighting jets, to protect the</b></p> <p>6 <b>firefighters, primarily, and to do firefighting, but we</b></p> <p>7 <b>needed an escape route ourselves, and that's why we went</b></p> <p>8 <b>in. We needed to ensure that the firefighters up in the</b></p> <p>9 <b>tower could escape themselves. That was my</b></p> <p>10 <b>understanding, they were covering jets.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 At this stage, again -- moving from the third floor</p> <p>13 to the ground floor -- was there any idea that you</p> <p>14 might, even at that stage, be able to bring the fire</p> <p>15 under control?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 <b>A. We were never going to get that fire under control then,</b></p> <p>19 <b>ever.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Can I just ask you to look at page 15 of your</p> <p>21 statement --</p> <p>22 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. -- where you say in the fourth paragraph:</p> <p>24 "I began working with my team ..."</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 18</p>   | <p>1 <b>Same with the other guy, because we were overwhelmed.</b></p> <p>2 <b>When we got to the ground floor, there became a --</b></p> <p>3 <b>the number of people requiring rescue seemed to rise</b></p> <p>4 <b>dramatically as the fire escalated rapidly from that</b></p> <p>5 <b>point, so I needed help. Or we needed help, I should</b></p> <p>6 <b>say.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Certainly.</p> <p>8 Do you happen to know which fire stations these crew</p> <p>9 managers came from?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I wouldn't be able to say that to you, no.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Okay.</p> <p>12 Now, you say you drew a crude map on the wall --</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. -- as I've just shown you, and transcribed all the new</p> <p>15 and received fire survival guidance numbers and</p> <p>16 information.</p> <p>17 Do you remember which wall in the lobby it was?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I do.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Which one?</p> <p>20 <b>A. So when you came down the stairs, the last step on the</b></p> <p>21 <b>lobby floor was where we positioned ourselves. We</b></p> <p>22 <b>positioned ourselves -- it would've been, if I'm facing</b></p> <p>23 <b>the stairs, here (Indicates). So at the termination of</b></p> <p>24 <b>the stairs.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 20</p>  |

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|---|--|
| <p>1 <b>A. On that wall.</b></p> <p>2 Q. This may sound a strange question, but there are two</p> <p>3 different paint colours in the lobby; one is green and</p> <p>4 one is white. Do you remember whether you were writing</p> <p>5 on a green or white wall?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I couldn't tell you.</b></p> <p>7 Q. You say you transcribed all the new and received fire</p> <p>8 survival guidance numbers.</p> <p>9 In terms of the received ones, first of all, how</p> <p>10 were you doing that?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I was physically getting pieces of paper, which you</b></p> <p>12 <b>produced in evidence last week.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Yes.</p> <p>14 <b>A. So there were officers and firefighters running and</b></p> <p>15 <b>handing me pieces of paper, physically putting it in my</b></p> <p>16 <b>hand.</b></p> <p>17 I will say that -- I don't know if you -- you</p> <p>18 probably have it in your evidence, but Glynn Williams,</p> <p>19 the watch manager who had been writing stuff on the</p> <p>20 wall, his wife went into labour and he was called away</p> <p>21 from the incident. So anything that he was doing was</p> <p>22 now obsolete; it was all passed down to me and my crew.</p> <p>23 Q. Okay. I was going to ask you about him in a minute.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Okay.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Before I do, you say you drew a crude map, you</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p>                                    | <p>1 section of the lobby; was he doing that when you came</p> <p>2 down or had he already been called away?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yeah, we didn't know he was doing it. I mean, from</b></p> <p>4 <b>1 o'clock or 1.10 in the morning, whatever time I went</b></p> <p>5 <b>into the building with the guys I went in with, we never</b></p> <p>6 <b>came downstairs from that moment. We were up either on</b></p> <p>7 <b>the second or third floor or further; that's where we</b></p> <p>8 <b>were working. It was only after the emergency</b></p> <p>9 <b>evacuation of the bridgehead -- the actual bridgehead --</b></p> <p>10 <b>to the ground floor that I saw -- the first person I saw</b></p> <p>11 <b>when I came down the stairs was Glynn Williams, and he</b></p> <p>12 <b>was facing me, and I could see immediately what he was</b></p> <p>13 <b>doing.</b></p> <p>14 Q. I see. That was the first time you saw that he was also</p> <p>15 recording fire survival guidance?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>17 Q. How long did he stay there before he was called away, do</p> <p>18 you remember?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Not too long. Not too long. Again, I can't give</b></p> <p>20 <b>an exact time because all that time is compressed into</b></p> <p>21 <b>a sudden event. I can't -- I don't know.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did you speak to Glynn Williams to pool your</p> <p>23 information?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No, I didn't. We had a brief conversation. He was</b></p> <p>25 <b>quite animated.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> |
| <p>1 transcribed all the new and received fire survival</p> <p>2 guidance numbers.</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. What about the numbers and the information that you had</p> <p>5 got on the third floor and were bringing down?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes, the officers were writing that up, the other part</b></p> <p>7 <b>of the team that we were working with up there, they</b></p> <p>8 <b>took that from their phones instead of writing it up on</b></p> <p>9 <b>the wall.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Do you know who was doing that writing?</p> <p>11 <b>A. The new officers that were helping.</b></p> <p>12 Q. The crew managers you were referring to a minute ago?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. So I have this clear in my head, the information going</p> <p>15 up onto the walls that you were overseeing on the ground</p> <p>16 floor was coming from the photographs on the phones</p> <p>17 taken on the third floor, and the pieces of paper being</p> <p>18 run into the lobby?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>20 Q. That's right, is it?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes. I couldn't say precisely, but the actuality of it</b></p> <p>22 <b>is that any information that we had was reintroduced to</b></p> <p>23 <b>a new space on the wall downstairs.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Yes. And you say Glynn Williams from Fulham was also</p> <p>25 doing the same thing on another wall in a different</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> | <p>1 Q. Did you check with him whether there was overlap or any</p> <p>2 differences?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Can I just ask you to look at one or two photographs.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. I am going to ask the Documents Manager to put up</p> <p>7 MET00015815.</p> <p>8 Now, this is an exhibit of a statement from</p> <p>9 a witness called De Silvo who hasn't been called yet.</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. I just want to ask you about the photographs and see if</p> <p>12 this is something you recognise as FSG on a wall either</p> <p>13 on the third floor, or, indeed, second floor, or on the</p> <p>14 ground floor.</p> <p>15 <b>A. I don't recognise it because I've seen a lot of that on</b></p> <p>16 <b>the night, that type of thing, but not that</b></p> <p>17 <b>specifically.</b></p> <p>18 Q. If you look at the right-hand side of the picture, in</p> <p>19 the shaft of sunlight, you can see what looks like</p> <p>20 a crude drawing of a tower block.</p> <p>21 <b>A. Yes, I drew that.</b></p> <p>22 Q. You drew that?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Okay. And --</p> <p>25 <b>A. If that is the one I drew, I don't know. I did draw</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p>  |

6 (Pages 21 to 24)

1 a tower like this on the ground floor, but that might  
 2 not be the tower I drew.  
 3 Q. How many times do you think you drew a tower like that?  
 4 A. I only drew it once, because up to that point, I was  
 5 just functioning as command and control, but when I went  
 6 to the ground floor, for some reason, I would say  
 7 because there was so many officers downstairs when  
 8 I went down there and Group Manager Pat Goulbourne was  
 9 in charge of that area, I was able to step out of that  
 10 role and people just started handing me pieces of paper.  
 11 I suppose I was trying to co-ordinate the team that  
 12 I had. I was trying to get them just to carry on as we  
 13 were upstairs, but we became absorbed into a bigger  
 14 command area.  
 15 Q. Right. But you say you drew that, that tower?  
 16 A. Again, I don't know if that is the one I drew. It  
 17 doesn't look -- it looks similar, but that may not be  
 18 it.  
 19 Q. Right. Okay.  
 20 There may be, if you look to the left, another one,  
 21 just higher up to the left of the picture. Again, is  
 22 that or might that be -- I don't want you to speculate,  
 23 but do you remember whether that's something you drew?  
 24 A. No. That could be either Glynn Williams or Watch  
 25 Manager Louisa De Silvo.

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1 Q. Let me see if I can look at another picture. It's the  
 2 next one on, MET00015816.  
 3 Now, this is on the green wall. I think take it  
 4 from me at the moment that this is on the ground floor.  
 5 A. This is on the ground floor? This would be part of what  
 6 we were doing down there if that's the case.  
 7 Q. Looking at that grid, do you know who drew that?  
 8 A. No.  
 9 Q. Okay.  
 10 A. I know one of the officers drew a grid. On my left-hand  
 11 side, he was drawing a grid.  
 12 Q. Right. Although that's not a picture of a tower, it has  
 13 information about call sign and then SDBA or EDBA, time,  
 14 brief, and time out?  
 15 A. Do you have any actual times on it?  
 16 Q. I don't.  
 17 All I am going to ask you, I think, is: do you  
 18 recognise that writing?  
 19 A. Not immediately. I'd be honest with you, the amount of  
 20 writing that was going up on the wall was quite  
 21 considerable, and I felt it was too much, trying to  
 22 brief crews who were quite stressed before they went up  
 23 there. So what I drew was a picture of a tower, like  
 24 a pictogram, as simply as I possibly could.  
 25 Q. I understand.

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1 A. Which I haven't seen yet.  
 2 Q. Okay.  
 3 What about the information in white at the top,  
 4 "183, DAUGHTER, 21 or 22"?  
 5 A. No.  
 6 Q. Do you know what that's about? No?  
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr O'Keeffe, can I just -- sorry to  
 8 interrupt you -- are you comfortable giving your  
 9 evidence?  
 10 THE WITNESS: I am, sir, I'm fine.  
 11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You don't feel you need a break?  
 12 THE WITNESS: No, no, I'm absolutely fine. I had a relaxing  
 13 weekend, so ...  
 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm very glad to hear that.  
 15 THE WITNESS: I'm okay.  
 16 MR MILLETT: Well, thank you very much.  
 17 Can I just ask you to look at the next picture,  
 18 which is MET00015817.  
 19 Again, here on the green wall, we can see very  
 20 faintly what looks like --  
 21 A. Yes, that's mine. I drew that.  
 22 Q. That's yours, is it?  
 23 A. What I was doing was putting out horizontal lines for  
 24 the floors, I only think I drew from floor 3 upwards,  
 25 and to simplify things, as I said, for the firefighters,

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1 so they would have a visual of where they would be in  
 2 the tower, it was horizontal lines with the flat  
 3 numbers, and when a flat had been searched or if  
 4 somebody was deceased, I would put a cross through it or  
 5 an X.  
 6 Q. I see.  
 7 That information, just so I can focus in terms of  
 8 timing, having come down to the ground floor --  
 9 A. Yes.  
 10 Q. -- and I am assuming at the moment this is on the ground  
 11 floor --  
 12 A. Yes.  
 13 Q. -- you put that there; is that right?  
 14 A. (Nodded assent).  
 15 Q. Yes. And the lines out are the ones you put?  
 16 A. Yes, so what I did was like just had the numbers of  
 17 the -- like a child's pictogram drawing of the tower,  
 18 and then I would put lines out, horizontal lines, from  
 19 the floor number, and that would indicate the flat  
 20 numbers. You can see the flat numbers, the numbers  
 21 above it.  
 22 Q. If you look at 14, you can see a line out from that.  
 23 Can you help interpret what is on that line?  
 24 A. It's very difficult to read, actually, but they would be  
 25 the flat numbers, and I can't give you much more than

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7 (Pages 25 to 28)

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| <p>1 <b>that.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Right. There's a ring around one of the numbers. Do</p> <p>3 you know what that is?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No, I can't really ... As I say, it was used to signify</b></p> <p>5 <b>destination for EDBA crews, with numbers of persons in</b></p> <p>6 <b>the flats. I think I put diagonal lines off, but</b></p> <p>7 <b>I can't see the diagonal lines there, indicating the</b></p> <p>8 <b>number of people in there.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Perhaps we can pan away from that, then, and just see</p> <p>10 whether there are diagonal lines with numbers of people.</p> <p>11 It's hard to tell.</p> <p>12 Do you remember whether that information was</p> <p>13 information that was fed to you freshly when you had</p> <p>14 arrived at the ground floor or whether it was transposed</p> <p>15 from photographs taken from the third floor by those</p> <p>16 with cameras on the third floor before you moved?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I would say on the left and right-hand side of the</b></p> <p>18 <b>tower, that would be the case. The tower itself that</b></p> <p>19 <b>I drew was all the new and updated information which we</b></p> <p>20 <b>were -- it wasn't every few minutes, it was every second</b></p> <p>21 <b>we were getting new information. It seemed like that to</b></p> <p>22 <b>me, anyway.</b></p> <p>23 Q. So just to be clear, on the left and the right -- so to</p> <p>24 the left of the picture you can see another list of</p> <p>25 numbers and ticks, that's information that came down</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 29</p> | <p>1 <b>A. I don't know; I can't see it. It looks a bit scribbly.</b></p> <p>2 <b>My handwriting is a bit scribbly like that. It possibly</b></p> <p>3 <b>is. What does it say, do you know?</b></p> <p>4 Q. I think it says "dead body" and then something, but --</p> <p>5 <b>A. I was aware from crews that there were deceased</b></p> <p>6 <b>throughout the building at various points and -- well,</b></p> <p>7 <b>that was from quite early on, but it was becoming more</b></p> <p>8 <b>prevalent. Crews were reporting, so I was trying to</b></p> <p>9 <b>tell crews going up where the deceased were throughout</b></p> <p>10 <b>the building and in the communal hallway.</b></p> <p>11 Q. I am just going to ask you about one more picture, and</p> <p>12 I may have to come back to this, but I'm just going to</p> <p>13 ask you about one more picture, if I can, Mr O'Keeffe,</p> <p>14 and that's MET00015820.</p> <p>15 Now, if you compare it with the previous photograph,</p> <p>16 it looks as if this is more of the information to the</p> <p>17 left of the pictogram that we saw in the last</p> <p>18 photograph. Can you help with that, with what this is?</p> <p>19 <b>A. All of that information, every single piece of</b></p> <p>20 <b>information that's up there, will be about FSG.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Yes.</p> <p>22 <b>A. And where people are thought to be located, numbers of</b></p> <p>23 <b>people, throughout the building.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 Let me just see if I can do this -- I'm sorry to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 31</p> |
| <p>1 from the third floor, is it?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Possibly.</b></p> <p>3 Q. I don't want to put the idea in your head, I am just</p> <p>4 trying to clarify what you remember about that. So you</p> <p>5 say on the left and the right, just -- perhaps I can get</p> <p>6 at it this way: can you just point out to us which lists</p> <p>7 or groups of information on this picture came down from</p> <p>8 the third floor and were copied onto this wall?</p> <p>9 <b>A. I can't say for certain. I would say the left-hand side</b></p> <p>10 <b>of the wall would've been taken from the third floor,</b></p> <p>11 <b>and that would be the most accurate recollection I can</b></p> <p>12 <b>give you.</b></p> <p>13 Q. That's very helpful, thank you.</p> <p>14 And on the right-hand side of the pictogram?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Possibly me, I can't recall. I would say actually it</b></p> <p>16 <b>was me.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Right. Do you know whose handwriting that is in the</p> <p>18 bottom right-hand corner?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No. I mean, I can't read that.</b></p> <p>20 Q. No. That's why I asked you. Okay. All right.</p> <p>21 Let's --</p> <p>22 <b>A. If I was standing in the tower right now and looking at</b></p> <p>23 <b>it, I could probably tell you if it was mine or if it</b></p> <p>24 <b>wasn't, but that's all I could say.</b></p> <p>25 Q. That's not your handwriting?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 30</p>  | <p>1 take up a little time on this.</p> <p>2 <b>A. Take your time.</b></p> <p>3 Q. If you just go back to the photograph before,</p> <p>4 Mr Documents Director, which is MET00015817.</p> <p>5 Now, if you look at the left-hand picture, we can do</p> <p>6 a comparison. That's where we see the pictogram in the</p> <p>7 middle which you say you drew with the lines coming out,</p> <p>8 and to the left of it we have a list with the ticks.</p> <p>9 Now, if we look at the right-hand image, you can see</p> <p>10 the list with the ticks and I think just the edge of the</p> <p>11 pictogram towards the very right-hand side of the</p> <p>12 picture.</p> <p>13 Moving towards the left, towards where it says</p> <p>14 "153 - 18th" in the big ring, that information, do you</p> <p>15 know where that came from?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Okay. Did you write that up there?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I don't recall. I did a lot of writing, but I don't</b></p> <p>19 <b>recall exactly what I'd written.</b></p> <p>20 Q. When you wrote your pictogram up there, was the green</p> <p>21 wall clear of writing, or was there already --</p> <p>22 <b>A. Well, that would've been clear of writing. There was no</b></p> <p>23 <b>writing at all. We just started writing. As soon as we</b></p> <p>24 <b>had to evacuate the third floor, we didn't want to delay</b></p> <p>25 <b>and we just set up our position within the tower and,</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 32</p>   |



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| <p>1 <b>you know, tried to replicate what we were doing upstairs</b></p> <p>2 <b>without any interruption.</b></p> <p>3 Q. I see, okay.</p> <p>4 So in terms of the chronology with which this</p> <p>5 writing came onto that wall, I think you say, do you,</p> <p>6 that your pictogram was first because the wall was</p> <p>7 clear?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Not first, no. There was simultaneous writing --</b></p> <p>9 Q. Okay.</p> <p>10 <b>A. -- from several officers, because the volume of</b></p> <p>11 <b>information that we were getting was such that one</b></p> <p>12 <b>individual could not successfully record the amount of</b></p> <p>13 <b>information we were getting.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>15 In terms of the information in the middle, in those</p> <p>16 two or perhaps three lists that we see in the middle of</p> <p>17 the right-hand picture, which is MET00015820 -- you did</p> <p>18 cover this a minute ago but I just want to be clear --</p> <p>19 who wrote that up there and where did it come from?</p> <p>20 <b>A. In the white chinagraph?</b></p> <p>21 Q. No, the black chinagraph, the four columns of</p> <p>22 information?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Can you highlight it, please?</b></p> <p>24 Q. Yes, we'll highlight all four. Yes. That information</p> <p>25 there, which is to the left of the pictogram --</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 33</p>  | <p>1 Q. Can I see if I can explore that a little bit.</p> <p>2 If you turn to page 16 of your statement, you say,</p> <p>3 second paragraph:</p> <p>4 "There were no comms with any of the crews operating</p> <p>5 above the Bridgehead and we were experiencing distorted</p> <p>6 feedback on Channel Six."</p> <p>7 <b>A. We were.</b></p> <p>8 Q. That's the designated BA channel.</p> <p>9 Then you go on to say you saw one BA crew had been</p> <p>10 committed to the radio repeaters. What do you mean by</p> <p>11 that?</p> <p>12 <b>A. As I just said to you: a crew were committed to place</b></p> <p>13 <b>a relay system, a radio relay system, up inside the</b></p> <p>14 <b>tower, which would mean -- they're like -- how will</b></p> <p>15 <b>I simplify it? It's like those little things you buy in</b></p> <p>16 <b>Maplin, but they're not, to boost your Wi-Fi signal at</b></p> <p>17 <b>home. Well, we have this system where we can lay</b></p> <p>18 <b>a relay system if we have issues with our</b></p> <p>19 <b>communications. They're repeaters; they repeat the</b></p> <p>20 <b>signal onwards.</b></p> <p>21 Q. This is equipment you already had with you?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, we didn't have it with us. It's carried on the</b></p> <p>23 <b>command units, I believe.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Do you know which command unit those pieces of equipment</p> <p>25 came from?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 35</p>    |
| <p>1 <b>A. I don't recall.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Okay. All right.</p> <p>3 Mr O'Keeffe, I'm sorry to drag you through that, but</p> <p>4 thank you very much.</p> <p>5 <b>A. It's fine. I understand why you want to examine it, but</b></p> <p>6 <b>it's a year on and I can't recall the amount of writing</b></p> <p>7 <b>and who wrote it. But I can say that, just to summarise</b></p> <p>8 <b>it, there was a lot written up on the wall on that</b></p> <p>9 <b>incident, so ...</b></p> <p>10 Q. Well, thank you.</p> <p>11 At the stage at which you were writing and the other</p> <p>12 firefighters were writing up that information, what was</p> <p>13 happening with the radio communications?</p> <p>14 <b>A. It wasn't working.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Even in the lobby?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Wasn't working at all. And to address the issue, the</b></p> <p>17 <b>fire sector commander, Group Manager Goulbourne,</b></p> <p>18 <b>I believe gave the order to introduce repeater system</b></p> <p>19 <b>comms, a repeater system upwards inside the building,</b></p> <p>20 <b>which would mean a BA crew going specifically to drop</b></p> <p>21 <b>transponders to do a relay system through the building,</b></p> <p>22 <b>which would boost our radio signals.</b></p> <p>23 Q. At what stage, do you remember, did he order a repeater</p> <p>24 system?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I couldn't tell you. It's impossible, the times.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p> | <p>1 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>2 Q. You had to have a particular crew committed with these</p> <p>3 repeaters to place them in the --</p> <p>4 <b>A. Someone has to put them up there and the only people</b></p> <p>5 <b>that can go up there are BA crews.</b></p> <p>6 Q. So I think, in summary, they got up into the tower,</p> <p>7 placed them, but they didn't work.</p> <p>8 <b>A. No, they didn't work, no.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Then you go on to say in the last sentence of that</p> <p>10 paragraph:</p> <p>11 "I asked GM GOULBOURNE if we could use Channel Two</p> <p>12 but he said he would need to request permission to use</p> <p>13 it."</p> <p>14 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>15 Q. What is channel 2?</p> <p>16 <b>A. It's another channel that's available. It's outside of</b></p> <p>17 <b>our normal command channels, and you have to request</b></p> <p>18 <b>permission from -- I don't know who exactly. But if</b></p> <p>19 <b>I could put that in context, I was desperate to maintain</b></p> <p>20 <b>contact with our EDDBA crews. It was of the greatest</b></p> <p>21 <b>importance to me to know that they were okay or where</b></p> <p>22 <b>they were, if they were successful with their rescue and</b></p> <p>23 <b>so on. And the fact that they were not just up there</b></p> <p>24 <b>without water but without radio comms greatly concerned</b></p> <p>25 <b>me.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 36</p> |

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|--|---|
| <p>1       <b>So I said to Pat Goulbourne, or Group Manager</b><br/> 2       <b>Goulbourne, "Can we go to channel 2?" I think he said,</b><br/> 3       <b>"Yes, but I'd have to get permission", or along those</b><br/> 4       <b>lines. We had to request -- if there's not permission,</b><br/> 5       <b>request it.</b><br/> 6       Q. Do you know if he did request permission?<br/> 7       <b>A. I don't know.</b><br/> 8       Q. Did you ever get access to channel 2?<br/> 9       <b>A. Not to my recollection.</b><br/> 10      Q. Did he come back to you and tell you the results of his<br/> 11      requests for permission?<br/> 12      <b>A. No, he was too busy. I mean ...</b><br/> 13      Q. What would channel 2, do you think, have given you?<br/> 14      <b>A. Possibly communication with the crews upstairs, if we</b><br/> 15      <b>could switch to channel 2, possibly.</b><br/> 16      Q. What is special about channel 2 that you would need<br/> 17      permission to use it?<br/> 18      <b>A. We don't ordinarily use it and there would be less</b><br/> 19      <b>traffic on it.</b><br/> 20      Q. Why in general terms would one need special permission<br/> 21      to access channel 2?<br/> 22      <b>A. Because -- I couldn't give you the exact answer. We</b><br/> 23      <b>don't ordinarily use it is the only answer I can give</b><br/> 24      <b>you at the moment.</b><br/> 25      Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> | <p>1       without wishing to hurry you at all, how much more do<br/> 2       you think --<br/> 3       MR MILLETT: Probably about 10 or 15 minutes more. Maybe<br/> 4       a short break.<br/> 5       SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Finish the witness in 10 or<br/> 6       15 minutes?<br/> 7       MR MILLETT: I can finish -- yes, Mr Chairman, I can.<br/> 8       SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, Mr O'Keeffe, would you like to<br/> 9       have a break at this stage?<br/> 10      THE WITNESS: How long more?<br/> 11      SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: When counsel say 10 or 15 minutes --<br/> 12      THE WITNESS: I'll take a break now, thank you very much.<br/> 13      SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think that's a wise decision.<br/> 14      THE WITNESS: Knowing the way he is, actually! With<br/> 15      respect! Thank you very much.<br/> 16      SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Shall we resume at 11 o'clock, then,<br/> 17      please?<br/> 18      THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you very much.<br/> 19      SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No talking to anyone else about your<br/> 20      evidence.<br/> 21      All right, 11 o'clock, please.<br/> 22      (10.50 am)<br/> 23      (A short break)<br/> 24      (11.00 am)<br/> 25      SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p>  |
| <p>1       In the third paragraph down at page 16, you return<br/> 2       to the subject of volume of confirmed FSG.<br/> 3       <b>A. Correct.</b><br/> 4       Q. You describe the map on the wall with just lots of<br/> 5       numbers.<br/> 6       At the end of that paragraph, you say:<br/> 7       "I think it was four o'clock in the morning, because<br/> 8       I remember the times on the slips of paper."<br/> 9       Now, we've just been looking at the maps on the<br/> 10      wall. Can we connect the two, in terms of the slips of<br/> 11      paper that were on the pieces of paper you put in your<br/> 12      tunic which we looked at in evidence on Friday, and the<br/> 13      information on the walls we've just looked at this<br/> 14      morning.<br/> 15      <b>A. That is the same information.</b><br/> 16      Q. That's the same information?<br/> 17      <b>A. Or that's part of the same information. I didn't keep</b><br/> 18      <b>all the slips, but they're the ones I managed to keep.</b><br/> 19      Q. So some of that information on the walls that we looked<br/> 20      at this morning on the photographs can be timed, can it,<br/> 21      at around 4.00/4.20 --<br/> 22      <b>A. Yes absolutely.</b><br/> 23      Q. Yes, I see.<br/> 24      Now, on page 16 you --<br/> 25      SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, can I just ask you,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p>  | <p>1       MR MILLETT: Thank you, if we --<br/> 2       SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Sorry to cut your questioning a bit<br/> 3       short there, but I thought it was appropriate to give<br/> 4       Mr O'Keeffe a little break.<br/> 5       MR MILLETT: Yes, quite right. Yes, that's fine, thank you.<br/> 6       If we could have Mr O'Keeffe back, please.<br/> 7       (Pause)<br/> 8       SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right, Mr O'Keeffe?<br/> 9       THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.<br/> 10      MR MILLETT: Mr O'Keeffe, can I just ask you to look at<br/> 11      page 16 of your statement. This is just after the<br/> 12      paragraph where we've discussed channel 2. In the next<br/> 13      paragraph you say:<br/> 14      "There was now a huge volume of confirmed FSG on all<br/> 15      the upper floors, so any floor above the twelfth floor.<br/> 16      We had a map on the wall with just lots of numbers. We<br/> 17      had eight people in one flat, ten in another flat.<br/> 18      People were gathering together in their flats. Human<br/> 19      nature, isn't it? I think it was four o'clock in the<br/> 20      morning, because I remember the times on the slips of<br/> 21      paper."<br/> 22      I've asked you about the slips of paper and the<br/> 23      timing.<br/> 24      My question is: were you able to commit crews to<br/> 25      those floors where lots of people had collected together</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> |

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|---|---|
| <p>1 in flats?</p> <p>2 <b>A. We were attempting to commit crews there, sir. I was</b></p> <p>3 <b>briefing crews specifically to go to those floors where</b></p> <p>4 <b>we had a large life risk, and crews were detailed to go</b></p> <p>5 <b>there and attempted to get to the floors. Not always</b></p> <p>6 <b>successfully, because the entire building was on fire,</b></p> <p>7 <b>they had no water, and ...</b></p> <p>8 <b>I know there were rescues being carried out at that</b></p> <p>9 <b>time by EDBA crews, but they were all above the 12th</b></p> <p>10 <b>floor and they travelled through the building on fire,</b></p> <p>11 <b>without water -- I hope I am answering your question.</b></p> <p>12 <b>It was very hazardous to the firefighters, but they were</b></p> <p>13 <b>rescuing people.</b></p> <p>14 Q. They were. And when firefighters came down without</p> <p>15 having rescued people on the floors they'd been sent to,</p> <p>16 did they debrief to you?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, the casualties were unconscious and the priority was</b></p> <p>18 <b>to get the casualties out of the building. They were</b></p> <p>19 <b>speaking to me and members of my team and the</b></p> <p>20 <b>information was being recorded, but not by me</b></p> <p>21 <b>personally, but somebody I was working with, and -- does</b></p> <p>22 <b>that answer your question?</b></p> <p>23 Q. Well, yes, it does, but can I just pursue this a little</p> <p>24 further.</p> <p>25 <b>A. You can, of course, yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>   | <p>1 <b>A. I would say yes, but I couldn't give you specifics.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Okay.</p> <p>3 <b>A. I was in constant contact with the fire sector</b></p> <p>4 <b>commander. I didn't know who the incident commander was</b></p> <p>5 <b>at the time. I believe it might have been Assistant</b></p> <p>6 <b>Chief Fire Officer Andy Roe. I don't know. I don't</b></p> <p>7 <b>know who was in charge. But all relevant information</b></p> <p>8 <b>was being communicated amongst ourselves and to the fire</b></p> <p>9 <b>sector commander, Group Manager Goulbourne.</b></p> <p>10 Q. So at this stage, about 4 o'clock in the morning, EDBA</p> <p>11 wearers going up into the tower.</p> <p>12 <b>A. Continually.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Any unsuccessful deployments, the results of that were</p> <p>14 being communicated from the bridgehead to the fire</p> <p>15 sector commander.</p> <p>16 <b>A. I wouldn't say, again, the details of what we were</b></p> <p>17 <b>doing, but significant details would be passed to the</b></p> <p>18 <b>fire sector commander.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Do you know what the fire sector commander did with</p> <p>20 those details.</p> <p>21 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>22 Q. What was the method of communicating those details, so</p> <p>23 far as you did communicate them?</p> <p>24 <b>A. That would be verbally.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Verbally over the radio or face-to-face?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>                               |
| <p>1 Q. Were there -- do you remember -- cases where you had</p> <p>2 deployed EDBA wearers to these high floors with large</p> <p>3 numbers of people in particular flats and they'd come</p> <p>4 down without having effected any rescue?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Did they debrief to you about the conditions?</p> <p>7 <b>A. They did. Some of them were collapsing at the time.</b></p> <p>8 <b>They were in a bad state. That's the answer.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Are you able to tell us how high they went up into the</p> <p>10 building before turning round?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Not specifically, but I know some crews went very high.</b></p> <p>12 <b>Went up as far as they could possibly go without killing</b></p> <p>13 <b>themselves, you know. They went -- if there was --</b></p> <p>14 <b>I couldn't give you the specific flats they went to or</b></p> <p>15 <b>which floors they went to now, but it was being recorded</b></p> <p>16 <b>by all the guys we had there. Any update on</b></p> <p>17 <b>information, whether they had had a successful rescue,</b></p> <p>18 <b>whether they were unable to carry out a successful</b></p> <p>19 <b>rescue and the reasons why they weren't able to, where</b></p> <p>20 <b>there was fire in the building, if that floor was</b></p> <p>21 <b>completely alight, that was what we were getting from</b></p> <p>22 <b>the BA crews.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember whether you or any of your colleagues at</p> <p>24 the bridgehead communicated any unsuccessful rescues</p> <p>25 back to the incident commander?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> | <p>1 <b>A. Face-to-face. So we were positioned -- so the</b></p> <p>2 <b>termination of the stairs in Grenfell Tower, we were</b></p> <p>3 <b>positioned at the foot of the stairs. So was he.</b></p> <p>4 Q. I see.</p> <p>5 <b>A. Himself and Group Manager Welch and some other officers</b></p> <p>6 <b>were standing to the right of us, facing the stairs,</b></p> <p>7 <b>near the -- so you have a glass partition wall with</b></p> <p>8 <b>an access door. That was the area they were standing</b></p> <p>9 <b>in.</b></p> <p>10 Q. I see. So next to the wall?</p> <p>11 <b>A. They were nearby us, yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Okay. And where did they communicate to?</p> <p>13 <b>A. You'll have to ask the officers that question, I don't</b></p> <p>14 <b>know.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Did you see them running in and out of the building</p> <p>16 or --</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, they stayed in the building.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did you get the impression that their radios were</p> <p>19 working?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Well, the fire ground radios weren't working, but the</b></p> <p>21 <b>officers, station manager and above, carry Airwave</b></p> <p>22 <b>radios, which are far superior to the operational</b></p> <p>23 <b>firefighters' radios. So they were -- for example, when</b></p> <p>24 <b>I was on the third floor -- and this is just to give you</b></p> <p>25 <b>an idea -- with Group Manager Goulbourne and Station</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> |

1 **Manager Cook, Station Manager Cook received an FSG call**  
 2 **on his Airwave radio while we're having a conversation**  
 3 **to say there was somebody on the third floor needed**  
 4 **rescuing, a fire survival guidance call, and this was**  
 5 **mid-conversation. It interrupted our conversation and**  
 6 **he kicked the door in of the flat and we searched the**  
 7 **flat.**

8 Q. Do you know where he got that information from?

9 **A. That would be from control.**

10 Q. From control direct?

11 **A. I believe -- he may have got it from the command unit,**  
 12 **the central command unit. I didn't receive it. I had**  
 13 **my radio on the command channel at the time. I received**  
 14 **no information. And he said, "Hang on one second" and**  
 15 **he listened to his radio, and he said, "We've got an FSG**  
 16 **here right now".**

17 Q. Right. So just to the best of your recollection, the  
 18 Airwave radio that Goulbourne and Welch had --

19 **A. Yes.**

20 Q. -- they were receiving messages on those from, you say,  
 21 control or the command unit?

22 **A. No, they would be in direct communication with the**  
 23 **incident commander, and they would also, I believe, be**  
 24 **able to listen to control information coming through on**  
 25 **their Airwave radios. I know they can tune in and speak**

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1 **to control directly.**

2 Q. Is that right, they can actually speak to control  
 3 directly?

4 **A. I believe so.**

5 Q. Without going through the command unit?

6 **A. I believe they could do that, or they had an enhanced**  
 7 **level of communication.**

8 Q. Do you know when the group managers that you were  
 9 dealing with at the bridgehead started using their  
 10 Airwave radios in that way?

11 **A. They would've been using them from the very beginning.**

12 Q. So do I understand your evidence to be that Goulbourne  
 13 and Welch, from the time of arrival at the bridgehead  
 14 and the start of discussions with you, were able to  
 15 communicate directly with Brigade control?

16 **A. If they wanted to, I think they could.**

17 Q. Did you see them do that?

18 **A. No. I would suggest, though, that they were not in**  
 19 **direct contact with Brigade control; they would've been**  
 20 **in direct contact with each other for command and**  
 21 **control purposes. But it struck me as significant when**  
 22 **Station Manager Cook took a call mid-conversation with**  
 23 **me on the bridgehead to inform him that there was an FSG**  
 24 **call coming in on the floor we were standing on.**

25 Q. And the Airwave radio, is it a physically different

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1 piece of equipment from --

2 **A. It's a better bit of equipment.**

3 Q. So --

4 **A. It's a handheld radio. All senior officers carry them.**

5 Q. Above which rank?

6 **A. Station manager and above.**

7 Q. Station manager and above have Airwave radios --

8 **A. Correct.**

9 Q. -- and it's superior. And what does an Airwave radio do  
 10 that an ordinary fire ground radio can't?

11 **A. Well, you can contact control or they can contact you**  
 12 **directly.**

13 Q. Really? Okay.

14 **A. Whereas the fire ground radio is just that. It's**  
 15 **a walkie-talkie, for want of a better term. We can**  
 16 **communicate with each other over certain distances. So**  
 17 **it's a radio-to-radio contact.**

18 Q. Can I just explore this just a little bit more.

19 **A. Yes. I'm not an expert on radios, just so you know**  
 20 **that.**

21 Q. No, no. But on your experience, you can help me.

22 So the first station manager -- is this right? -- to  
 23 arrive at the fire ground on the night would have  
 24 an Airwave radio?

25 **A. Yes.**

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1 Q. In your experience, would that Airwave radio allow him  
 2 to speak to the control room at Stratford directly?

3 **A. I would say yes.**

4 Q. Right. Okay.

5 **A. Because station managers and above are mobilised via**  
 6 **pager, a pager message. They all carry pagers. I carry**  
 7 **a pager as well, or I would when I'm on duty. And when**  
 8 **they get paged to an incident, they use their radio to**  
 9 **call control. You can make direct contact with control,**  
 10 **that's my understanding. I've never had an Airwave**  
 11 **radio or used an Airwave radio myself.**

12 Q. Do you know then why -- if you don't, you don't -- if  
 13 any station manager arriving at the fire ground had  
 14 an Airwave radio which allowed them to speak directly to  
 15 the control room, there had to be this chain of  
 16 communication of fire survival guidance information from  
 17 control, to the command unit, to a forward information  
 18 board, into the lobby and then up to the bridgehead as  
 19 we've heard?

20 **A. Well, I would, again, say that fire survival guidance**  
 21 **call information is complicated. It's very important**  
 22 **information. It needs to be processed correctly,**  
 23 **meaning it has to be recorded on hard copy and**  
 24 **distributed and acted upon by officers like myself.**  
 25 **Because a station manager wouldn't ordinarily -- no,**

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12 (Pages 45 to 48)

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| <p>1 would never, in fact -- be mobilised as a first<br/> 2 attendance to an incident, unless of course there was<br/> 3 something like a plane crash or some catastrophe, then<br/> 4 you will have senior officers mobilised immediately.<br/> 5 But any fire generally, the highest rank or role of<br/> 6 an officer is a watch manager. I mean, that would be<br/> 7 the highest rank mobilised to an incident, and the<br/> 8 radios we use are fire ground radios or main scheme<br/> 9 radio, which is the same as an Airwave radio that<br/> 10 a senior officer carries. A main scheme radio gives<br/> 11 direct contact between control and us. All radios are<br/> 12 on fire engines and it's the direct contact to control.<br/> 13 The same facility is afforded by the Airwave radio<br/> 14 because senior officers don't drive or ride in fire<br/> 15 engines.<br/> 16 Does that answer your question?<br/> 17 Q. I understand. But if at any stage you, running the<br/> 18 bridgehead, had wanted to speak directly to control<br/> 19 about a particular call --<br/> 20 A. Yes. It would be very useful if I had a Airwave radio.<br/> 21 To be frank with you, I would like to have one.<br/> 22 Q. Right. Okay. But if, for example, a station manager or<br/> 23 group manager who was either running the bridgehead or<br/> 24 speaking very closely to you who was running the<br/> 25 bridgehead had an Airwave radio, would there be a need</p> <p>Page 49</p> | <p>1 A. Yes.<br/> 2 Q. "This note had no numbers on it so I asked him what it<br/> 3 was about. He stated to me that all FSG calls had now<br/> 4 ceased."<br/> 5 You say it was around this time.<br/> 6 Now, in the previous paragraph you were dealing with<br/> 7 breaking the windows in the lobby because the door had<br/> 8 shut.<br/> 9 A. No, we were breaking the windows in the lobby because<br/> 10 the lobby filled up with smoke, so the fire had spread<br/> 11 down to us -- well, was on its way -- and had completely<br/> 12 filled the lobby, so we couldn't breathe.<br/> 13 Q. Yes. I'll come back to that in a moment.<br/> 14 A. Okay.<br/> 15 Q. Just in terms of timing, roughly when was that? That<br/> 16 was after you had moved to the ground floor?<br/> 17 A. Possibly 5 o'clock in the morning. I can't remember the<br/> 18 exact time.<br/> 19 Q. Was it light, do you think?<br/> 20 A. It was daylight. It was starting to be daylight,<br/> 21 I believe, or it was daylight. It was dawn, anyway.<br/> 22 Dawn.<br/> 23 Q. And you say Watch Manager Watson handed you a note.<br/> 24 A. Yes.<br/> 25 Q. Do you know where he had got that information from?</p> <p>Page 51</p> |
| <p>1 to have the system that was in place, whereby control<br/> 2 spoke to the command unit, command unit forward<br/> 3 information board, runners into the building and up to<br/> 4 the bridgehead with pieces of paper?<br/> 5 A. I can see where you're going with this. Time delay, you<br/> 6 know, a complicated process of communication. I can<br/> 7 only answer it one way: at an incident of the complexity<br/> 8 and enormity of Grenfell Tower, using the process we<br/> 9 used was still the only really solid way of recording<br/> 10 that information. I can only answer in that way. You<br/> 11 know, you have to transcribe that information. It has<br/> 12 to be physically held because then it's in front of you,<br/> 13 you know what you've got, you've got the number of the<br/> 14 flat, you have got the number of people, you know where<br/> 15 they are.<br/> 16 Q. I understand.<br/> 17 Can I just ask you just one or two further<br/> 18 questions.<br/> 19 A. Okay.<br/> 20 Q. On page 18, at the very top of the page -- sorry let me<br/> 21 pick this up slightly differently.<br/> 22 In the second paragraph you say:<br/> 23 "It was around this time that I received the last<br/> 24 written note from Watch Manager WATSON, who had been<br/> 25 giving me all the numbers."</p> <p>Page 50</p>   | <p>1 A. From the command unit. Well, he would have got it in<br/> 2 that chain of runners from the command unit.<br/> 3 Q. What effect did that have on the operations that were<br/> 4 going on at the bridgehead?<br/> 5 A. It had a momentary effect of stunning us.<br/> 6 Q. At that stage, do you remember if there were flats to<br/> 7 which you hadn't yet --<br/> 8 A. Many, many, yes.<br/> 9 Can I take a break?<br/> 10 MR MILLETT: In fact, I was going to say I have no further<br/> 11 questions.<br/> 12 THE WITNESS: Can I just take a quick break?<br/> 13 MR MILLETT: Of course.<br/> 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Shall we say 11.30. That will give<br/> 15 you time to settle things down.<br/> 16 (11.20 am)<br/> 17 (A short break)<br/> 18 (11.30 am)<br/> 19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett. We'll continue as<br/> 20 soon as Mr O'Keeffe is back.<br/> 21 MR MILLETT: Yes.<br/> 22 (Pause)<br/> 23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right. You're okay,<br/> 24 Mr O'Keeffe?<br/> 25 THE WITNESS: Okay sir.</p> <p>Page 52</p>   |

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| <p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good.</p> <p>2 Mr Millett.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Mr O'Keeffe, I only have one or two questions</p> <p>4 left for you, if that's all right.</p> <p>5 On Friday, we were discussing the trip up the tower</p> <p>6 conducted by the trio of firefighters Dorgu, Badillo and</p> <p>7 Secrett. That was the context in which I asked you</p> <p>8 about how BA wearers going up to perform rescues could</p> <p>9 get down the stairs.</p> <p>10 Your answer -- and it's page 101 of the transcript</p> <p>11 at lines 14 to 22 -- and you say:</p> <p>12 "... at this time, I still -- we don't have any</p> <p>13 facilities to bring people through smoke without</p> <p>14 injuring them. Sorry, smoke of that intensity and that</p> <p>15 degree of smoke-logging."</p> <p>16 Then you go on to say:</p> <p>17 "Otherwise my guys wouldn't be wearing breathing</p> <p>18 apparatus. This is a highly irrespirable atmosphere and</p> <p>19 you won't get very far."</p> <p>20 <b>A. That's correct.</b></p> <p>21 Q. My question is: when you say "we don't have facilities</p> <p>22 to bring people through smoke without injuring them",</p> <p>23 can you clarify for us whether you're saying that the</p> <p>24 LFB had facilities but they weren't on the fire ground,</p> <p>25 or whether you're saying that the LFB didn't have the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 53</p>                                   | <p>1 (The witness was released)</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, we have had Mr O'Keeffe's oral</p> <p>3 evidence. We also have his statement.</p> <p>4 I would just want to place on record the text on</p> <p>5 pages 20 and 21 of his statement. I'm not going to read</p> <p>6 it aloud, but I would draw particular attention to it</p> <p>7 for description of the fire, the impact, the resources</p> <p>8 deployed, and the personal experience which Watch</p> <p>9 Manager O'Keeffe has articulated in it, for a particular</p> <p>10 example of clarity.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Well, that will all form part</p> <p>12 of the evidence before the inquiry and those who wish to</p> <p>13 read it will be able to do so.</p> <p>14 MR MILLETT: They will.</p> <p>15 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes. Good, thank you very much.</p> <p>16 Now, who is the next witness?</p> <p>17 MR MILLETT: Now, Mr Chairman, I am told that Mr Dorgu is</p> <p>18 ready to give evidence, but a short break I think is</p> <p>19 needed, if that's all right, so that he can be arranged,</p> <p>20 as it were, and brought down.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: Would you mind giving us 20 minutes? I know we</p> <p>23 just had a break --</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: 20 minutes?</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: I'm in your hands. Maybe 15.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 55</p> |
| <p>1 facilities at all?</p> <p>2 <b>A. We don't have those facilities.</b></p> <p>3 Q. At all?</p> <p>4 <b>A. On the night of the incident, no. And before that, no.</b></p> <p>5 <b>And there's currently something being trialled, but we</b></p> <p>6 <b>don't have -- we do not have a facility to protect</b></p> <p>7 <b>a casualty from smoke during an extrication.</b></p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Yes. Thank you very much. That's clear.</p> <p>9 Mr O'Keeffe, I have no further questions for you.</p> <p>10 I just want to say thank you very much for coming along</p> <p>11 and spending a lot of time assisting me and the chairman</p> <p>12 with our investigations. We are extremely grateful.</p> <p>13 THE WITNESS: Okay, thank you very much.</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I would like to add my thanks to</p> <p>15 that, Mr O'Keeffe. You've been giving evidence,</p> <p>16 I suspect, for rather longer than you expected.</p> <p>17 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You've given your evidence in</p> <p>19 a really excellent way. You've been very clear and very</p> <p>20 careful and given us a lot of detailed assistance, so</p> <p>21 I'm really grateful to you for coming along to do that.</p> <p>22 Thank you very much.</p> <p>23 THE WITNESS: Okay. That's it?</p> <p>24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's it. You're a free man, as</p> <p>25 they say!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 54</p> | <p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: How about if we said 11.50, which is</p> <p>2 nearly 20 minutes.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: That would be very good, an excellent</p> <p>4 compromise. Thank you.</p> <p>5 (11.35 am)</p> <p>6 (A short break)</p> <p>7 (11.50 am)</p> <p>8 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett. So we are now</p> <p>9 ready for Mr Dorgu; is that right?</p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: We are now ready for Mr Dorgu, the next</p> <p>11 witness, Mr Chairman.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, thank you.</p> <p>13 CHRISTOPHER DORGU (sworn)</p> <p>14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much, Mr Dorgu, good</p> <p>15 morning.</p> <p>16 I take it you're comfortable giving your evidence</p> <p>17 standing up?</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: At the moment, yes, that's all right.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If that changes, just indicate that</p> <p>20 you would like to sit down.</p> <p>21 THE WITNESS: Thank you, I will.</p> <p>22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If at any stage you feel you need</p> <p>23 a break, just say so. All right?</p> <p>24 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 56</p>   |

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| <p>1 Mr Millett.</p> <p>2 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: Mr Dorgu, good morning.</p> <p>4 <b>A. Morning.</b></p> <p>5 Q. First of all, can I say thank you very much to you for</p> <p>6 coming to the inquiry and assisting us with our</p> <p>7 investigations. It is very much appreciated.</p> <p>8 My questions are intended to be short and simple,</p> <p>9 but they don't always work out that way. If you have</p> <p>10 any difficulty understanding anything I'm asking you,</p> <p>11 then just ask me to repeat the question or I'll put it</p> <p>12 in a different way and we'll proceed together.</p> <p>13 If you want a break at any stage, just signal and we</p> <p>14 can have a break. It's not a problem.</p> <p>15 <b>A. Thank you.</b></p> <p>16 Q. First of all, could you please take your statement,</p> <p>17 which should be in a bundle in front of you, but</p> <p>18 normally we work on the basis of what's on a screen.</p> <p>19 Your statement should be at tab A, and it's</p> <p>20 MET000086037, that's the Relativity reference number,</p> <p>21 and at tab B you should have your contemporaneous notes</p> <p>22 as exhibit 1 to your statement, and that's MET00005314.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. On the desk in front of you on your right, there's</p> <p>25 a screen which has the statement on it, and what we</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> | <p>1 last 19 years?</p> <p>2 <b>A. 19 years, yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Is that as an active firefighter?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. What was your position as at the night of</p> <p>6 13/14 June 2017?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I was firefighter on duty riding the pump Golf 272.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Right.</p> <p>9 I just wonder, would you be able to stand either</p> <p>10 slightly nearer the microphone or perhaps angle the</p> <p>11 microphone towards you so that we can hear a little</p> <p>12 better.</p> <p>13 <b>A. Is that better?</b></p> <p>14 Q. You're coming across a bit faint. Yes, I think that's</p> <p>15 better. Thank you very much.</p> <p>16 Now, if you turn to page 2 of your statement, you</p> <p>17 say -- I pick it up at the bottom of page 1 actually --</p> <p>18 you had previous knowledge of Grenfell Tower:</p> <p>19 "We did a walk around a while ago, maybe a few</p> <p>20 months or a year ago, to see how nice it looked. They'd</p> <p>21 had the floors done and the outside looked lovely with</p> <p>22 nice new cladding. The inside also looked better than</p> <p>23 it had done previously. Basically it was just a walk</p> <p>24 around to familiarise ourselves with it."</p> <p>25 Then you go on to say in the third line on page 2:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p>   |
| <p>1 normally do is go to that statement on the screen and</p> <p>2 highlight bits that we look at together.</p> <p>3 Can I just ask you, first of all, about your</p> <p>4 statement. It's dated 22 January 2018. Have you read</p> <p>5 it recently?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes, recently, yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Subject to any questions and any further answers you</p> <p>8 have during the course of today, can you confirm that</p> <p>9 its contents are true?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Have you discussed your statement or the evidence that</p> <p>12 you're going to give to the inquiry with anybody before</p> <p>13 coming here today?</p> <p>14 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>16 Can I just begin, then, by asking you about your</p> <p>17 position and career.</p> <p>18 You have, I think, served in the London Fire Brigade</p> <p>19 for the last 22 years.</p> <p>20 <b>A. Correct, yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. So you joined in 1996, did you?</p> <p>22 <b>A. October 1995.</b></p> <p>23 Q. October 1995.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Mm.</b></p> <p>25 Q. And you've been at North Kensington on Red Watch for the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p>   | <p>1 "It's called a 72D check where we just go in there</p> <p>2 to familiarise ourselves with the building; not to say</p> <p>3 this is right or this is wrong."</p> <p>4 Now, just pausing there, do you remember when you</p> <p>5 did that visit?</p> <p>6 <b>A. The year before, approximately 12 months, I think.</b></p> <p>7 Q. We have a record which we looked at with Watch Manager</p> <p>8 Dowden of a visit done in July 2016. Would that be</p> <p>9 about right?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Do you remember who you visited with?</p> <p>12 <b>A. The only two people I remember are Watch Manager Dowden</b></p> <p>13 <b>and Crew Manager Batterbee, Charlie Batterbee.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Were there any particular issues that you were asked to</p> <p>15 look at on that visit?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Specifically at that time they were still doing</b></p> <p>17 <b>renovation work, so there was an issue where the inlet</b></p> <p>18 <b>for the dry riser would be, so how many lengths of hose</b></p> <p>19 <b>we'd need to get around scaffolding, et cetera. So</b></p> <p>20 <b>I know Watch Manager Dowden did a lot of investigation</b></p> <p>21 <b>on exactly what we'd have to do if we turned up then, it</b></p> <p>22 <b>would be different to how it used to be when we arrived</b></p> <p>23 <b>because of the refurb. So at that point we'd have</b></p> <p>24 <b>slightly different operational requirements.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> |

15 (Pages 57 to 60)

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| <p>1 Can you remember what things you did look at on that<br/>2 visit?</p> <p>3 <b>A. You check and identify a fire lift. You would check the<br/>4 stairways are clear, any fire exits. You'd look to see<br/>5 if fire doors are apparently operational. Make sure,<br/>6 essentially, that the dry riser is working, that it's in<br/>7 a red box, that there's a valve, it's not -- you know,<br/>8 it's working or appears to be working.</b></p> <p>9 <b>You don't check these things, but you kind of<br/>10 identify them. So it's not our job to check them<br/>11 because we're no longer qualified to do that.</b></p> <p>12 Q. You mentioned checking the lift; do you remember whether<br/>13 you actually did check the lift and see whether it was<br/>14 working as either a firefighting lift or a fire lift?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I don't think we are actually required to physically<br/>16 check it; I think we are supposed to identify it,<br/>17 which would be identified by a plate and also by a drop<br/>18 key hole in the wall, so we know we'd be able to use it<br/>19 as a firefighting lift. I don't think we're actually --<br/>20 we do, we have a tendency to do that, just to check that<br/>21 it's working.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did you check?</p> <p>23 <b>A. I can't remember on that occasion, but ordinarily we<br/>24 would.</b></p> <p>25 Q. What would that check ordinarily involve?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p>  | <p>1 Q. Did you discuss the building with anybody on that visit?</p> <p>2 <b>A. As in my colleagues, or ...?</b></p> <p>3 Q. Sorry, quite right. As in anybody from the building<br/>4 owner or the Tenant Management Organisation or the<br/>5 builders?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Watch Manager Dowden may well have spoken to someone in<br/>7 the building department, because they were still under<br/>8 renovation, so it's quite possible he would've spoken to<br/>9 them about works they were doing and what they were<br/>10 planning to do, et cetera. So quite possibly, but<br/>11 I wouldn't have done that myself personally.</b></p> <p>12 Q. In your experience, do you ever carry out a risk<br/>13 assessment as part of your visits to buildings?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Essentially, that's what a visit is: to assess any<br/>15 hazard and any risks. So I think, as I said in my<br/>16 statement, unless they have done something obvious,<br/>17 because we're no longer qualified to actually check<br/>18 things on a minute basis, so we're not obliged to check<br/>19 things, they don't teach us how to check things, it's<br/>20 more of a cursory inspection, the presupposition being<br/>21 it's already been inspected, it's up to standard as<br/>22 building regs and planning regs and health and safety<br/>23 executive regs would have it before we are actually<br/>24 inspecting it.</b></p> <p>25 <b>So what we're actually inspecting is: if you had</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> |
| <p>1 <b>A. Checking the fire lift, as in using the drop key,<br/>2 bringing the fire lift down to the ground floor to make<br/>3 sure we had control of it. Someone could get in and<br/>4 then press the buttons accordingly to make sure it would<br/>5 go on our command as opposed to a member of the public<br/>6 being able to call the lift as they needed to.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Casting your mind back to that visit in July 2016, do<br/>8 you remember whether you actually did that check in the<br/>9 way you've just described?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Again, I can't remember that specific -- that time, but<br/>11 ordinarily on our watch we tend to actually physically<br/>12 check the fire lift. Whether we did at that time or not<br/>13 a year previous to Grenfell Tower, I don't know.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Is there any reason why you wouldn't have checked the<br/>15 lift?</p> <p>16 <b>A. There's no reason why we wouldn't have.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Do you remember noticing anything or discussing anything<br/>18 with your colleagues you were visiting with that was out<br/>19 of the ordinary with the fire lift?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No. No. But, again, that's a year before the actual<br/>21 fire, so if we checked it on that date, there's nothing<br/>22 to say that it was still in full order on the night.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember whether anybody showed you round or<br/>24 accompanied you round on that trip?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I don't remember, no.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> | <p>1 <b>a fire here tomorrow, is there anything obvious that we<br/>2 can see that would impede our firefighting? That is<br/>3 what an inspection is for.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Do you know whether a risk assessment for Grenfell Tower<br/>5 was done after the refurbishment?</p> <p>6 <b>A. The risk assessment would've been carried out by Watch<br/>7 Manager Dowden. So I would risk assess on a personal<br/>8 level, as would my colleagues, as you would at a dynamic<br/>9 risk assessment. You would risk assess: is there<br/>10 anything as a firefighter I couldn't do here because of<br/>11 any particular hazard? But beyond that, no.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Do you remember who asked you to carry out the visit<br/>13 that you describe in your statement?</p> <p>14 <b>A. It would be Watch Manager Dowden. He would be -- it<br/>15 would come up every three to five years, I think, unless<br/>16 someone's had a specific complaint about the building,<br/>17 then we may inspect it on that basis.</b></p> <p>18 Q. But do you know or remember who was ultimately in charge<br/>19 at North Ken for asking for that visit to take place?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Were you provided with any documents setting out the<br/>22 instructions that you were asked to follow in respect of<br/>23 that visit?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No. Watch Manager Dowden would have documents with him<br/>25 and would ask us to check certain things. We do our own</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p>     |



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| <p>1 <b>checks based on experience and what we know of the</b></p> <p>2 <b>building.</b></p> <p>3 Q. When you were on site, do you remember having any</p> <p>4 discussion with the building owner or the contractor</p> <p>5 about building materials or construction?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Okay.</p> <p>8 Did you go into the building?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. How far did you go?</p> <p>11 <b>A. I can't remember. I can't remember.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Did you go into the inner lift lobbies?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes, we would've done, yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Do you remember whether there was any electronic key</p> <p>15 access that was required to get you inside the lift</p> <p>16 lobbies?</p> <p>17 <b>A. To a lobby area with the flats around?</b></p> <p>18 Q. Yes.</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, just a fire door.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Can I just ask you to look at a policy, London Fire</p> <p>21 Brigade policy 633, which is at tab 4 of the policies</p> <p>22 bundle. First of all, just to ask you by reference to</p> <p>23 its first page -- we'll put it up on the screen --</p> <p>24 whether you are familiar with it. This is policy number</p> <p>25 633.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p>  | <p>1 personnel should ensure that they're familiar with the</p> <p>2 things on that list?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Did you ever have any training about how to go about</p> <p>5 conducting a 7(2)(d) visit so that you, as a visiting</p> <p>6 person, ensure that you're familiar with the things on</p> <p>7 that list?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I think for operational firefighting, most of the list</b></p> <p>9 <b>would be self-explanatory, so you would understand, you</b></p> <p>10 <b>know, means of access and egress from the site and the</b></p> <p>11 <b>building. So if anything is impeding that, it would be</b></p> <p>12 <b>obvious and you would therefore report it to Watch</b></p> <p>13 <b>Manager Dowden.</b></p> <p>14 Q. When you went on your visit in the summer of 2016 to</p> <p>15 Grenfell Tower, did you take steps to ensure that you</p> <p>16 were familiar with the things on that list?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. All of them?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Most of them.</b></p> <p>20 Q. It's quite a long list, so that's a slightly unfair</p> <p>21 question.</p> <p>22 <b>A. It is quite a long list.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Casting your eye down them, taking some examples</p> <p>24 perhaps, a third of the way down:</p> <p>25 "Firefighting shafts, and protected lobby areas."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p>   |
| <p>1 Are you familiar with this policy?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Do you think you've had training on this policy?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Can you tell me roughly when was the last time before,</p> <p>6 first of all, your summer 2016 visit you had training on</p> <p>7 this policy?</p> <p>8 <b>A. I can't be specific about times, but it would've been</b></p> <p>9 <b>fairly regular throughout the year.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Would that mean also that you'd had training on this</p> <p>11 policy shortly before or in the months leading up to the</p> <p>12 fire at Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Okay. Can I just ask you to look at page 19, which is</p> <p>15 appendix 1, 7(2)(d). I just want to show it to you. It</p> <p>16 starts at paragraph 1 by saying:</p> <p>17 "During 7(2)(d) visits personnel should ensure that</p> <p>18 they are familiar with the following and their impact on</p> <p>19 firefighting and search and rescue operations ..."</p> <p>20 Then there's a long bullet-point list of things that</p> <p>21 the policy says you should ensure that you're familiar</p> <p>22 with.</p> <p>23 Are you familiar with that list?</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Are you familiar with the requirement that visiting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> | <p>1 On your visit, do you remember whether you took</p> <p>2 steps to ensure that you were familiar with those?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. You did?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. What did you do?</p> <p>7 <b>A. You'd visit the lobby, enter the lobby, make sure that</b></p> <p>8 <b>the fire doors separating the lobby from the stairwell</b></p> <p>9 <b>were -- we check their integrity, but we're not trained</b></p> <p>10 <b>to check the actual door fittings, et cetera, or</b></p> <p>11 <b>intumescent strips or anything, but basically it's</b></p> <p>12 <b>a door and it seems to be ostensibly performing its</b></p> <p>13 <b>function. You're checking for where things are, floor</b></p> <p>14 <b>layouts, and where the dry riser would be, where it</b></p> <p>15 <b>would be in an incident.</b></p> <p>16 Q. What did you understand was the firefighting shaft at</p> <p>17 Grenfell Tower when you visited it?</p> <p>18 <b>A. That would be the main protected stairwell. So that's</b></p> <p>19 <b>the firefighting shaft that you make your (inaudible)</b></p> <p>20 <b>from.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Did you examine the protected stairwell?</p> <p>22 <b>A. In as much as you can, yes.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember specifically whether you actually did?</p> <p>24 <b>A. We would've done that. I can't remember on that</b></p> <p>25 <b>occasion if we did, but, yes, I've been to Grenfell many</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> |

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| <p>1 times. We would've actually -- we would've done that.</p> <p>2 You'd have gone up the stairs, you'd have gone probably</p> <p>3 in the lift, tested up the stairs, tested a lobby,</p> <p>4 tested several lobby areas. Usually a crew will go up</p> <p>5 above to test comms for the crews below.</p> <p>6 Q. Right.</p> <p>7 Did you look at the next item down, the location and</p> <p>8 function of firefighting lifts? You said you checked</p> <p>9 the location; did you check the function of the</p> <p>10 firefighting lifts?</p> <p>11 A. As I said before, as a watch, we generally do. I think</p> <p>12 we're only required to actually familiarise ourselves</p> <p>13 with it because we're no longer actually qualified to</p> <p>14 actually inspect them, but, yes, we would ordinarily do</p> <p>15 that.</p> <p>16 Q. Looking at the next item:</p> <p>17 "The likelihood and impact of any fire spread beyond</p> <p>18 the compartment of origin and the potential for multiple</p> <p>19 rescues."</p> <p>20 On that visit, do you remember whether you checked</p> <p>21 to ensure you were familiar with that at Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>22 A. Yes, but there was nothing that would be extraordinary.</p> <p>23 Q. What did you do to check for the likelihood and impact</p> <p>24 of any fire spread beyond the compartment of origin?</p> <p>25 A. You would be looking at -- if you're looking at the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 69</p> | <p>1 Q. How did you go about satisfying yourself that the floor</p> <p>2 layout and the building construction features of</p> <p>3 Grenfell Tower when you visited it were such as to have</p> <p>4 a particular impact on firefighting and search and</p> <p>5 rescue?</p> <p>6 A. Can you say that again, please?</p> <p>7 Q. Let me ask it a different way. It was poorly phrased as</p> <p>8 a question.</p> <p>9 When you did your visit in the summer of 2016, what</p> <p>10 did you do to check the floor layouts and any building</p> <p>11 construction features to assess their impact on</p> <p>12 firefighting or search and rescue?</p> <p>13 A. You check the floor layout to see essentially where the</p> <p>14 flats are and how you would gain access to and from</p> <p>15 them.</p> <p>16 As far as checking for sandwich panels and</p> <p>17 timber-frame constructions, I didn't see any. If there</p> <p>18 were -- as I said in my statement, it was shiny new. It</p> <p>19 looked very good. The presupposition you have is that</p> <p>20 building have done their job properly. So you're really</p> <p>21 checking for any panels that may be a -- so they're</p> <p>22 not -- if I can explain it -- obviously faulty building</p> <p>23 construction is what we would be looking for. So if</p> <p>24 a room looks okay, I don't have any right or</p> <p>25 qualification to go around picturing apart a sandwich</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 71</p> |
| <p>1 external part of the building, if they had balconies, if</p> <p>2 the balconies, for example, had barbecues on them or</p> <p>3 they had toys and -- junk generally tends to be</p> <p>4 accumulated on balconies, so it is outside of the flat.</p> <p>5 Sometimes that can cause a hazard or fire spread</p> <p>6 upstairs.</p> <p>7 If you mean cladding, we wouldn't concern ourselves</p> <p>8 with cladding. We're not qualified to check cladding.</p> <p>9 We're not qualified. The chemical constitution of</p> <p>10 cladding, whether it's -- the presupposition would be</p> <p>11 that there would be nothing put on the outside of</p> <p>12 a building that would increase the likelihood of fire</p> <p>13 spread.</p> <p>14 Q. Just jumping to that, then, two bullet points down:</p> <p>15 "Floor layouts and any building construction</p> <p>16 features which may promote rapid or abnormal fire</p> <p>17 spread ..."</p> <p>18 And there are some examples.</p> <p>19 Just in terms of floor layouts and building</p> <p>20 construction features, did you carry out any checks</p> <p>21 during your visit in the summer of 2016 as to those</p> <p>22 matters, those features?</p> <p>23 A. Floor layouts, yes, hadn't spread. Can't remember</p> <p>24 checking the sandwich panels or timber-frame</p> <p>25 constructions. Can't remember any at all.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 70</p>  | <p>1 panel or a wall or checking if it's hollow or not.</p> <p>2 So essentially the lobby area looks clear, the doors</p> <p>3 to and from that seem to function, and the flats off</p> <p>4 that, the doors seem normal, so there's no further</p> <p>5 investigation would be done. We're just familiarising</p> <p>6 ourselves.</p> <p>7 Q. Did you actually go into the building, do you remember,</p> <p>8 and check flat front doors to see whether they had door</p> <p>9 closers on them?</p> <p>10 A. I can't remember doing that on that occasion.</p> <p>11 Q. Do you remember ever doing it?</p> <p>12 A. We used to do that, years ago, like 20 years ago, yes,</p> <p>13 inspections were far more in depth, but we're no longer</p> <p>14 qualified to do that, so it's been done elsewhere.</p> <p>15 Q. When did that stop?</p> <p>16 A. 15/20 years ago, maybe.</p> <p>17 Q. Just in terms of the visit you did in the summer of</p> <p>18 2016, are you saying you didn't actually check whether</p> <p>19 or not flat front doors had door closers on them?</p> <p>20 A. I can't remember checking them.</p> <p>21 Q. What about checking cold smoke seals on the insides of</p> <p>22 flat front doors?</p> <p>23 A. I can't remember checking them.</p> <p>24 Q. What about cold smoke seals on the doors leading from</p> <p>25 the lobbies to the protected stairwell?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 72</p>  |

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| <p>1 A. No, we wouldn't be qualified to check them. You can<br/> 2 familiarise yourself, see if they're there, but I don't<br/> 3 know if it's been fitted faultily or not. So for me to<br/> 4 say it's okay, I have no right, as a firefighter<br/> 5 operationally, to sanction the work of the builders.<br/> 6 The presupposition is that that's been done. That's<br/> 7 been privatised and put elsewhere. That's no longer<br/> 8 deemed our job.</p> <p>9 Q. Did you check the location of the dry riser outlets?</p> <p>10 A. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q. Did you form a view about whether they would have<br/> 12 an impact on firefighting or search and rescue<br/> 13 operations?</p> <p>14 A. To be honest, Grenfell Tower is good in that they are<br/> 15 inside the lobby. So in that respect, you can fight the<br/> 16 fire slightly differently, as I come to later in my<br/> 17 statement, which explains why we set in on the fire<br/> 18 floor, because the lobby itself becomes a compartment.<br/> 19 You don't have to wedge the door open with hose coming<br/> 20 up from the floor below. That is inherently dangerous<br/> 21 to the stairwell, the protected fire shaft. So at<br/> 22 Grenfell Tower, they're in a good position.</p> <p>23 Q. We'll come back to that in due course.</p> <p>24 Just jumping up -- I missed it out, "Occupancy and<br/> 25 use profile", did you check the occupancy and use</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> | <p>1 A. We did mention that there's no longer a fire alarm, so<br/> 2 because there's no longer a fire alarm, it would be very<br/> 3 difficult to have a phased evacuation or any kind of<br/> 4 evacuation because you can't simultaneously raise the<br/> 5 residents, especially at nighttime, with a fire alarm.<br/> 6 So many years, maybe 20 years ago, Grenfell Tower did<br/> 7 have one. I think it was taken out in this refurb.</p> <p>8 Q. When you say simultaneous fire alarm, do you mean a fire<br/> 9 alarm that worked throughout the building?</p> <p>10 A. Yes, because we used to go to automatic fire alarms<br/> 11 actuated at Grenfell Tower.</p> <p>12 Q. Do you have a particular recollection of there being<br/> 13 an automatic fire alarm throughout the building in your<br/> 14 time?</p> <p>15 A. Yes, 20 years ago, yes.</p> <p>16 Q. Do you remember when it was removed roughly?</p> <p>17 A. No.</p> <p>18 Q. You said you thought with the refurbishment.</p> <p>19 A. Quite possibly. I noticed it during the -- it was<br/> 20 noticeable that there were no sprinklers, it was<br/> 21 noticeable that there was no fire alarm in the lobbies,<br/> 22 so ...</p> <p>23 Q. You say it was noticeable there were no sprinklers; had<br/> 24 there ever been sprinklers at Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>25 A. No.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p>   |
| <p>1 profile when you visited in the summer of 2016?</p> <p>2 A. I think that's the kind of thing the watch manager<br/> 3 would've done. He would've spoke to -- if there's<br/> 4 a concierge -- there used to be a concierge, but there<br/> 5 isn't anymore. So if there's a way of checking that,<br/> 6 that would be the watch manager more than me.</p> <p>7 Q. Right.</p> <p>8 If you look a little bit further down, seven or so<br/> 9 bullet points up from the bottom:</p> <p>10 "Means of ventilation and smoke control including<br/> 11 location of operating switches."</p> <p>12 Do you remember whether on that visit you or your<br/> 13 colleagues checked the means of ventilation and smoke<br/> 14 control?</p> <p>15 A. Again, that is -- we knew it was a ventilated shaft, but<br/> 16 in the event of a fire, it would not be a firefighter<br/> 17 who would operate that. So, no, that would be a watch<br/> 18 manager and above.</p> <p>19 Q. Right. And the next one:</p> <p>20 "Evacuation arrangements which may include phased<br/> 21 evacuation."</p> <p>22 Do you remember whether you familiarised yourselves<br/> 23 with the evacuation arrangements at Grenfell Tower and<br/> 24 their impact on firefighting and search and rescue<br/> 25 operations?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p>  | <p>1 Q. But I think you say with an automatic fire alarm or an<br/> 2 integrated fire alarm, there had been; is that right?</p> <p>3 A. No, no, there had never been sprinklers, but we'd heard<br/> 4 it was an expensive refurb, because it looked, as I said<br/> 5 in my statement, shiny and new, the outside had been all<br/> 6 cladded, it looked very good from the outside. But from<br/> 7 a firefighting point of view, they didn't seem to have<br/> 8 spent the money on fire alarm systems and sprinklers,<br/> 9 which arguably we would say they should've done.</p> <p>10 Q. All right.</p> <p>11 Just going back to evacuation arrangements, you said<br/> 12 that because there was now no automated fire alarm<br/> 13 system, you couldn't have phased evacuation. Is that --</p> <p>14 A. Yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Have I got that right?</p> <p>16 A. Yes.</p> <p>17 Q. But in terms of evacuation arrangements, did you<br/> 18 familiarise yourselves on that visit with what the<br/> 19 evacuation arrangements were at Grenfell Tower?</p> <p>20 A. No, it would be -- because there's only one stairwell,<br/> 21 so evacuation would have to be via that stairwell.</p> <p>22 Q. Right. Did you think about how that might impact on<br/> 23 firefighting and search and rescue operations in the<br/> 24 event of a fire?</p> <p>25 A. It will make it incredibly difficult, as it did on that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> |

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| <p>1 <b>night. So if you have 200 residents coming down</b></p> <p>2 <b>a stairwell which is not much wider than a domestic</b></p> <p>3 <b>staircase, it would be almost impossible for</b></p> <p>4 <b>firefighters to get up to (a) fight a fire or (b) help</b></p> <p>5 <b>people who are stranded.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Is that view that you just told us about, that it would</p> <p>7 make it incredibly difficult, a view you had at the time</p> <p>8 of the visit? Do you remember having that thought at</p> <p>9 that time?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Was that something that you reported to your station</p> <p>12 manager?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Without sounding facetious, it was self-evident. It was</b></p> <p>14 <b>obvious. So a lot of residents, narrow staircase. For</b></p> <p>15 <b>there to be an evacuation, there's certain formulae</b></p> <p>16 <b>available. If you're building a building, you'd have a</b></p> <p>17 <b>staircase, so many people, so many rooms, the staircase</b></p> <p>18 <b>would have to be this wide to allow ingress of</b></p> <p>19 <b>firefighters, egress of residents.</b></p> <p>20 <b>So Grenfell Tower was made in the 1950s, I think, so</b></p> <p>21 <b>clearly you can't magic up a second stairwell, you have</b></p> <p>22 <b>to work with what you have. Grenfell Tower was not</b></p> <p>23 <b>particularly suited to evacuation.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Right.</p> <p>25 Three bullets points on, "Potential communications</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> | <p>1 <b>A. Shepherd's Bush Court, yes, yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Were you called out to the fire?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. You were. Was that at the same time as</p> <p>5 Charlie Batterbee and Mike Dowden?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes. We were probably posted at different stations that</b></p> <p>7 <b>day, but yes.</b></p> <p>8 Q. What was the experience you took away from the fire at</p> <p>9 Shepherds Court?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I was in, I think, the first fire flat. We were damping</b></p> <p>11 <b>down. It was a very intense fire. You could tell by</b></p> <p>12 <b>the damage done to the compartment we were in. But</b></p> <p>13 <b>essentially, Shepherds Court was not extraordinary. It</b></p> <p>14 <b>was extraordinary in that it jumped one or two floors,</b></p> <p>15 <b>and I believe that was by the window, by the windows it</b></p> <p>16 <b>jumped upwards, but in many ways -- we stopped the fire</b></p> <p>17 <b>on the second or third floor, so it wasn't deemed</b></p> <p>18 <b>extraordinary in that we'd managed to do the job.</b></p> <p>19 I would say in many ways -- and I've heard you</p> <p>20 mention it before in other people's evidence -- it was</p> <p>21 a vindication of compartment firefighting. The first</p> <p>22 compartment was alight, apparently set fire to the upper</p> <p>23 compartment via a window, which is usually the point</p> <p>24 where a compartment would fail. We therefore moved up,</p> <p>25 got crews inside, extinguished that fire. It moved up</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> |
| <p>1 problems" is on the list as well.</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. You see that is highlighted.</p> <p>4 When you went on your familiarisation visit, did you</p> <p>5 take any steps to ensure you were familiar with any</p> <p>6 particular comms problems?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Usually we'll send a team further up in the lift, in the</b></p> <p>8 <b>lift lobby, and we will have communications between</b></p> <p>9 <b>someone on level 2 and level 15 or whatever.</b></p> <p>10 <b>Also, on jobs we've had at Grenfell Tower, I've</b></p> <p>11 <b>never noticed any particular comms issues.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Okay. On the visit, did you actually do a comms test?</p> <p>13 <b>A. We would've done, yes. I don't remember doing it on</b></p> <p>14 <b>that visit, but we almost certainly would've done.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Right. What was the result, do you remember?</p> <p>16 <b>A. There was nothing unusual.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Right.</p> <p>18 Now, you mentioned earlier on in your evidence this</p> <p>19 morning cladding.</p> <p>20 At the time of your visit, July 2016, did you</p> <p>21 yourself or your colleagues, to your knowledge, have any</p> <p>22 thoughts about what risks to Grenfell Tower the exterior</p> <p>23 cladding might have posed?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No, absolutely none.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Have you heard of a fire at Shepherds Court?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p>  | <p>1 <b>again, we repeated the process and moved up.</b></p> <p>2 <b>So whilst it can be seen similar in that there was</b></p> <p>3 <b>fire spread -- obviously nothing as aggressive as</b></p> <p>4 <b>Grenfell Tower -- we managed to control that fire within</b></p> <p>5 <b>a short space of time, despite it being quite violent.</b></p> <p>6 Q. After Shepherds Court, do you remember ever getting any</p> <p>7 training on the lessons learnt as a result of that fire?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Do you remember any intelligence or even chit-chat or</p> <p>10 gossip around the mess table about the lessons learnt at</p> <p>11 Shepherds Court?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No, nothing, no.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Did anybody give you any training or issue any guidance</p> <p>14 or intelligence after Shepherds Court about the need to</p> <p>15 understand what products are being used in a facade</p> <p>16 system on a high-rise block?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No, none whatsoever.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did anybody tell you that new construction material or</p> <p>19 methods of construction being used in facades was</p> <p>20 something on which the London Fire Brigade had a limited</p> <p>21 understanding in terms of their fire behaviour or</p> <p>22 performance?</p> <p>23 <b>A. No. We had no understanding at all at watch level.</b></p> <p>24 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: How are you feeling? Are you</b></p> <p>25 <b>content to keep going?</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p>   |

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| <p>1 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>2 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR MILLETT: While I'm on the subject of training, if I can</p> <p>4 just go back to that, on page 2 of your statement, you</p> <p>5 say, six lines down from the top:</p> <p>6 "With regard to training for high-rise fires we do</p> <p>7 standard drills. We have a procedure that we practice</p> <p>8 now and again, practice it almost every high-rise we go</p> <p>9 to, just AFA's (Automatic Fire Alarm systems), nothing</p> <p>10 unusual."</p> <p>11 Then you go on to explain drills with ladders and</p> <p>12 the bridgehead.</p> <p>13 Can you just explain what the standard procedure</p> <p>14 you're referring to involves, standard drills?</p> <p>15 <b>A. As regards high-rise?</b></p> <p>16 Q. As regards high-rise, yes.</p> <p>17 <b>A. High-rise procedure is essentially, as I'm sure you've</b></p> <p>18 <b>heard before, setting up a bridgehead of equipment.</b></p> <p>19 <b>Usually it will be two floors below the fire floor when</b></p> <p>20 <b>the fire floor is identified. Then the equipment entry</b></p> <p>21 <b>control board, hose, branch, firefighters, crew</b></p> <p>22 <b>manager -- everything's assembled at that bridgehead.</b></p> <p>23 <b>That is in safe air two floors below. The BA crew will</b></p> <p>24 <b>set in one floor below the fire floor and move up. The</b></p> <p>25 <b>second crew will go in on the fire floor to back them</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 81</p>  | <p>1 in the months or years prior to Grenfell Tower, about</p> <p>2 what to do in terms of firefighting strategy if the fire</p> <p>3 should break out of its initial compartment and start to</p> <p>4 spread?</p> <p>5 <b>A. As in with Shepherds Court, we would move to the</b></p> <p>6 <b>compartment above, send a BA crew in there and</b></p> <p>7 <b>extinguish the fire in the compartment above.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Was that part of your training?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Okay.</p> <p>11 Did you have any training about what alternatives to</p> <p>12 look for in terms of evacuation and search and rescue if</p> <p>13 a fire broke out of its compartment and started to</p> <p>14 spread?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Beyond -- no. We're not trained in evacuation, no.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Right.</p> <p>17 You say on page 2, about halfway down the first main</p> <p>18 paragraph:</p> <p>19 "I'd attended quite a few high rise fires before but</p> <p>20 nothing out of the ordinary. I've had one or two that</p> <p>21 have spread to the floor above where windows were open</p> <p>22 or you were just a bit unlucky or there were extenuating</p> <p>23 circumstances."</p> <p>24 In those instances, what high-rise firefighting</p> <p>25 procedures did you follow?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 83</p>                              |
| <p>1 <b>up, set into a dry riser/wet riser.</b></p> <p>2 Q. When did you last practise high-rise procedure drills</p> <p>3 prior to Grenfell Tower, prior to the fire in June 2017?</p> <p>4 <b>A. We'd have done simulations in the months before, several</b></p> <p>5 <b>times a year, so I imagine before that.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Right. Did you undergo refresher training in relation</p> <p>7 to high-rise firefighting --</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. -- in that period? You did.</p> <p>10 And did that training cover what I might call the</p> <p>11 stay-put policy?</p> <p>12 <b>A. The stay-put policy I think is talked about a lot now,</b></p> <p>13 <b>but as firefighters, we talk more of compartment</b></p> <p>14 <b>firefighting. So the instruction given to the members</b></p> <p>15 <b>of the public is to stay put. That's not a Fire Brigade</b></p> <p>16 <b>policy; it's a policy borne out of building control.</b></p> <p>17 <b>You build a building so it's made of compartments, the</b></p> <p>18 <b>compartments compartmentalise the fire, and therefore it</b></p> <p>19 <b>gives us time to fight the fire. If the Fire Brigade</b></p> <p>20 <b>had a policy on high-rise firefighting, we'd have two</b></p> <p>21 <b>staircases, smoke alarms, fire alarms, sprinklers, but</b></p> <p>22 <b>because that's deemed financially not feasible, this is</b></p> <p>23 <b>what we do. So we talk more in context of compartment</b></p> <p>24 <b>firefighting.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Did you have any training at any stage, but particularly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 82</p> | <p>1 <b>A. The same procedure as was put in place in Shepherds</b></p> <p>2 <b>Court, so you insert a BA crew in the compartment above</b></p> <p>3 <b>to extinguish the fire. Usually it is through open</b></p> <p>4 <b>windows, summertime. So that's usually what we do.</b></p> <p>5 Q. At Shepherds Court, were there sector commanders in</p> <p>6 place?</p> <p>7 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>8 Q. You don't know. Okay.</p> <p>9 In the instances that you refer to in your</p> <p>10 statement, was the advice, do you remember, to residents</p> <p>11 to remain in their flats or something else?</p> <p>12 <b>A. It would've been. I don't remember any mass evacuations</b></p> <p>13 <b>occurring at all.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Do you have any memory or recollection?</p> <p>15 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Going back to Grenfell Tower and the visit that you did</p> <p>17 in 2016 or so, and still on the subject of evacuation,</p> <p>18 do you remember what, at that visit, you learnt about</p> <p>19 what the standing advice to residents was in the event</p> <p>20 of a fire?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I don't remember anything specific to Grenfell Tower,</b></p> <p>22 <b>no.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Okay.</p> <p>24 Could you be shown, please, tab 12 of the documents</p> <p>25 bundle, which is BLA00002416.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 84</p> |

1 That is a photograph of a notice taken from within  
 2 Grenfell Tower in the lift lobby on, we believe, the  
 3 third floor. It's not that easy to read, but just  
 4 looking at it, Mr Dorgu, are you familiar with that as  
 5 a notice that you saw or might have seen during your  
 6 visit in the summer of 2016?  
 7 **A. Familiar with them, yes.**  
 8 Q. Does it trigger a recollection?  
 9 **A. No, no actual recollection, no.**  
 10 Q. It doesn't. Okay.  
 11 It says in the middle:  
 12 "If you are safely within your flat & there is  
 13 a fire elsewhere in the block.  
 14 "You should initially be safe to stay in your flat  
 15 keeping the doors and windows closed.  
 16 "On arrival the Fire Brigade will make an assessment  
 17 and will assist with evacuation if required.  
 18 "If you wish to evacuate, leave closing the door  
 19 behind you and use the staircase to exit the building."  
 20 In your experience, was that common advice to give  
 21 to residents of tower blocks in the area of London you  
 22 were serving?  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 MR MILLETT: Okay.  
 25 I want to turn now to another topic, which is the

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1 first call-out to Grenfell Tower that you deal with in  
 2 your statement in paragraph 2 on page 2.  
 3 Mr Chairman, I propose that we continue, if it's all  
 4 right with the witness, for another 15 or so minutes.  
 5 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes.  
 6 THE WITNESS: That's fine.  
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Shall we see how we go? If you need  
 8 a break, tell me, otherwise we'll run on until somewhere  
 9 towards 1 o'clock, subject to how the witness feels?  
 10 MR MILLETT: Very good, yes.  
 11 Now, on page 2, in the second paragraph, of which  
 12 there are only two, you say:  
 13 "On Tuesday 13th June 2017 I was on duty from 2000  
 14 hours on Red Watch at north Kensington Fire Station on  
 15 Ladbroke Grove. It was a bog standard night checking  
 16 equipment. When the call came in, I believe it was at  
 17 six minutes to one o'clock in the morning ..."  
 18 Do you remember that or --  
 19 **A. No.**  
 20 Q. -- is that a time you have got from somewhere else?  
 21 **A. No, I know that from just -- I just know that, as in**  
 22 **subsequently.**  
 23 Q. Okay. And you then go on to say:  
 24 "... I presume I was asleep. I got ready and got on  
 25 the truck. I didn't look at the message for the call as

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1 this wasn't my job to do so."  
 2 Whose job was it to look at that message?  
 3 **A. That would be the duty man, duty person. So they would**  
 4 **tear off the teleprinter message, find out where they're**  
 5 **going, give it to the drivers, make sure they know where**  
 6 **they're going and then we get on the trucks.**  
 7 Q. Do you remember who did that?  
 8 **A. No.**  
 9 Q. You go on to say:  
 10 "The call was to a fire in a flat, fridge freezer  
 11 alight and I was detailed to ride pump G272."  
 12 Do you remember who gave you the information that it  
 13 was "a fire in a flat, fridge freezer alight"?  
 14 **A. It would be the crew manager, Chris Secrett.**  
 15 Q. Did he say that to you or did you read it?  
 16 **A. He would've said that to me, yes.**  
 17 Q. Do you remember that?  
 18 **A. No.**  
 19 Q. Or are you --  
 20 **A. No.**  
 21 Q. -- imagining?  
 22 **A. I am presupposing what would ordinarily happen on**  
 23 **a shout, on a fire call, so that's what he would do so**  
 24 **we know what we're doing.**  
 25 Q. You say in your statement "fridge freezer alight".

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1 Casting your mind back to what Chris Secrett told you,  
 2 are you sure or confident he used the words "fridge  
 3 freezer"?  
 4 **A. No.**  
 5 Q. What do you remember?  
 6 **A. It might have been a fridge or a freezer or a fridge**  
 7 **freezer. I don't know.**  
 8 Q. Now, you were on G272. That's the pump.  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 Q. Can you remember who else you were with?  
 11 **A. Chris Secrett, Crew Manager, Tom Abell driving, I think,**  
 12 **Justin O'Beirne and Alex De St Aubin, I think.**  
 13 Q. You then go on to say that it took only a few minutes to  
 14 get there with no real chat on the way.  
 15 Does G272 have a mobile data terminal on it?  
 16 **A. Yes.**  
 17 Q. Did anybody in the cab look at the information contained  
 18 on the mobile data terminal about the building you were  
 19 going to, do you remember?  
 20 **A. Sorry, say that again, please.**  
 21 Q. Did anybody in the cab in G272 look at the mobile --  
 22 **A. Only Crew Manager Secrett.**  
 23 Q. Do you remember him looking?  
 24 **A. I can't vouch for that. He would've done, but because**  
 25 **it's directly in front of him, we can't see it in the**

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22 (Pages 85 to 88)

|  |   |
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| <p>1 <b>back. We don't have access to it.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did he give you any kind of briefing en route?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Not that I remember.</b></p> <p>4 Q. You then go on to say two lines down:</p> <p>5 "Access to the tower was unimpeded. We parked</p> <p>6 directly in front of the tower by the front doors about</p> <p>7 thirty or forty feet away."</p> <p>8 Where was that in relation to G271, do you remember?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Directly behind them, I think. I think they arrived</b></p> <p>10 <b>seconds before us. We were following them, so I'm</b></p> <p>11 <b>pretty sure pump ladder was in front.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Who was closer to the dry rising inlet, do you remember?</p> <p>13 <b>A. By a few feet, the pump ladder, I'd imagine.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Were you further away from the tower or nearer the tower</p> <p>15 than G271?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Almost parallel to it, so equidistant, really.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Now, you say, three lines up from the bottom:</p> <p>18 "We were first there and set out hoses and water."</p> <p>19 Do you remember who set out the hoses on the ground</p> <p>20 at that point?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Did you plug G272 into a hydrant?</p> <p>23 <b>A. No. The hoses I set up would be in the building. I did</b></p> <p>24 <b>nothing outside the building at all.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Do you know what happened with G272 in terms of hoses</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 89</p> | <p>1 <b>A. No, not at that time.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Which side of the tower did you look at?</p> <p>3 <b>A. South side.</b></p> <p>4 Q. So you didn't get to look at the east face at all on</p> <p>5 arrival?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No, no.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Okay.</p> <p>8 At the bottom of page 2 of your statement you say:</p> <p>9 "A guy outside was screaming that his fridge was on</p> <p>10 fire. He was not English but he was speaking English</p> <p>11 clearly."</p> <p>12 Did anybody confirm that with him?</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Who was that?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Me.</b></p> <p>16 Q. You did?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Can you just give us an idea of the conversation, how</p> <p>19 did it go?</p> <p>20 <b>A. The conversation would've gone as -- if I see someone</b></p> <p>21 <b>who is traumatised, their flat is on fire, the first</b></p> <p>22 <b>thing you want to know is: where is the flat? Which</b></p> <p>23 <b>flat is it? So regardless of how many people are in it,</b></p> <p>24 <b>what's burning, you have to know the location of the</b></p> <p>25 <b>fire because that dictates everything that follows.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 91</p>  |
| <p>1 and water supply?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No, no idea.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Do you know whether G272 was actually connected to water</p> <p>4 supply at that stage?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Don't know, actually. I don't know.</b></p> <p>6 Q. You had explained, I think, that you had been detailed</p> <p>7 to ride G272. Was your role detailed at roll call?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. That's at the start of a watch, isn't it?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. And what was your role on that night, do you remember?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I think I was breathing apparatus crew. I cannot</b></p> <p>13 <b>remember any of the duties I had.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Okay.</p> <p>15 On arrival at Grenfell Tower, what did you see?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Nothing extraordinary, at first. No fire, no smoke.</b></p> <p>17 <b>Until a gentleman came out and spoke directly to me and</b></p> <p>18 <b>said his flat was on fire.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Did you look up at the tower, do you remember?</p> <p>20 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>21 Q. What did you see?</p> <p>22 <b>A. Nothing. Nothing extraordinary.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Nothing at all?</p> <p>24 <b>A. No, didn't see anything extraordinary.</b></p> <p>25 Q. Could you not even see a fire?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 90</p>   | <p>1 <b>I asked him, secondly: is anybody in there? Has he</b></p> <p>2 <b>any family members there? Anybody sleeping? Anybody</b></p> <p>3 <b>with any mobility problems? He said there was no one in</b></p> <p>4 <b>there. I asked him what was on fire. He said it was</b></p> <p>5 <b>his fridge. And got any other information I could from</b></p> <p>6 <b>him as to what he'd done. He said he'd shut the doors</b></p> <p>7 <b>and windows and come out. He left his flat straight</b></p> <p>8 <b>away and left immediately. I think he was still on the</b></p> <p>9 <b>phone to control.</b></p> <p>10 Q. I see. So when you spoke to him, he was on the</p> <p>11 telephone, was he?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I think you have a recording of my voice speaking to</b></p> <p>13 <b>him.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Yes.</p> <p>15 I just wonder whether we can play that. I wonder</p> <p>16 whether, Mr Documents Manager, you could play the audio</p> <p>17 of the call.</p> <p>18 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Mr Millett, before we do that,</p> <p>19 I think you ought to explain to Mr Dorgu what you are</p> <p>20 going to do and what he is going to hear in case it's</p> <p>21 going to cause some difficulty.</p> <p>22 MR MILLETT: I will certainly do that.</p> <p>23 Mr Dorgu, what I was proposing to do now was to play</p> <p>24 the audio of a call that Mr Kebede, who is the tenant of</p> <p>25 flat 16, made to control, and we have it timed at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 92</p> |

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|---|--|
| <p>1 01.00.21.</p> <p>2 First of all, are you okay to hear an audio call of</p> <p>3 that night?</p> <p>4 <b>A. I think so, yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Yes?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. If at any stage you're not happy, just signal and we'll</p> <p>8 stop.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Thank you.</b></p> <p>10 MR MILLETT: I don't think this requires a trigger warning</p> <p>11 because there's no visual, but I'll give it anyway.</p> <p>12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, maybe for the witness, but</p> <p>13 just help me understand how this witness can help when</p> <p>14 he has heard the call?</p> <p>15 MR MILLETT: I might be able to identify whether it was him</p> <p>16 who we can hear in the background.</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Is that going to be helpful?</p> <p>18 MR MILLETT: It's really not a matter for me to say.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Well, true, ultimately it's not,</p> <p>20 but --</p> <p>21 MR MILLETT: But it may complete a picture. It may</p> <p>22 complete -- well, what we'll do then, let's press on and</p> <p>23 I'll think about it over the lunch break. I am</p> <p>24 encountering some resistance.</p> <p>25 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We may have to come back to this,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 93</p>   | <p>1 Now, can you remember how many residents you saw</p> <p>2 leaving?</p> <p>3 <b>A. No. Maybe a handful, two or three, nothing</b></p> <p>4 <b>extraordinary. Nothing that would make you think</b></p> <p>5 <b>something major was happening.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Where were they, do you remember?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Coming out of the main door, leaving down the stairs.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Do you remember whether at that stage -- well, what</p> <p>9 condition were they in at that stage?</p> <p>10 <b>A. They were fine. They were fine.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 You then say in your statement, going back to it, in</p> <p>13 the second line:</p> <p>14 "Therefore, there was nothing unusual. I went up to</p> <p>15 the fourth floor and found which flat it was by feeling</p> <p>16 that the front door was warm. I don't recall there</p> <p>17 being any smoke at this point. I think it was flat 116</p> <p>18 on the fourth floor."</p> <p>19 Now, first of all, that number, 116 --</p> <p>20 <b>A. It's wrong. Flat 16, apologies.</b></p> <p>21 Q. How did you get to the fourth floor do, you remember?</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, no.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Do you remember whether you took the stairs or the lift?</p> <p>24 <b>A. I thought I took the stairs but apparently there's</b></p> <p>25 <b>footage of me in a lift, I think.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 95</p> |
| <p>1 Mr Dorgu, but there again we may not.</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Do you know which other firefighter was with</p> <p>3 you when you had your conversation with the individual?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Possibly Watch Manager Dowden was close by, possibly</b></p> <p>5 <b>behind me.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Okay.</p> <p>7 Now, in your contemporaneous notes that you made</p> <p>8 just after the incident -- can I just ask you to look at</p> <p>9 those. They are three pages in length and I just want</p> <p>10 to show you page 1. That's the first page of your</p> <p>11 contemporaneous notes?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Can you read them?</b></p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>15 MR MILLETT: We'll highlight the bit I want to ask you</p> <p>16 about.</p> <p>17 If you go down the page, you say:</p> <p>18 "On arrival [this is there just in the middle]</p> <p>19 residents were leaving and a man said ..."</p> <p>20 Well, perhaps you could read that for us.</p> <p>21 <b>A. "On arrival residents were leaving and a man said it's</b></p> <p>22 <b>on the 4th floor flat 16, said his fridge was alight.</b></p> <p>23 <b>He said no one was in the flat."</b></p> <p>24 Q. Right. What I wanted to ask you about was residents</p> <p>25 leaving.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 94</p> | <p>1 Q. Yes. Well, let's just work this through.</p> <p>2 <b>A. I don't know.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Are you okay to look at CCTV stills?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Okay. Can we start with tab 1, which is CCTV camera 4</p> <p>6 at 01.01.16, subject to adjustment, which is</p> <p>7 INQ00000120.</p> <p>8 Do you think you can identify yourself in that</p> <p>9 picture?</p> <p>10 <b>A. That's me, yes.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Well, which one?</p> <p>12 <b>A. The middle one.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Right. Carrying what?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Enforcer in my right hand, halligan bar in my left hand.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Right. Okay. So that's a halligan bar in your left</p> <p>16 hand, is it?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Right. Again, just to remind us, what's the difference</p> <p>19 between an enforcer and a halligan bar?</p> <p>20 <b>A. An enforcer is basically a small battering ram,</b></p> <p>21 <b>a handheld battering ram. You can see it in my right</b></p> <p>22 <b>hand. You hold it with two hands and you smash into the</b></p> <p>23 <b>doorframe with the door drawn.</b></p> <p>24 <b>A halligan bar is basically a long bar, like</b></p> <p>25 <b>a jemmy, but it has an adze at one end, a claw -- like</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 96</p>  |



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| <p>1 <b>a flat tongue at one end. You can wedge open a door.</b></p> <p>2 <b>It's quite handy. You can break hinges with it. So</b></p> <p>3 <b>it's different ways of breaking entry, basically.</b></p> <p>4 Q. So you do less damage with a halligan bar than you do</p> <p>5 with an enforcer?</p> <p>6 <b>A. You would, yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Right. Okay.</p> <p>8 Then the next picture is at 01.01.19, which is</p> <p>9 INQ00000121.</p> <p>10 I think we can identify you off the picture.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>12 Q. But you'll probably do better than we will.</p> <p>13 <b>A. So I'm the second one from the bottom.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Again, with the enforcer in your right hand. That's at</p> <p>15 01.01.19.</p> <p>16 Then the next one is 01.01.58, which is INQ00000122,</p> <p>17 starting to enter the lift.</p> <p>18 <b>A. I would say I am second from the left.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Right. So second from the end of the queue going into</p> <p>20 the lift?</p> <p>21 <b>A. There, yes.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Then the next one is CAT, the camera lift, 01.02.15 or</p> <p>23 thereabouts, which is INQ00000123. Now, that's rather</p> <p>24 a difficult picture to make sense of. Can you remember</p> <p>25 being in the lift in that sort of crush?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>   | <p>1 Did you not stop on the second floor?</p> <p>2 <b>A. I would have dumped my equipment at the bridgehead on</b></p> <p>3 <b>the second floor and then moved to the fourth floor. So</b></p> <p>4 <b>the guys would've come out the lift the same time as me,</b></p> <p>5 <b>if indeed we travelled separately, and we would've</b></p> <p>6 <b>dumped our equipment in the same place.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Do you remember whether there was anybody at the second</p> <p>8 floor when you arrived there on your way up to the</p> <p>9 fourth floor?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No. No. But I remember -- I would've spoken directly</b></p> <p>11 <b>to Crew Manager Secrett to tell him what I was doing,</b></p> <p>12 <b>so -- yeah.</b></p> <p>13 Q. That was my next question: you think you told Crew</p> <p>14 Manager Secrett you were going to the fourth?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes, without a doubt, yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. And you left him on the second, setting up the</p> <p>17 bridgehead, did you, and went to the fourth? Is that</p> <p>18 right?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes, that's right, sorry, yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. I don't want to suggest to you what happened, but was</p> <p>21 that --</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, that's right. Chris Secrett would've set up the</b></p> <p>23 <b>bridgehead.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Now, in your statement you say, four lines down from the</p> <p>25 top of page 3:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>  |
| <p>1 <b>A. No. No --</b></p> <p>2 Q. No.</p> <p>3 <b>A. -- to be honest.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Impossible question, but do you think you might be able</p> <p>5 to identify yourself in there?</p> <p>6 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>7 Q. I didn't think you could. All right.</p> <p>8 Last one, there's CCTV 18, 01.02.59, INQ00000124,</p> <p>9 which is exit from the lift.</p> <p>10 <b>A. It would be -- I would say the ones either side are crew</b></p> <p>11 <b>managers, so that's Batterbee and Secrett. The one in</b></p> <p>12 <b>the middle is Dave, because he's small. The one nearest</b></p> <p>13 <b>doesn't look like me because the torch is slightly</b></p> <p>14 <b>different, and I think they're wearing a BA set. So I'm</b></p> <p>15 <b>not sure I was in that lift.</b></p> <p>16 Q. So by a process of elimination, having shown you those</p> <p>17 pictures and doing the best you can, how do you think</p> <p>18 you got to the fourth floor?</p> <p>19 <b>A. The likelihood is that I walked because I don't like</b></p> <p>20 <b>lifts. We have a lot of people trapped in lifts and</b></p> <p>21 <b>they just tend to be unreliable. So given the choice,</b></p> <p>22 <b>I would tend to walk three or four flights myself. And</b></p> <p>23 <b>I wasn't carrying heavy equipment, so it was easy to go</b></p> <p>24 <b>up the stairs.</b></p> <p>25 Q. You say in your statement you went to the fourth floor.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> | <p>1 "I plugged into the dry-riser as it was a protected</p> <p>2 stairwell. I think we set-in on the fourth and also</p> <p>3 plugged in on the third."</p> <p>4 Which did you do first?</p> <p>5 <b>A. We did the fourth floor first, because I went up to</b></p> <p>6 <b>check the flat, to make sure it's the right flat.</b></p> <p>7 Q. So just slowly walk me through what you did. You get to</p> <p>8 the fourth floor.</p> <p>9 <b>A. Okay. Dumped my equipment at the second floor, because</b></p> <p>10 <b>I'm not using breaking-in equipment by myself to open</b></p> <p>11 <b>a fire door by myself. So I then made my way up to the</b></p> <p>12 <b>fourth floor. The most important thing is to find out</b></p> <p>13 <b>the location of the fire. You look on the fire doors to</b></p> <p>14 <b>the fourth-floor lobby, there's smoke panels, glass</b></p> <p>15 <b>panels, reinforced glass, which allow you to see the</b></p> <p>16 <b>conditions inside the lobby. Completely clear,</b></p> <p>17 <b>absolutely fine.</b></p> <p>18 Walked in, moved down to the right. Located the</p> <p>19 door. It was 16, as the man had told me. The door</p> <p>20 wasn't hot, it was maybe a little bit warm around the</p> <p>21 middle, but I could smell smoke. Couldn't see any</p> <p>22 smoke, but I could smell smoke, burning. Therefore</p> <p>23 I didn't check the letterbox or anything else, I just</p> <p>24 knew it was that flat.</p> <p>25 <b>Confirmed to the guys by radio: this is the flat,</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> |

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| <p>1 <b>it's 16, fourth floor. Ran down. Dave Badillo and</b></p> <p>2 <b>Justin O'Beirne would have helped me get hose up, two</b></p> <p>3 <b>lines of 45-millimetre hose, set into the dry riser on</b></p> <p>4 <b>the fourth floor.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Okay, so you just described going into the fourth-floor</p> <p>6 lobby, checking the door of flat 16. Did you then come</p> <p>7 out of the lobby and go down the stairs again?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, got hose.</b></p> <p>9 Q. So who brought up the hose, the 45, that you were going</p> <p>10 to set into the fourth floor?</p> <p>11 <b>A. Most likely Justin O'Beirne and Dave Badillo, one or</b></p> <p>12 <b>both.</b></p> <p>13 Q. They came into the lobby on the fourth floor, did they?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Yes, I think so, yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Who actually physically set the hose into the dry riser</p> <p>16 main outlet on the fourth floor in the lobby there?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I think it was me, but if they said it was them, that's</b></p> <p>18 <b>equally plausible.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Okay.</p> <p>20 What then happened with the setting-in on the third</p> <p>21 floor, who took charge of that?</p> <p>22 <b>A. That's where my statement is incorrect. I think I say</b></p> <p>23 <b>I set in on the fifth floor when in actual fact it's the</b></p> <p>24 <b>third floor. So I went down, having set in on the</b></p> <p>25 <b>fourth floor, flaked the hose out, told the team to go</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 101</p> | <p>1 the third and O'Beirne plugged it in. Is that right?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes, yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. You were turning it the wrong way.</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Right. Did you come down to the third floor?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes, from the fourth.</b></p> <p>7 Q. After having set in on the fourth floor?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. Then tell me what happened with the 45-millimetre hose</p> <p>10 from the dry riser outlet on the third floor in the</p> <p>11 lobby. What did you do with the hose?</p> <p>12 <b>A. I think that was left in situ until we were sure -- it</b></p> <p>13 <b>wouldn't have been charged until we were sure we needed</b></p> <p>14 <b>it. So ordinarily a 45-millimetre jet is a suitable way</b></p> <p>15 <b>to attack a flat fire, even a several-room flat fire,</b></p> <p>16 <b>you shouldn't need backing up, but we always -- belt and</b></p> <p>17 <b>braces.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Okay.</p> <p>19 Going back to the identification of the flat on the</p> <p>20 fourth floor. You say you felt the front door.</p> <p>21 You say in your statement, three lines down from the</p> <p>22 top:</p> <p>23 "I went up to the fourth floor and found which flat</p> <p>24 it was by feeling that the front door was warm."</p> <p>25 My question is: had you not been told that it was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 103</p>   |
| <p>1 <b>in. We went down to the third floor, so the floor</b></p> <p>2 <b>below. So you take hose up into the fourth floor for</b></p> <p>3 <b>a backing-up crew.</b></p> <p>4 Q. I see. Okay. Because you say in two places -- I think</p> <p>5 you say in the fifth line on page 3:</p> <p>6 "I think we set-in on the fourth and also plugged in</p> <p>7 on the third."</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. That's where I was asking you about. You're right, six</p> <p>10 lines down from that you say:</p> <p>11 "Dave smashed access to the dry riser on the</p> <p>12 third ..."</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. "... and Justin O'BEIRNE plugged in on the fifth ..."</p> <p>15 <b>A. No, that's the third.</b></p> <p>16 Q. That should be third?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. "... after I had tried to but was turning the wrong</p> <p>19 way."</p> <p>20 <b>A. Correct.</b></p> <p>21 Q. So just in general terms, in terms of the order of</p> <p>22 things, you've explained how you set in on the fourth</p> <p>23 floor.</p> <p>24 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>25 Q. And then Dave Badillo smashed access to the dry riser on</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 102</p>   | <p>1 flat 16 where the fire was?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes. But in no disrespect to anyone who is talking to</b></p> <p>3 <b>you when their flat is on fire, but they're often</b></p> <p>4 <b>traumatised, confused, sometimes they are embarrassed</b></p> <p>5 <b>what they've done, it's a friend's house, they're not</b></p> <p>6 <b>sure, they're only staying there short-term. It might</b></p> <p>7 <b>be the fourth, might be the fifth. I might have</b></p> <p>8 <b>misheard him; it might have been 60 not 16. So it is</b></p> <p>9 <b>crucial to find out which flat it is. If we had that</b></p> <p>10 <b>wrong information and it was flat 60, we could be</b></p> <p>11 <b>several floors below, having set up a bridgehead and a</b></p> <p>12 <b>BA crew ready, break into the wrong flat and the fire is</b></p> <p>13 <b>still going ahead. That's is why I was very specific</b></p> <p>14 <b>about that flat.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Yes, I see.</p> <p>16 Once you had plugged in on the third floor, or</p> <p>17 rather once Justin O'Beirne had plugged in the hose on</p> <p>18 the third floor, where did you go next?</p> <p>19 <b>A. To be honest, then we kind of waited. So the BA crew,</b></p> <p>20 <b>I ushered them in, Charlie Batterbee and Danny Brown,</b></p> <p>21 <b>into the fourth floor. I remember telling everyone to</b></p> <p>22 <b>come back, so we're all behind the fire doors in</b></p> <p>23 <b>a protected stairwell. Move down to the third floor,</b></p> <p>24 <b>set in the hose, and then waited. I don't think we</b></p> <p>25 <b>charged the third-floor hose because it would be a waste</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 104</p> |

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| <p>1 if you did that. You'd obviously lose pressure on the</p> <p>2 line above, so unless you need it, you wouldn't charge</p> <p>3 it. And essentially waited. So we couldn't move down</p> <p>4 to the bridgehead, but because we're in a protected</p> <p>5 stairwell one floor below, we thought that was</p> <p>6 sufficient cover.</p> <p>7 Q. Plugging in on the floor below the floor of fire is</p> <p>8 I think standard practice for high-rise fires, is it?</p> <p>9 A. The initial entry should be made from the floor below.</p> <p>10 Q. And does that carry with it a risk that smoke would leak</p> <p>11 out into the protected stairwell?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, it's inherently dangerous for that reason.</p> <p>13 Q. Was there a reason why, having set in on the fourth</p> <p>14 floor because it was, as you say, safe to do so, you</p> <p>15 also felt it necessary to set in on the third floor?</p> <p>16 A. We set on the third floor -- like I said, it's simply to</p> <p>17 back up the second crew. So if they do get in trouble,</p> <p>18 if they lose water, if they find there are casualties in</p> <p>19 there that need help, the fire is overwhelming them, you</p> <p>20 have a back-up crew to come up from the third to help</p> <p>21 them.</p> <p>22 So you're lucky in some respects in Grenfell Tower</p> <p>23 that the fourth floor has its own dry riser, and because</p> <p>24 it was safe to do so in the lobby, we plugged in on that</p> <p>25 level. But as soon as you open the fire doors, you</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 105</p> | <p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. "I thought they were taking their time as it usually</p> <p>3 takes fifteen minutes tops. I remember thinking come on</p> <p>4 it's just a fridge."</p> <p>5 Just pausing there, you are in the third-floor lobby</p> <p>6 or on the stairs of the third floor, as you just told</p> <p>7 us, how would you receive a message from them?</p> <p>8 A. How would I receive a message?</p> <p>9 Q. How were you expecting to receive a message from them?</p> <p>10 A. I wouldn't expect to receive any specific message from</p> <p>11 them.</p> <p>12 Q. So in your statement when you say, "I was waiting for</p> <p>13 them to say that it was out" --</p> <p>14 A. I was expecting them to come out of the building -- so</p> <p>15 if it's -- technically a fridge is a small object.</p> <p>16 A fridge fire -- it's on fire, but not especially</p> <p>17 flammable, and it's not in -- a kitchen is not</p> <p>18 especially flammable as opposed to furnishings of</p> <p>19 a lounge. So you would expect and experience would</p> <p>20 dictate that it shouldn't take very long, and therefore</p> <p>21 they'll come out and tell you they're done. That would</p> <p>22 be fine.</p> <p>23 MR MILLETT: Yes, okay.</p> <p>24 Mr Dorgu, now may be an appropriate moment for</p> <p>25 a break.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 107</p> |
| <p>1 compromise the stairwell. But we didn't actually do</p> <p>2 that; we waited on the third with the hose and the crew.</p> <p>3 We'd only go up if they were needed, which they were.</p> <p>4 Q. Did it take long for water to become available in the</p> <p>5 fourth-floor hose, do you remember?</p> <p>6 A. Not especially long, that I remember.</p> <p>7 Q. In the second main paragraph on page 3 of your</p> <p>8 statement, you say, "I hung back in case of back draft."</p> <p>9 A. Yes.</p> <p>10 Q. Can you describe where you were standing when</p> <p>11 Charlie Batterbee and Danny Brown went in?</p> <p>12 A. They would be on the fourth floor, I would be one floor</p> <p>13 below, possibly in the lobby area, possibly on the</p> <p>14 stairwell, protected stairwell.</p> <p>15 Q. So by that answer, can we take it that you didn't then</p> <p>16 see them going into --</p> <p>17 A. No, no. There's a risk when they open a compartment, if</p> <p>18 the backdraft conditions are there, they oxygenate that</p> <p>19 atmosphere, it then can -- it would be extremely</p> <p>20 dangerous for any personnel in that area.</p> <p>21 Q. Right, I see.</p> <p>22 You say in the third line of the second paragraph on</p> <p>23 page 3:</p> <p>24 "It was just a fridge fire so I was waiting for them</p> <p>25 to say that it was out."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 106</p>   | <p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That suits you, does it?</p> <p>2 MR MILLETT: Yes, it does, Mr Chairman, certainly.</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I'm sure it suits you, Mr Dorgu.</p> <p>4 We'll break now and we'll resume at 2 o'clock,</p> <p>5 please, and I must ask you not to talk to anyone else</p> <p>6 about your evidence or anything relating to it over the</p> <p>7 break.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Okay.</p> <p>9 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: All right?</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.</p> <p>11 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the</p> <p>12 usher, please.</p> <p>13 Thank you very much, 2 o'clock, please.</p> <p>14 (1.00 pm)</p> <p>15 (The short adjournment)</p> <p>16 (2.05 pm)</p> <p>17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right, I think Mr Dorgu is about to</p> <p>18 come in.</p> <p>19 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, yes, could we please have the</p> <p>20 witness back.</p> <p>21 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Ready to carry on?</p> <p>22 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>23 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Very good, thank you.</p> <p>24 Yes, Mr Millett.</p> <p>25 MR MILLETT: Mr Dorgu, thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 108</p>  |

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| <p>1 Before we broke for lunch, I wanted to see if we<br/>2 could identify the gentleman that you spoke to in the<br/>3 entrance of the tower before you went up into the<br/>4 building.<br/>5 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>6 Q. I wonder if we might be able to do that by a photograph<br/>7 of him. I wonder if we could have up on the screen,<br/>8 please, Mr Documents Director, INQ00000044, just to see<br/>9 if this helps with your recollection.<br/>10 Here is a man coming back into the tower. Do you<br/>11 think, having looked at that, that that's the man you<br/>12 spoke to about a fridge outside the tower before you<br/>13 went up.<br/>14 <b>A. Possibly, yes.</b><br/>15 Q. Possibly.<br/>16 <b>A. That kind of build, complexion, hair.</b><br/>17 Q. Now, can I take you back to your statement. You have<br/>18 told us that you were on the third floor or in the<br/>19 stairs. Then you say, halfway down page 3 of your<br/>20 statement, just above halfway:<br/>21 "Members of the public were coming past me on the<br/>22 stairs."<br/>23 Where were you standing when that was happening? Do<br/>24 you remember?<br/>25 <b>A. Where does it say that? I can't see that, but --</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 109</p> | <p>1 <b>A. No, no.</b><br/>2 Q. Did they try to speak to you?<br/>3 <b>A. No.</b><br/>4 Q. And then you say:<br/>5 "I think it was Justin that said to me that a woman<br/>6 was complaining of fire on the seventh floor."<br/>7 <b>A. That's actually -- sorry to interrupt you -- that's</b><br/>8 <b>actually incorrect, it's the fifth floor.</b><br/>9 Q. Can we just replace "seventh" with the word "fifth"?<br/>10 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>11 Q. Where was Justin standing when he said that?<br/>12 <b>A. He would be with me on the third-floor stairwell.</b><br/>13 Q. Right.<br/>14 <b>A. Just by the third floor.</b><br/>15 Q. Had he come down from anywhere?<br/>16 <b>A. I think he had been up one or two floors, I think that's</b><br/>17 <b>where a lady had told him on the fifth floor, "My flat</b><br/>18 <b>is on fire", or there's fire in her flat.</b><br/>19 Q. Right.<br/>20 You said:<br/>21 "I said to him smoke or fire as smoke can travel and<br/>22 said definitely fire."<br/>23 So he said --<br/>24 <b>A. He said definitely fire.</b><br/>25 Q. Then you say:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 111</p>   |
| <p>1 Q. So let me help you.<br/>2 <b>A. Where is it?</b><br/>3 Q. It's halfway down page 3, just after the reference to<br/>4 "come on it's just a fridge".<br/>5 Then you see it says --<br/>6 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: A bit further down.<br/>7 MR MILLETT: At the bottom of the screen.<br/>8 <b>A. Members of the public are coming back, yes.</b><br/>9 Q. Halfway down you say:<br/>10 "I think it was Justin that said to me ..."<br/>11 (Pause)<br/>12 Third line down, what we have on the screen, it was<br/>13 just a fridge.<br/>14 "Members of the public were coming past me on the<br/>15 stairs."<br/>16 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>17 Q. Now, where were you standing, do you think, when that<br/>18 was happening?<br/>19 <b>A. I would've been in the stairwell of around about the</b><br/>20 <b>third floor.</b><br/>21 Q. Okay. And what sort of condition were these people in<br/>22 in terms of their physical condition?<br/>23 <b>A. Not distressed. No sign of exposure of fire or smoke.</b><br/>24 <b>They were fine.</b><br/>25 Q. Did you speak to any of them?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 110</p>  | <p>1 "I thought fuck as fire on the seventh ..."<br/>2 Again, is that --<br/>3 <b>A. Again, that should be fifth.</b><br/>4 Q. "... fire doesn't spread on a block of flats."<br/>5 So did you have a conversation with him about what<br/>6 you were thinking?<br/>7 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/>8 Q. What did you say?<br/>9 <b>A. Because what he was saying was basically that the fire</b><br/>10 <b>had spread, so smoke can travel anywhere, but when he --</b><br/>11 <b>a lot of people think their flat is on fire just because</b><br/>12 <b>there's smoke in the vicinity of the flat, they've left</b><br/>13 <b>a window open and smoke from an adjoining flat enters</b><br/>14 <b>their flat, they think it's on fire. So it's quite</b><br/>15 <b>common. So I almost kind of rolled my eyes, "Is it</b><br/>16 <b>smoke or is it actually fire?" When he said fire,</b><br/>17 <b>that's an entirely different situation, so now fire's</b><br/>18 <b>been confirmed on the fifth floor. I think he was on</b><br/>19 <b>the radio trying to say that, and then he ran upstairs,</b><br/>20 <b>I ran up with him, we went to the fifth floor, sixth</b><br/>21 <b>floor, possibly the seventh.</b><br/>22 Q. Okay. You said fire doesn't spread on a block of flats.<br/>23 What was your thinking at that stage about whether<br/>24 compartmentation at Grenfell Tower was still holding up?<br/>25 <b>A. Clearly compartmentation failed, but as in with, for</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 112</p> |

1 **example, Shepherds Court, it was not -- it means we have**  
 2 **to get a fire crew in there on the fifth floor.**  
 3 Q. Did you have any thoughts about how or why  
 4 compartmentation had failed so as to lead to the fire  
 5 spread?  
 6 A. The usual way for a compartment to fail would be through  
 7 the window, either a window has been left open and it's  
 8 gone around the outside of the building, cladding  
 9 notwithstanding -- I say "normal buildings", a concrete  
 10 building, it can travel up the outside of the building  
 11 to the next floor up, catch the curtains and enter the  
 12 next compartment.  
 13 THE STENOGRAPHER: I am very sorry, we have a technical  
 14 problem.  
 15 (Pause)  
 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, Mr Millett.  
 17 MR MILLETT: Mr Dorgu, just so that we are clear, you were  
 18 standing, were you, with Justin O'Beirne in the stairway  
 19 by the third-floor lobby when he told you that there was  
 20 fire on the fifth?  
 21 A. Yes.  
 22 Q. Did you radio that news down to the bridgehead?  
 23 A. Either me or Justin would've done so, definitely.  
 24 Q. Do you remember which?  
 25 A. No.

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1 Q. How --  
 2 A. One of us would've.  
 3 Q. In terms of your recollection, how confident are you  
 4 that one or other of you did radio?  
 5 A. 100 per cent.  
 6 Q. 100 per cent?  
 7 A. Yes.  
 8 Q. Okay. Where did you go next?  
 9 A. I then went up to the fifth floor. I think Justin was  
 10 ahead of me. He might have gone one floor beyond that.  
 11 And I think I helped a BA team in there, so a BA team,  
 12 Tom Abell's team, came up. That's how I know it was the  
 13 fifth floor because Tom has the same recollection as me  
 14 of a lady in the corner who I describe helping escape.  
 15 Q. And who did Tom Abell come up with?  
 16 A. Ah, I've forgotten his name. I can't remember. A crew  
 17 member from Hammersmith. Wayne Archer.  
 18 Q. Right. Thank you.  
 19 You say in your statement, just in the next  
 20 sentence -- this is exactly halfway down page 3:  
 21 "I went up to the sixth floor ..."  
 22 A. Yes.  
 23 Q. "... maybe the seventh getting people."  
 24 Did you go on to the fifth floor?  
 25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. So you went to the fifth after -- right. How did it go?  
 2 You went from the third-floor stairs to the --  
 3 A. So the third-floor stairwell. Justin said there was  
 4 fire on the fifth, so there was people coming out by  
 5 that point, more and more. Pushed past them, came  
 6 upstairs to the fifth floor. I was helping a lady --  
 7 a gentleman and a lady, the couple I describe with their  
 8 child, were coming out of a corner flat with a pram.  
 9 Q. On the fifth floor?  
 10 A. On the fifth floor, yes. I thought it was the sixth,  
 11 but actually it's the fifth floor because Tom Abell and  
 12 Wayne Archer were committed only on the fifth floor, and  
 13 Tom never went above the fifth the whole night. So I'm  
 14 confident it was the fifth.  
 15 When I saw Tom in the stairwell, I told him and  
 16 Wayne where the fire was, because it would be directly  
 17 above the fire on the fourth floor, which would be the  
 18 kitchen.  
 19 Q. Just pausing there, what were the conditions like at the  
 20 fifth floor in the stairs, first of all?  
 21 A. In the stairs, clear.  
 22 Q. In the lobby?  
 23 A. Clear, pretty clear. There was a little bit of smoke  
 24 coming out the gentleman's flat, maybe, maybe smoke in  
 25 the area or maybe his flat, but enough for them to want

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1 **to come out and they weren't in that area.**  
 2 Q. Did you take any steps to knock on any of the doors on  
 3 the fifth floor?  
 4 A. Yes, knocked on other doors on that floor.  
 5 Q. All of them?  
 6 A. Pretty sure all of them, yes.  
 7 Q. Okay, you and who?  
 8 A. Tom was with me, Wayne Archer. They did that before  
 9 they set in. Justin may well have been there because he  
 10 remembers the smoke from the fifth floor coming out  
 11 being more significant than it should've been. By that  
 12 point, I'd moved up. So I helped the lady with her  
 13 pram, because she wanted to put the baby in the pram and  
 14 go in the lift, and I made it fairly clear that they  
 15 didn't have that option; they had to move quickly.  
 16 Q. So we're still on the fifth.  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. You say, just a few lines down:  
 19 "There was a woman with a baby who was scared trying  
 20 to put them in a pram with an Arab looking man and a  
 21 young kiddie. She was just faffing about saying about  
 22 getting the lift. I said you're not going in the lift  
 23 just get out. I nearly threw then down the stairs."  
 24 Can you just describe to me, was there a sense of  
 25 urgency?

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29 (Pages 113 to 116)

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| <p>1 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Why was that?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Because compartmentation failed, so the fire had spread</b></p> <p>4 <b>to their floor, which I didn't think -- I didn't think</b></p> <p>5 <b>at that time that fire would spread around the building</b></p> <p>6 <b>laterally to their flat, but clearly they were on their</b></p> <p>7 <b>way out, so they'd smelt smoke, and smoke is lethal,</b></p> <p>8 <b>more lethal than fire. So for that reason, I was then</b></p> <p>9 <b>anxious.</b></p> <p>10 <b>And also they had a child with them, so I picked up</b></p> <p>11 <b>the baby, pushed it into her chest and said, "You've got</b></p> <p>12 <b>to leave now", escorted them down to the stairs. They</b></p> <p>13 <b>were anxious and confused but we just got them out the</b></p> <p>14 <b>building.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Tom Abell says that he and Archer went with you to the</p> <p>16 fifth floor --</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. -- to flat 26 and attempted to make entry.</p> <p>19 Do you remember them making entry or trying to into</p> <p>20 flat 26?</p> <p>21 <b>A. No, I wouldn't be in the lobby area because the lobby</b></p> <p>22 <b>area would be compromised with smoke. Again, potential</b></p> <p>23 <b>backdraft, or just smoke-logging, so I would be</b></p> <p>24 <b>smoke-logged. So, no, I was in the stairwell on my way</b></p> <p>25 <b>to the sixth by then.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> | <p>1 up and down."</p> <p>2 Could you just describe what you mean when you say,</p> <p>3 "I was going up and down"?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Up and down the stairs, escorting different people. So</b></p> <p>5 <b>people came out the sixth, I'd escort them down, run</b></p> <p>6 <b>back up, escort someone else.</b></p> <p>7 Q. How many people do you think came out of the sixth floor</p> <p>8 at that time?</p> <p>9 <b>A. To be honest, as I said in my statement there, it seemed</b></p> <p>10 <b>like everyone was getting out of the four or five</b></p> <p>11 <b>flats -- it should actually say the six flats on each</b></p> <p>12 <b>floor. So everyone seemed to be getting out. There</b></p> <p>13 <b>seemed to be people at each door, so I moved downstairs</b></p> <p>14 <b>to get my BA set.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Did you get up to the seventh floor?</p> <p>16 <b>A. I'm not sure. If I didn't, it's because other people</b></p> <p>17 <b>were up there. Justin was up there. I might have gone</b></p> <p>18 <b>as far as the seventh and done the same there, but</b></p> <p>19 <b>I could see people coming out now, so my concern was if</b></p> <p>20 <b>you apply the rule of compartment firefighting,</b></p> <p>21 <b>therefore, someone has to get into the fifth -- that's</b></p> <p>22 <b>Tom -- and I realised we haven't got many people there</b></p> <p>23 <b>at all: people doing water, officers, bridgehead,</b></p> <p>24 <b>Justin, me and Dave -- there's hardly anyone to get</b></p> <p>25 <b>breathing apparatus on. Don't know when the next trucks</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> |
| <p>1 Q. So you go up to the sixth, and what was the stairway</p> <p>2 like on the way up to the sixth?</p> <p>3 <b>A. At that point, clear.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Clear. And did you go into the lobby on the sixth?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. What were the conditions like there, do you remember?</p> <p>7 <b>A. Clear. Nothing -- not extraordinarily smoky, but people</b></p> <p>8 <b>started coming out. I think it was from the flat area</b></p> <p>9 <b>directly above the kitchen of the fourth, the fifth and</b></p> <p>10 <b>the sixth. I think they came out.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Right.</p> <p>12 In your statement, you go on to say, just three</p> <p>13 lines up from the end of that main long paragraph on</p> <p>14 page 3:</p> <p>15 "I had a feeling that things were getting bad.</p> <p>16 I knew it wasn't good. It was smoky in the flat but</p> <p>17 just wisps in the lobby."</p> <p>18 Which flat are you describing there?</p> <p>19 <b>A. The one I describe as the sixth floor, that was actually</b></p> <p>20 <b>the fifth. That was the flat. So it was smoky in the</b></p> <p>21 <b>flat, just wisps in the lobby. That's the couple who</b></p> <p>22 <b>were leaving with their baby. So the reason they'd left</b></p> <p>23 <b>is because there was wispy smoke in their flat.</b></p> <p>24 Q. You say:</p> <p>25 "Not too dark and no BA at this point. I was going</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p>                           | <p>1 are coming, haven't heard any radio messages that we've</p> <p>2 made it up to 8 pumps, 10 pumps, 15. As far as I knew,</p> <p>3 there was still only us four there and us four going to</p> <p>4 be there for some time.</p> <p>5 So I remember trying to send messages on the radio,</p> <p>6 trying to say what I was doing. Don't think any of</p> <p>7 them got through because people were talking constantly.</p> <p>8 That's why I went downstairs.</p> <p>9 So I could see people leaving on the immediate</p> <p>10 floors around the fire floor. That's when I went</p> <p>11 downstairs to get breathing apparatus on because I would</p> <p>12 have to attack the fire in the next compartment up on</p> <p>13 the sixth floor.</p> <p>14 Q. Now, just taking this a bit more in stages, you're on</p> <p>15 the sixth floor.</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Did you radio down what you had found on the sixth</p> <p>18 floor?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Tried to, yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Tried to. Who did you try to contact, first of all?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I would be on channel 1, so anyone on the command</b></p> <p>22 <b>channel.</b></p> <p>23 Q. Right. Did you succeed, do you think, in getting</p> <p>24 through?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I don't think so, no.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p>  |

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| <p>1 Q. Why do you say that?</p> <p>2 <b>A. Because there was constant traffic. Obviously I didn't</b></p> <p>3 <b>know it, but oncoming vehicles, other people using the</b></p> <p>4 <b>command channel. It's constant. If there's constant</b></p> <p>5 <b>chatter, you can't actually get in with your message.</b></p> <p>6 <b>There's no way of prioritising my message, regardless of</b></p> <p>7 <b>how much of a priority it is.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Could you hear on your radio anybody else trying to</p> <p>9 radio down to Mike Dowden or the bridgehead about what</p> <p>10 they were finding on the floors inside the tower above</p> <p>11 or below you?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes. I think Justin did at one point, and I tried.</b></p> <p>13 <b>I don't think there was anyone else there really to have</b></p> <p>14 <b>done it. The BA crew may well have done as well because</b></p> <p>15 <b>they may well have said that on -- because they had</b></p> <p>16 <b>a BARIE set, and they would be on a different channel</b></p> <p>17 <b>which would be less congested than ours. Because the</b></p> <p>18 <b>only people on channel 6 would be the BA crew and the</b></p> <p>19 <b>bridgehead. Everyone else on the fire ground, everyone,</b></p> <p>20 <b>from Watch Manager Dowden, is on channel 1.</b></p> <p>21 Q. On the sixth floor, did you take any steps to alert the</p> <p>22 occupants?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Knocked on doors, yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. What did you do? You say you knocked on doors.</p> <p>25 <b>A. People coming out, and when I was satisfied that people</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 121</p> | <p>1 <b>A. I went out. Sorry, either I went -- I can't remember,</b></p> <p>2 <b>the floors looked the same, but I would've gone either</b></p> <p>3 <b>to the seventh floor or Justin said he was going to the</b></p> <p>4 <b>seventh floor, so Justin probably would've been with me</b></p> <p>5 <b>on the sixth, and he went up and up and I went down to</b></p> <p>6 <b>get my BA set. And also, because I wasn't happy with</b></p> <p>7 <b>the radio traffic, I would've gone out to tell them</b></p> <p>8 <b>personally. That's when I said to Mike Dowden when</b></p> <p>9 <b>I went out.</b></p> <p>10 Q. Let's take this more slowly.</p> <p>11 <b>A. Sorry.</b></p> <p>12 Q. So you left the sixth floor.</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. And you went down to the bridgehead?</p> <p>15 <b>A. I passed the bridgehead, yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Okay.</p> <p>17 Now, in your statement, at the bottom of page 3, you</p> <p>18 say:</p> <p>19 "On the Bridge I saw Bryan O'KEEFE[sic] the Watch</p> <p>20 Manager from Kensington."</p> <p>21 Just to put that in context, that's just after the</p> <p>22 end of the paragraph before where you say:</p> <p>23 "It seemed like everyone was getting out the four or</p> <p>24 five flats so I went downstairs."</p> <p>25 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 123</p>             |
| <p>1 <b>were awake and emerging from each of the flats, and</b></p> <p>2 <b>someone else was there with me, and they were coming</b></p> <p>3 <b>out, at that point I moved downstairs.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Can you describe for us what physical condition they</p> <p>5 were in?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Not distressed. No one suffering the effects of smoke</b></p> <p>7 <b>inhalation.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Did you get a look into any of the flats on the sixth</p> <p>9 floor?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No, and if I did, there was nothing of concern. It was</b></p> <p>11 <b>more of a precaution because there's a fire directly</b></p> <p>12 <b>below them now.</b></p> <p>13 Q. How long do you think you spent on the sixth floor?</p> <p>14 <b>A. A few minutes. Maybe two minutes, one minute.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Where did Justin O'Beirne go?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Justin would be above me, I think.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Right. So was anybody with you on the sixth floor?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Not that I can remember.</b></p> <p>19 Q. And the conditions in the lobby on the sixth floor as</p> <p>20 you left?</p> <p>21 <b>A. Clear.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Still clear?</p> <p>23 <b>A. Clear.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Then after the sixth floor, I think you say -- well,</p> <p>25 where did you go next, I should ask you?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 122</p>   | <p>1 Q. So it looks from that as if you leave -- is this</p> <p>2 right? -- the sixth floor and go down to the bridgehead?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. I mean --</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. "On the Bridge I saw Bryan O'KEEFE the Watch Manager</p> <p>7 from Kensington."</p> <p>8 Did you get an impression as to how long he had been</p> <p>9 there?</p> <p>10 <b>A. No, not long. Won't have been long.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Right. And you say, "I said to him it's spread."</p> <p>12 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>13 Q. What exactly did you tell him, do you remember?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I will have told him that it had gone to the fifth</b></p> <p>15 <b>floor, but he will have already known that because he</b></p> <p>16 <b>would've committed Tom Abell and Wayne Archer to the</b></p> <p>17 <b>fifth floor. So he would've known that. I would've</b></p> <p>18 <b>told him that smoke was on the sixth floor, possibly the</b></p> <p>19 <b>seventh, but the fire at the moment was on the fifth</b></p> <p>20 <b>floor.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Right. Can I just ask you to look at your</p> <p>22 contemporaneous notes.</p> <p>23 On page 2, a third of the way down, you say:</p> <p>24 "I went to ECO &amp; told WM O'Keeffe this."</p> <p>25 Now, I just want to understand what the "this" is,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 124</p> |

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| <p>1 because earlier on that page you say -- and correct me<br/> 2 if I'm wrong, Mr Dorgu, when I am reading your writing:<br/> 3 "We informed BA control what we had done."<br/> 4 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 5 Q. "FF O'Beirne told me the fire had spread upward ..."<br/> 6 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 7 Q. "... (informed by residents evacuating). We set into<br/> 8 the dry riser on the 5th floor. We were then informed<br/> 9 by residents that smoke was on higher floors &amp; that<br/> 10 flats were actually on fire."<br/> 11 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 12 Q. Now, first of all, where were you when you were told<br/> 13 that? I think that takes us back a little in the story,<br/> 14 but where were you when you were told by residents that<br/> 15 the flats were actually on fire?<br/> 16 <b>A. I was told that via Justin, who had been informed by</b><br/> 17 <b>residents. So that would've been the fifth floor, round</b><br/> 18 <b>about the fifth floor.</b><br/> 19 Q. How were you told that?<br/> 20 <b>A. Verbally. Verbally. Justin was told verbally by</b><br/> 21 <b>residents, which is when he told me and I rolled my eyes</b><br/> 22 <b>and said, "Is it fire or is it smoke?"</b><br/> 23 Q. That's that conversation?<br/> 24 <b>A. That's that conversation.</b><br/> 25 Q. That's clear. Then you say:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 125</p>                  | <p>1 Going back to your statement, you say in the second<br/> 2 line:<br/> 3 "A youngish white woman said to me that her bedbound<br/> 4 dad was on the fifteenth floor. I said to her that<br/> 5 he'll be fine. A ten floor spread of fire would be<br/> 6 unthinkable; there's no game plan for that."<br/> 7 Do you remember, where did you speak to her?<br/> 8 <b>A. I was at the bridgehead at that point.</b><br/> 9 Q. Right.<br/> 10 <b>A. She'd come out from whichever floor she was on.</b><br/> 11 Q. Did she mention a flat number?<br/> 12 <b>A. No.</b><br/> 13 Q. Did you say a ten-floor spread of fire was unthinkable?<br/> 14 <b>A. No, that's what I thought. I actually said to her --</b><br/> 15 <b>I actually said to her he'll be fine. I said the 15th</b><br/> 16 <b>floor is the safest place to be. He's more than ten</b><br/> 17 <b>floors away from the fire.</b><br/> 18 Q. At that stage, did you know that the fire had spread up<br/> 19 to the seventh floor?<br/> 20 <b>A. No.</b><br/> 21 Q. How far up did you know at that stage it had spread?<br/> 22 <b>A. I knew it had gone to the fifth floor, because I helped</b><br/> 23 <b>Tom set in and I knew they were fighting fire on the</b><br/> 24 <b>fifth floor. That would have been confirmed by Justin</b><br/> 25 <b>by the residents. On the sixth floor, there were</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 127</p>  |
| <p>1 "I went to ECO [entry control] &amp; told them &amp; told WM<br/> 2 O'Keeffe this."<br/> 3 Can you remember what it was you said to Watch<br/> 4 Manager O'Keeffe?<br/> 5 <b>A. That it had spread to the fifth floor, that it was</b><br/> 6 <b>smoky, residents were coming down, and that I'd</b><br/> 7 <b>evacuated or raised the alarm on the sixth floor and</b><br/> 8 <b>fifth floor and brought people down. Which he would've</b><br/> 9 <b>known because they would have to have come past him, and</b><br/> 10 <b>he would've known the fifth floor is on fire because</b><br/> 11 <b>Tom Abell and Wayne Archer, he had committed them to</b><br/> 12 <b>that floor. I think I helped Tom set into the</b><br/> 13 <b>hydrant -- the dry riser on the fifth floor.</b><br/> 14 Q. So do you remember telling Watch Manager O'Keeffe that<br/> 15 higher flats were on fire?<br/> 16 <b>A. Yeah, higher than the fourth.</b><br/> 17 Q. Do you remember what he said or did in response?<br/> 18 <b>A. No, actually. I didn't really hang around.</b><br/> 19 Q. No.<br/> 20 Who else do you remember was at the bridgehead at<br/> 21 that point?<br/> 22 <b>A. Alex De St Aubin, I think. I don't think Justin was at</b><br/> 23 <b>that point; I think he was at higher floors at that</b><br/> 24 <b>point.</b><br/> 25 Q. Right.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 126</p> | <p>1 <b>reports of smoke on the sixth floor, which is why</b><br/> 2 <b>I started to evacuate the sixth floor. I think Justin</b><br/> 3 <b>was with me then. And because if there's smoke, the</b><br/> 4 <b>fire might go up one more, as it did at Shepherds Court,</b><br/> 5 <b>that's when I knew we needed BA wearers and I had to get</b><br/> 6 <b>a set on.</b><br/> 7 Q. Right.<br/> 8 Given the speed of spread of fire between the fourth<br/> 9 and the fifth floor and the spread of smoke up to the<br/> 10 sixth which you had experienced, what made you think<br/> 11 that it was unthinkable that fire would spread further,<br/> 12 as far as the 10th floor?<br/> 13 <b>A. Because it's never happened. It's never happened in my</b><br/> 14 <b>experience or anyone in living memory in London, that</b><br/> 15 <b>an entire block of flats has gone up. It just</b><br/> 16 <b>wouldn't -- it would be unthinkable. Like one or two,</b><br/> 17 <b>three floors, like Shepherd's Bush Court, maybe, but for</b><br/> 18 <b>it to travel literally faster than I could run up the</b><br/> 19 <b>floors would be just unthinkable. I believed it was</b><br/> 20 <b>smoke travelling up through open windows. Because it's</b><br/> 21 <b>summertime, it's one of -- probably the hottest evening</b><br/> 22 <b>of the year. So everyone has their windows open,</b><br/> 23 <b>especially at higher levels, because there's no security</b><br/> 24 <b>risk, so it's not unusual for people to experience</b><br/> 25 <b>smoke, even from an adjoining tower block if the wind is</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 128</p> |



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| <p>1 in that direction. So people often think their flats<br/>2 are on fire but actually it's just smoke.<br/>3 So for it to travel, two, three, four, five floors<br/>4 wouldn't be unusual at all, but for there to be actually<br/>5 fire, to be on fire, flats to be -- for the compartment<br/>6 to fail, be penetrated by fire and actually be on fire<br/>7 in minutes is unthinkable at that point.<br/>8 Q. Did you have any thoughts at the time about where the<br/>9 smoke on the sixth floor was coming from?<br/>10 A. Usually, as I said, it would be through windows, and it<br/>11 would usually be -- because it had been -- the fire on<br/>12 the fifth was reported to be on the same place in the<br/>13 building as the fourth-floor fire, therefore it seems to<br/>14 be going directly vertically up. It's not spreading<br/>15 laterally, which would've been more of an issue, it's<br/>16 spreading upwards. Therefore, you would think it's<br/>17 going from window to window, open window, smoke,<br/>18 possibly fire. You wouldn't expect it to go much<br/>19 further.<br/>20 Q. When you spoke to the young woman at the bridgehead, did<br/>21 she say anything to you, do you remember, about the<br/>22 conditions on the 15th floor?<br/>23 A. No, no. She didn't say there was any -- she didn't<br/>24 report any smoke, she wasn't suffering from smoke<br/>25 inhalation, she was just worried, and people often are.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 129</p> | <p>1 <b>Then I turned round and saw the building.</b><br/>2 Q. Okay. We'll come to that in a little bit more detail in<br/>3 a moment.<br/>4 Before we do, can I just ask you: you say in your<br/>5 statement, at the bottom of page 3:<br/>6 "Brian and Justin O'BEIRNE were doing the board.<br/>7 Chris SECRET[sic] was the officer with me. Hammersmith<br/>8 were also there by then as half an hour had gone by."<br/>9 So, first of all, you say -- is this right? -- that<br/>10 Justin O'Beirne was at the bridgehead?<br/>11 A. Yes. By that point he was, yes.<br/>12 Q. So he had gone up into the tower and come back down<br/>13 again?<br/>14 A. Yes.<br/>15 Q. Do you think he heard your conversation with the woman?<br/>16 A. I don't know. I don't know if he was there at that<br/>17 point or shortly after, or he was there and he was busy<br/>18 setting up the bridgehead and setting up new boards.<br/>19 I don't know.<br/>20 Q. When this happened and he was at the bridgehead and you<br/>21 were at the bridgehead, did you have any discussion with<br/>22 him about his journey up into the tower?<br/>23 A. Not that I recall.<br/>24 Q. So did he say anything to you about the conditions he'd<br/>25 experienced higher up in the tower?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 131</p> |
| <p>1 If they come out of a building, they tell you, "There's<br/>2 a fire, there's a fire". Actually, they're like ten<br/>3 floors above the fire, they're not involved in it,<br/>4 they've smelt smoke and just evacuated themselves, and<br/>5 actually it's one compartment with a window open, we<br/>6 extinguish that fire and it's fine.<br/>7 That happens in nearly every high-rise, people<br/>8 thinking -- they can smell smoke, a strong smell of<br/>9 smoke, they don't know where it's coming from so they<br/>10 panic and leave. That's not unusual. And to be honest,<br/>11 I presumed she was the same.<br/>12 Q. At that stage, did you have any idea as to what was<br/>13 happening on the exterior of the tower?<br/>14 A. No, I didn't find out until I went outside.<br/>15 Q. Did you have any communications yourself with<br/>16 Mike Dowden, who was standing outside?<br/>17 A. Yes.<br/>18 Q. What were those communications?<br/>19 A. As I left, because of the massive amount of radio<br/>20 traffic that was constant, I hadn't heard the messages<br/>21 of them making pumps 8 or 10 or 15. So as I left, I ran<br/>22 past him and he was running around, and I said, "Have<br/>23 you made this up to like 8 or 10?" Because I thought<br/>24 this is going to be at least two flats on fire, and he<br/>25 said, "I've made it up to 15", and I just said, "Good."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 130</p>   | <p>1 A. No.<br/>2 Q. Do you know what anyone did about rescuing the bed-bound<br/>3 man on the 15th floor at that stage?<br/>4 A. No.<br/>5 Q. All right.<br/>6 You say "Chris SECRET was the officer with me", what<br/>7 was he doing?<br/>8 A. I think Brien O'Keeffe, Watch Manager O'Keeffe, was now<br/>9 in charge of the bridgehead -- he's a senior officer, or<br/>10 senior to Chris -- therefore, Chris is free to do<br/>11 another task. We went outside to get our BA sets.<br/>12 Q. Yes. You say at the top of page 4:<br/>13 "I ran outside to get my set on back at the pump<br/>14 which was at the same place at this point."<br/>15 Now, we have your exit time as 01.28.11 or so. Can<br/>16 I just show you the picture: it's INQ00000125, or tab 6<br/>17 in the CCTV bundle.<br/>18 Now, it may be difficult to identify yourself from<br/>19 the back, but would that be -- I mean, slightly strange<br/>20 question, but is that you, I suppose?<br/>21 A. It would presume so. At that kind of time stamp, yes, I<br/>22 would think.<br/>23 Q. We can see quite a number of people coming past you. At<br/>24 that stage, could you just give us an impression of how<br/>25 many people are coming out of the tower?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 132</p>                              |

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| <p>1 <b>A. From the fifth floor maybe eight, nine, ten. Sixth</b><br/> 2 <b>floor, maybe the same. Maybe. Or, you know, getting</b><br/> 3 <b>ready to leave as I left the floor, they're aware and</b><br/> 4 <b>they were coming out.</b><br/> 5 Q. Can you describe for us the physical condition they were<br/> 6 in?<br/> 7 <b>A. No one that I saw was reporting smoke inhalation or</b><br/> 8 <b>exhibiting signs of smoke inhalation.</b><br/> 9 Q. You didn't see that?<br/> 10 <b>A. No.</b><br/> 11 Q. What about signs of distress?<br/> 12 <b>A. Anxiety, yes. Mild anxiety. Usually -- it's the middle</b><br/> 13 <b>of the night, you bang people out of bed, the word</b><br/> 14 <b>"fire" is used and there's a level of anxiety obviously.</b><br/> 15 <b>So not extraordinarily, no.</b><br/> 16 Q. By this stage, 01.28, did you know how many pumps had<br/> 17 been made up?<br/> 18 <b>A. I didn't know, no. That's why I came outside and asked</b><br/> 19 <b>Mike Dowden if he'd made it up to eight or ten.</b><br/> 20 Q. Okay.<br/> 21 Now, you say at the top of page 4 of your statement:<br/> 22 "I could see fire licking up the side of the<br/> 23 building as I ran out looking up to my left. I'm not<br/> 24 sure if it had reached the top yet but it was at least<br/> 25 halfway."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 133</p>  | <p>1 <b>fire travel. Smoke travel, yes, I thought it would --</b><br/> 2 <b>because it would be a fairly thin layer of cladding, so</b><br/> 3 <b>I just thought it would burn off and it wouldn't cause</b><br/> 4 <b>major damage. Might cause a lot of smoke, but that</b><br/> 5 <b>would be it.</b><br/> 6 Q. So even at that stage, when you saw the exterior on<br/> 7 fire -- so I have your evidence clear -- are you saying<br/> 8 you didn't actually have a heightened level of concern?<br/> 9 <b>A. Yes, but not to the level that it deserved. I was</b><br/> 10 <b>concerned as in the side of the building appeared to be</b><br/> 11 <b>on fire, the facade is on fire, but, no, I didn't</b><br/> 12 <b>recognise the significance of cladding, and I had no</b><br/> 13 <b>idea that it was humanly possible to put something as</b><br/> 14 <b>flammable and attach it to the outside of a building.</b><br/> 15 Q. Indeed, you go on in the fourth line on page 4 to say:<br/> 16 "I thought it must just be the cladding. I didn't<br/> 17 think the whole thing was going to burn."<br/> 18 I just want to understand that distinction you're<br/> 19 making between the cladding and the whole thing.<br/> 20 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 21 Q. So what did you --<br/> 22 <b>A. Because the whole thing, as in Grenfell Tower itself, as</b><br/> 23 <b>it still stands today, is a concrete box, a series of</b><br/> 24 <b>concrete boxes. So the outside, to make it look nice,</b><br/> 25 <b>they put cladding on the outside. Like I said in my</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 135</p> |
| <p>1 Could you see the fire actually climbing?<br/> 2 <b>A. I wouldn't say it was climbing. I didn't look at it</b><br/> 3 <b>long enough to see if it was actually moving level to</b><br/> 4 <b>level, but I could see a significant block of fire from</b><br/> 5 <b>the fourth floor maybe to the eighth floor, ninth floor.</b><br/> 6 Q. What sort of angle of vision did you have of the fire at<br/> 7 that stage as you came out of the tower?<br/> 8 <b>A. It would be on my left.</b><br/> 9 Q. Right.<br/> 10 <b>A. So it would be the east side of the floor.</b><br/> 11 Q. Did you go back to your pump?<br/> 12 <b>A. To my? Sorry, did I go back to my?</b><br/> 13 Q. To your pump.<br/> 14 <b>A. Pump, yes.</b><br/> 15 Q. So, okay, how far beyond the southeast corner of the<br/> 16 tower did that take you?<br/> 17 <b>A. Beyond parallel. Maybe a few metres beyond parallel.</b><br/> 18 <b>5/10 metres beyond parallel, so I could see it as I ran</b><br/> 19 <b>past, saw it and then carried on to the pump, got my set</b><br/> 20 <b>on.</b><br/> 21 Q. What did you think when you saw the fire?<br/> 22 <b>A. It looked like the facade -- the nice, new, shiny facade</b><br/> 23 <b>they'd put on there -- was on fire and had caught light,</b><br/> 24 <b>so ... yeah, that's all I thought. It didn't occur to</b><br/> 25 <b>me that that would be an extremely dangerous method of</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 134</p> | <p>1 <b>statement, it looked shiny and new. That's all well and</b><br/> 2 <b>good, but it wasn't an intrinsic part of the building,</b><br/> 3 <b>or so I thought; it's just something stuck on the front</b><br/> 4 <b>and, if it was alight, it wouldn't necessarily lead to</b><br/> 5 <b>ignition of the entire building.</b><br/> 6 Q. Did you see or could you see whether the fire had broken<br/> 7 back into the building at any stage?<br/> 8 <b>A. No, I couldn't see.</b><br/> 9 Q. You couldn't see?<br/> 10 <b>A. No.</b><br/> 11 Q. Did you have any thoughts about whether it might be able<br/> 12 to break back into the building from the exterior<br/> 13 facade?<br/> 14 <b>A. Not at that point because, whilst I could see several</b><br/> 15 <b>floors of fire, I didn't realise it was travelling and</b><br/> 16 <b>it was travelling quickly. So I didn't get a sense of</b><br/> 17 <b>it's really screaming up the side of the tower, as it</b><br/> 18 <b>was; I looked at it momentarily and then moved on.</b><br/> 19 Q. Okay.<br/> 20 Given that you knew that there had already been<br/> 21 spread of fire on the inside, at least fourth to fifth<br/> 22 floors, did you have any thoughts about whether or not<br/> 23 the fire had broken back into the building from the<br/> 24 outside?<br/> 25 <b>A. No. Again, because it was vertically above the original</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 136</p>  |

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| <p>1 compartment, my presupposition would be that the one</p> <p>2 part of the compartment that would fail would be the</p> <p>3 window, either because it's open or it fails, as at</p> <p>4 Shepherds Court, because they put sealant around it and</p> <p>5 the window, that compartment, fails because of that.</p> <p>6 So the fire was travelling vertically upwards in the</p> <p>7 same plane; therefore, it was an expected and</p> <p>8 experienced-before level of fire spread.</p> <p>9 Q. So just exploring that answer a bit more. Drawing on</p> <p>10 the Shepherds Court experience, as you just have, was it</p> <p>11 your understanding, from Shepherds Court, that a fire on</p> <p>12 the exterior of a building could break back in through</p> <p>13 a window space because of the use of sealant?</p> <p>14 A. Yes, that's happened on several high-rise jobs, yes.</p> <p>15 Q. Right.</p> <p>16 So would that mean that, in your experience, where</p> <p>17 a fire travels on the outside of a building, the use of</p> <p>18 particular materials might not retard or block the</p> <p>19 passage of fire from the outside to the inside?</p> <p>20 A. Yes, I would -- I think the answer to your question is</p> <p>21 yes. I was not aware, never been made aware, never had</p> <p>22 any training on, the extent materials clad to the</p> <p>23 outside of a building retrospectively could have on fire</p> <p>24 spread.</p> <p>25 Q. Is that right even after Shepherds Court, which you've</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p> | <p>1 A. No, I was on my way to the appliance.</p> <p>2 Q. In your contemporaneous notes, you say you went to the</p> <p>3 pump with Chris Secrett and fetched BA.</p> <p>4 A. Yes.</p> <p>5 Q. That's right, is it?</p> <p>6 A. (Nodded assent).</p> <p>7 Q. Okay.</p> <p>8 Now, we have you coming back into the main entrance</p> <p>9 in BA at 1.30.26 or so, and when I mention these times,</p> <p>10 they're always subject to potential adjustments, but</p> <p>11 that's the time we have. It's camera 4, tab 9 of the</p> <p>12 CCTV bundle INQ00000128, if I could just ask you to be</p> <p>13 shown that.</p> <p>14 Now, that's --</p> <p>15 A. Ah, okay.</p> <p>16 Q. That's you.</p> <p>17 A. Yes.</p> <p>18 Q. Carrying --</p> <p>19 A. Hose.</p> <p>20 Q. -- hose in your left hand. And who do you think is</p> <p>21 behind you?</p> <p>22 A. I can't say, actually. I can't see rank markings so</p> <p>23 I don't think it's Chris Secrett. I don't know,</p> <p>24 actually.</p> <p>25 Q. Okay. All right.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p>  |
| <p>1 used as your example?</p> <p>2 A. Yes, no training whatsoever.</p> <p>3 Q. Now, in your statement on page 4, you say, six lines</p> <p>4 down from the top:</p> <p>5 "Not hearing anything more I spoke to Guv Mike</p> <p>6 DOWDAN[sic] the Watch Manager from north Kensington who</p> <p>7 said he had made it a fifteen pump fire and I said</p> <p>8 good."</p> <p>9 You say "not hearing anything more"; not hearing</p> <p>10 anything more from whom?</p> <p>11 A. I think on the radio.</p> <p>12 Q. Right, I see.</p> <p>13 Where were you when you spoke to Mike Dowden?</p> <p>14 A. Virtually outside the front entrance, just outside it.</p> <p>15 Q. You say he said he had made it a 15-pump fire and you</p> <p>16 said good; did you discuss anything else?</p> <p>17 A. No, that was it. I was running.</p> <p>18 Q. Who referred to 15 pumps, was it you or him?</p> <p>19 A. He did. I suggested make them eight or ten because from</p> <p>20 what I'd seen, it was -- he said, "I've made them 15"</p> <p>21 and I said, "Good."</p> <p>22 Q. Okay.</p> <p>23 When you had this conversation, had you been back to</p> <p>24 your appliance by this stage or were you on your way to</p> <p>25 the --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p>   | <p>1 There's a better image, in fact, at 1.30.30 at</p> <p>2 INQ00000129, if I could just ask you to be shown that.</p> <p>3 Ah, yes. Now, can you identify yourself in that</p> <p>4 picture?</p> <p>5 A. No, I'm not in that picture. That is one of</p> <p>6 Kensington's crew in the middle, Firefighter O'Hanlon</p> <p>7 and Crew Manager Sephton from Hammersmith. So I think</p> <p>8 they were after me because I ran past Matt Sephton</p> <p>9 putting his set on.</p> <p>10 Q. That's a happy coincidence. Which one is Sephton, do</p> <p>11 you think?</p> <p>12 A. At the back, with the bald head.</p> <p>13 Q. Moving forward, from the back of the queue, who is the</p> <p>14 next one?</p> <p>15 A. Firefighter O'Hanlon.</p> <p>16 Q. Yes. And then?</p> <p>17 A. I think that's Firefighter Broderick.</p> <p>18 Q. Broderick. Then the front?</p> <p>19 A. Not sure, actually.</p> <p>20 Q. Holding what looks like an enforcer?</p> <p>21 A. Holding an enforcer and branch. I don't know who that</p> <p>22 is, actually.</p> <p>23 Q. Now, if you then go to your statement at page 4,</p> <p>24 paragraph 1, a little bit lower down, you say:</p> <p>25 "Dave BADILLO then said he had keys to a flat, I</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p> |

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| <p>1 think 176 on the twentieth floor where a twelve year old</p> <p>2 girl who was on her own had called her mum to say that</p> <p>3 she was in trouble."</p> <p>4 Now, just pausing there, where were you when Dave</p> <p>5 Badillo told you that?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I was at the bridgehead. I'd gone up to the bridgehead</b></p> <p>7 <b>to basically get tasked. Either they'd have had</b></p> <p>8 <b>information of where the fire was, probably the next</b></p> <p>9 <b>compartment up, so I was waiting to be briefed. I was</b></p> <p>10 <b>probably going to go in with Chris Secrett and then Dave</b></p> <p>11 <b>Badillo came up the stairs.</b></p> <p>12 MR MILLETT: We are going to go on with this line of</p> <p>13 questioning, but, Mr Dorgu, it may be convenient now for</p> <p>14 a break for you.</p> <p>15 THE WITNESS: Okay.</p> <p>16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Good point from your point of view?</p> <p>17 All right. Shall we have a short break? Ten minutes?</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: Five, I'm fine, yes.</p> <p>19 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: We'll say ten. Five doesn't work so</p> <p>20 well.</p> <p>21 So we'll come back at 2.55 and please don't talk</p> <p>22 about your evidence while you're out. All right? Thank</p> <p>23 you very much.</p> <p>24 All right, 2.55, please.</p> <p>25 (2.45 pm)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p> | <p>1 20th floor in a flat?</p> <p>2 <b>A. No. Everything I knew about the girl and the flat was</b></p> <p>3 <b>all from Dave.</b></p> <p>4 Q. All from Dave?</p> <p>5 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. So you don't remember a fire survival guidance call</p> <p>7 coming --</p> <p>8 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>9 Q. -- to the bridgehead --</p> <p>10 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>11 Q. -- from control?</p> <p>12 <b>A. Not at all. I didn't know they had them even coming in</b></p> <p>13 <b>at that time, so no.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Right.</p> <p>15 Did you know that Dave Badillo had already tried to</p> <p>16 access the 20th floor on his own?</p> <p>17 <b>A. No. Not at that point, no.</b></p> <p>18 Q. He didn't tell you that?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Did Dave Badillo say anything to you or to Chris Secrett</p> <p>21 or Brien O'Keeffe about the conditions that he'd</p> <p>22 encountered higher up the building on an earlier trip.</p> <p>23 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Did you know he had taken an earlier trip up the</p> <p>25 building?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 143</p>   |
| <p>1 (A short break)</p> <p>2 (2.55 pm)</p> <p>3 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, is Mr Dorgu ready, please?</p> <p>4 (Pause)</p> <p>5 Yes. Happy to go on?</p> <p>6 THE WITNESS: Yes.</p> <p>7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Thank you very much.</p> <p>8 MR MILLETT: Mr Dorgu, thank you.</p> <p>9 Now, I just asked you before the break where you</p> <p>10 were when you had your discussion with Dave Badillo</p> <p>11 about the 12-year-old girl and you said you were at the</p> <p>12 bridgehead.</p> <p>13 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>14 Q. Was Dave Badillo at the bridgehead at that time as well?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Who else was there with you, do you remember?</p> <p>17 <b>A. I was at the bridgehead by the stairs, so I was on, say,</b></p> <p>18 <b>the second stair, Dave was below me, Watch Manager</b></p> <p>19 <b>O'Keeffe, Justin O'Beirne, Crew Manager Secrett,</b></p> <p>20 <b>obviously, and another guy from Paddington called</b></p> <p>21 <b>Jim Wolfenden.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Jim Wolfenden. Right, okay.</p> <p>23 Now, you say in your statement that Dave said he had</p> <p>24 the keys to a flat. Do you remember receiving any other</p> <p>25 information from any other source about a girl on the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 142</p>  | <p>1 <b>A. No, no.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Now, you say:</p> <p>3 "So myself, Dave BADILLO, Chris SECRET and went to</p> <p>4 go up but the lift wasn't working so we picked up our</p> <p>5 equipment and walked to the 20th floor."</p> <p>6 Did you tell anybody that was running the</p> <p>7 bridgehead, either Watch Manager O'Keeffe or the person</p> <p>8 running entry control, that that's what you were doing?</p> <p>9 <b>A. We will have done, yes, but also they would have seen us</b></p> <p>10 <b>disappear off to the left where the lifts were. So they</b></p> <p>11 <b>would've known we didn't go straight up the stairs.</b></p> <p>12 Q. Did they know where you'd gone? Did they know your</p> <p>13 destination?</p> <p>14 <b>A. Oh, yes, yes.</b></p> <p>15 Q. Who told the bridgehead where you were going, do you</p> <p>16 remember?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Dave did. Dave basically was at the bridgehead with me</b></p> <p>18 <b>and Chris. I think he was originally going up with</b></p> <p>19 <b>Jim Wolfenden. Because me, Chris and Dave were in the</b></p> <p>20 <b>same crew, we decided to go together as a three. Dave</b></p> <p>21 <b>basically said, "I've got the keys to a flat, there's</b></p> <p>22 <b>a 12-year-old girl, she's in trouble". I didn't know</b></p> <p>23 <b>what that meant. I presumed there wasn't fire in that</b></p> <p>24 <b>flat, but I presumed it was smoke, and he's going to go</b></p> <p>25 <b>and get her.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 144</p> |

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| <p>1       <b>So he's got the keys to the flat, so we didn't need</b><br/> 2       <b>any breaking-in gear, so therefore we told the</b><br/> 3       <b>bridgehead where we were going, which would've been Alec</b><br/> 4       <b>De St Aubin or Brien O'Keeffe or Justin, but they will</b><br/> 5       <b>have made a note of it on the board. We'll have gone</b><br/> 6       <b>round to the lifts. So they will have seen that we</b><br/> 7       <b>didn't go immediately straight up the stairs, so they'll</b><br/> 8       <b>know we took the lift.</b><br/> 9       Q. Two things, just to confirm, when you left the<br/> 10      bridgehead, you did tell either Alex --<br/> 11      <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 12      Q. -- or Brien where you were going?<br/> 13      <b>A. Absolutely, yes.</b><br/> 14      Q. Secondly, you said, I think, in your answer just now<br/> 15      that you presumed there wasn't fire in that flat but<br/> 16      presumed it was smoke.<br/> 17      <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 18      Q. So, at that stage, did you think that the smoke had got<br/> 19      that high up in the building?<br/> 20      <b>A. I believed that it was possible, especially as I'd seen</b><br/> 21      <b>smoke on the outside on the cladding at maybe the</b><br/> 22      <b>eighth, ninth, tenth floor, saw that it was quite smoky,</b><br/> 23      <b>so, yes, it seemed feasible. It seemed quite feasible.</b><br/> 24      <b>If somebody is reporting smoke or they're distressed,</b><br/> 25      <b>then yes.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 145</p> | <p>1       the telemetry data shortly -- you said in the middle of<br/> 2       the page 4, three lines down from the start of the<br/> 3       second paragraph:<br/> 4       "We told Justin we were going up as he was on the<br/> 5       board."<br/> 6       Just to be clear, did you tell Justin -- that's<br/> 7       Justin O'Beirne?<br/> 8       <b>A. That's Justin O'Beirne, yes.</b><br/> 9       Q. Just to be clear, did you tell him, "We're going to the<br/> 10      20th floor"?<br/> 11      <b>A. Yes. Gave him the flat number.</b><br/> 12      Q. You say he was on the board.<br/> 13      <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 14      Q. Did you see him write that down anywhere?<br/> 15      <b>A. I can't remember him writing it down but I 100 per cent</b><br/> 16      <b>know he would've written it down.</b><br/> 17      Q. On what, do you think?<br/> 18      <b>A. On the board. So when you give him your tally, it has</b><br/> 19      <b>your name, the amount of air you have. The board will</b><br/> 20      <b>then electronically estimate, give or take your</b><br/> 21      <b>breathing rate, your working rate, when your time of</b><br/> 22      <b>whistle would be, how much air you have, and he would</b><br/> 23      <b>write in the "Remarks" column, "Search and rescue, 20th</b><br/> 24      <b>floor, flat 176".</b><br/> 25      Q. Okay. So that's the entry control board.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 147</p>   |
| <p>1       Q. Did you discuss with anybody your presumption that there<br/> 2       was smoke already on the 20th floor?<br/> 3       <b>A. No, the three of us knew that. We didn't really have</b><br/> 4       <b>time to discuss it really. We just going to rescue a --</b><br/> 5       <b>do a rescue and that's it.</b><br/> 6       Q. Did you then go under air?<br/> 7       <b>A. Yes, at the bridgehead, yes.</b><br/> 8       Q. Okay. And you handed in your tallies at the bridgehead?<br/> 9       <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 10      Q. Now, just to give this a point in time, Mr Dorgu, we<br/> 11      haven't shown you yet the telemetry data schedule. Can<br/> 12      we just have a look at that, tab 1.<br/> 13      We have in BA Time Line (2), the second chunk in<br/> 14      light blue, we see the three of you, Badillo, Secrett<br/> 15      and Dorgu.<br/> 16      <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 17      Q. All North Ken. Tally out. In your case, this is the<br/> 18      green column. You're tallying out at 01.35.01 and<br/> 19      logging on to the ECB at 01.35.19. Does that tie in<br/> 20      with your recollection of roughly how long you'd been on<br/> 21      the fire ground since you'd arrived, some 35 minutes?<br/> 22      <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 23      Q. Okay.<br/> 24      <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 25      Q. Just going back to your statement -- we'll come back to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 146</p>  | <p>1       <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 2       Q. What about the forward information board?<br/> 3       <b>A. He may well have written it on there as well at a later</b><br/> 4       <b>time, but the first -- the bridgehead may well have been</b><br/> 5       <b>getting busy after that. I think Hammersmith's crews</b><br/> 6       <b>were coming up behind us. Jim Wolfenden was there.</b><br/> 7       <b>These people are going to be committed. So the entry</b><br/> 8       <b>control officer's first port of call is to record the</b><br/> 9       <b>information of the BA wearers.</b><br/> 10      <b>So you have to know -- you have to have their tally.</b><br/> 11      <b>It has to be updated with chinagraph. If the air levels</b><br/> 12      <b>dropped between the time I did my A set back at the</b><br/> 13      <b>station, it has to be noted, so you know how much air</b><br/> 14      <b>I have, and you have to know where I am, what I'm doing,</b><br/> 15      <b>what I'm carrying out.</b><br/> 16      Q. Can I take a small diversion and ask you: entry control<br/> 17      board and forward information board, when would you<br/> 18      write the information about where you were going on the<br/> 19      forward information board?<br/> 20      <b>A. When you had time, basically. So it would be at the</b><br/> 21      <b>first convenient place, or if you had another member of</b><br/> 22      <b>crew to do that.</b><br/> 23      Q. What would you put onto the forward information board?<br/> 24      <b>A. Any information you couldn't really fit on a BA board,</b><br/> 25      <b>because a BA board "Remarks" column is small. It would</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 148</p> |

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|---|--|
| <p>1 say literally three-man crew, it would say the flat</p> <p>2 number, the floor, what you were doing, search and</p> <p>3 rescue, and that's all you have room for, really. So on</p> <p>4 a forward information board, you could write a more</p> <p>5 comprehensive map of what was going on.</p> <p>6 Q. Right. That's helpful, thank you.</p> <p>7 So we have you tallying out at the time we looked</p> <p>8 at, 01.35.01 in your case, and then can you remember</p> <p>9 what you took up with you?</p> <p>10 A. A line of 45-millimetre hose and a branch.</p> <p>11 Q. Okay. And what about Chris Secrett, what did he have</p> <p>12 with him, do you remember?</p> <p>13 A. If I'm not mistaken, a line of 70-millimetre hose and</p> <p>14 a 45-millimetre hose.</p> <p>15 Q. Why would he take a 70-millimetre hose into the</p> <p>16 building?</p> <p>17 A. I'm not sure. Essentially, when you plug into the dry</p> <p>18 riser, you'd have the wider hose first, which allows you</p> <p>19 greater pressure, so it carries more water. You could</p> <p>20 easily use -- often use 45-millimetre hose, but if he</p> <p>21 had 70, it's either because that's what was available at</p> <p>22 the time or he just happened to have that on him.</p> <p>23 Q. Right.</p> <p>24 The nozzle of a dry riser outlet, how big is that?</p> <p>25 What sort of size hose does that fit?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 149</p> | <p>1 building, by stairs or by lift?</p> <p>2 A. By the lift, so we went around to the left, to the lift</p> <p>3 lobby.</p> <p>4 Q. So you took the lift from the second floor?</p> <p>5 A. Yes.</p> <p>6 Q. And where did the lift stop?</p> <p>7 A. Eighth floor.</p> <p>8 Q. Eighth floor. Okay.</p> <p>9 When you say "Held the lift button, pushed it any</p> <p>10 floor it wouldn't work", where were you? Were you still</p> <p>11 in the lift?</p> <p>12 A. Yes, so we tried to call it and it wouldn't come.</p> <p>13 Sorry, we are in the lift, the doors opened, and we</p> <p>14 pressed the button, the doors wouldn't shut again.</p> <p>15 Smoke came in, so we had to leave.</p> <p>16 Q. Just so I'm clear, when you say "Held the lift button,</p> <p>17 pushed it any floor it wouldn't work", you're on the</p> <p>18 eighth floor, doors were open --</p> <p>19 A. Yes.</p> <p>20 Q. -- it wouldn't go any further; is that --</p> <p>21 A. Because if it's a firefighting lift, the difference</p> <p>22 between a firefighting lift and a normal lift that you</p> <p>23 or I would call would be that you hold the button in and</p> <p>24 you have to hold the button until you get to the floor.</p> <p>25 Whereas normally you just press floor 8, and you go to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 151</p>   |
| <p>1 A. Both, because the coupling is the same. So the coupling</p> <p>2 is a specific diameter. The hose attached to it can be</p> <p>3 70-millimetre or 45-millimetre.</p> <p>4 Q. Is there an adaptor?</p> <p>5 A. No, there's no adaptor needed, it's just that the hose</p> <p>6 itself is -- the piece of the coupling that enters the</p> <p>7 hose itself will taper down to appropriate level.</p> <p>8 Q. I see.</p> <p>9 Now, halfway down page 4, just after the reference</p> <p>10 to telling Justin, you say:</p> <p>11 "We had to walk up to the twentieth floor with all</p> <p>12 the kit as the lift wasn't working. Held the lift</p> <p>13 button, pushed it any floor it wouldn't work."</p> <p>14 Now, just pausing there, was it you who tried it?</p> <p>15 A. It may well have been Crew Manager Secrett.</p> <p>16 Q. Which floor were you on when you tried the lift?</p> <p>17 A. When it stopped or when we got in?</p> <p>18 Q. Well, at that point. When you say "Held the lift</p> <p>19 button, pushed it any floor it wouldn't work", where</p> <p>20 were you, which floor were you on?</p> <p>21 A. It stopped on the eighth floor, I think.</p> <p>22 Q. Let's just take this a bit more slowly.</p> <p>23 When you leave the bridgehead --</p> <p>24 A. Yes.</p> <p>25 Q. -- how do you get away from the bridgehead, up into the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 150</p>                                | <p>1 hold 8. We had to hold it to get it to that point.</p> <p>2 So we held it, we pushed different buttons, nothing</p> <p>3 was happening. Smoke came in anyway into the lift, so</p> <p>4 we left.</p> <p>5 Q. Did Chris Secrett tell you anything about his</p> <p>6 experiences about trying to get it to work as</p> <p>7 a firefighter lift at the very start of the incident?</p> <p>8 A. No. No. Again, I don't think I was in the lift at that</p> <p>9 point so I didn't know.</p> <p>10 Q. What did you understand about the capabilities of the</p> <p>11 lift as a firefighter's lift?</p> <p>12 A. That we basically would have control over it, so we can</p> <p>13 call it down to the bridgehead, to the floor. We could</p> <p>14 travel up and down as we needed to effect rescues and</p> <p>15 distribute equipment.</p> <p>16 Q. I think I have your evidence right: you didn't have</p> <p>17 a conversation with Chris Secrett about whether the lift</p> <p>18 was functioning in accordance with that capability?</p> <p>19 A. No, no.</p> <p>20 Q. Right. So eighth floor, the doors open, they don't</p> <p>21 close again. What were the conditions like on the</p> <p>22 eighth floor in the lobby?</p> <p>23 A. Smoky. Because we had to leave the lift because it was</p> <p>24 obviously filling with smoke.</p> <p>25 Q. How dense was the smoke?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 152</p> |

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|---|--|
| <p>1 <b>A. In breathing apparatus, it's difficult to assess, but it</b><br/> 2 <b>was smoke -- it was visible smoke. You wouldn't want to</b><br/> 3 <b>breathe it in.</b><br/> 4 Q. So you then decide to use the stairs and you explain the<br/> 5 decision-making you got to that.<br/> 6 In the last part of the second paragraph on page 4<br/> 7 you say:<br/> 8 "It wasn't like we weren't taking a risk, it could<br/> 9 of[sic] done that way but it shouldn't of done. It was<br/> 10 not usual to do it [using the stairs] but necessary as<br/> 11 there was no real option."<br/> 12 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 13 Q. "Even without air it should technically be o.k. We've<br/> 14 got more help coming, the fire should be out soon, the<br/> 15 spread should be fine, people are evacuating o.k.<br/> 16 Smokes spread as high as the twentieth for whatever<br/> 17 reason. We presume she's in danger so we haven't got<br/> 18 any other option. First options use the lift, second<br/> 19 options use the stairs, o.k we'll use the stairs."<br/> 20 Now, you've set out there a line of logic. Were<br/> 21 those your thoughts at the time?<br/> 22 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 23 Q. Right. Okay. Did you discuss any of those matters at<br/> 24 the time with Chris Secrett or Dave Badillo?<br/> 25 <b>A. No, no. No.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 153</p>  | <p>1 <b>starts transmitting to your body that you feel heat.</b><br/> 2 Q. Jumping ahead to the next page of your statement, the<br/> 3 very bottom of page 5, the end of the last paragraph but<br/> 4 one on that page, where you do deal with the question of<br/> 5 heat.<br/> 6 You say -- this is the last sentence at the end of<br/> 7 that very long paragraph:<br/> 8 "You don't notice it at first but we all started to<br/> 9 notice it by the time we got to the twentieth."<br/> 10 Can I just ask: at what point did you start to<br/> 11 notice ambient heat?<br/> 12 <b>A. It's difficult to say because at that point, we're</b><br/> 13 <b>task-focused, so our main point is getting to the 20th</b><br/> 14 <b>floor, carrying a load of hose and a branch. So you're</b><br/> 15 <b>working extremely hard. Your fire kit is extremely --</b><br/> 16 <b>it insulates you very well, but also insulates your</b><br/> 17 <b>heat. So any heat you're producing through sweat on</b><br/> 18 <b>a warm summer's night gradually builds up. You're</b><br/> 19 <b>carrying basically scuba diving equipment on your back,</b><br/> 20 <b>and it's quite difficult. So it happens slowly and you</b><br/> 21 <b>exert yourself to a point. Probably when you stop, you</b><br/> 22 <b>begin to realise that the heat builds up.</b><br/> 23 Q. Just going back, if we can, to the bottom of the fourth<br/> 24 page of your statement, second line, you say:<br/> 25 "It got darker as we got higher, it was never</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 155</p> |
| <p>1 Q. Then you say in the beginning of the next paragraph in<br/> 2 the second sentence:<br/> 3 "It took maybe fifteen minutes to get up there. It<br/> 4 got darker as we got higher, it was never ending, I'm<br/> 5 pretty sure the lights weren't on but the twentieth was<br/> 6 bright light."<br/> 7 Now, just pausing there. Do you remember whether<br/> 8 there was any smoke in the stairs as you went up?<br/> 9 <b>A. Yes, there was, yes.</b><br/> 10 Q. Where did that start? So you start on the eighth floor,<br/> 11 where did the smoke in the stairs really start?<br/> 12 <b>A. Can't be sure. I remember being able to see my radio,</b><br/> 13 <b>my handheld radio, as soon as we got out of the lift,</b><br/> 14 <b>because I tried to -- because I had no BARIE set, I had</b><br/> 15 <b>to prop the hose and the branch on one knee and then try</b><br/> 16 <b>and talk into the radio, and I remember (a) the radio</b><br/> 17 <b>didn't respond, it had gone silent; and (ii) I could see</b><br/> 18 <b>the radio, so I could see.</b><br/> 19 Q. Right.<br/> 20 <b>A. But then moving further up, it got worse and worse.</b><br/> 21 Q. What about temperature?<br/> 22 <b>A. Noticeable at that point. But you're insulated in fire</b><br/> 23 <b>gear, Nomex fire gear. You're insulated from exterior</b><br/> 24 <b>ambient temperature for quite some time. It's only when</b><br/> 25 <b>the heat gradually is absorbed by your fire kit and then</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 154</p> | <p>1 ending."<br/> 2 When you say it got darker, what got darker?<br/> 3 <b>A. The stairwell.</b><br/> 4 Q. Was it the light that was fading? Why was it getting<br/> 5 darker?<br/> 6 <b>A. Difficult to. Say it could've been that the smoke was</b><br/> 7 <b>obscuring the ambient lighting in the stairwell, it</b><br/> 8 <b>could be that the lighting had failed, it could be that</b><br/> 9 <b>it was just so smoky in the area where I was, there's</b><br/> 10 <b>a pocket of smoke here that I couldn't see. And also,</b><br/> 11 <b>you get carbonaceous build-up on your face mask. So</b><br/> 12 <b>often in a job you will think you can't see, but if you</b><br/> 13 <b>wipe your face mask, although you're smearing stuff</b><br/> 14 <b>around, sometimes you can get a clear slither of view.</b><br/> 15 Q. As you went up, could you count your way up by reference<br/> 16 to the numbers in the stairwell?<br/> 17 <b>A. No, no. You would think on paper it would be possible,</b><br/> 18 <b>but when you are travelling at speed, carrying</b><br/> 19 <b>equipment, and you're just trying to get up the next</b><br/> 20 <b>step, stumbling, falling, it's pitch black, you're not</b><br/> 21 <b>thinking of what floor you're on, you just keep on going</b><br/> 22 <b>up.</b><br/> 23 I'm aware I stopped a couple of times to try to send<br/> 24 messages on the way up because I was anxious no one<br/> 25 could hear us and no one knew where we were, but I was</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 156</p>                            |

1 also falling behind the other two, so I have to keep  
 2 with them. So I'm running as fast as I can to keep up  
 3 with them, so I'm not counting floors.  
 4 Q. On that last answer in terms of comms, at what point do  
 5 you think you started to have difficulty communicating?  
 6 A. I don't remember any communication at all from leaving  
 7 the bridgehead. So when we got in the lift, we probably  
 8 would've selected a floor, got out at maybe the 18th  
 9 floor and travelled up, that would've been the plan, two  
 10 floors below and walk up, so I would've transmitted  
 11 then, but we didn't have the opportunity. So when  
 12 I came out of the lift, it would transmit better when  
 13 it's not in a lift shaft -- nothing. Nothing from the  
 14 eighth floor. Tried a couple of times, maybe --  
 15 guessing -- say, the 12th and the 16th, but again,  
 16 nothing.  
 17 Q. When you say nothing, you're just getting nothing back  
 18 or you --  
 19 A. Nothing back.  
 20 Q. -- couldn't hear any sound at all from your radio?  
 21 A. Sometimes static, sometimes just the odd word. You're  
 22 picking up a minor bit of transmission from someone  
 23 else, but there's certainly no one replying to me on  
 24 channel 6 at the bridgehead. It's not a congested  
 25 channel, it's the command channel, so channel 6 would be

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1 literally at that time anyone in BA, which would be Tom  
 2 on the fifth floor, maybe a crew if they're committed to  
 3 the sixth or seventh, and us. So it would be no more  
 4 than four teams in, so four or five people using that  
 5 channel.  
 6 Q. Is that a lot?  
 7 A. Not really, no, no, because you tend not to transmit at  
 8 the same time, but I couldn't hear anyone and I'm pretty  
 9 sure no one could hear me.  
 10 Q. Were you wearing a BARIE or communicating via fire  
 11 ground radio?  
 12 A. No, unfortunately BARIEs are every other set, so if you  
 13 have four people on the back of a fire engine, the rule  
 14 is that you only have two. So it's presumed that in  
 15 a partnership of two, one person would have BARIE.  
 16 Q. Who out of the three of you had the BARIE?  
 17 A. Unfortunately this is where the problem lies, because  
 18 you don't always go in with your original partner that  
 19 you were established at change of watch, so in this  
 20 case, Crew Manager Secrett should have a BARIE set  
 21 because he's a crew manager. His BARIE set for whatever  
 22 reason was off the run, so he had no set, and Dave and  
 23 I -- so I didn't have a set because I was his partner.  
 24 Dave was either off another machine, off the pump  
 25 ladder, or in the middle. He didn't have a BARIE set

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1 either. So between three of us, we had no intrinsically  
 2 safe comms set.  
 3 Q. You say intrinsically safe; what in safety terms is the  
 4 comparison between a BARIE set and ordinary fire ground  
 5 radio?  
 6 A. Essentially, the handset is very similar, it transmits  
 7 on the same channels, but a BARIE set has a pressel  
 8 switch and an earpiece so that you can nudge the  
 9 earpiece or you can touch it with another part of your  
 10 body. Whereas with a handheld, you have to hold your  
 11 other hand -- you need a hand to do it. But the other  
 12 thing is a BARIE set is intrinsically safe, which means  
 13 it does not provide a suitable source of ignition in  
 14 a flammable atmosphere. So if you're in a building, say  
 15 there's a gas leak nearby, you can use your BARIE set,  
 16 but you wouldn't want to walk in there with a handheld  
 17 radio because a spark may ignite the room.  
 18 Q. Just to come back, then, to the question of the  
 19 numbering of the staircase internally as you went up,  
 20 how did you keep tabs on which floor you were on?  
 21 A. We didn't. I just didn't. I could hear the footsteps  
 22 ahead of me of Chris, I knew I was within a floor of  
 23 him, so I had to just keep going. Basically I had to  
 24 stop when they stopped.  
 25 Q. Did you notice on your way up whether you could, if you

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1 looked hard enough, find the numbers on the floors?  
 2 A. I don't think I looked. In all honestly, we were going  
 3 to the 20th, so we're going virtually to the top of the  
 4 building, so you just keep going. It wouldn't be  
 5 relevant whether I was on the 12th or the 13th.  
 6 Q. Now, you say on page 5 at the top -- it's not very clear  
 7 from the statement, but let's pick it up at the bottom  
 8 of page 4, if we can. You say:  
 9 "Chris was in the doorway holding it open for me and  
 10 he was knackered."  
 11 This is three lines up from the bottom. Sorry,  
 12 I started perhaps a little bit too late on.  
 13 Now, "in the doorway", was that on the 20th floor?  
 14 A. Yes.  
 15 Q. I see. Doorway from, what, the stairwell into the  
 16 lobby?  
 17 A. Yes.  
 18 Q. You then say:  
 19 "They went in and searched ... anyway and I stayed  
 20 outside on the radio. I was trying and trying and  
 21 trying to get on the radio. Chris went into the lobby  
 22 and it was totally clear of smoke."  
 23 Did you see that for yourself, that the lobby was  
 24 totally clear of smoke?  
 25 A. No, because Chris held the door open for me on the 20th,

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40 (Pages 157 to 160)



1 which is the only reason I stopped. I'd have carried on  
 2 going because I couldn't see anything. So relative to  
 3 the stairwell, when I was at the top of the stairs, to  
 4 be honest I think I was literally on my knees with the  
 5 hose beside me, because I could see Chris, so I stopped.  
 6 Smoke will tend to travel downwards from the top,  
 7 from the roof down, so from maybe shoulder height down,  
 8 if you stood up in it, it would be pitch black; if you  
 9 crouched down, you could actually see, it's relatively  
 10 clear. So I could see bright light, relatively  
 11 speaking, and Chris's feet and see him stood over, out  
 12 of breath. So I could see that when I got to the 20th,  
 13 and then he went over to the right and searched the  
 14 flat.  
 15 Q. Okay. So are you saying that in the lobby there was  
 16 smoke, but it was clustered on the ceiling in a band?  
 17 A. Yes, further down, but yes.  
 18 Q. How far down did it come?  
 19 A. At least halfway down, but that soon changed. That  
 20 changed quite quickly because Chris was holding the door  
 21 open, so the smoke -- essentially, the firefighting  
 22 shaft basically has become a chimney, so it's taking  
 23 smoke from downstairs, heating it and bringing it  
 24 straight up towards us. So as he opened the lift lobby  
 25 door, basically the lobby would've filled with smoke,

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1 which it did.  
 2 Q. Did he open the door for long?  
 3 A. Not for long, just to basically make sure I was okay and  
 4 get me in. He may have spoken to me, I don't remember.  
 5 Q. So you go into the 20th-floor lift lobby, that's the top  
 6 of page 5. You say:  
 7 "... eventually as they were searching I went in  
 8 looking around the hallway but she wasn't in there."  
 9 So is that inside the flat that you were sent to,  
 10 flat 176?  
 11 A. Yes.  
 12 Q. So you all three went into that flat?  
 13 A. They went in first. My first thought was we need to  
 14 have hose. Obviously we brought hose with us. But the  
 15 lobby became pitch black -- like pitch black, so ...  
 16 Q. Before any of you went into the flat, can you describe  
 17 the door of flat 176? Was it open or closed?  
 18 A. I wouldn't -- no, I don't know.  
 19 Q. Do you remember whether Dave Badillo had to use the keys  
 20 or not?  
 21 A. I don't think he did. I don't think he did. I think it  
 22 was left open, but I'm not sure. I don't -- I can't  
 23 swear on it.  
 24 Q. When you went into the flat, what was the condition in  
 25 the flat? What were the air conditions in the flat

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1 like?  
 2 A. Similar to the lobby. I could just about make out the  
 3 shapes of Chris and Dave in there in separate rooms,  
 4 basically searching very hard. I was in the hallway.  
 5 Went down to my knees to see if I could see anything, to  
 6 see how the smoke level was. The hall looked clear.  
 7 I could see enough to see there was nothing in the  
 8 hallway itself. But it was a small flat, so you don't  
 9 need three people in there searching because you'd get  
 10 in each other's way.  
 11 I originally thought I could set into the dry riser,  
 12 but that was just a pointless idea, so I stayed on  
 13 comms.  
 14 Q. How far into the flat did you get?  
 15 A. Literally into the hallway, into the main door, because  
 16 I stayed outside. As they went in, I was still catching  
 17 my breath, and brought the hose inside. So what you  
 18 don't want is for hose to unravel and become a trip  
 19 hazard for us or anyone trying to leave the building, so  
 20 I had to make sure it was packed tightly against the  
 21 wall so we could find it again. So I did that, took  
 22 Chris's hose, my hose, the branch, and then went into  
 23 the flat and basically stayed in the doorway, still  
 24 trying the radio.  
 25 Q. And what about heat? What was the heat like in the

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1 hallway, do you remember?  
 2 A. Yes, hot. It got hotter. It seemed hotter in the flat  
 3 than it was in the lobby. It was warm in the lobby, but  
 4 then more so in the flat. Different temperature. But  
 5 I just thought that was because -- I didn't think the  
 6 fire was close by, but it just felt like I was hot,  
 7 I was just -- I had just been heated up through running  
 8 up 13 flights of stairs with BA set on.  
 9 Q. What about the light in the flat, was it dark or was it  
 10 light in the flat?  
 11 A. It was dark.  
 12 Q. Did you try to switch on the lights?  
 13 A. No, you wouldn't do that, no. So, no.  
 14 Q. On page 5, you say, a third of the way down:  
 15 "There was no point knocking on doors of her  
 16 neighbours house as it never happens that fire's that  
 17 high or that quick. It just wouldn't happen for there  
 18 to be fire all the way up and all floors in between, it  
 19 just wouldn't happen. It's like knocking on all your  
 20 neighbours doors in the middle of the night just to get  
 21 them out of bed, just why would you?: there's no danger.  
 22 We knew her flat was smokey but nobody else had come out  
 23 of their flat complaining. We didn't know the whole  
 24 building was on fire."  
 25 You told us you'd been outside the building at about

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41 (Pages 161 to 164)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 1.30.</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. You'd seen the east face --</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>5 Q. -- substantially alight.</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Can you just explain why, if you can, you thought there</p> <p>8 was no danger?</p> <p>9 <b>A. Because -- I think disbelief, if I'm honest. I just did</b></p> <p>10 <b>not believe that a substance would be put on the side of</b></p> <p>11 <b>a building, all the way up with no fire breaks, that was</b></p> <p>12 <b>completely flammable, that would race up higher than</b></p> <p>13 <b>I could run, that would break into every flat on the</b></p> <p>14 <b>way, set that flat on fire, and carry on doing that all</b></p> <p>15 <b>the way. Like, I think that flat on the 20th floor</b></p> <p>16 <b>flashed over minutes after we were in it, so the</b></p> <p>17 <b>temperature was rising all the time.</b></p> <p>18 <b>I just frankly didn't believe it. I knew the</b></p> <p>19 <b>cladding was on fire, but the cladding and the building</b></p> <p>20 <b>are almost two separate entities. A building is</b></p> <p>21 <b>concrete and the cladding will just fall away and was</b></p> <p>22 <b>burning. I could see bits of cladding falling away when</b></p> <p>23 <b>I was downstairs, so it was burning and falling away</b></p> <p>24 <b>like paper. I didn't think it was substantial enough,</b></p> <p>25 <b>and when I'd seen it, it was ten floors below where we</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 165</p>  | <p>1 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> I'm sorry, I didn't mean to</p> <p>2 <b>interrupt you at all.</b></p> <p>3 <b>I think you said earlier that your recollection is</b></p> <p>4 <b>that the door of 176 had been left open. Do you know</b></p> <p>5 <b>whether it was open in the sense that it was shut but</b></p> <p>6 <b>not locked or standing open?</b></p> <p>7 <b>A. I honestly don't know, sorry.</b></p> <p>8 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> Can you remember anything about the</p> <p>9 other doors at that level?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Other doors on that floor?</b></p> <p>11 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> Yes.</p> <p>12 <b>A. No one came out. There was no indication at all from</b></p> <p>13 <b>anyone that anyone else was in distress. There was no</b></p> <p>14 <b>smoke alarm going off, obviously there was no fire alarm</b></p> <p>15 <b>because they took it out, but there was no one shouting,</b></p> <p>16 <b>no one banging on doors, and we were making a fair</b></p> <p>17 <b>amount of noise, running around with hose and bumping</b></p> <p>18 <b>into things and banging on doors to find your way. So</b></p> <p>19 <b>to navigate through the darkness, it's not a quiet</b></p> <p>20 <b>exercise. No one stirred.</b></p> <p>21 <b>So our presupposition is that they are safer in</b></p> <p>22 <b>their flat if there is smoke. We knew that the</b></p> <p>23 <b>atmosphere we were in was thoroughly irrespirable.</b></p> <p>24 <b>There is no way anyone is going to survive long unless</b></p> <p>25 <b>you're in breathing apparatus. So there's no way I'm</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 167</p> |
| <p>1 now were.</p> <p>2 <b>So I just couldn't understand, I've never seen it</b></p> <p>3 <b>before, didn't understand what was happening. And it's</b></p> <p>4 <b>just a stressful time. So you're there for a specific</b></p> <p>5 <b>task: we're trying to rescue one girl. That's what</b></p> <p>6 <b>we're doing and sort of thinking of. It's not -- you</b></p> <p>7 <b>know, you're not thinking -- you're not registering.</b></p> <p>8 <b>You're aware of danger and you're dynamically risk</b></p> <p>9 <b>assessing everything, but you're not always aware of</b></p> <p>10 <b>your surroundings in the way you might normally be.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Did you have any thoughts about where the smoke that</p> <p>12 you'd seen in the lobby and in flat 176 had come from?</p> <p>13 <b>A. I presumed it had come behind us, from below us on the</b></p> <p>14 <b>stairwell. So I knew that the fourth floor, that the</b></p> <p>15 <b>fifth floor, maybe I could believe the sixth floor, were</b></p> <p>16 <b>on fire, and it would be a significant fire for it to</b></p> <p>17 <b>have licked up into two floors. So by that time, teams</b></p> <p>18 <b>I knew had gone in on the fourth and fifth floor, so</b></p> <p>19 <b>I knew immediately, if they're fighting fires, the</b></p> <p>20 <b>stairway is going to be compromised by people exiting</b></p> <p>21 <b>the building, by firefighters wedging it open, so that</b></p> <p>22 <b>heat and smoke is going to come directly upwards.</b></p> <p>23 <b>So as Chris held the lobby door open and Dave held</b></p> <p>24 <b>the lobby door open, I presume that's how it had filled,</b></p> <p>25 <b>and also because --</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 166</p> | <p>1 going to knock on someone's door and ask them to come</p> <p>2 out into that.</p> <p>3 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> I think it follows from what you've</p> <p>4 just said that banging around in the lobby, the doors</p> <p>5 that you must have come across were shut?</p> <p>6 <b>A. They were shut.</b></p> <p>7 <b>SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK:</b> Right.</p> <p>8 <b>MR MILLETT:</b> You said a moment ago, in answer to one of the</p> <p>9 chairman's questions, that they're safer in their flats</p> <p>10 because the atmosphere was thoroughly irrespirable, no</p> <p>11 way anyone is going to survive long unless you're in</p> <p>12 breathing apparatus.</p> <p>13 <b>So can I just understand it. At that time, when you</b></p> <p>14 <b>come out of flat 176, are you saying this: if you'd</b></p> <p>15 <b>knocked on the door of, say, flat 175, for example, and</b></p> <p>16 <b>brought somebody out, the atmosphere would've been</b></p> <p>17 <b>unsafe for them to breathe?</b></p> <p>18 <b>A. Without a shadow of a doubt.</b></p> <p>19 Q. Can you give us an impression of how unsafe that</p> <p>20 would've been?</p> <p>21 <b>A. I know from firefighters who were in there later who</b></p> <p>22 <b>tried to rescue people, people they brought out were</b></p> <p>23 <b>unconscious within one flight or stairs, two flights of</b></p> <p>24 <b>stairs. So we were -- like, we were after a 12-year-old</b></p> <p>25 <b>girl. We were going to get her, we were going to bring</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 168</p>  |

1 her down, we'd have run her down the stairs, we'd have  
 2 found a way.  
 3 Q. How would you have got her down the stairs had you found  
 4 her?  
 5 A. I don't know. Doesn't matter, we'd have done it.  
 6 Q. All right.  
 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you all right? Do you need  
 8 a break at all?  
 9 THE WITNESS: No, I'm okay.  
 10 MR MILLETT: We can take a break, plenty of time.  
 11 THE WITNESS: Maybe just a minute, if that's all right.  
 12 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I think we'll have a short --  
 13 MR MILLETT: Shall we take 5 minutes?  
 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: My experience is that 5 minutes in  
 15 a sense is never enough because it's always 10, so I am  
 16 going to say 3.40. That will give us all time to have  
 17 a break.  
 18 Would you like to go with the usher, and don't talk  
 19 to anyone about your evidence.  
 20 All right 3.40, please.  
 21 (3.30 pm)  
 22 (A short break)  
 23 (3.40 pm)  
 24 MR MILLETT: Mr Dorgu, thank you for coming back to us.  
 25 Now, after your visit to the 20th floor, can you

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1 describe what happened at the moment you all decided to  
 2 leave?  
 3 A. Dave and Chris came out of the flat, kind of met me in  
 4 the doorway, and I remember Chris's timer whistle was  
 5 going off, which means he's on emergency air, which kind  
 6 of jolted me a bit because I realised we are way, way,  
 7 way -- miles away from the bridgehead, we should never  
 8 be on the 20th floor, it shouldn't be done, because you  
 9 just haven't got enough air. And I realised Chris is on  
 10 emergency air, we've still got to get down. His  
 11 breathing rate was high, we were all quite hot, so we  
 12 decided to leave immediately.  
 13 I had no comms. That was making me pretty anxious  
 14 because I needed to tell people what was happening.  
 15 I need the bridgehead to know it's heavily smoke-logged,  
 16 tell them what was happening, but I couldn't get hold of  
 17 them.  
 18 So we decided to leave. I picked up my hose.  
 19 I remember walking out from the lobby into the stairwell  
 20 and looking down into the stairwell, and it was totally  
 21 pitch black, which it shouldn't be; it should be clear.  
 22 It should be a protected stairwell.  
 23 Q. During the time that you'd spent on the 20th floor, do  
 24 you think the door from the lobby to the stairwell had  
 25 remained closed?

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1 A. Yes, it had, because I had to open it to leave.  
 2 Q. Yet you found the stairwell full of smoke? You said it  
 3 was pitch black.  
 4 A. Yes, it had basically built up against the door because  
 5 the lobby -- as we opened the door, the lobby filled  
 6 with smoke, and when we closed the door, the stairwell  
 7 filled with smoke.  
 8 Q. Did the smoke in the stairwell come from the 20th floor  
 9 lobby or do you think it was coming from elsewhere?  
 10 A. Coming from downstairs, I think.  
 11 Q. Really?  
 12 A. Yes. So smoke -- whatever was burning downstairs, which  
 13 at the time I believed to be a maximum of, say, three  
 14 flats, was coming from downstairs.  
 15 You didn't really have time to process the  
 16 information. Nothing was making sense. Nothing the  
 17 whole night made sense. Nothing happened the way it  
 18 should happen. The staircase was completely  
 19 smoke-logged and it was impassable by normal people  
 20 without breathing apparatus, and it should be  
 21 a protected stairwell. The heat was excessive. It  
 22 shouldn't have been that hot and I couldn't understand  
 23 why it was so hot.  
 24 Q. Heat in the stairwell?  
 25 A. Heat in the stairwell, heat in the lobby, heat in the

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1 flat. It shouldn't have been -- it came up through you.  
 2 It's like being heated from the inside out. It's quite  
 3 unpleasant. It wasn't normal. Even though we'd run  
 4 a long way in breathing apparatus, it still was  
 5 extremely hot and makes you a little bit -- a little bit  
 6 stressed.  
 7 Q. Had the conditions in the stairwell changed when you  
 8 went out into it from when you had first left it to go  
 9 into the 20th-floor lobby?  
 10 A. They'd worsened, yeah, on the way down.  
 11 Q. Did you have any thoughts about where the smoke and heat  
 12 in the stairwell had come from?  
 13 A. Like I said, it come from the lower level of the  
 14 stairwell. So if smoke has spread, if other floors are  
 15 affected by smoke, as soon as the lobby doors open, the  
 16 stairwell, which should be protected by ventilation, is  
 17 compromised. If that ventilation is not working -- and  
 18 clearly it wasn't -- more and more smoke will pour out  
 19 into the stairwell. We were at the top of the stairwell  
 20 and we couldn't see anything, really.  
 21 You had pockets of air on the way down, maybe,  
 22 pockets -- at times you could see things, you could make  
 23 things out, but for the most time it was fairly pitch  
 24 black.  
 25 Q. You say at the top of page 6:

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43 (Pages 169 to 172)

1 "Chris had no air ..."

2 **A. Yes.**

3 Q. "... I thought fuck I'm gonna die. Chris said I gotta

4 go I got no air."

5 What made you think that you were going to die?

6 **A. I thought it was -- it was likely because we just had --**

7 **we were fairly exhausted, extremely hot, conditions had**

8 **worsened beyond anything I'd known on that level. I've**

9 **been in hotter jobs before, if you're in a fire then**

10 **it's hotter, but we were supposedly 16 floors, 15 floors**

11 **away from the fire, the last fire that I had confirmed,**

12 **and only 20 minutes later. So somehow it was incredibly**

13 **hot up there. I couldn't work out why. And Chris had**

14 **no air -- well, I say "no air" -- he was on emergency**

15 **air. We're breathing very, very heavily, so we're**

16 **carrying heavy equipment, carrying our BA, we're**

17 **exhausted already, we're already hot so you're breathing**

18 **more heavily, and Chris is on emergency air and I didn't**

19 **think he would have enough air to get downstairs.**

20 Q. What was your air reservoir left, how many bar did you

21 have left, do you think?

22 **A. No idea. There was almost no point checking it.**

23 **I don't think I was on whistle at the time. I don't**

24 **know if I was the whole time, but I would've been close**

25 **on. But either way, if Chris ran out of air, we'd have**

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1 **to do an exchange of air, which is complicated when it's**

2 **pitch black, or we'd have to drag him out of there, so**

3 **that would be very difficult.**

4 Q. What about Dave Badillo, what was his air position?

5 **A. No idea, no idea.**

6 Q. Was he --

7 **A. I knew it would have been low because you all start at**

8 **give or take 30/40 bar, the same amount of air, we'd**

9 **done a similar amount of work, so he's going to be low**

10 **on air as well, and I know he's fairly exhausted.**

11 Q. Right. You then say three/four lines down from the top

12 of page 6:

13 "As we went down it was getting hotter and

14 hotter ..."

15 Was that unusual, do you think?

16 **A. If you're in a chimney, no. So if you are, say, for**

17 **example, going down into a basement, so the fire is in**

18 **the basement and you make entry via the top of**

19 **a stairwell, then the closer you get to the fire, the**

20 **hotter it will be, and essentially that's what we were**

21 **doing: we were going closer and closer to established**

22 **fires in the lower levels.**

23 Q. What about smoke on the way down, did it get thicker or

24 did it get better?

25 **A. Thick. But in places not so much, because I could**

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1 **see -- I remember seeing Chris's face. Because I was**

2 **concerned because -- because it was so thick, I realised**

3 **maybe around the 18th floor, 17th, 16th, that the lobby**

4 **areas were heavily smoke-logged, so I was checking the**

5 **doors, pushing the doors open and shouting inside if**

6 **anyone was there, because if they were, there's no way**

7 **they would be able to walk out onto the stairwell and**

8 **they'd probably collapse in the lobby. So even if**

9 **you've known a lobby for 20 years you've lived there, as**

10 **soon as it's pitch black -- and I mean completely pitch**

11 **black -- it's irrespirable, so you're coughing, choking,**

12 **it's pretty horrific, as soon as you're not touching**

13 **a wall or a door, you don't know where you are. So then**

14 **you are lost and you won't find your way out of the**

15 **stairwell.**

16 **That's why a lot of people got lost and were found**

17 **in lobbies and stairwells. And even if you do make it**

18 **to the stairwell, the stairwell, which should be**

19 **protected, is now entirely choked with smoke. It's**

20 **irrespirable. So I was concerned people would die a few**

21 **metres from their front door. So I checked on the**

22 **levels down to maybe the 15th. That's when Chris**

23 **grabbed my arm and I managed to see this face and he**

24 **said, "Mate, I've got no air, I've got to go."**

25 Q. When you checked into the lobbies on the way down to the

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1 15th or so, what did you see?

2 **A. They were smoky. If you could see, it would be low**

3 **down, so I had to crouch down. You could see in the**

4 **bottom of the smoke layer. I shouted, but obviously in**

5 **breathing apparatus, your voice is muffled, so when**

6 **we -- as you will probably come to -- we lost each other**

7 **on the stairs later, you can't really hear more than**

8 **a floor above because your voice is so muffled.**

9 **So I was screaming, but I couldn't hear anyone. It**

10 **was very quiet. Really quiet. So no one moving, no one**

11 **speaking, no one -- no smoke alarms going off. So the**

12 **presupposition would be that the compartments themselves**

13 **are safe; the smoke's coming from the stairwell and it's**

14 **flooded the lobbies, but you're better off in your flat.**

15 Q. Would it have been possible to go into any of those

16 lobbies and alert any of the other residents and try to

17 get them out?

18 **A. Well, if we'd had the air, maybe, but then you're**

19 **alerting them to -- there's smoke outside your safe**

20 **compartment. So you wouldn't -- as I said earlier, we**

21 **were stressed at this point and very anxious, but you're**

22 **not going to call people out into an irrespirable**

23 **atmosphere. I'm not going to knock you up at 2 o'clock**

24 **in the morning and say "Come out into the smoke". You**

25 **wouldn't do it because people are safer in their own**

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44 (Pages 173 to 176)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 <b>flat, or so we believed at that time.</b></p> <p>2 Q. I think you say, five lines down from the top of page 6:</p> <p>3 "My whistle was going now as well and I couldn't</p> <p>4 find Dave."</p> <p>5 <b>A. Okay, yes.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Do you know what floor you were on when you realised you</p> <p>7 were no longer with him?</p> <p>8 <b>A. No. It was -- I was -- I remember Dave -- we went down</b></p> <p>9 <b>together. I think I was in front. I was carrying hose.</b></p> <p>10 <b>I remember around about the 18th floor, Dave said, "Why</b></p> <p>11 <b>are we carrying hose, we're not going to put a fire out,</b></p> <p>12 <b>we're just exhausted". So he took the hose off me,</b></p> <p>13 <b>threw it on the floor, and I remember I couldn't see the</b></p> <p>14 <b>hose, so I kicked it into the corner of the stairwell so</b></p> <p>15 <b>it wouldn't trip anybody up coming out, because</b></p> <p>16 <b>unravelling hose is an absolute nightmare. I remember</b></p> <p>17 <b>Dave being with me then.</b></p> <p>18 <b>Then I was checking stairwells, so I kind of fell</b></p> <p>19 <b>behind a little bit. So that was maybe 16th, 17th, 15th</b></p> <p>20 <b>floor I lost Dave, and that's when I was running up</b></p> <p>21 <b>a floor. He must have passed me at some point in the</b></p> <p>22 <b>dark. It was that dark, he passed me and I didn't see</b></p> <p>23 <b>him.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Where was Chris Secrett at this time?</p> <p>25 <b>A. Probably in between us. I think he was more with Dave</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 177</p>   | <p>1 sign for the seventh floor.</p> <p>2 Can I just ask you -- perhaps we'll do it by</p> <p>3 reference to your statement -- you say:</p> <p>4 "Dave was showing Des MURPHY the sign saying it was</p> <p>5 the seventh floor."</p> <p>6 Do you remember, was that the floor numbering that</p> <p>7 appears on the wall of the stairwell?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Yes, that's what he was showing him, yes.</b></p> <p>9 Q. And do you know why Des Murphy had to be shown it?</p> <p>10 <b>A. I believe -- I didn't see a single number on the way up</b></p> <p>11 <b>or on the way down at any point, but it was apparently</b></p> <p>12 <b>not written on -- something was written on in felt-tip</b></p> <p>13 <b>pen as opposed to a stencilled number made for the task.</b></p> <p>14 <b>So it was just etched on by either a resident or</b></p> <p>15 <b>a builder or whatever.</b></p> <p>16 Q. You say "apparently not written on"; is that something</p> <p>17 you heard later?</p> <p>18 <b>A. Yes, because I remember asking Dave later, "What were</b></p> <p>19 <b>you doing? Why couldn't you see the sign?" and he said</b></p> <p>20 <b>it was written on by hand and he had to show Des with</b></p> <p>21 <b>his torch exactly where it was.</b></p> <p>22 Q. I see. Okay. But you didn't yourself observe any</p> <p>23 numbering, misnumbering, no numbering --</p> <p>24 <b>A. No, I couldn't speak for numbers at all. No. It was</b></p> <p>25 <b>nothing obvious, nothing luminescent that would stick</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 179</p> |
| <p>1 <b>than with me. That was when he grabbed my arm said,</b></p> <p>2 <b>"I've got no air" and he had to go.</b></p> <p>3 Q. Did you go back upstairs to see if you could see Dave?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Yes. I went up maybe two flights.</b></p> <p>5 Q. How far back up did you go?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Two flights, three flights, screaming, but I couldn't</b></p> <p>7 <b>hear him and he couldn't hear me as we were too muffled.</b></p> <p>8 Q. You obviously did find him; do you know which level you</p> <p>9 were on when you found him?</p> <p>10 <b>A. On the seventh, because I rejoined Chris. We were</b></p> <p>11 <b>fairly exhausted, so there's not a lot to say, really.</b></p> <p>12 <b>We had to get out. Chris is low on air, and I'm low on</b></p> <p>13 <b>air. We're incredibly hot and very stressed. Probably</b></p> <p>14 <b>suffering from metabolic heat stress at that point. And</b></p> <p>15 <b>just keep walking out.</b></p> <p>16 <b>But the next time I saw Dave was when he was</b></p> <p>17 <b>speaking to Des Murphy on the seventh floor, and</b></p> <p>18 <b>I remember Chris came to a halt, because I was walking</b></p> <p>19 <b>directly behind him, and Dave was there next to Des, and</b></p> <p>20 <b>I remember seeing Des's eyes, so I recognised him</b></p> <p>21 <b>through his face mask, and he was shining a light on the</b></p> <p>22 <b>wall to show what floor we were on, the seventh floor.</b></p> <p>23 Q. You go on to say that in the last few lines of this</p> <p>24 paragraph in your statement, where you describe, as you</p> <p>25 just have, finding Dave Badillo showing Des Murphy the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 178</p> | <p>1 <b>out in the darkness.</b></p> <p>2 Q. Did you assist anybody, any resident, come down the</p> <p>3 stairs on your way down?</p> <p>4 <b>A. No. We didn't see anybody. We didn't see anybody from</b></p> <p>5 <b>the 20th floor to the seventh. It was just us three.</b></p> <p>6 <b>No sound, no one shouting, no one on the stairs.</b></p> <p>7 Q. Can I just ask you, then, just to look at your</p> <p>8 contemporaneous note.</p> <p>9 You say at the bottom of page 2, just three-quarters</p> <p>10 of the way down the page, perhaps a bit more you say --</p> <p>11 again, correct me if I'm wrong in reading your writing:</p> <p>12 "We decided to go to the ECP as it was hot &amp; we were</p> <p>13 extremely fatigued."</p> <p>14 Then you say, next to a little asterisk:</p> <p>15 "I helped evacuate resident from smoke logged 6th</p> <p>16 floor down the stairs with FF O'Beirne."</p> <p>17 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>18 Q. That's in brackets.</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Could you just tell us a bit about that?</p> <p>21 <b>A. That may well be -- I can't remember that resident,</b></p> <p>22 <b>actually. I remember taking several people down the</b></p> <p>23 <b>stairs. So it's to do with -- the asterisk is further</b></p> <p>24 <b>up in the page:</b></p> <p>25 <b>"We were then informed by residents that smoke was</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 180</p>   |

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| <p>1 on higher floors ..."</p> <p>2 Then I said I helped evacuate residents from the</p> <p>3 smoke-logged sixth floor. So I did that with Justin.</p> <p>4 That's when you asked me earlier who I was with, I think</p> <p>5 I was with Justin.</p> <p>6 Q. So this wasn't on the trip down --</p> <p>7 A. No, no, no, no, no.</p> <p>8 Q. -- with Firefighter Badillo and Secrett?</p> <p>9 A. No, no, no, this was earlier, this is before my BA</p> <p>10 wear -- sorry, that's what the asterisk is. I thought</p> <p>11 of it later, so my thoughts are a bit disjointed.</p> <p>12 Q. That's very clear.</p> <p>13 So you get down to the bridgehead, and how far</p> <p>14 before you reach the second floor did that dense, thick</p> <p>15 smoke reach?</p> <p>16 A. I can't remember. I can't remember.</p> <p>17 Q. Was it many floors above the bridgehead or was it</p> <p>18 just --</p> <p>19 A. Maybe the fourth. I would say around about the fourth,</p> <p>20 the third. I remember coming into light. But, to be</p> <p>21 honest, we were pretty exhausted. I couldn't really</p> <p>22 stand up, I was just -- there was nothing I could say</p> <p>23 really, I couldn't speak.</p> <p>24 Q. And we have the telemetry data showing you -- if we can</p> <p>25 just have that up on the screen, please -- tally in at</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 181</p>                     | <p>1 the tower up the stairs in breathing apparatus --</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. -- from 1.35 to 1.59, just before 2 o'clock, so</p> <p>4 25 minutes. During any of that period of time, when</p> <p>5 you've been up and then down again, would you say that</p> <p>6 it was possible to evacuate anybody from any floor down</p> <p>7 that protected staircase successfully and safely?</p> <p>8 A. I don't think so. Not from that time. Even from the</p> <p>9 eighth floor was smoke-logged, so it would've been very</p> <p>10 difficult. It may have been feasible, but they would've</p> <p>11 been unconscious, they would need to be rescued by BA</p> <p>12 crews, which is the reason I went to get my set, because</p> <p>13 I realised if the smoke is spreading, I would have to be</p> <p>14 in BA to help other people. If not, I will succumb to</p> <p>15 the effects, and so will my colleagues, of smoke, as</p> <p>16 would the resident. So you're no help to them.</p> <p>17 Q. Now, when you tallied in to the bridgehead, as we've</p> <p>18 seen, switched off, did you have a debrief with anybody</p> <p>19 at the bridgehead?</p> <p>20 A. We most certainly will have done, but I cannot remember.</p> <p>21 I was fairly -- I think we all were suffering the</p> <p>22 effects of heat stress and were pretty exhausted, so we</p> <p>23 would've said -- there's no way we would've come down</p> <p>24 and just wandered off, but I can't remember. I can't</p> <p>25 remember saying anything.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 183</p> |
| <p>1 01.59.29. Do you see that?</p> <p>2 A. Yes.</p> <p>3 Q. We have a tally-in time for Dave Badillo as 01.58.15 and</p> <p>4 we don't have Chris Secrett's.</p> <p>5 Does that time roughly correspond with your</p> <p>6 recollection?</p> <p>7 A. Yes, around about 2 o'clock, yes. I remember looking</p> <p>8 outside at my watch and it was 2.05 and the entire</p> <p>9 building was on fire.</p> <p>10 Q. So by that time, just before 2 am on the 14th, would you</p> <p>11 say it was possible to evacuate anybody down the</p> <p>12 protected staircase --</p> <p>13 A. No.</p> <p>14 Q. -- without breathing apparatus?</p> <p>15 A. I think it would be virtually impossible very early on</p> <p>16 in the fire because it was just -- it was smoke-logged</p> <p>17 very -- I think Dr Barbara Lane said approximately 1.26,</p> <p>18 but that's when it was -- at that point she thinks it</p> <p>19 was no longer usable as an escape route, which means the</p> <p>20 smoke had been building up before that. So bearing in</p> <p>21 mind we got water on the fire approximately</p> <p>22 10/15 minutes before that and we're extinguishing the</p> <p>23 fire, it would be near impossible, because you would be</p> <p>24 walking down into denser and denser smoke.</p> <p>25 Q. Right. But in terms of your experience, you've been in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 182</p> | <p>1 Q. In your statement at page 6, three lines down from the</p> <p>2 start of the second main paragraph on that page, you</p> <p>3 say:</p> <p>4 "We couldn't find the girl so told control and came</p> <p>5 out."</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. "We told them what we did and what it was like."</p> <p>8 Well, first of all, who did you tell that to?</p> <p>9 A. Control -- alpha control. Alpha control is the entry</p> <p>10 control board, not control control.</p> <p>11 Q. Is that Alex?</p> <p>12 A. Alex or Justin, with Watch Manager O'Keeffe in charge.</p> <p>13 Q. What about Brien O'Keeffe, did you have a conversation</p> <p>14 with him?</p> <p>15 A. Possibly, but we're more likely to speak to the guy who</p> <p>16 is giving you your tally back, so that would be entry</p> <p>17 control officer. So Brien O'Keeffe has overall command,</p> <p>18 but the guy you'd actually speak to would more likely be</p> <p>19 the ECO firefighter, and he would make a note of it on</p> <p>20 the board.</p> <p>21 Q. Do you remember what any of those firefighters did with</p> <p>22 that information, Alex De St Aubin, Justin O'Beirne and</p> <p>23 Brien O'Keeffe, what did they do with the information?</p> <p>24 A. They would've made a note of it on the board, maybe the</p> <p>25 forward information board, but honestly I was in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 184</p>   |

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| <p>1 a state, so I cannot remember.</p> <p>2 Q. You don't remember seeing them do that?</p> <p>3 A. No. I'm 100 per cent sure they would've done, because</p> <p>4 it's crucial information, and obviously by the time we</p> <p>5 came down, the incident has escalated beyond anything</p> <p>6 we've ever encountered. So they would've been making</p> <p>7 notes on that.</p> <p>8 Q. Do you remember any discussion or conversation at the</p> <p>9 bridgehead at that time about any fire survival guidance</p> <p>10 calls in relation to a flat on the 23rd floor instead of</p> <p>11 the 20th floor?</p> <p>12 A. No, no. We had no information at all when we set off.</p> <p>13 I know the girl we tried to rescue was found, I think,</p> <p>14 on the 23rd floor. We had no information whatsoever,</p> <p>15 which is why I was so anxious to get communications,</p> <p>16 especially when we're on the 20th floor, as to where she</p> <p>17 was, if they'd found her, if they knew anything. So,</p> <p>18 no, we had no information whatsoever.</p> <p>19 Q. You then went from the bridgehead out of the tower.</p> <p>20 A. Yes.</p> <p>21 Q. Okay. Did you assist in bringing out casualties?</p> <p>22 A. Later that evening, we recovered for a short time on the</p> <p>23 grass in front of the leisure centre, looking at the</p> <p>24 building, and I realised -- I could see the front of the</p> <p>25 building. I realised there's not -- there's hardly</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 185</p> | <p>1 particular?</p> <p>2 A. To be honest, they were suffering the effects of smoke</p> <p>3 inhalation, so their faces were covered in saliva and</p> <p>4 they would be blackened, so not really. I think one was</p> <p>5 a big guy, quite large. The other one that I carried on</p> <p>6 my shoulder, we couldn't -- there was two of us and we</p> <p>7 couldn't get a grip on her, so I kind of pulled her onto</p> <p>8 my shoulder did it by myself and ran out with her. The</p> <p>9 only reason I think she's a woman is because she was</p> <p>10 lighter. I couldn't tell. Some of them were burnt,</p> <p>11 some were blackened. I couldn't possibly tell.</p> <p>12 Q. You say all were unconscious?</p> <p>13 A. Yes.</p> <p>14 Q. Is that right?</p> <p>15 A. Sorry?</p> <p>16 Q. Is that right?</p> <p>17 A. They were all unconscious, yes.</p> <p>18 Q. But alive?</p> <p>19 A. I don't know. They were lifeless to look at, but it's</p> <p>20 not my call to say whether they were alive or not.</p> <p>21 I took them to the London Ambulance Service and they</p> <p>22 dealt with them there.</p> <p>23 Q. You then say that you went back into the tower after</p> <p>24 about 20 minutes.</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 187</p>  |
| <p>1 anyone coming out. There's no one really coming out.</p> <p>2 There's no hordes of people. There must be hundreds of</p> <p>3 people in there.</p> <p>4 So I ran back, without my breathing apparatus, up to</p> <p>5 the bridgehead. I had to run across the concourse, and</p> <p>6 parts of the building were falling off at that point,</p> <p>7 and as casualties are brought down to the bridgehead,</p> <p>8 someone will shout, "Casualty", and I brought quite</p> <p>9 a few bodies out with the help of other people, carried</p> <p>10 them out across the concourse, out to the London</p> <p>11 Ambulance.</p> <p>12 Q. Were they conscious or unconscious, do you think?</p> <p>13 A. They were unconscious. I don't think anyone was alive,</p> <p>14 to be honest. But it's not my call to say, but they</p> <p>15 were lifeless.</p> <p>16 Q. Can I ask you to look at your contemporaneous notes on</p> <p>17 the last page. You say there, a third of the way down:</p> <p>18 "I helped take 4 casualties down the stairs from the</p> <p>19 bridgehead."</p> <p>20 This is, as I say, a third of the way down.</p> <p>21 A. Yes.</p> <p>22 Q. "All were unconscious. WM Dowden was one member of one</p> <p>23 of the crews who assisted me. I carried one casualty on</p> <p>24 my shoulder from the front door to the LAS crews."</p> <p>25 Do you remember any of those casualties in</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 186</p>  | <p>1 Q. Did anybody tell you to do that or did you do that of</p> <p>2 your own accord?</p> <p>3 A. No, I just did that because I could see no one was</p> <p>4 coming out.</p> <p>5 Q. Okay. You say, halfway down page 7, "The fumes were</p> <p>6 disgusting."</p> <p>7 Where was that, when you experienced them?</p> <p>8 A. That was at the front of the building -- so south side</p> <p>9 of the front of the building by the main exit. There</p> <p>10 was a lot of debris coming off the top of the tower, the</p> <p>11 side of the tower, a lot of molten aluminium, which</p> <p>12 I think was melting through our fire gear, because you</p> <p>13 could feel nipping on your skin. So it was quite bad</p> <p>14 and the fumes, the smell, was acrid, acrid smoke,</p> <p>15 because after I'd taken three, four people out and</p> <p>16 carried them across the causeway under that debris,</p> <p>17 I kind of collapsed because I couldn't breathe anymore.</p> <p>18 It was just -- it was too acrid.</p> <p>19 Q. If you go back to your contemporaneous notes, you say on</p> <p>20 the third page, halfway down:</p> <p>21 "I also helped walk several ..."</p> <p>22 I think does it say "young girls"?</p> <p>23 A. "Young girls", sorry.</p> <p>24 Q. "... out of the building ..."</p> <p>25 A. Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 188</p> |

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| <p>1 Q. "... one with Crew Manager Batcheldor."</p> <p>2 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>3 Q. "The girl [or girls] was from flat 95."</p> <p>4 <b>A. Flat 95.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Do you remember anything more about them?</p> <p>6 <b>A. I helped walk her out with Crew Manager Batcheldor, out</b></p> <p>7 <b>of the front door, but I ran into another girl who</b></p> <p>8 <b>looked very similar to her, similar build, similar</b></p> <p>9 <b>height, long black hair, but younger -- I think maybe</b></p> <p>10 <b>the one girl was 12, the other one was maybe 9 -- and</b></p> <p>11 <b>the woman was screaming because she'd lost her husband</b></p> <p>12 <b>and her daughter.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Okay.</p> <p>14 <b>A. And --</b></p> <p>15 Q. Did you do anything with that information?</p> <p>16 <b>A. Yes. I said, "I think I've seen your sister" and</b></p> <p>17 <b>I asked her what flat she was in and she said 95, so</b></p> <p>18 <b>I ran over to where I'd seen Crew Manager Batcheldor and</b></p> <p>19 <b>I said, "What flat are you from?" and the girl said</b></p> <p>20 <b>flat 95. And she'd lost her dad, I think. They were</b></p> <p>21 <b>coming down the stairs and she lost his hand. But we</b></p> <p>22 <b>later found her dad alive and well and I was able to run</b></p> <p>23 <b>back to the mum and her daughter and say, "The rest of</b></p> <p>24 <b>your family is alive and well."</b></p> <p>25 Q. Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 189</p> | <p>1 "Loads of FSG calls were coming in with a guy from</p> <p>2 Euston doing it."</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>4 Q. Do you know who that was?</p> <p>5 <b>A. I don't, actually.</b></p> <p>6 Q. We have Euston arriving, A231, about 1.45, does that</p> <p>7 help in terms of timing?</p> <p>8 <b>A. Possibly. It was a while after I'd come out of the</b></p> <p>9 <b>building and a while after I carried bodies out, so 1.45</b></p> <p>10 <b>may be about right, and it's just -- basically I was</b></p> <p>11 <b>a runner, so I was running between -- they had lots of</b></p> <p>12 <b>FSGs, so they had calls coming in, family of four or</b></p> <p>13 <b>family of two, the flat number, the floor number, the</b></p> <p>14 <b>state, and basically I was taking those sheets of paper</b></p> <p>15 <b>and running around to the control unit two or three at</b></p> <p>16 <b>a time.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Right. You say a guy from Euston; are you confident</p> <p>18 that it was Euston?</p> <p>19 <b>A. No, because if I'm honest, I can't remember who it is</b></p> <p>20 <b>now.</b></p> <p>21 Q. Because we have other people, maybe Lambeth.</p> <p>22 <b>A. No, I don't think I know anyone from Lambeth, so maybe</b></p> <p>23 <b>not, no.</b></p> <p>24 Q. At the foot of page 7 of your statement, just one or two</p> <p>25 questions about this. You say, five lines up from the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 191</p>                                     |
| <p>1 You I think also talk about somebody about trying to</p> <p>2 calm somebody down outside the tower while Chris was on</p> <p>3 the phone to his wife on the 23rd floor?</p> <p>4 <b>A. Crew Manager Batcheldor again.</b></p> <p>5 Q. Batcheldor, is it, not Secrett?</p> <p>6 <b>A. Yes, sorry, Crew Manager Batcheldor. He was on a fire</b></p> <p>7 <b>survival guidance call -- well, it wasn't FSG, it was --</b></p> <p>8 <b>he was on the phone, I think using the man's mobile</b></p> <p>9 <b>phone to call either his wife or sister, I couldn't make</b></p> <p>10 <b>out, and the man was extremely distressed. Crew Manager</b></p> <p>11 <b>Batcheldor stayed on the phone with them until she</b></p> <p>12 <b>succumbed to the smoke.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Do you remember anything about the man you were talking</p> <p>14 to?</p> <p>15 <b>A. Small, not a big guy, but just very distressed, black</b></p> <p>16 <b>hair, maybe my complexion. I couldn't describe him</b></p> <p>17 <b>really any more than that.</b></p> <p>18 Q. Did he give you a flat number? Do you know what flat</p> <p>19 number?</p> <p>20 <b>A. No. I can't remember, no.</b></p> <p>21 Q. I think you also mentioned in general terms -- I think</p> <p>22 you helped out with FSG calls.</p> <p>23 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>24 Q. And I think you say at the bottom of page 7, the third</p> <p>25 line:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 190</p>  | <p>1 bottom:</p> <p>2 "Some information was written on sheets which I took</p> <p>3 to the Command Unit in Grenfell road for them to action.</p> <p>4 was shoving the FSG information through the door but</p> <p>5 they were overwhelmed. They must have been as there was</p> <p>6 so much coming in."</p> <p>7 Do you remember which number this command unit was</p> <p>8 that you were pushing FSG information into?</p> <p>9 <b>A. No, but it was the one parked in Grenfell Road, so it's</b></p> <p>10 <b>the only approach road directly to the base of the</b></p> <p>11 <b>tower. It was that one.</b></p> <p>12 Q. There were two there I think by 2 o'clock. Was it the</p> <p>13 nearer one to the tower or the further one?</p> <p>14 <b>A. I think it was the nearer one, towards the middle of</b></p> <p>15 <b>Grenfell Road. I think the other one was at the top of</b></p> <p>16 <b>Grenfell Road.</b></p> <p>17 Q. Now, you say you were taking information written on</p> <p>18 sheets to the command unit. Where were you getting the</p> <p>19 sheets from?</p> <p>20 <b>A. From the guy who I think was at Euston and they were</b></p> <p>21 <b>writing down wherever they get the information from. So</b></p> <p>22 <b>they were saying who was there and what state they were</b></p> <p>23 <b>in, what state their flat was in.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Where was he getting the information from, do you</p> <p>25 remember?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 192</p> |



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| <p>1 <b>A. I don't, actually, no. I think he either had a fire</b><br/> 2 <b>ground radio from an officer direct to control,</b><br/> 3 <b>otherwise I don't know.</b><br/> 4 Q. What was that information that you were taking back to<br/> 5 the command unit?<br/> 6 <b>A. It's basically the information giving me their location.</b><br/> 7 <b>So the most important thing with an FSG, as with finding</b><br/> 8 <b>the fire, as I said earlier, is the location. You need</b><br/> 9 <b>to know what flat they're in, what floor they're in. So</b><br/> 10 <b>that if your going to -- you can't have a mass</b><br/> 11 <b>evacuation because it's too dangerous. Mass evacuation</b><br/> 12 <b>is inherently dangerous because the stairs will get</b><br/> 13 <b>clogged, the lobbies will get clogged with people who</b><br/> 14 <b>can't breathe, and then we can't get in to (a) fight the</b><br/> 15 <b>fire and (b) to rescue people.</b><br/> 16 <b>So if someone has a location and you know where they</b><br/> 17 <b>are in their flat, you hold them on the line, so control</b><br/> 18 <b>will stay on the line with them, so you know the</b><br/> 19 <b>conditions around them, you can reassure them, tell them</b><br/> 20 <b>to shut windows, block under doors, et cetera. You know</b><br/> 21 <b>the state they're in, you know how many of them there</b><br/> 22 <b>are, you know if they're disabled, if they have</b><br/> 23 <b>breathing difficulties, their age, et cetera. So you</b><br/> 24 <b>have a lot of information in an FSG call. All that</b><br/> 25 <b>information is written down and basically consolidated</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 193</p> | <p>1 <b>may well have been through there.</b><br/> 2 Q. Direct contact with control, you think?<br/> 3 <b>A. Station managers have fire ground -- not fire ground</b><br/> 4 <b>radios, but radios that have a dual capacity to work on</b><br/> 5 <b>the fire ground but also directly to control.</b><br/> 6 Q. Did you see the person that you were taking the pieces<br/> 7 of paper from on the radio to control directly?<br/> 8 <b>A. No. I know they would've had a radio and they would've</b><br/> 9 <b>had that capability.</b><br/> 10 Q. Okay. What was the purpose of giving these pieces of<br/> 11 paper to the command unit, do you remember?<br/> 12 <b>A. Because the command unit can consolidate them and then</b><br/> 13 <b>feed that into the bridgehead.</b><br/> 14 Q. How would they feed that into the bridgehead?<br/> 15 <b>A. By radio, or at some point, if the radio's congested,</b><br/> 16 <b>they can do it directly, as in run pieces of paper in</b><br/> 17 <b>the opposite direction.</b><br/> 18 Q. Do you know the names of the people in the command unit<br/> 19 you were giving the pieces of paper to?<br/> 20 <b>A. No, I do not, no.</b><br/> 21 Q. No. Do you know which stations they were from?<br/> 22 <b>A. No, I'm sorry, no.</b><br/> 23 Q. Do you know whether the information was about people who<br/> 24 needed to be rescued or about successful rescues, so<br/> 25 that they could be, as it were, crossed off the list?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 195</p>  |
| <p>1 <b>at the control unit.</b><br/> 2 Q. Right. I am just wondering -- so you're taking that<br/> 3 information back to the command unit from the person<br/> 4 doing an exercise on the fire ground?<br/> 5 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 6 Q. Where was that person getting the information?<br/> 7 <b>A. The information may well have been coming from actual</b><br/> 8 <b>residents themselves. So it's like with Dave Badillo,</b><br/> 9 <b>he literally just walked into a woman who said, "My</b><br/> 10 <b>daughter's on the 20th floor". So I think a lot of FSGs</b><br/> 11 <b>were coming from people outside who were looking up and</b><br/> 12 <b>saying, "My family's up there". That's what happened to</b><br/> 13 <b>the guy Chris Batcheldor was talking to.</b><br/> 14 Q. And the person who was giving you the pieces of paper --<br/> 15 this was the guy you thought was from Euston?<br/> 16 <b>A. Yes.</b><br/> 17 Q. And he was writing information on pieces of paper -- did<br/> 18 you see him write information on pieces of paper?<br/> 19 <b>A. (Nodded assent).</b><br/> 20 Q. Where was he getting that information from?<br/> 21 <b>A. As I say, either from people on the fire ground or he's</b><br/> 22 <b>got a direct line, because there was an ADO there as</b><br/> 23 <b>well, a station manager.</b><br/> 24 Q. Yes.<br/> 25 <b>A. So he will have had direct contact with control, so it</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 194</p>  | <p>1 <b>A. No, it's about people who needed to be rescued, which is</b><br/> 2 <b>why I was concerned because I was aware of just the</b><br/> 3 <b>volume of FSGs coming in, the volume of people who need</b><br/> 4 <b>to be rescued. Just the scale of it was unheard of.</b><br/> 5 Q. Do you remember how long you were carrying out this role<br/> 6 of ferrying information back and forth?<br/> 7 <b>A. Maybe three or four -- two or three trips I did from</b><br/> 8 <b>there. Grab one, take it over, take two or three at</b><br/> 9 <b>a time, run it over. So not long, but it stuck in my</b><br/> 10 <b>mind because I realised, reading them, how many people</b><br/> 11 <b>were in trouble and how many families there were in</b><br/> 12 <b>trouble and how many flats had been compromised.</b><br/> 13 Q. Okay. Just one or two questions --<br/> 14 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you happy to go on a little bit?<br/> 15 THE WITNESS: Yes, if it's possible to conclude today.<br/> 16 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: You would prefer it to coming back<br/> 17 tomorrow, wouldn't you?<br/> 18 THE WITNESS: I would, yes.<br/> 19 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, I only have about 5 more minutes.<br/> 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: That's all right, I just thought the<br/> 21 witness should be asked how he feels.<br/> 22 MR MILLETT: Of course.<br/> 23 I just want to ask you about smoke vents. If you go<br/> 24 to page 8 of your statement. You say in the last<br/> 25 paragraph, three lines down from the start of that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 196</p> |

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| <p>1 paragraph:</p> <p>2 "The smoke extraction system wasn't working."</p> <p>3 Is that something you yourself observed on the</p> <p>4 night?</p> <p>5 <b>A. It's a presumption because the stairwell should've been</b></p> <p>6 <b>a protected stairwell, protected by a smoke extraction</b></p> <p>7 <b>system, which we knew existed. The stairwell was</b></p> <p>8 <b>completely compromised.</b></p> <p>9 Q. So that's an assumption rather than an observation?</p> <p>10 <b>A. Yes, it's a self-evident presumption.</b></p> <p>11 Q. Can I just go back, then, to the question of numbering.</p> <p>12 You did two trips above the bridgehead. The first one</p> <p>13 was when you went to the fifth and sixth floors that you</p> <p>14 described.</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. And the second was the trip with the BA from the eighth</p> <p>17 floor to the 20th.</p> <p>18 On the first trip when you first went above the</p> <p>19 bridgehead up to the fourth floor and fifth and sixth,</p> <p>20 did you notice anything about the floor signs at that</p> <p>21 stage?</p> <p>22 <b>A. As in the level?</b></p> <p>23 Q. Yes, I mean --</p> <p>24 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>25 Q. -- did you notice whether or not they were clearly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 197</p> | <p>1 Q. Would there be any reason why you couldn't transmit to</p> <p>2 them because you're in a group together?</p> <p>3 <b>A. Yes, I could do, and also, if you're close together,</b></p> <p>4 <b>maybe 6 feet away or 10 feet away, if I'm transmitting,</b></p> <p>5 <b>you get -- not static, a kind of high-tone whistling.</b></p> <p>6 Q. Feedback?</p> <p>7 <b>A. You'd get feedback. So you know immediately to move</b></p> <p>8 <b>further away. So if someone transmits next to you, you</b></p> <p>9 <b>don't hear the message, you get feedback, and that never</b></p> <p>10 <b>happened.</b></p> <p>11 Q. That didn't happen?</p> <p>12 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>13 Q. Did you ever actually experience being able to</p> <p>14 communicate with them even though they were close by on</p> <p>15 your fire ground radios?</p> <p>16 <b>A. No, we do it by -- in darkness, in BA, you'd always do</b></p> <p>17 <b>it by shouting as opposed to -- because you should never</b></p> <p>18 <b>really be too far apart from your BA partner. You</b></p> <p>19 <b>should always be touchable, really, and certainly within</b></p> <p>20 <b>voice range. As soon as you're more than a few metres</b></p> <p>21 <b>away, you risk getting lost.</b></p> <p>22 Q. Finally, did you ever suggest to either Chris Secrett or</p> <p>23 Dave Badillo that they should try their fire ground</p> <p>24 radios to be able to contact the bridgehead?</p> <p>25 <b>A. I'm fairly sure Chris tried. I don't know about Dave.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 199</p> |
| <p>1 written on the walls of the stairway?</p> <p>2 <b>A. To be honest, no. I knew I was on the fourth because</b></p> <p>3 <b>that's the fire floor. Because you're only travelling</b></p> <p>4 <b>one or two floors, two flights of stairs, you're on the</b></p> <p>5 <b>fifth, two flights of stairs, you're on the sixth.</b></p> <p>6 <b>So there's no need to count them, so I never noticed any</b></p> <p>7 <b>of them.</b></p> <p>8 Q. You didn't?</p> <p>9 <b>A. No.</b></p> <p>10 Q. I just want to ask you one or two questions about</p> <p>11 radios.</p> <p>12 In your trip up to the 20th floor with Dave Badillo</p> <p>13 and Chris Secrett, I think you said that they all had</p> <p>14 handheld radios.</p> <p>15 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Were they on, do you know?</p> <p>17 <b>A. Were they on?</b></p> <p>18 Q. Were they operating?</p> <p>19 <b>A. Yes.</b></p> <p>20 Q. Okay. Could you hear that your radio was transmitting</p> <p>21 to their radio?</p> <p>22 <b>A. I don't know, actually we were spread out, so I wouldn't</b></p> <p>23 <b>have been able to hear. So if they're a floor ahead of</b></p> <p>24 <b>me, I wouldn't hear necessarily what their radio was</b></p> <p>25 <b>doing.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 198</p>                     | <p>1 <b>I'm fairly sure Chris tried at one point. I know the</b></p> <p>2 <b>radios were working because I know at one point I had</b></p> <p>3 <b>been communicating quite well with Chris Secrett at the</b></p> <p>4 <b>bridgehead and Dave Badillo between the third and fourth</b></p> <p>5 <b>floor. I could hear Justin O'Beirne on the radio.</b></p> <p>6 <b>I could hear traffic from outside even. So they were</b></p> <p>7 <b>definitely working, definitely on.</b></p> <p>8 Q. Yes.</p> <p>9 Just finally, in the last paragraph of page 8 of</p> <p>10 your statement, Mr Dorgu, you say in the third line:</p> <p>11 "We could of[sic] done with masks for casualties to</p> <p>12 give portable fifteen minutes."</p> <p>13 Is that a piece of equipment that actually exists?</p> <p>14 <b>A. It's a piece of equipment that does exist but it's not</b></p> <p>15 <b>used by the London Fire Brigade.</b></p> <p>16 Q. Do you know whether it's used by any other fire brigade</p> <p>17 in the UK?</p> <p>18 <b>A. I believe it is. I know Drager do basically</b></p> <p>19 <b>a self-contained mask that you can put on your face that</b></p> <p>20 <b>has 15 minutes of air, oxygen. I know there's a watch</b></p> <p>21 <b>manager at the moment who is working on a project to</b></p> <p>22 <b>produce those. If we had them on the night, it would've</b></p> <p>23 <b>made a huge difference.</b></p> <p>24 Q. Were they generally available in the UK to UK fire</p> <p>25 brigades as at June 2017?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 200</p> |

50 (Pages 197 to 200)

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| <p>1 <b>A. Yes, you can see them on the internet. The following</b><br/> 2 <b>days, one of the guys was saying, "What we need are</b><br/> 3 <b>these, they're on the internet about £60 each."</b><br/> 4 Q. Do they have an independent supply of air?<br/> 5 <b>A. Yes, 15 minutes. A little face canister, almost like</b><br/> 6 <b>a scuba diving mask, like a chemical mask you'd see --</b><br/> 7 <b>use in chemical spraying room or something. Just little</b><br/> 8 <b>oxygen cylinders here, put it on your head, thoroughly</b><br/> 9 <b>independent, lightweight, portable, easily used by</b><br/> 10 <b>children, adults. We didn't have them.</b><br/> 11 Q. Do you know for a fact, from your own experience, that<br/> 12 these are in use in tower blocks, high-rise buildings,<br/> 13 in the UK?<br/> 14 <b>A. I wouldn't say they would be -- I don't think they're in</b><br/> 15 <b>tower blocks. I think there may be other brigades who</b><br/> 16 <b>use them. I couldn't swear to that, but I can say there</b><br/> 17 <b>is a use for them and they do exist and they're not</b><br/> 18 <b>exorbitantly expensive. So they could've.</b><br/> 19 MR MILLETT: Right.<br/> 20 Mr Dorgu, I have no further questions for you.<br/> 21 Mr Chairman?<br/> 22 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: No, thank you very much.<br/> 23 MR MILLETT: Thank you very much indeed. I'm very grateful<br/> 24 to you for coming to us and explaining so much to us,<br/> 25 and it has been extremely helpful. Thank you very much.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 201</p> | <p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right. That's very helpful. Thank<br/> 2 you very much.<br/> 3 Well, we've run rather late this evening, I'm<br/> 4 afraid, but I think it was in everyone's interest to<br/> 5 complete Mr Dorgu's evidence, certainly in his interest.<br/> 6 We'll break now and resume at 10 o'clock tomorrow,<br/> 7 please. Thank you very much.<br/> 8 (4.20 pm)<br/> 9 (The hearing adjourned until Tuesday, 10 July 2018 at<br/> 10 10.00 am)<br/> 11<br/> 12<br/> 13<br/> 14<br/> 15<br/> 16<br/> 17<br/> 18<br/> 19<br/> 20<br/> 21<br/> 22<br/> 23<br/> 24<br/> 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 203</p>  |
| <p>1 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: I would like to echo that, Mr Dorgu,<br/> 2 it has been really valuable to have your evidence. I'm<br/> 3 sorry it took longer than you perhaps had hoped, but<br/> 4 it's been very useful to us. I'd just like to say I'm<br/> 5 full of admiration for your courage.<br/> 6 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Thank you.<br/> 7 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: If you would like to go with the<br/> 8 usher then, please.<br/> 9 (The witness was released)<br/> 10 MR MILLETT: Mr Chairman, before you rise, there are<br/> 11 discussions going on at the moment between the inquiry<br/> 12 team and some core participants about the timetable for<br/> 13 the rest of this week and the early part of next. I'm<br/> 14 not sure I'm able to say anything today to you about<br/> 15 that, but I hope to have some clear news first thing in<br/> 16 the morning.<br/> 17 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Yes, all right.<br/> 18 MR MILLETT: There needs to be some jiggling around with the<br/> 19 timetable a little bit, but I hope not too much.<br/> 20 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Are you able to tell us who we're<br/> 21 going to see in the morning?<br/> 22 MR MILLETT: Yes, in the morning we will have<br/> 23 Daniel Meyrick.<br/> 24 SIR MARTIN MOORE-BICK: Right.<br/> 25 MR MILLETT: He will be our witness for tomorrow.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 202</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;">I N D E X</p> <p>1<br/> 2<br/> 3<br/> 4 BRIEN O'KEEFFE (continued) .....1<br/> 5 Questions by COUNSEL TO THE INQUIRY .....1<br/> 6 (continued)<br/> 7<br/> 8<br/> 9<br/> 10<br/> 11<br/> 12<br/> 13<br/> 14<br/> 15<br/> 16<br/> 17<br/> 18<br/> 19<br/> 20<br/> 21<br/> 22<br/> 23<br/> 24<br/> 25</p> <p>56<br/> 57<br/> 58<br/> 59<br/> 60<br/> 61<br/> 62<br/> 63<br/> 64<br/> 65<br/> 66<br/> 67<br/> 68<br/> 69<br/> 70<br/> 71<br/> 72<br/> 73<br/> 74<br/> 75<br/> 76<br/> 77<br/> 78<br/> 79<br/> 80<br/> 81<br/> 82<br/> 83<br/> 84<br/> 85<br/> 86<br/> 87<br/> 88<br/> 89<br/> 90<br/> 91<br/> 92<br/> 93<br/> 94<br/> 95<br/> 96<br/> 97<br/> 98<br/> 99<br/> 100</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 204</p> |

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